

Sarah N. Kahn. Storytime: A Storyteller's Database, Project Report. A Master's paper for the M.S. in L.S. degree. April, 2008. 37 pages. Advisor: Paul Jones

During the course of this project, an Internet accessible database was created for the use of Dr. Brian Sturm. It will contain materials generated by students enrolled in the 'Principles and Techniques of Storytelling' class. These materials will be available to educators, librarians, and amateur storytellers at large. It is located online at <http://www.ibiblio.org/storytime>.

Headings:

Databases.

Computer-assisted Instruction.

Digital Libraries.

Educational Technology.

Storytelling.

STORYTIME: A STORYTELLER'S DATABASE
PROJECT REPORT

by
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A Master's paper submitted to the faculty
of the School of Information and Library Science
of the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill
in partial fulfillment of the requirements
for the degree of Master of Science in
Library Science.

Chapel Hill, North Carolina
April, 2008

Approved by:

Advisor

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Introduction:

Dr. Brian Sturm teaches a class called 'Principles and Techniques of Storytelling' in the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill School of Information and Library Science. During the course of this class, MLS students tell stories, and conduct preparatory research on the stories that they tell. They hand in their research in the form of a document called a 'cue card'. The cue card is essentially a detailed metadata record about each story and includes background bibliographic information, geographic origin, and published variants, along with information about the student's individual interpretation of performance: emotions they want to evoke, their target audience, how they will personally stretch or take risks as a storyteller, etc.

Dr. Sturm has a large collection of these cards that has evolved over the years. Since he is well-connected in the fields of storytelling and education, he wanted to make this resource available for public use; so he has created a static webpage with a flat list of the cue card files. They are currently in Microsoft Word format, on his work computer, but are also served from the static site. He would love for teachers and others to be able to contribute to the collection. He would also like for the HTML page to be more functional and better formatted. It would also be easier for his students if there was an online system that allowed them to submit their homework, rather than having to email Dr. Sturm's Microsoft Word template.

System Requirements:

The basic system requirements were: a) that it allow Dr. Sturm complete control over what content is and is not published to the Internet, regardless of what is submitted, b) that it allow students to submit their homework to Dr. Sturm via email, regardless of whether they wished to contribute it to the online collection, c) it had to allow unregistered Internet users to freely search and use the collection material. Other features that we have incorporated include a kid-friendly page with a simplified interface, and interactive access to storytelling video clips.

System Construction:

Stacey Lunden is a fellow SILS student, and we have taken several classes together and collaborated on group projects in the past. While taking Dr. Sturm's Storytelling class, Stacey approached me about the idea of collaborating on this project, and our work on the project has been documented on our Master's Project Blog at <http://storytimemastersproject.blogspot.com/>.

I immediately thought of using a content management system as opposed to building a system from scratch, for two reasons. A content management system would include a friendly administrative interface, which would allow the final product to be more useful to Dr. Sturm after we hand it off to him. A graphic administrative interface allows a user to make system changes and organize or update published content without any specific technical knowledge. Secondly, a content management system would have a robust user

registration/management module, allowing a backend administrator to easily keep track of who has logged into the system and submitted content. Additionally, neither one of us has substantial experience with MYSQL databases, and a content management system would eliminate that issue by building and managing the database for us. My experiences as a Research Assistant at ibiblio.org had made me familiar with the power and flexibility of many open source content management systems, so we never seriously considered any other option.

We began preliminary work on the project in November, 2007. We did a lot of research into currently popular content management systems (CMS), with the main requirements being that it was easily customizable, based on PHP, and that it was open sourced. We looked at Drupal, Joomla!, PHPBB, MediaWiki, Mambo, and BitWeaver. We ultimately chose Joomla! 1.5 for several reasons. It has a large user and developer communities, with hundreds of custom plugins, add-ons, and other extensions. It is also completely customizable with Cascading Stylesheets (CSS). Several of the other CMS's were table based and very square, and we wanted to be able to incorporate Joomla! into our CSS design, rather than design for Joomla!.

Early in the research process, we decided that the project itself would be hosted by ibiblio.org. Our hosting requirements were: a web directory and a MYSQL database. We also may require significant disk space in the future, depending on how the video collection grows. Fortunately, not only does ibiblio.org place no memory restrictions on

its users, it also makes supporting SILS projects a top priority.

We decided on a simple division of labor: Stacey would design the interface and collaborate with Dr. Sturm while I would build the back-end in Joomla!. Stacey created four separate designs with accompanying fairytale-themed art, and created prototypes for the more interactive elements such as submission forms. I took her designs and interpreted them inside of Joomla!.

The process of customizing Joomla! turned out to be more of a challenge than I had anticipated. One thing that I didn't realize initially was that Joomla! couldn't incorporate custom PHP (PHP Hypertext Preprocessor) without a third-party component designed to integrate it into the core code. I also didn't know that the back-end of a Joomla! template is somewhat counterintuitive in construction. One of the biggest challenges I ran up against in creating the custom templates for our design was incorporating Joomla! modules into Stacey's CSS. The main resources that I drew from in overcoming these challenges were the Joomla! Community Forum (<http://forum.joomla.org/>), and an excellent tutorial series by Barry North of Compass Designs (<http://www.compassdesigns.net/>).

Once I successfully migrated the four CSS designs into four templates, I began doing research on how to create custom forms inside Joomla!. I initially installed an open-source component called "ChronoForms" by ChronoEngine. But this was mainly

designed for smaller contact forms, and did not have the flexibility that we needed. Our forms needed to do three things: allow students to email their homework to Dr. Sturm, submit it to the collection if they so desire, and allow non-students to submit to the collection. After some more research, I came across a component called "Fabrik" (<http://fabrikar.com/>) which was more powerful and allowed for the creation of custom PHP database plugins. The only problem with Fabrik was that it was developed for an earlier version of Joomla!. We had a working installation of version 1.5, while Fabrik was designed for the 1.0.x series. Rolling back our installation would present a bit of a challenge, since I would have to completely re-work the templates. Version 1.0.x of Joomla! uses table based template design, and is less easy to customize with CSS.

Before making a decision, I created a test installation of Joomla 1.0.x as a proof-of-concept; which entailed setting up an extra web directory and database on ibiblio. Eventually, I did decide to delete our existing installation and roll back in order to use Fabrik. It was a good decision, since Fabrik has been able to do almost everything that we wanted.

