

# Designing and Developing Department-Cum-Centre for Women's Studies and Development Library Websites: A Practical Approach Using Web 2.0 Service

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## Abstract

In this paper, the authors have tried to document the process of design a library website using web 2.0 services. For this, Weebly has been selected using which the authors have developed the website of Department-cum-Centre for Women's Studies and Development (DCWSD) of Panjab University, Chandigarh, India. Weebly is a web based solutions to create websites. It provides free as well as paid account/ options for creating websites. The library website developed by using the free account aims to provides single window access to e-resources subscribed by DCWSD along with easy access to UGC-INFONET Digital Library Consortium e-resources in the subject of Women Studies. It also provides information about library collections and services, library rules, etc. Users can also make use of inbuilt Books Recommendation Form, Library Feedback Form, No Dues Form. The authors have also attempted to consolidate additional scholarly open access e-resources in the field of Women Studies. The website can be accessed from <http://dcwsdlibrary.weebly.com/>. This website was inaugurated by Dean Faculty of Arts, Panjab University, Chandigarh.

**Keywords:** Library Website, Department-cum-Centre for Women's Studies and Development (DCWSD) Library Website, Weebly, Panjab University, Chandigarh, Web 2.0

## 1. Introduction

There are two approaches to create a website, viz. software-based like Kompozer, WYSIWYG and Dreamweaver, and web-based like Weebly, Joomla, Webs and Wix. Kompozer, WYSIWYG are free of cost, whereas Dreamweaver is paid. Web-based solutions provide free as well as paid account/ options for creating websites. In case of free account, user has to select their sub-domain whereas .com, .net, .info domains have to be purchased. The authors have used free account of Weebly for creating the website. Weebly is a San Francisco, California based company that was founded in 2006 with the mission to help people put their information online quickly and easily. It is a web 2.0 based web-hosting service that allows the users to build the websites using "drag-and-drop" utility which is a popular component of WYSIWYG based services. Weebly enables to easily create personal sites and blogs or establish web presences for businesses, weddings, classrooms, churches, and artistic portfolios.

## 2. Literature Review

Corney, Herd, & Atkinson (2002) in their article entitled "Planning, designing and evaluating a departmental medical illustration website" showed that the Medical Illustration Department at West Glasgow Hospital constructs a departmental website that would not only raise awareness of the department but also demonstrate the

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expertise in website construction the medical illustration staff had developed. In this study, departmental staff and client base surveys were conducted to define what was required for a successful departmental website. Further investigation was conducted by surveying five existing medical illustration websites. Based on this initial data, the website was constructed. A post-construction survey was conducted to assess suitability, usability and to highlight any potential problem areas.

Choi & Almanza (2012) in their article entitled “Health Department Websites as a Source of Restaurant Food Safety Information” showed that the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA; 2010) and fast-growing Internet use have created new ways to seek food safety information on the Web. Many health departments are now providing restaurant food safety inspection reports on the Web to meet the public’s demand for food safety information. Little research had been done to evaluate availability of inspection reports on the Web and the formats used to post inspection reports. Of 110 Websites, 68 (61.8%) provided inspection reports. Formats ranged from a basic summary to a complete listing of violations. Some Websites provided some information in alternative languages; however, all inspection reports were provided in English. Most of the Websites were updated every 3 months.

Chow, Bridges & Commander (2014) in their article entitled “The Website Design and Usability of US Academic and Public Libraries” described the results of a nationwide study which examined the design, layout, content, site management, and usability of 1,469 academic and public library websites from all 50 states in the United States. The study showed common trends for homepage design, navigation, and information architecture. Library websites were found to consistently provide information about hours of operation (97.9 percent), library address (91 percent), news and events (88.9 percent), access to OPACs (84.6 percent), online renewal (77.7 percent), contact information (72.5 percent), and ability to give feedback (74.2 percent). Websites were mainly designed (33 percent) and managed (50 percent) by librarians as part of their professional job duties and the majority did not conduct any web usability testing (72.3 percent). This study provided a profile of how the nation’s academic and public libraries design and manage their websites.

Kalra & Verma (2011) in their article entitled “Evaluation indicators of library websites of selected research

institutions in India” evaluated the library websites of selected research institutions in India both quantitatively and qualitatively on the basis of Web Impact Factor, pre-defined check list of indicators, and online questionnaire survey. The study showed the existing procedures and practices of evaluation indicators of websites at national and international levels as reported in the literature. It revealed that there were many inconsistencies and terminological issues and many effective methodologies/techniques for websites evaluation which were practiced at international level but were not being used in such studies in India. Two major quality components viz. ‘usability’ and ‘usefulness’ covering the various evaluation indicators at ‘indicative’ and ‘illustrative’ level had been examined.

