

## FINAL DELIVERABLE

<b>Title</b>	Jackson County Historical Society Technical Solutions Evaluation
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## Jackson County Technology Evaluation

Completed by: Emma Barton-Norris, Kellee Forkenbrock, Jodi Hinrichs, Dan Miller,  
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### 1. Identify an information need, or multiple needs.

The Jackson County Historical Society is a non-profit archival group based in Maquoketa, Iowa. They have six exhibits on display, all of which are supported from a vast archive of artifacts. The group's immediate need is to establish an accessible platform in which to house all of their information for preservation and reference for future exhibits. The group currently uses PastPerfect archiving software. This requested database should focus on preservation of accessible information.

In consideration of potential technical solutions, the group's information needs include:

- Accommodations for short- and long-form articles, photos, and other media
- A searchable index - metadata compatibility is a plus
- Space for the organization's branding and partial control of visual design
- A user-friendly data-entry interface that can be utilized across all technological expertise levels

### 2. Identify a user group, or multiple user groups.

This database solution would ideally be used by both the group's volunteer staff on the back-end and the organization's patrons on the front. Patrons could include researchers, students, and residents of Jackson County interested in local history.

### 3. Identify five or more technological solutions, which may simply be software applications or platforms.

1. Webpage (Wordpress.org)
2. DocuWiki
3. Omeka Classic
4. Content DM
5. PastPerfect Web Edition

### 4. Devise standardized, user-based criteria for evaluating each solution.

Our specific criteria include:

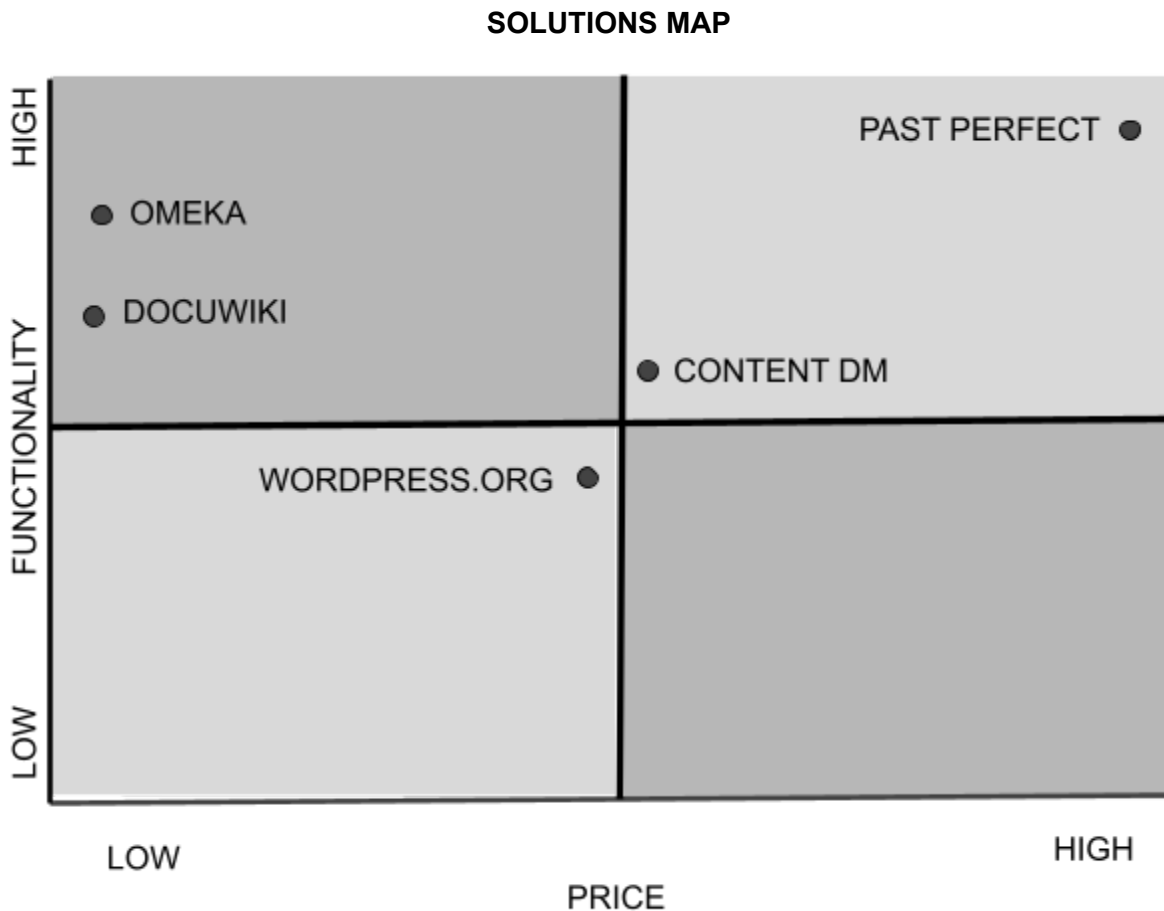
1. Price
2. Usability

- a. End user
- b. Entry user
- 3. Index capability
  - a. Tagging system
  - b. Keyword search bar
- 4. Control of Visual design
- 5. Support and documentation

See Solution Table for detailed descriptions of each solution’s abilities.

5. Develop an evaluation that includes a recommendation for the best solution.

Based on our criteria, PastPerfect (Web Edition) is our recommendation for the Jackson County Historical Society’s online archival database solution. Given no monetary constraints, PastPerfect (Web Edition) accomplishes all the necessary criteria, while capitalizing on current software that Jackson County is already using.