First I will briefly explain the way that the system works, and then highlight specific details that involved customization.

1. Upon login, clicking the 'Submit a Story' button, a user is sent to the native Joomla! user login module. This page requires the user to register or enter an existing login and password. If they are new and must register, it sends them to a page which requests their first and last name, a valid email address, and their

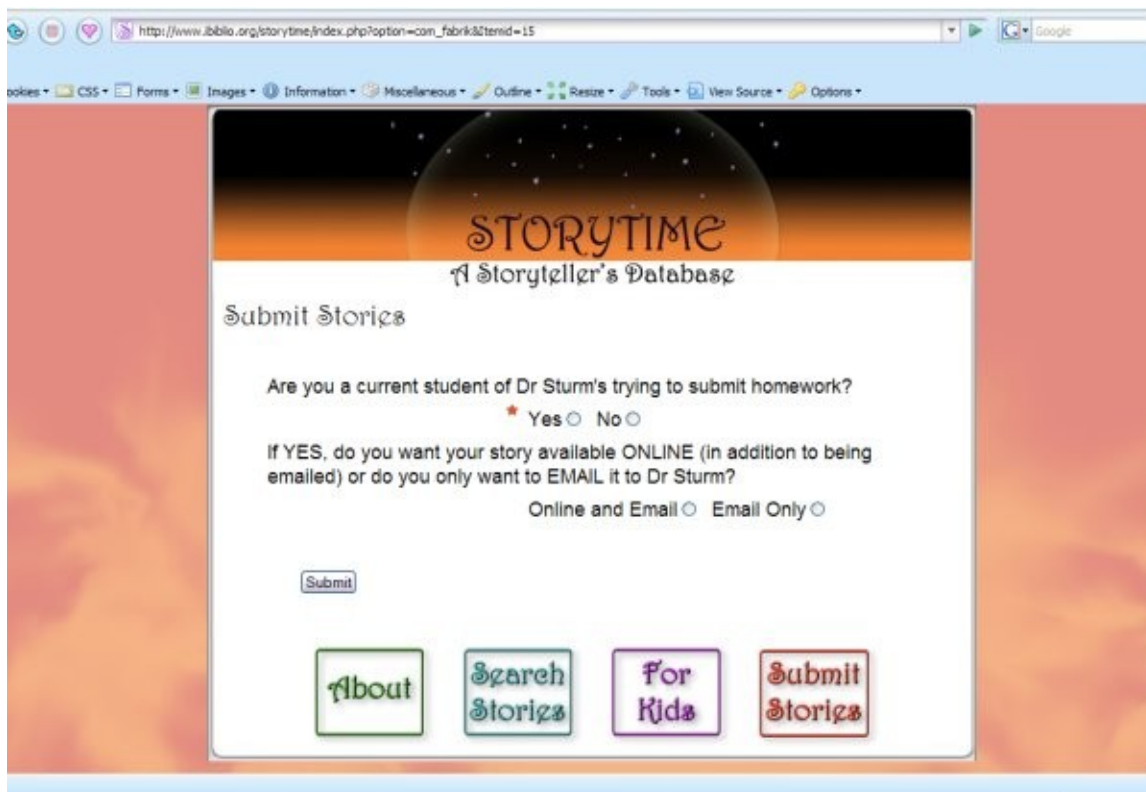
preferred password. This is a key component of our security plan, since in order to activate their account, a user must receive the activation email at the email address they registered, and click the link. This ensures that a real person with a valid email address is gaining access to our data.

2. Once logged in, users are passed to a switchboard page which determines which form they should fill out. There are three separate forms, which are 90% identical, but do have slight variances in content and function. The forms are: non-student submits to database, student submits to database, and student emails only. We decided not to have a non-student email form, since it just doesn't make sense for unaffiliated users to send email to Dr. Sturm.
3. The user fills out the form, which does several things with the information. If the user desires, it emails them a copy of what they submitted, a copy is sent to Dr. Sturm, and if they wish to add to the collection, their record is submitted to the database, where it is invisible to the world until it is approved by Dr. Sturm.
4. Dr. Sturm receives an email telling him that there are new records, in addition to an email version of the record. He may then log in to the back-end and approve or delete the record.
5. Approved records are accessible via the 'Search' page, where I implemented a custom Joomla! mambot to allow users to search only records inside the Fabrik tables.
6. Records are also accessible via the 'For Kids' page, where a tabular view of the

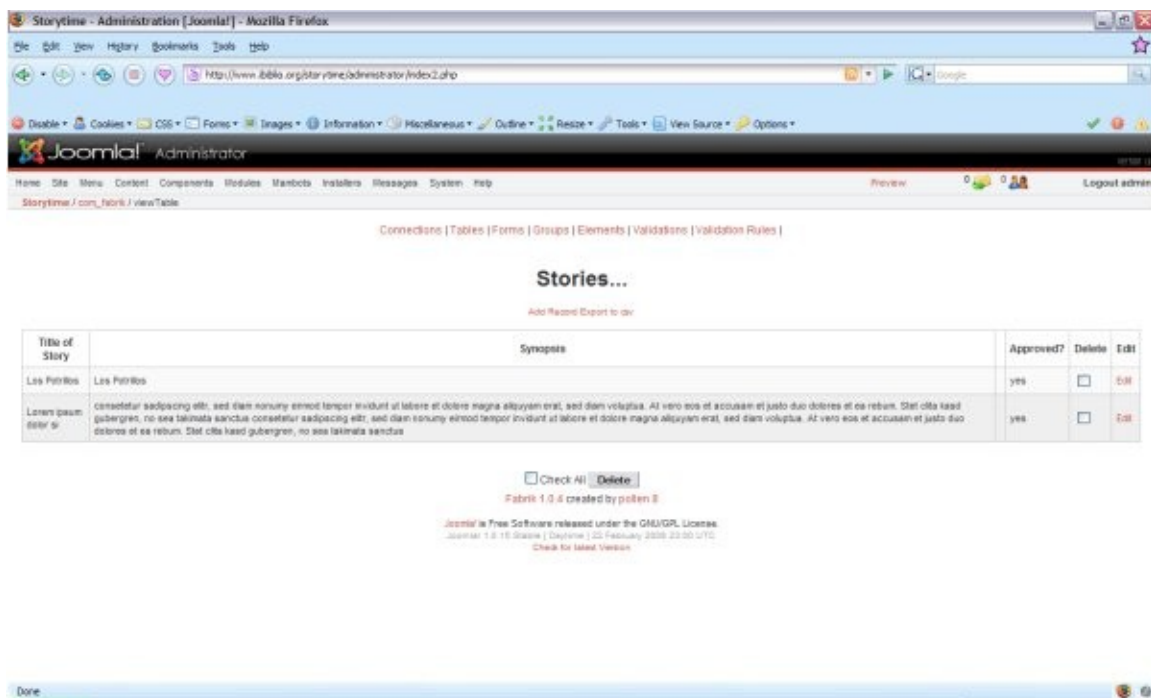
database table displays selected fields, which are granted public read access.