### 3. Need of Library Website

- To engage faculty and students in academic libraries need their websites.
- To make maximum usage of exclusive research databases.
- To save the time of faculty, research scholars and students.
- To provide awareness about rules and regulation.
- The user can access 24/7 to e-resources with the help of a website.
- To provide anytime and anywhere access.
- With the help of library website user can come to know about electronic journals subscribed by the library.
- To provide feedback and suggestions.
- To make maximum usage of the library and its resources.

### 4. Scope of the Study

The scope of the present study is to design and develop library website for the Department-cum-Centre for Women’s Studies and Development (DCWSD), Panjab University, Chandigarh using Weebly. For this, identification and consolidation of the scholarly e-resources in the field of Women Studies is essential. This library website will aim to include online journals subscribed by department, the e-recourses available

through UGC- INFONET and free databases/e-resources in the discipline of Women Studies.

## 5. Objectives of the Study

1. To design and develop website for Department-cum-Centre for Women's Studies and Development (DCWSD) Library.
2. To provide single window access to e-resources subscribed by DCWSD.
3. To add UGC-INFONET Digital Library Consortium resources to the designed website.
4. To consolidate other scholarly open access e-resources in the field of Women Studies.
5. To provide information about library collections and services.
6. To add books recommendation form and Library feedback form.
7. To add various documents i.e. Library no dues form for students through website.
8. To provide the library rules through the library website.

## 6. Features of Weebly

Weebly is an intuitive, easy, feature-rich and powerful website builder with WYSIWYG approach. It provides interface for creating classroom websites, student e-portfolios, and websites for assigned projects. Its drag & drop website editor very easy and extremely simple to use. It enables the inclusion of a variety of multimedia features within a protected environment which users can control. The major features of Weebly are summarised in following sections:

### 6.1. Easy, Drag & Drop Website Editor

Easy drag & drop website editor is one of the core advantage of Weebly. Videos, slideshows, pictures, maps, and texts can be added by simply dragging them to your website. Full HTML & CSS control is available for maximum customization. There's absolutely nothing to install and no upgrades are forced upon. It can be truly termed as "surprisingly easy and straightforward".

### 6.2. A Managed, Protected Environment for Students

For privacy and security concerns, the websites can be password protected with single click. It offers full control over which websites are public, which are private and which can be edited by a student. It is simple to bulk create new student accounts and oversee student's activity.

### 6.3. Powerful Multimedia Features

By just dragging and dropping we can easily add pictures, videos, audio players, documents, maps, and photo galleries which can be viewed using Weebly's native unbranded audio and video players.

### 6.4. Flexible Blogging Features

Weebly supports an unlimited number of blogs within website, with full comment moderation features allowing an open, moderated, or closed conversation. Students can express their thoughts and receive comments from others by using Weebly's super slick blogging features. They can also post class updates, homework assignment and news for parents.

### 6.5. It's Free

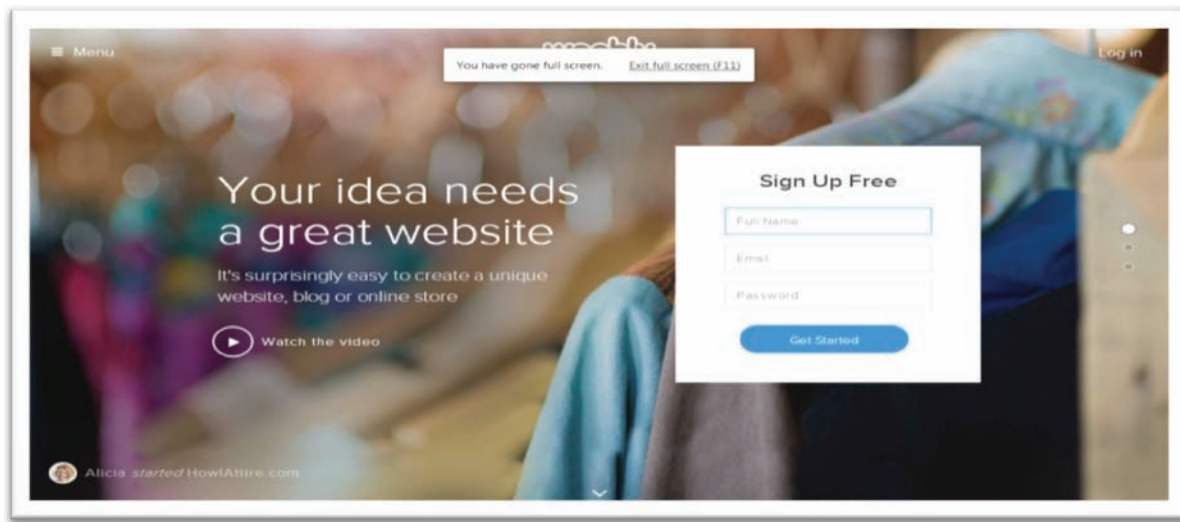
It is completely free to create and publish a website with Weebly, which provides heavily discounted education services. It has optional Pro account which is paid. The current website has been designed using the free account of Weebly.