Solution Table	Price	Usability	Index Capability	Control of Visual Design	Support and Documentation	Website Example
<p><b>PastPerfect Web Edition</b> (cloud-based -- Hosted by Amazon Web Services)</p> <p><a href="https://museumsoftware.com/webedition.html">https://museumsoftware.com/webedition.html</a></p>	<p>One time set-up fee \$375 (including transfer of current PastPerfect data)</p> <p>Annual hosting \$596 (1 user, 5000 records, 100 GB storage) up to \$2245 (40 users, unlimited records, 3000 GB storage) with 2 other levels in between</p> <p>Public access annual cost \$250-\$1500</p>	<p>Public access seems similar to many websites so very usable. Seems straightforward for those entering data. HTML/CSS only needed to add the public access link to an existing website.</p>	<p>Includes many preselected fields, but unique fields can be added. Public access searchability works well for content of fields.</p>	<p>Can be made to complement an existing website. Described as very customizable.</p>	<p>Many methods of instruction for users doing the input; instruction manuals online, periodic free webinars, and paid classes offered. Unlimited tech support provided.</p>	<p><a href="https://statenistland.pastperfectonline.com/">https://statenistland.pastperfectonline.com/</a></p>

<p><b>Omeka Classic</b>  <a href="https://omeka.org/classic/">https://omeka.org/classic/</a></p>	<p>Free, though you may need to pay for hosting.</p>	<p>User friendly for both in-house users and end-users. Has an in-house interface similar to WordPress</p>	<p>Has a built in tagging system. Though not explicitly discussed on their site, every website I have seen using Omeka has search functionality.</p>	<p>Themes and templates are available for the website, but leave room for customization. Lots of plug-in features to make the functionality of the site customizable as well.</p>	<p>Has a great online user manual / documentation that looks really clear and helpful. An active online community for answering questions. Quite a few online tutorials from individuals outside of Omeka as well.</p>	<p><a href="https://archives.gc.cuny.edu/civilrights/">https://archives.gc.cuny.edu/civilrights/</a></p> <p><a href="https://americanantiquarian.org/birdsofamerica/">https://americanantiquarian.org/birdsofamerica/</a></p> <p><a href="https://baltimoreuprising2015.org/items/tags">https://baltimoreuprising2015.org/items/tags</a></p> <p><a href="https://nscdsarchives.com/">https://nscdsarchives.com/</a></p>
<p><b>DocuWiki</b>  <a href="https://www.dokuwiki.org/dokuwiki">https://www.dokuwiki.org/dokuwiki</a></p>	<p>Open Source wiki software does not require a database, only price attached would be hosting capability and IT set-up assistance (if needed).</p>	<p>Very familiar to the end-user, simple, clean, readable syntax and design, various templates provide a range of features. HTML skills necessary for most back-users but has straight forward configuration and open source code making editing easy for both beginners and professionals.</p>	<p>Strong indexing capability. Keyword search and tagging features inherent to the program. All templates feature a table of contents and index-based fast fulltext search. As their logo says, "It's better when it's simple."</p>	<p>Extremely extensible. Over 100 customizable templates with unique layout and design capability to incorporate logos and color schemes. All layouts have an additional 1200 plug-ins available for extended features. Access control (spam blacklist, index delay) allows heightened overall experience and customizability.</p>	<p>Tons of free virtual support and training available, including archived Newsletters, maillist, forum, IRC channel, manuals, and a reporting bugs feature.</p>	<p><a href="#">Templates [DokuWiki]</a></p> <p><a href="#">Website examples [DokuWiki]</a></p> <p><a href="https://www.psychdb.com/home">https://www.psychdb.com/home</a></p>

<p><b>WordPress.org</b> <a href="https://wordpress.org/">https://wordpress.org/</a></p>	<p>Variable depending on size -- Upgraded templates one-time price</p>	<p>Visitors will be familiar with the format since Wordpress.org, according to the article, powers 42% of websites on the internet. Could get unwieldy if there is too much information.</p>	<p>Can incorporate a Wiki-type list, but also there are ways to incorporate a search bar. Learning how to incorporate the search might take some additional education and figuring out how to tag the metadata would also be a learning curve.</p>	<p>Very high. Can use pre-made templates, but also have the option of creating everything from scratch. Also have the option of taking a pre-made template and tweaking it to suit your needs.</p>	<p>Lots of tutorials for learning how to navigate building the site.</p>	<p><a href="https://madisoncountyhistory.net/">https://madisoncountyhistory.net/</a></p>
<p><b>ContentDM</b> <a href="https://www.oclc.org/en/contentdm.html">https://www.oclc.org/en/contentdm.html</a></p>	<p>Variable. Would need to contact a representative for pricing.</p>	<p>Easy to understand layout and functionality for an end-user. Appears to be relatively straightforward for in-house users uploading and describing items. There is documentation and training available on the website. Collection metadata can also be uploaded to WorldCat using an integrated tool.</p>	<p>Has preselected fields such as title, author, subject, which could potentially be used as a tagging system. The controlled vocabulary for subjects can be edited through the admin account. End-users can search both within individual item records and the collection as a whole.</p>	<p>Relatively high. Can fully customize the homepage and upload an html webpage if desired. Many of the collection pages have the same feel and layout, though colors, fonts, and placement of most built-in features is customizable.</p>	<p>A fair amount of online documentation, however, the instructional pages rarely include images or diagrams of the actual interface. Free online training and tutorials offered both live and recorded. Technical office hours offered by phone once a month.</p>	<p><a href="https://collections.digitalmaryland.org/digital/collection/schh">https://collections.digitalmaryland.org/digital/collection/schh</a>  <a href="https://digital.cincinnati.library.org/digital/collection/p16998coll27">https://digital.cincinnati.library.org/digital/collection/p16998coll27</a></p>