Below are some specific features that we have designed:

- A PHP-driven form switchboard page. When a user registers and logs in, they are passed to this page to determine which form they should be directed to. Our original idea was to have one single form, and at the end of the form determine where the data would be passed, but this turned out to be impossible within the Joomla! framework.



- Back end administrator record control. There is a hidden "approved" field on student forms, which is accessible via the backend. An administrator may log in and view records which have been newly submitted, and determine whether they are suitable to be published out to the Internet. This way, Dr. Sturm will have the final say over what content is displayed.



- The web-forms themselves: Each form has a user receipt check-box, which harvests the logged in user's name and email address, and if checked, will send a

copy of the generated record to that email address.

The screenshot shows a Mozilla Firefox browser window with the address bar displaying `http://www.biblio.org/storytime/index.php?option=com_fabrik&Itemid=9`. The browser's menu bar includes 'Tools' and 'Help'. The toolbar contains icons for 'ms', 'Images', 'Information', 'Miscellaneous', 'Outline', 'Resize', 'Tools', 'View Source', and 'Options'. The main content area features a form with the following elements:

- Four red star icons in a vertical column on the left side of the form.
- Form fields for 'Title of Story 2', 'Author of Story 2', 'Title of Book/Collection 2', and 'Full Bibliography 2'.
- Form fields for 'Title of Story 3', 'Author of Story 3', 'Title of Book/Collection 3', and 'Full Bibliography 3'.
- A text label 'Brief comparison of all versions/variants in terms of language, rhythm,' followed by a red star icon and a large text input box.
- A section titled 'Send me a copy' containing a checkbox labeled 'E-mail a copy of this message to your own address'.
- Two buttons at the bottom: 'Clear All' and 'Send it!'.

Conclusion:

We hope that this system will meet Dr. Sturm's needs reasonably well. It would have taken far less time and effort to develop an equivalent system from scratch, but the powerful advantage of Joomla! is the graphic administrative interface. The graphic

interface will ensure that long after Stacey and I have graduated, Dr. Sturm or a student assistant can easily continue to administer without extensive technical knowledge.

We met briefly with Dr. Sturm prior to the formal demonstration of the website. His initial reaction was extremely positive. He has spoken about linking this website from his popular clips on Youtube.com, as well as linking it out to widely used teaching databases. There are some changes and improvements we would like to make in the future, but we are also confident that it will serve Dr. Sturm well as is for the foreseeable future.

Appendix: User Manual for Storytime: A Database for Storytellers

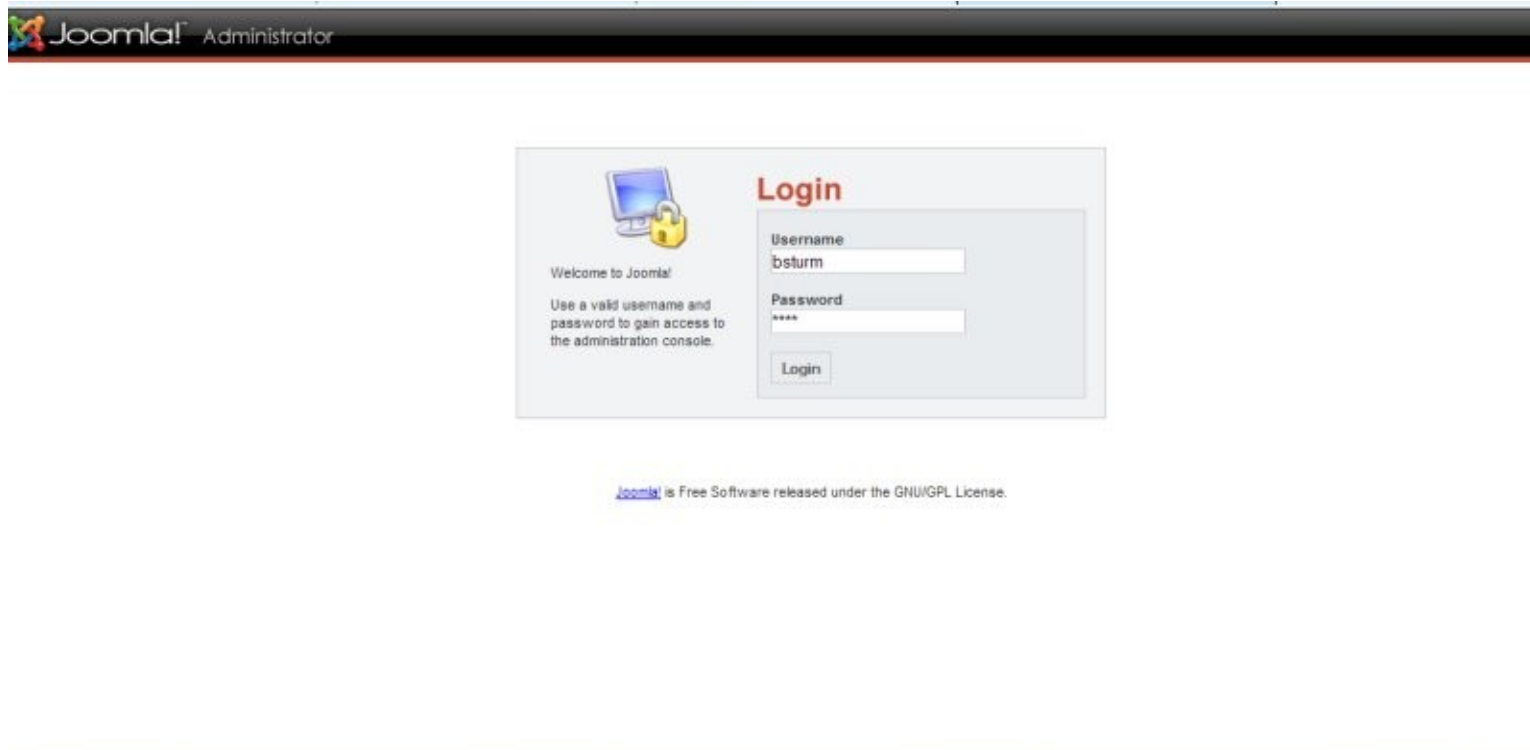
Table of Contents:

- 1. How to log in**
- 2. User Accounts**
- 3. Managing Records**
- 4. Creating New Pages**
- 5. Linking to the Menu**
- 6. About Templates**

1. How to log in:

The front end of the Storytime website is permanently located at www.ibiblio.org/storytime. To access the administrative backend, go to www.ibiblio.org/storytime/administrator. There is no link from the front end, since we didn't want users stumbling back there.