### 6.6. Beautiful Designs (or Customise Own)

Weebly provides many customisable beautiful designs to choose from and add more regularly. Users can completely customise the template of our site, or build our own with HTML & CSS, right in the Weebly editor.

### 6.7. Hosting Services

The Weebly service is fully available online, so there is nothing for us to install or configure. We don't need to pay for a hosting provider as it provides the hosting. It doesn't

**Figure 1: Sign up Page of Weebly**

impose any arbitrary bandwidth restrictions, storage caps or limits on the number of pages allowed, either. Its hosting infrastructure is backed by multiple servers that provide reliable stability for the websites all for free.

### 6.8. Publish to Our Own Domain

Weebly provides three options for website publishing - a) publish using free sub-domain of weebly.com (<http://ourwebsitename.weebly.com>), b) purchase a domain directly from Weebly which we instantly set up with our

site and c) configure a domain that we already own to work with our Weebly site.

## 7. Steps of Website Building

### 7.1. Account Creation

Creating an account on [www.weebly.com](http://www.weebly.com) is very easy. Just click on Sign up and enter name, email ID and password and the account will be created in seconds. (See Figure-1).

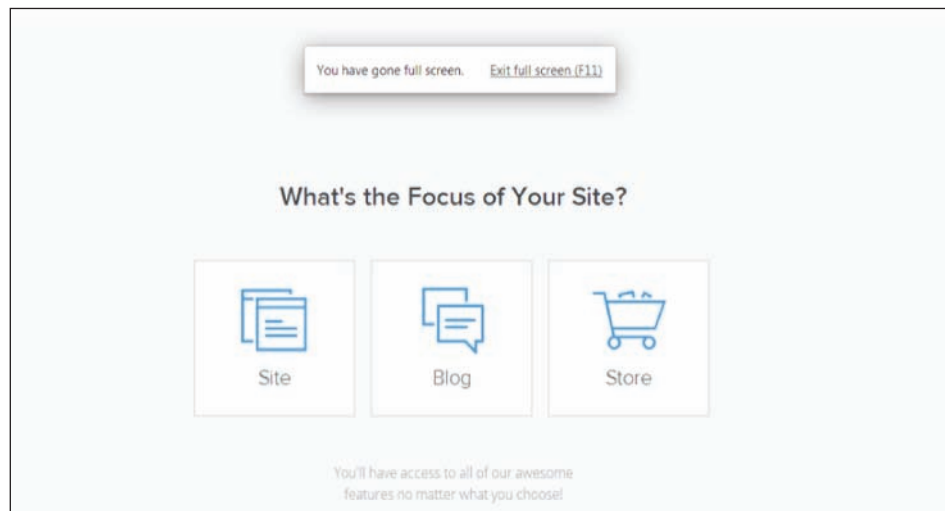
**Figure 2: Screen of Site Focus**

Figure 3: Screen of Theme Selection

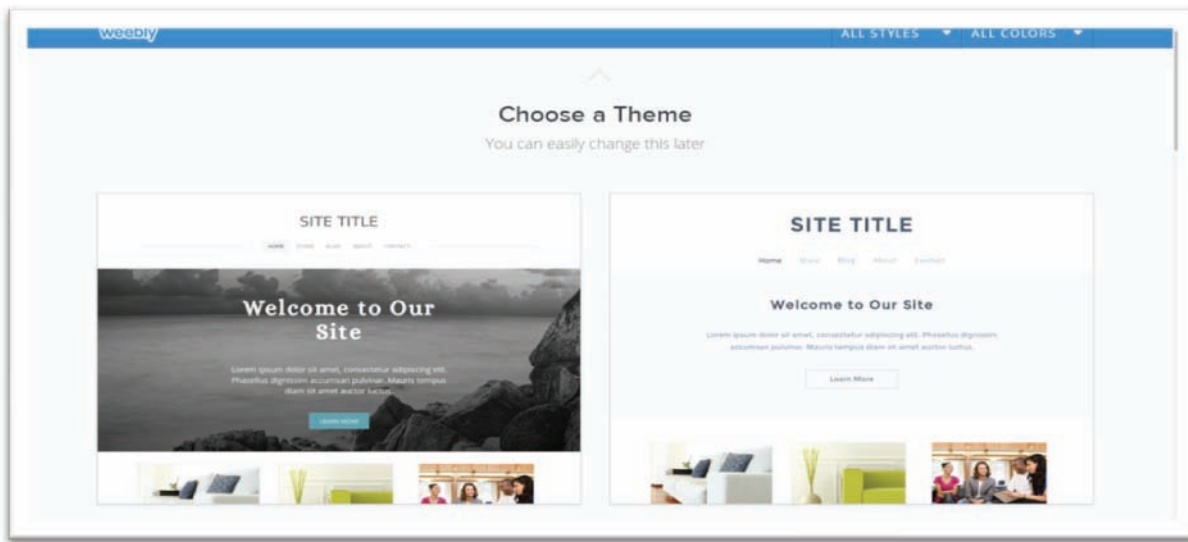
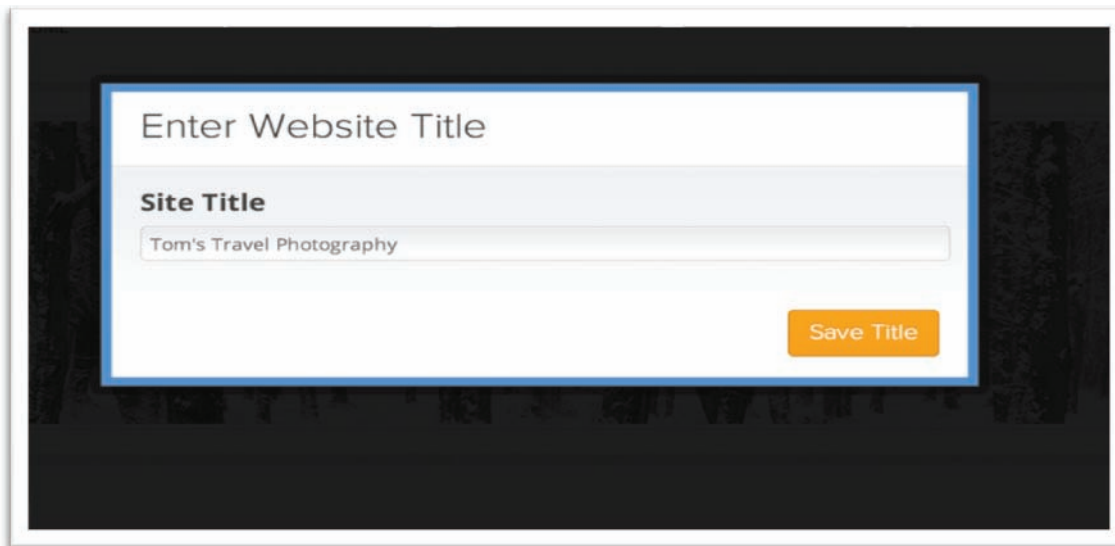


