

# Leveraging Open Source Software for the Humanities and Social Sciences: The Canadian HSS Commons

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## What is the Canadian HSS Commons?

*An open online space where Canadian HSS researchers and stakeholders can gather to share information and resources, make connections, and build community*



For more information, please check out [hsscommons.ca](https://hsscommons.ca).



## Key features

- Canadian servers / digital research infrastructure
- In-development prototype built on HUBzero (open source, modifications on GitHub)
- User profiles, with Single Sign-On through ORCID / Canadian Access Federation
- Subject repository for OA resources (assigns DOIs, follows FAIR guidelines)
- Research-sharing, communication, and management tools:
  - E.g., interest groups, collections, blogs, discussion forums, member-to-member messaging, Q&As, site-wide calendar, and more
- Project development environment - GitHub, Google Drive, & Dropbox integration



# Open Social Scholarship (ETCL)

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## Updates

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## To Do

[See all](#)[TPS report](#)

(Above: a quick look at the Canadian HSS Commons project development space)



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# Digital Knowledge Commons: A Brief Introduction

By Graham Jensen

University of Victoria

This video provides an overview of the history of digital knowledge commons, as well as some of the challenges facing today's digital knowledge commons and academic social networking sites. These challenges include the...

Listed in Video essay

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## Description

This video provides an overview of the history of digital knowledge commons, as well as some of the challenges facing today's digital knowledge commons and academic social networking sites. These challenges include the *enclosure* or commercialization of commons; the *exploitation* of researchers and research data; and the *exclusion* of certain people from digital spaces. It concludes with a brief discussion of how not-for-profit digital knowledge commons such as the Canadian Humanities and Social Sciences Commons are working to address these challenges.

## Tags

commons

critical infrastructure studies

digital humanities

digital knowledge commons


digital research commons


digital research infrastructure

## RECOMMENDATIONS

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## SEE ALSO

 Introduction: Engaging Open Scholarship

 Toward modeling the social edition: An approach to understanding the electronic scholarly



## Project Partners

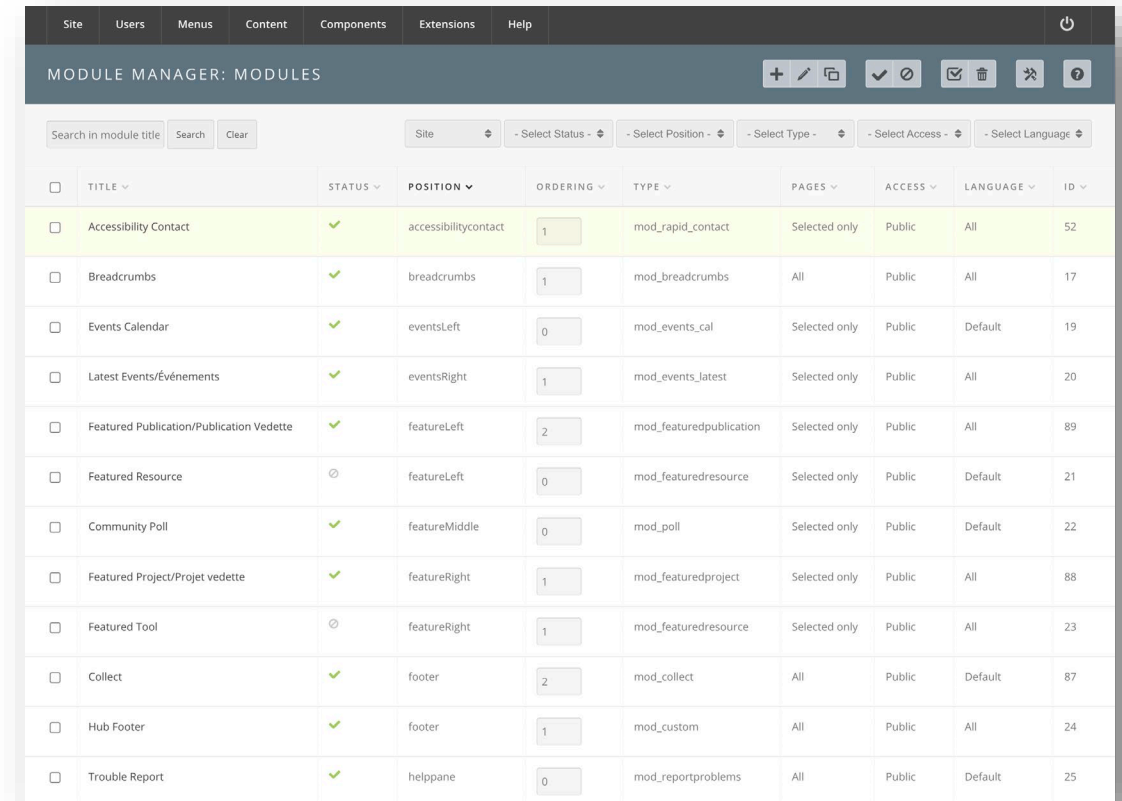
- Initiative of the INKE Partnership ([inke.ca](http://inke.ca)), coordinated by the Canadian Social Knowledge Institute ([c-ski.ca](http://c-ski.ca)), based in the Electronic Textual Cultures Lab ([etcl.uvic.ca](http://etcl.uvic.ca)) at UVic.
- Hosting and server management by UVic Systems; customizations by CANARIE and the ETCL.





# hubzero

- “an open source software platform for building powerful websites that host analytical tools, publish data, share resources, collaborate and build communities in a single web-based ecosystem.”
- Originally created for STEM
- Typical LAMP stack (Linux, Apache, MySQL, PHP), with *Joomla!* CMS
- Middleware and email client implemented in Python
- Interactive computation / analytical tools (Linux, Jupyter Notebooks, RStudio, other Web Applications)
- Extensible via Tools and Plug-ins
- Supports API requests (authenticated via OAuth2)
- Current version: 2.2.22



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*Above: HUBzero's admin interface*





# The goal: adapt HUBzero's research software for the needs of Canadian HSS researchers

- With our project partners, we are working to adapt HUBzero for:
  1. The Canadian context (academic, legal, etc.)
  2. HSS rather than STEM
  3. The unique needs of our own communities within Canadian HSS
- This work comes with many challenges *and* rewards...



## Examples of our modifications to HUBzero

- Customization of publication types and metadata fields to reflect diversity of current HSS research and research outputs
  - Dublin Core metadata records available for all publications in Commons' repository
  - Structured XML metadata available to harvesters via Open Archives Initiative Protocol for Metadata Harvesting (OAI-PMH)
- Shibboleth plug-in adapted: new account registrations can be authenticated through the Canadian Access Federation (CAF)
- And much more... see <https://github.com/etcluvic/hsscommons!>





# Launching a Digital Commons for the HSS: DHSI

- **When:** June 9, 2022 – 1:00-3:00pm PDT
- **Where:**
  - Virtually, as part of the Digital Humanities Summer Institute ([dhsi.org](https://dhsi.org))
- **What / Why:**
  1. A panel about digital research commons, featuring Alyssa Arbuckle (U Victoria), Kim Martin (U Guelph), and John Maxwell (Simon Fraser U)
  2. A guided workshop about the Canadian Humanities and Social Sciences Commons ([hsscommons.ca](https://hsscommons.ca))

To find out more, visit <https://inke.ca/launching-digital-commons-3/>





# Thank you!

Please feel free to get in touch with any questions or comments:

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For more information about the Canadian HSS Commons,  
please check out [hsscommons.ca](https://hsscommons.ca).