When you go to www.ibiblio.org/storytime/administrator, you will see this page:



Once you log in, you will see the administrative home page:

Joomla! Administrator

Home Site Menu Content Components Modules Mambots Installers Messages System Help

Preview 0 1 Logout admin

Storytime / com_admin

Control Panel

Add New Content
 Content Items Manager
 Static Content Manager
 Frontpage Manager
 Section Manager

Category Manager
 Media Manager
 Trash Manager
 Menu Manager
 Language Manager

User Manager
 Global Configuration

Logged Components Popular Latest Items Menu Stats

Currently Logged in Users

1	admin	Super Administrator	X
---	-------	---------------------	---

<< Start < Previous 1 Next > End >>

Display # Results 1 - 1 of 1

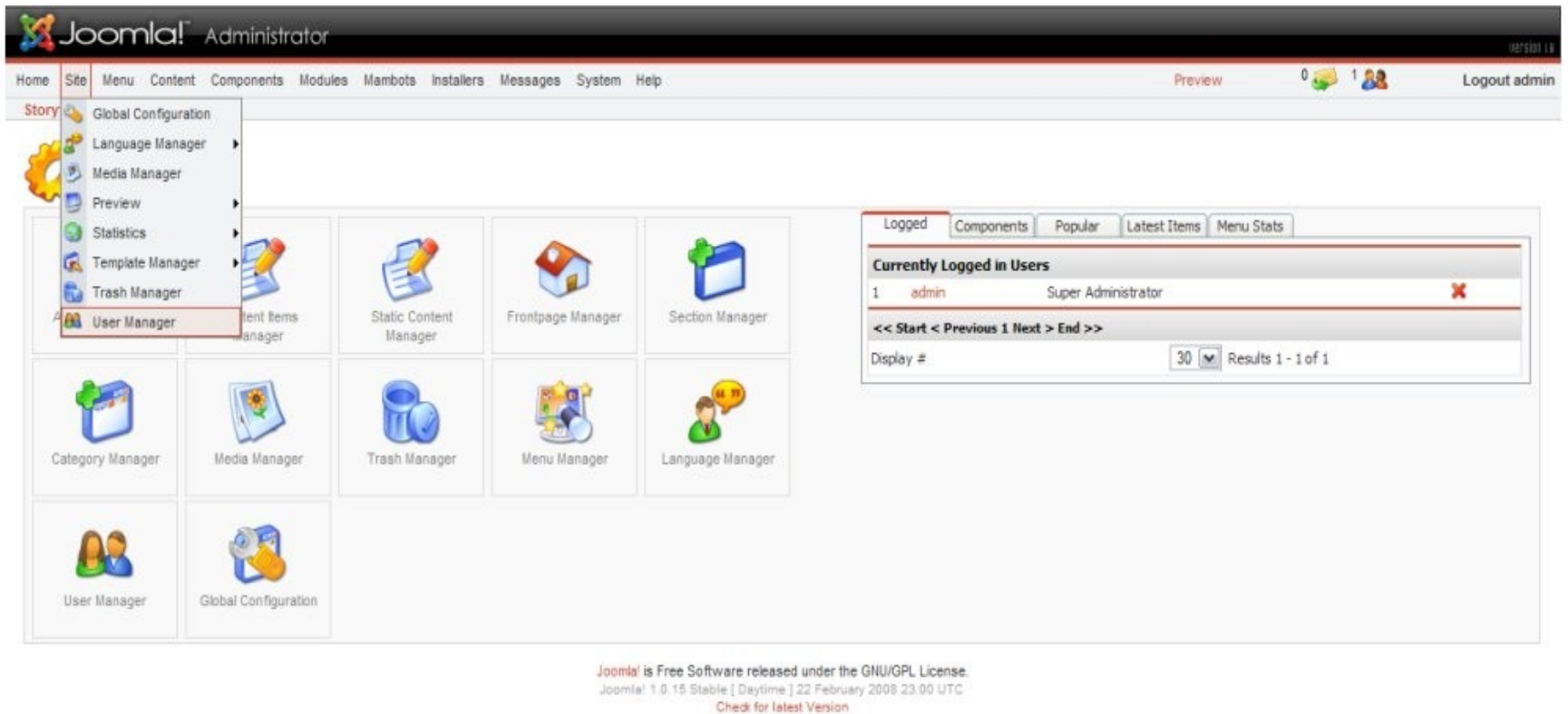
Joomla! is Free Software released under the GNU/GPL License.
 Joomla! 1.0.15 Stable [Daytime] 22 February 2008 23:00 UTC
[Check for latest Version](#)

Things to notice here: the vast majority of the buttons you will not need to use, since most of the functionality of the website is achieved within the 'Fabrik' component, which is a third party add-on and not part of the dashboard menu. The small menu on the right shows you who is currently logged in. Along the top of the page, below the black bar, is the main menu bar. If you ever get lost, you can click 'Home' to get back to this main dashboard page.