Figure 4: Site Title Page



## 7.2. Site Focus

In this step users are supposed to select one option out of three viz., Site, Blog and Store. For the current website the first option i.e., “Site” was chosen. Store option is for the websites with commercial purposes. (See Figure-2).

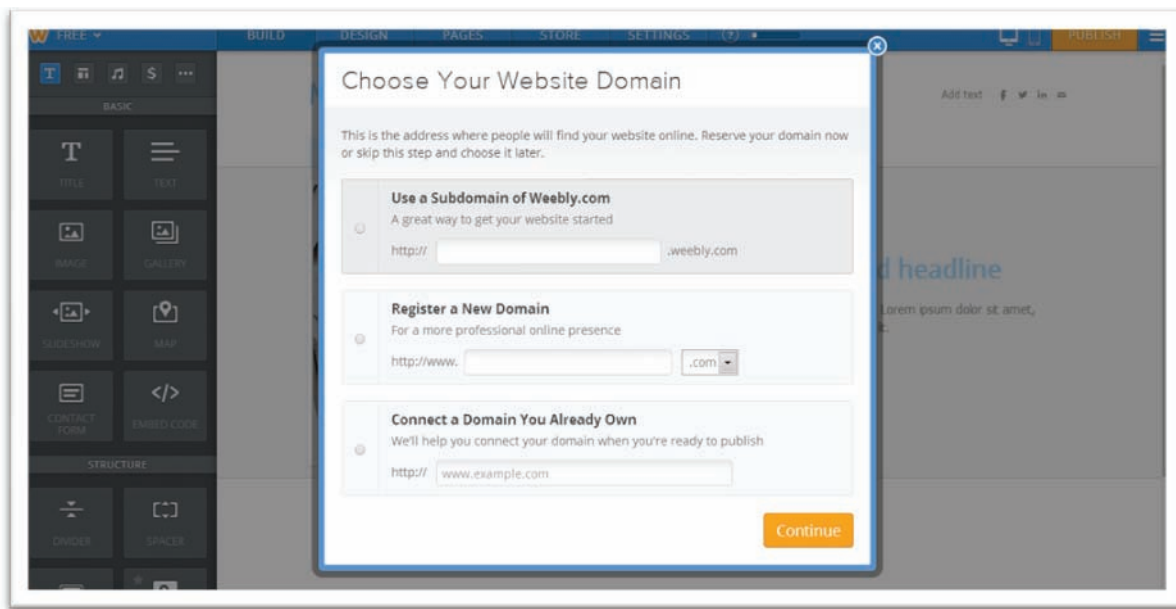
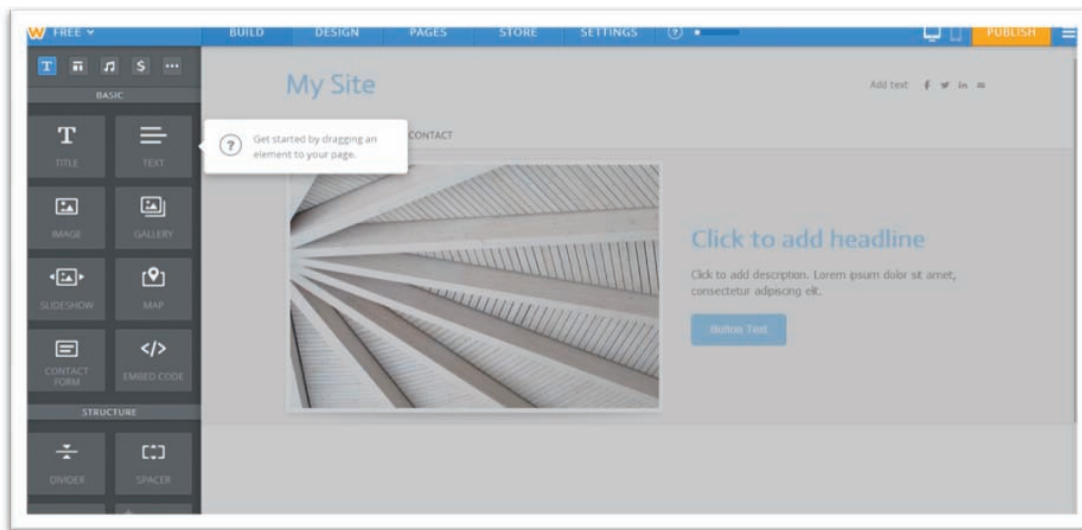
## 7.3. Theme Selection

