CWIS
Collection Workflow Integration System

What Can CWIS Do for Me?

What is the Collection Workflow Integration System (CWIS)?

The Collection Workflow Integration System (CWIS) (pronounced SEE-wis) is free, open source software designed to help organizations, individuals, or projects build their own digital libraries or collections online. CWIS is designed to act as a catalog for web resources, presenting and managing data about the resources, as well as the resources themselves. CWIS conforms to international and academic standards for metadata, and is being used all over the world for a wide variety of purposes, from large digital libraries (including several in the ATE community) to smaller collections created by individuals.

What can CWIS do for you?

Not only does CWIS offer a lot, it's also easy to set up and use. It might come in handy as an in-house tool for keeping track of websites or become a pivotal part of your web site as a publicly available catalog showcasing the work of your center or project.

Along with a highly searchable database, the software offers a number of handy features that allow collection developers to quickly and easily create digital libraries, including a customizable interface and tools that allow you to create and edit your own metadata schema. CWIS has both keyword and advanced fielded searching capabilities, and allows you to save, narrow, or refine searches by any criteria you choose. CWIS allows users to rate resources (from one to five stars) or add comments about those resources for others to read. A customizable bulletin service can alert users when new resources that match their interests have been added.

With built-in cataloging and workflow tools as well as a customizable metadata schema, CWIS offers those in the ATE community an easy solution for creating their online digital library. Here are a few examples of ways you might use CWIS:

- An in-house catalog of potential industry partners that you want your team to track, with metadata that describes each potential partner, points to their website, and provides data about your relationship with them.

- Data about research papers and websites on a topic critical to your center or project – for example student retention, workforce development, or nanotechnology. Whatever the topic, you can create an in-house or public collection that showcases your expertise.

- A collection that points to freely available videos and clips highlighting the topics of your choice, whether they are topical (e.g. welding or chemistry) or focused on professional development (case based learning or pedagogical methods).

- A catalog of websites of local or regional businesses to help students find internships or to help faculty find externships.

Where can I learn more about CWIS?

An abbreviated list of features is on the reverse. For a full list of CWIS features, a CWIS demo you can play with, and easy instructions for downloading and installing the software, please visit: **http://scout.wisc.edu/cwis**

Question not answered here? E-mail the **CWIS** team at *cwis@scout.wisc.edu*

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What's required to run CWIS?

CWIS is designed to run in the LAMP (Linux/Apache/MySQL/PHP) web server environment available on most college campuses and offered by virtually all Internet Service Providers. It can also run under OS X and Solaris. The resource requirements for the software, both in terms of storage and connection bandwidth, are modest.

Will CWIS work with my existing website?

CWIS is designed to integrate easily with existing web sites, including plugins to connect it into other popular open source software packages like Drupal and phpBB. (The main Internet Scout site is actually using a combination of Drupal and CWIS, drawing upon the strengths of both packages.)

Can I change or customize the CWIS user interface?

While CWIS comes with an array of preconfigured themes (color and graphic combinations) that can be selected to give your site a more distinct appearance, great care has been taken to separate out the look and feel (HTML) and underlying mechanisms (PHP) in CWIS to allow extensive customization. Different user interfaces in CWIS may be selected on a per-user basis, allowing you to provide, for example, an appearance and set of features for teachers that is completely different from the one shown to their students, or different user interfaces for younger and older students.

What websites are using CWIS?

A list of some of the sites currently using CWIS can be found at: **http://scout.wisc.edu/cwis/sites**

To learn more about CWIS please visit:

http://scout.wisc.edu/cwis

SEARCHING / BROWSING
- keyword searching
- fielded searching
- synonym support
- one-click searching
- REST-compliant search URLs
- field weighting
- phrase support and term exclusion
- *My Searches* feature
- dynamically-generated browse UI
- multiple taxonomy support
- breadcrumb navigation

METADATA TOOL
- completely configurable schema
- 14 fundamental data types
- one-click vocabulary and taxonomy import
- one-click controlled vocabulary export
- multi-modal term selection interface
- integrated automated URL checker

USER PARTICIPATION
- resource rating
- resource commenting/discussion
- monitoring of recent comments
- integrated usage tracking support

RSS
- configurable RSS feed export
- multiple RSS feed import
- user-customizable RSS feeds

OAI-PMH
- configurable CWIS/OAI field mapping
- any controlled field usable for OAI sets
- OAI-SQ (search via OAI) support

ACCESSIBILITY
- W3C/WAI compliant interface
- accessibility wizard
- ACCLIP metadata field support

USER INTERFACE
- support for multiple custom interfaces
- complete PHP/HTML separation
- hooks for functionality customization
- user interfaces assignable on a per-user basis
- pre-packaged subject-oriented "themes"
- CAPTCHA anti-spambot support
- Google Maps integration support

RECOMMENDER SYSTEM
- Amazon.com-style recommendations
- content-based recommender
- field weighting support

TECHNOLOGY
- integrated SQL caching to reduce DB load
- Linux, Solaris, OS X supported
- fast (5 minute) installation
- Drupal integration support
- phpBB integration support

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