2. User Accounts

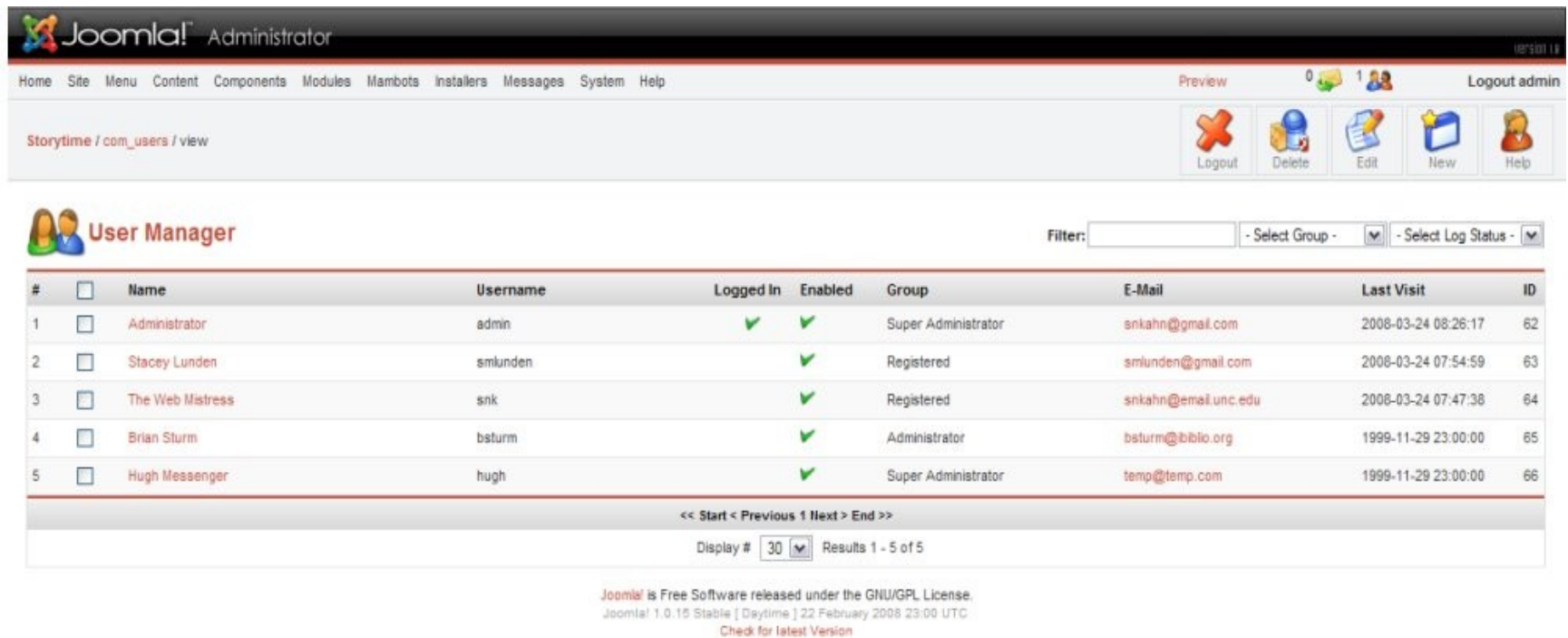
When a new user comes to the site and registers for an account, the administrator will receive an email with the user's login information. To

access a full list of registered users from the backend, in the main menu, click 'Site' then 'User Manager' as shown below:



The screenshot displays the Joomla! Administrator interface. The top navigation bar includes links for Home, Site, Menu, Content, Components, Modules, Mambots, Installers, Messages, System, and Help. The 'Site' menu is open, showing a list of options: Global Configuration, Language Manager, Media Manager, Preview, Statistics, Template Manager, Trash Manager, and User Manager. The 'User Manager' option is highlighted. The main content area shows a grid of icons for various management tools, including Category Manager, Media Manager, Trash Manager, Menu Manager, Language Manager, User Manager, and Global Configuration. A sidebar on the right displays the 'Currently Logged in Users' section, showing a single user named 'admin' with the role 'Super Administrator'. The footer contains the Joomla! logo and text indicating it is free software released under the GNU/GPL License, along with version information (Joomla! 1.0.15 Stable) and a link to check for the latest version.

The User Manager (displayed below) allows the administrator to edit user account information, or delete users. You can also search users.



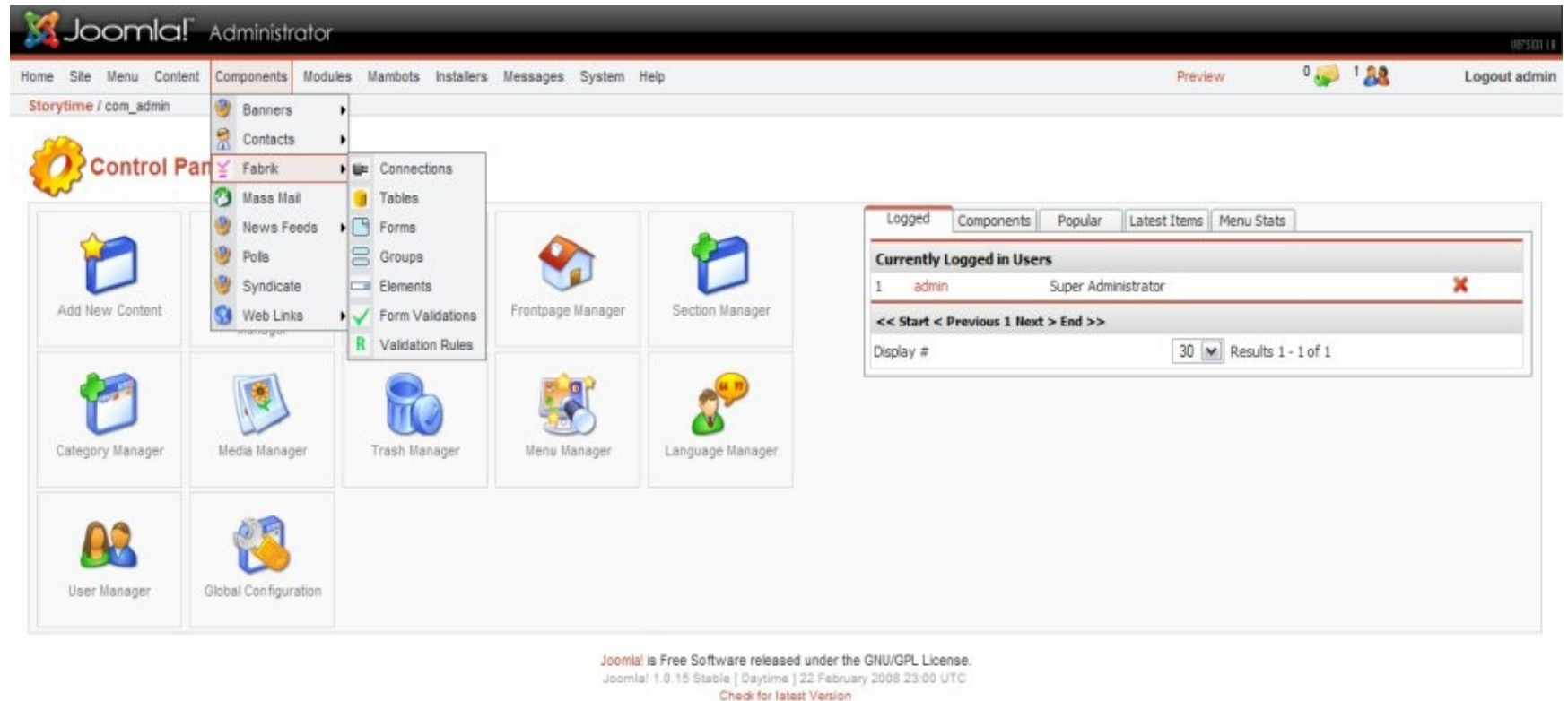
The screenshot shows the Joomla! Administrator interface. At the top is a navigation menu with links like Home, Site, Menu, Content, Components, Modules, Mambots, Installers, Messages, System, and Help. Below this is a breadcrumb trail: Storytime / com_users / view. To the right of the breadcrumb are icons for Logout, Delete, Edit, New, and Help, along with a 'Logout admin' link. The main section is titled 'User Manager' and contains a table of users. Above the table are filters for 'Filter:', '- Select Group -', and '- Select Log Status -'. The table has columns for #, Name, Username, Logged In, Enabled, Group, E-Mail, Last Visit, and ID. There are five users listed. Below the table is a pagination bar showing 'Display # 30' and 'Results 1 - 5 of 5'. At the bottom, there is a footer with the Joomla! logo and text: 'Joomla! is Free Software released under the GNU/GPL License. Joomla! 1.0.15 Stable [Daytime] 22 February 2008 23:00 UTC Check for latest Version'.