The next step to create a site is to select a theme. We can choose it from over a hundred themes available by

scrolling down the page. A theme page can be changed later on and as many times as we want. (See Figure-3).

## 7.4. Site Title

After choosing a theme we will be asked to give a title to our site. We can use a temporary title, much like a theme, if we have not decided on title yet. It can be easily changed later on. Choosing an appropriate site title is very important as it will have its impact on the site user community. For the current website the authors decided to name it as “LIBRARY, DCWSD, PANJAB UNIVERSITY, CHANDIGARH” (See Figure-4).

**Figure 5: Website Domain Page****Figure 6: 'My Site' Page**

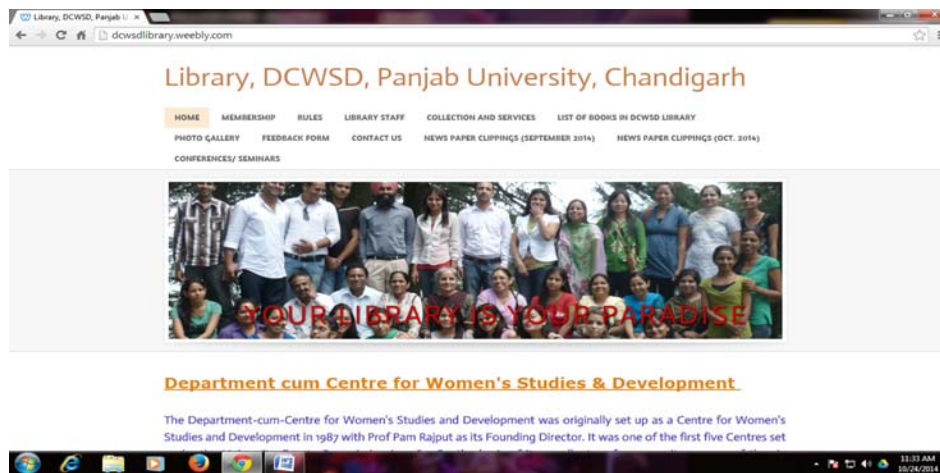
## 7.5. Site Address/Domain

In this step we will choose our site's address (also called a domain). This isn't particularly important until we finish our site and publish it. So if we don't know which domain we want to use, then the simplest thing to do is to select a free subdomain of Weebly.com, using it as a first option. For the current website the subdomain of weebly was used and the site address thus created was <http://dcwsdlibrary.weebly.com/>. One advantage of using the weebly subdomain is that it is free account. (See Figure-5).

