

# WordPress Migration and Optimization of the IOC Portal

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in the Digital World



The strategic migration of the Institut Obert de Catalunya (IOC) website to WordPress has modernized its content management and significantly improved the user experience. Through this technological renewal, the institution has gained autonomy, security, and a scalable platform prepared to serve its more than 10,000 annual students.

## The Challenge

The IOC is the distance learning institute of the Department of Education and Vocational Training of the Generalitat de Catalunya. As a leading center for flexible online training, it offers citizens a wide range of educational programs that require a robust and efficient digital entry point.

The organization was previously using a Joomla-based platform that presented limitations in technical performance and content management ease. The primary challenge was to move this entire ecosystem to a more intuitive and flexible environment, allowing IOC staff to manage the portal autonomously without depending on advanced technical support for daily tasks. At the same time, it was essential to guarantee data integrity and service continuity throughout the process to avoid any impact on student activity.

# The Project

To meet these needs, the TICxCAT consortium (which includes ThinkUPC) led the complete migration of the website to WordPress. This strategic decision allowed for the implementation of an ecosystem of advanced connectors and tools that form a robust and scalable platform:

- **Architecture and Design:** The Astra theme and the Ultimate Addons for Gutenberg extension were used to enhance visual customization and layout control, ensuring consistency with the corporate identity.
- **Content Management:** Using Advanced Custom Fields (ACF), information was efficiently structured with custom fields. Additionally, Author Category was incorporated for advanced and controlled management of author permissions.
- **Custom Development (Orquestra IOC):** We created this specific tool to centrally manage programs, modules, and teaching materials, providing an interactive and accessible visualization for the student.
- **Functionality and Communication:** Contact Form 7 was integrated for creating personalized forms, and Social Media Auto Publish was used to automate content distribution across social networks.
- **Inclusivity and Multilingualism:** GTranslate was implemented, specifically incorporating translation into Occitan, and the commitment to digital inclusivity was reinforced through Pojo Accessibility.

The entire process was carried out while ensuring smoother navigation that reduces cognitive load when accessing the institute's core services.



# The Results

Our intervention has resulted in a more modern and stable platform that brings immediate benefits to both the organization and its users:

- **Greater Autonomy and Agility:** The IOC team now has a much more intuitive administration interface, reducing dependence on external support for day-to-day tasks.
- **Improved User Experience:** Faster access to courses and administrative procedures has been achieved through better information hierarchy and the elimination of redundant elements.
- **Scalability and Security:** The new architecture allows for the efficient addition of new functionalities, featuring a system of constant updates that strengthens protection against vulnerabilities.
- **Commitment to Inclusivity:** The new portal ensures that distance learning is truly accessible to everyone, removing digital and linguistic barriers (including Occitan support).

In short, the IOC now possesses a technological tool aligned with its current needs and ready to continue growing and evolving in the future.