#	Name	Username	Logged In	Enabled	Group	E-Mail	Last Visit	ID
1	Administrator	admin	✓	✓	Super Administrator	snkahn@gmail.com	2008-03-24 08:26:17	62
2	Stacey Lunden	smkunden		✓	Registered	smkunden@gmail.com	2008-03-24 07:54:59	63
3	The Web Mistress	snk		✓	Registered	snkahn@email.unc.edu	2008-03-24 07:47:38	64
4	Brian Sturm	bsturm		✓	Administrator	bsturm@biblio.org	1999-11-29 23:00:00	65
5	Hugh Messenger	hugh		✓	Super Administrator	temp@temp.com	1999-11-29 23:00:00	66

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 Joomla! 1.0.15 Stable [Daytime] 22 February 2008 23:00 UTC
[Check for latest Version](#)

3. Managing Records

The site uses a third party component called 'Fabrik' to manage the submit forms and database tables where the records are kept. To access Fabrik, select 'Components' from the main menu, then 'Fabrik', as shown below:



If you select 'Fabrik', you will get to a landing page, with the following options: Connections, Tables, Forms, Groups, Elements, Validations, Validation Rules.

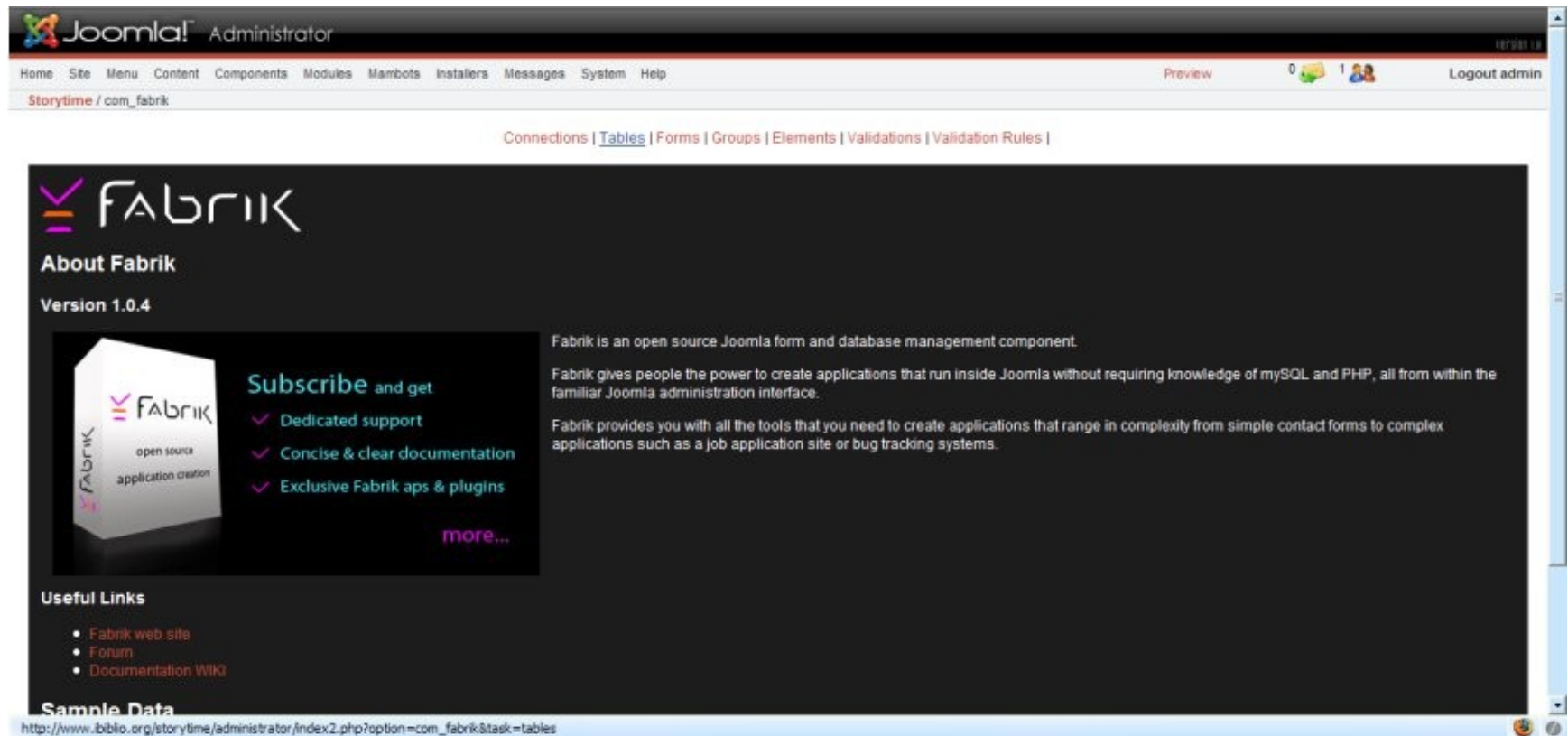
While you will probably not need to do anything with most of these, here is a brief rundown of what they each do.