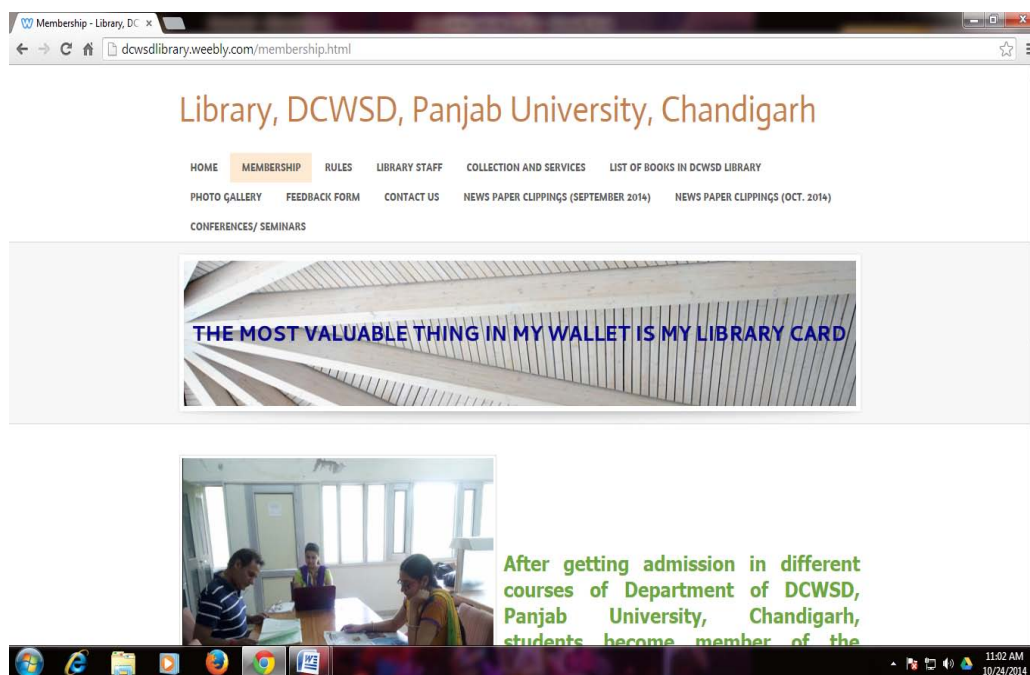
## 7.6. Site Building

All is done with the initial setup. We are now ready to start creating our site. In this step we design and edit the website. Drag elements to the box that says "DRAG ELEMENTS HERE". If we do this, elements will be added to our page to make it more appealing. We can add text to the title of a page by clicking on "My Site" and using our keyboard keys to edit the text. (See Figure-6).

**Figure 7:** Screenshot of Home Page



**Figure 8:** Screenshot of Membership Page



## 7.7. Site Publish

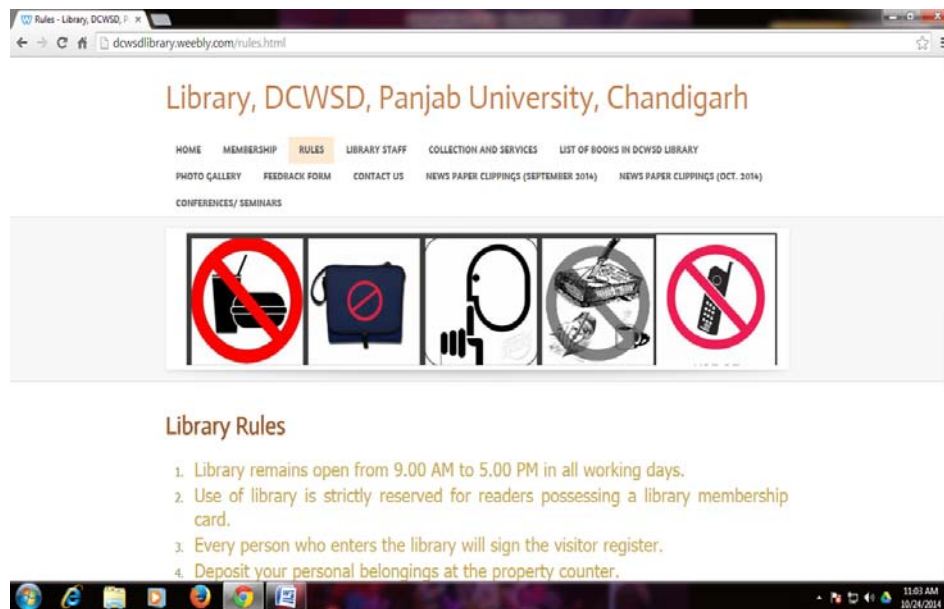
In this step once we are satisfied with our website, we just have to click on “Publish”. By doing this our website will be available to the public. But we can still edit our website after it is published. We can do this by logging in to [www.weebly.com/weebly/userHome.php](http://www.weebly.com/weebly/userHome.php) and make the desired changes. We can do this by just clicking on “Edit” which is under the “My Sites”.