- Connections- tells the application which database to use. Our database is hosted at ibiblio.org, and the login

information is available in the Joomla! configuration file.

- Tables- allows for backend access to the data stored in the database tables associated with submission forms.
- Forms- are made up of groups of elements. On this page you can set access levels, set form functionality such as whether to email information or submit it to the database, and control which elements appear in any given form.
- Groups- are small groups of form elements. Having elements split into groups makes it easier to determine which elements are part of which form. On this page you can set the group name and the label that appears for end users, as well as add specialized css or javascript.
- Elements- are the smallest building blocks of the forms. Each input field is an element. In the elements page, you can add, delete, or change existing elements, as well as set permission levels, data validation rules, and type of input.
- Validations- shows you at a glance which validation rules are set for which elements. We currently have only one rule set up- whether the field is required or not.
- Validation Rules- allows you to set up different types of data validation checks. As previously mentioned, we only require that a field not be blank, but other types can be 'alphanumeric only' or 'valid email only', for example.

The Fabrik home page:



To access records in order to approve, add video, or delete, select 'Tables' from the Fabrik menu. In the image above, 'Tables' is highlighted. You can also select it from the Joomla! menu: 'Components' > 'Fabrik' > 'Tables'.

The Tables page:

The screenshot shows the Joomla! Administrator interface. The top navigation bar includes links for Home, Site, Menu, Content, Components, Modules, Mambots, Installers, Messages, System, and Help. The breadcrumb trail indicates the current location: Storytime / com_fabrik / tables. The main content area is titled 'Tables' and displays a list of database tables. The table has columns for selection, Table Label, View Database, Published, and View forms and elements. The tables listed are 'Stories...' and 'Submit Non-Student'. The interface also includes a top navigation bar with links for Home, Site, Menu, Content, Components, Modules, Mambots, Installers, Messages, System, and Help. The footer contains version information and a link to check for the latest version.

<input type="checkbox"/>	Table Label	View Database	Published	View forms and elements
<input type="checkbox"/>	2 Stories...	View Database		View forms and elements
<input type="checkbox"/>	3 Submit Non-Student	View Database		View forms and elements

Fabrik 1.0.4 created by pollen B

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Joomla! 1.0.15 Stable [Daytime] 22 February 2008 23:00 UTC
[Check for latest Version](#)

Story records live in two database tables, 'Stories' is for student records, and 'Submit Non-Student' is for non-student records. They are separated because of the way the forms are set up. The administrator will receive a notification email regardless of which table a record is submitted to, which will specify which type of record it is. In order to approve a record, click 'View Database' next to the table you wish to access.

The View Database page:

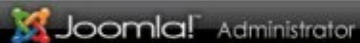
Stories...

[Add Record](#) [Export to csv](#)

Title of Story	Synopsis	Video	Approved?	Delete	Edit
Test	Test	logobig1.png	yes	<input type="checkbox"/>	Edit
Tam-in	The laird forbids any maiden from entering Carterhaugh because a beautiful and irresistible fairy knight named Tam-In lives there. "There was not a maid went to Carterhaugh but she was not a maid when she returned." The laird's beautiful and wilful daughter disobeys him and goes to Carterhaugh to seek Tam-in. She finds a milk-white steed and a beautiful rose bush and Tam-in appears after she picks two of the roses. After a wilful exchange, they embrace and lay together. Janet returns to the castle. Time passes and Janet grows depressed, because though she seeks him, she cannot find Tam-in or Carterhaugh. The knights of the castle grow anxious because it is obvious that Janet is with child, and they are nervous about receiving blame from the laird. Finally, the laird approaches his daughter with tears in his eyes and asks her which of his knights has fathered her child. She responds that her lover is no man of this earth, and that she will marry no other man. Her father leaves in despair. Janet's sadness and loneliness grows. In her desperation, she ventures into the woods to find herbs to rid herself of the child. She rides long and, when she looks up from her horse, she sees a milk-white steed and a beautiful rose bush. She quickly rushes to pick the roses, and Tam-in appears behind her, saddened by her actions. Janet tells Tam-in that she wants nothing more than to be his wife and raise their child together, but asks him what he could know of her world. Tam-in tells Janet that though he has longed for her, as a fairy knight he cannot leave the fairy kingdom. Then he tells her that he was, in fact, born to a human king, and that the Fairy Queen rescued him from a fall while he was out riding. He also conveys fear, because the fairies must make a sacrifice to hell every seven years to pay for the beauty of their land. As, he is the only mortal among them, he fears they will sacrifice him. He then formulates a plan. He instructs Janet to ride out on All Hallow's eve to wait for him, as the fairies all ride out at midnight. He instructs her to wait for his milk-white steed, pull him down and hold him tight no matter what hideous forms her eyes might see. He tells her that once he is turned into a burning coal, she must cast him into the well and he will be changed back into a mortal man and will be hers. Janet does as Tam-in instructs and rides out on All Hallow's eve, though it is cold and eerie. She waits for the fairy procession and watches as the Fairy Queen and her knights ride by. When Tam-in's milk-white steed passes, she grabs him from the horse and holds him tight. The Fairy Queen shrieks and Tam-in turns into a hideous snake. He turns into other awful beasts, but Janet ignores her eyes and holds him tight. Finally, he turns into a piece of burning coal, and she casts him into the well. She reaches her hand into the well and pulls out naked Tam-in. She covers him with her mantle and they look into each other's eyes. Despite the shrieking of the Fairy Queen, the lovers ride off thinking only of their future.	no	<input type="checkbox"/>	Edit	
Tam-in	The laird forbids any maiden from entering Carterhaugh because a beautiful and irresistible fairy knight named Tam-In lives there. "There was not a maid went to Carterhaugh but she was not a maid when she returned." The laird's beautiful and wilful daughter disobeys him and goes to Carterhaugh to seek Tam-in. She finds a milk-white steed and a beautiful rose bush and Tam-in appears after she picks two of the roses. After a wilful exchange, they embrace and lay together. Janet returns to the castle. Time passes and Janet grows depressed, because though she seeks him, she cannot find Tam-in or Carterhaugh. The knights of the castle grow anxious because it is obvious that Janet is with child, and they are nervous about receiving blame from the laird. Finally, the laird approaches his daughter with tears in his eyes and asks her which of his knights has fathered her child. She responds that her lover is no man of this earth, and that she will marry no other man. Her father leaves in despair. Janet's sadness and loneliness grows. In her desperation, she ventures into the woods to find herbs to rid herself of the child. She rides long and, when she looks up from her horse, she sees a milk-white steed and a beautiful rose bush. She quickly rushes to pick the roses, and Tam-in appears behind her, saddened by her actions. Janet tells Tam-in that she wants nothing more than to be his wife and raise their child together, but asks him what he could know of her world. Tam-in tells Janet that though he has longed for her, as a fairy knight he cannot leave the fairy kingdom. Then he tells her that he was, in fact, born to a human king, and that the Fairy Queen rescued him from a fall while he was out riding. He also conveys fear, because the fairies must make a sacrifice to hell every seven years to pay for the beauty of their land. As, he is the only mortal among them, he fears they will sacrifice him. He then formulates a plan. He instructs Janet to ride out on All Hallow's eve to wait for him, as the fairies all ride out at midnight. He instructs her to wait for his milk-white steed, pull him down and hold him tight no matter	no	<input type="checkbox"/>	Edit	