## 8. DCWSD Library: Components

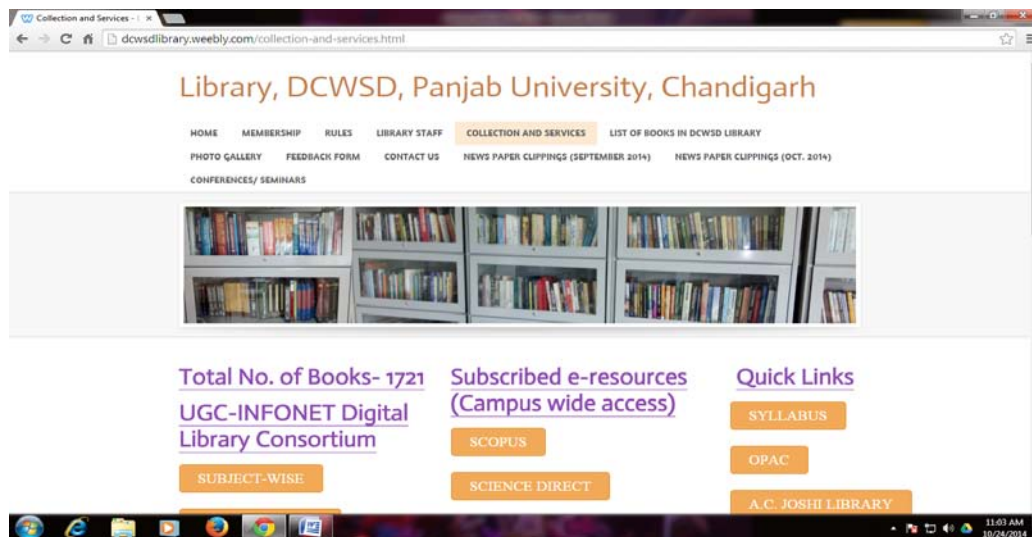
### 8.1. Homepage

Homepage is a place where users can find information about DCWSD and its library. We can click on “Pages” button and make a Home Page, then drag title and text element in the ‘DRAG ELEMENTS HERE’. A relevant site title has to be written in the in the title box with relevant information has to be given in the text box with.

**Figure 9: Screenshot of Library Rules Page**



**Figure 10: Screenshot of Collection & Services Page**



(See Figure-7). The default image can be change using the options of: edit image -> upload suitable image -> write a punch line on the header part of webpage

## 8.2. Library Membership

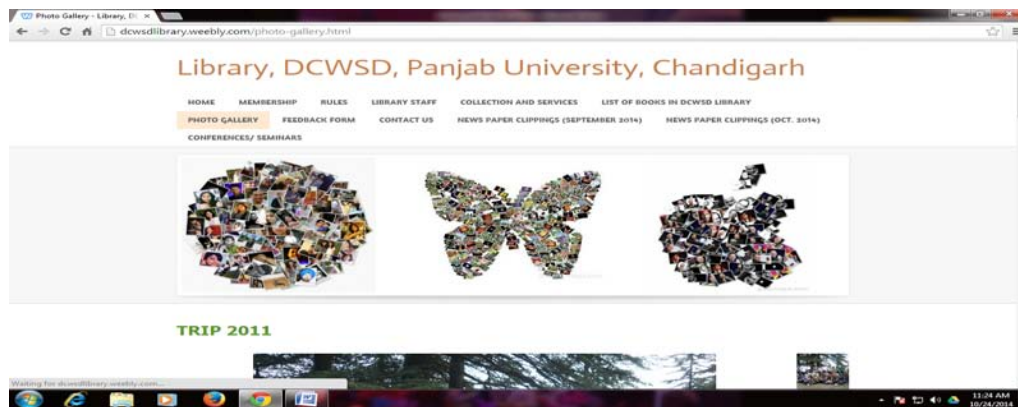
In the library membership page, eligibility criteria for members have been given. For example who can become member of the library and what is the procedure of beocming member. Click on Pages button and make a Membership Page, then drag gallery element and text

element in the 'DRAG ELEMENTS HERE'. Upload relevant pictures and write relevant information in the text box and give a hyperlink to no dues button. With the help of edit image,upload suitable image andwrite a punch line on the header part of webpage. (See Figure-8).

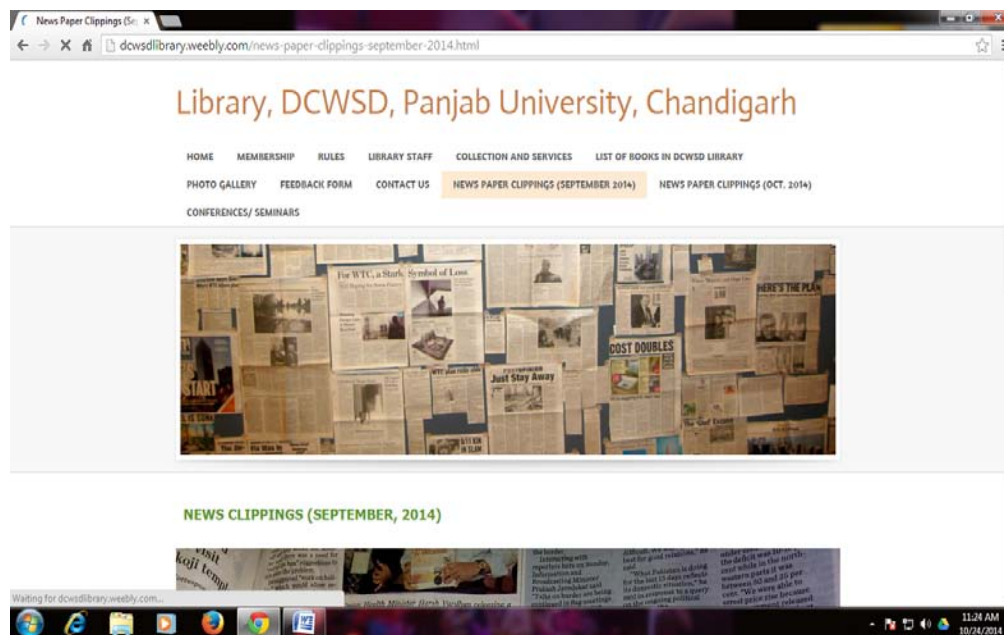
## 8.3. Library Rules

Library rules page provide all rules and regulations followed in the departmental library of DCWSD. Click on Pages button and make a Library Rules Page, then drag

**Figure 11: Photo Gallery Page**



**Figure 12: News Paper Clippings Page**



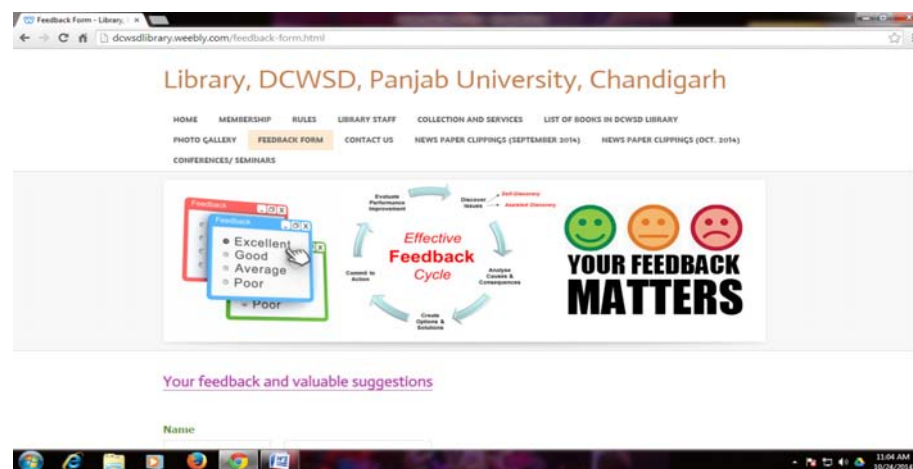
text element in the 'DRAG ELEMENTS HERE'. Write relevant rules of library in the text box. With the help of editing image, upload suitable image and write a punch line on the header part of webpage. (See Figure-9).

#### 8.4. Library Staff

In this page, information has been given regarding name of the library incharge and his/her qualifications etc. Click on Pages button and make a Library Staff Page, then drag image element and text element in the 'DRAG ELEMENTS HERE'. Upload pictures of library incharge and write relevant information in the text box. With the help of editing image, upload suitable image, and write a punch line on the header part of webpage.

#### 8.5. Collection & Services

This webpage of the DCWSD library website provides for information regarding all e-resources subscribed by DCWSD as well as main library. Direct links have been given to UGC-INFONET Digital Library Consortium DCWSD e-resources. It also provides access to the various quality open access r-resources in the subject concerned. Other useful links that have been added here include links to syllabus, OPAC, Panjab University Library (A.C. Joshi Library), Digital Library, Net Portal, Result and link to the parent organization i.e., Panjab University. (See Figure-10).

**Figure 13:** Screenshot of Feedback Form Page

## 8.6. Photo Gallery

This page shows photos of different occasions like Freshers party, Farewell party and different Conferences/ Seminars organized by DCWSD. (See Figure-10).

## 8.7. News Paper Clipping and WhatsApp Group

The DCWSD Library provides a News Paper Clipping Service to the users of library. In this service all news related to women issues, articles on women issues are provided. To provide this service fast and to everyone, a group on WhatsApp has been created. All students of DCWSD and Faculty are member of this group. Anyone can provide newspaper clipping to this group. This group is entirely academic and admin by library-incharge. This group also checked by chairperson of the department so that only relevant information can be shared. This WhatsApp group is named DCWSD and after every week profile picture is changed with new inspirational thought. (See Figure-12).

## 8.8. Feedback Form and Contact Page

Feedback form is helpful to get views of users or criticism that is given to someone to say what can be done to improve the services of library etc. The DCWSD library website provides dedicated feedback form for understanding user need, suggestions and expectations. The contact page provides the means to contact the chairperson of the department. (See Figure-13).

## 9. Conclusion

The DCWSD Library Website includes all the resources, collection, services of the library and can be helpful for the students as well as the faculty and staff members of the Institute. It is also informative for the outside users who are keen to know about the library. Strenuous efforts have been made to incorporate all the valuable e-resources in the website developed by the authors. However, other valuable suggestions are always invited for further improvement and rectifications. The authors were found the claims and promises of Weebly a reality as it was so easy to design and develop the website.

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