http://www.ibblo.org/storytime/administrator/index2.php?option=com_fabrik&task=viewForm&Itemid=&fabrik=3&rowid=10&tableid=2&fabrik__cursor=0&fabrik__total=3

To edit a record, click 'Edit' in the far right column. This will take you to the editable version of the full record. The display is a streamlined version of the data entry form on the 'Submit Stories' page. The administrator is able to add or change any of the displayed data.


Administrator
10/20/2011 1:18

[Home](#)
[Site](#)
[Menu](#)
[Content](#)
[Components](#)
[Modules](#)
[Mambots](#)
[Installers](#)
[Messages](#)
[System](#)
[Help](#)
Preview
0
1
Logout admin

[Storytime / com_fabrik / viewForm](#)
Save
Cancel

[Connections](#)
[Tables](#)
[Forms](#)
[Groups](#)
[Elements](#)
[Validations](#)
[Validation Rules](#)

Submit Stories. . .

This form allows you to EMAIL your story to Dr. Sturm and submit it ONLINE upon his approval. If you are unable to fill in a required field (starred), please enter N/A.

Title of Story ★

Author/Reteller of Story ★

Title of Book/Collection

Full Bibliography ★

Test

Test

Test

Test

Story Origin

Geographic Region ★

Finnish

Done

At the bottom of each record are the fields for approving the record to be publicly viewable/searchable, and the field for uploading video files.

The screenshot shows a Joomla! interface for uploading a video. At the top, there's a header bar. Below it, the section is titled "Video". A message states: "While this story is being presented in class, a video file is created. Do you want your video to be posted online with your cue card information?". There are two radio buttons: "Yes" (selected) and "No". Below this, there's a text input field containing "logsbigt.png" and a "Browse..." button. Underneath the input field, it says "Upload limit = 20M". The next section is titled "Send me a copy". There are two radio buttons: "no" and "yes" (selected). Below this, there's a checkbox labeled "E-mail a copy of this message to your own address". At the bottom of this section, there are two buttons: "Clear All" and "Send it!". At the very bottom of the form, there's a footer that says "Fabrik 1.0.4 created by pollen 8". Below that, it says "Joomla! is Free Software released under the GNU/GPL License." and "Joomla! 1.0.15 Stable (Daytime) | 22 February 2008 23:00 UTC". There's also a link that says "Check for latest Version". The bottom of the browser window shows a "Done" button and a status bar.

When you are done making changes, simply click 'Send it!' to commit them. The process for approving/editing records for non-students is the same, with the exception that non-students have the option to add a video from the front end. The video name is a link, so to view it to make sure it's acceptable, all you have to do is click that link.

4. Creating New Pages

Just in case you ever want to add new contextual pages to the site... Joomla! is primarily designed to be a forum platform, so it has built-in features that allow for the management of pages composed of articles and user posts. It

also allows for static content pages, which is probably what you would want. To create a static page, navigate to Home > Static Content Manager (located on the icon dashboard.)

The screenshot shows the Joomla! Administrator interface. At the top is a navigation bar with links: Home, Site, Menu, Content, Components, Modules, Mambots, Installers, Messages, System, Help. On the right of the bar are links for Preview, a user icon, and Logout admin. Below the bar is a breadcrumb trail: Storytime / com_admin.

The main area is titled "Control Panel" and contains a grid of icons for various management tasks:

- Add New Content
- Content Items Manager
- Static Content Manager** (highlighted with a red border)
- Frontpage Manager
- Section Manager
- Category Manager
- Media Manager
- Trash Manager
- Menu Manager
- Language Manager
- User Manager
- Global Configuration

On the right side of the Control Panel, there is a "Logged" tab and a "Currently Logged in Users" table. The table shows two users: "smlunden" (Registered) and "admin" (Super Administrator). Below the table are navigation links: "<< Start < Previous 1 Next > End >>". At the bottom of the page, there is a footer with the text: "Joomla! is Free Software released under the GNU/GPL License. Joomla! 1.0.15 Stable [Daytime] 22 February 2008 23:00 UTC".

Currently Logged in Users		
1	smlunden	Registered
2	admin	Super Administrator

<< Start < Previous 1 Next > End >>

Display # 30 Results 1 - 2 of 2

The Static Content Page:

Joomla! Administrator VERSION 1.5

Home Site Menu Content Components Modules Mambots Installers Messages System Help

Preview 0 1 Logout admin

Storytime / com_typedcontent

Publish
 Unpublish
 Trash
 Edit
 New
 Help

Static Content Manager

Filter: Order: Ordering desc - Select Author -

#	<input type="checkbox"/> Title	Published	Order	Access	ID	Links	Author	Date
1	<input type="checkbox"/> About		<input type="text" value="0"/>	Public	1	1	Administrator	26/02/08

<< Start < Previous 1 Next > End >>

Display # Results 1 - 1 of 1

Published, but is Pending |
 Published and is Current |
 Published, but has Expired |
 Not Published

Click on icon to toggle state.

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To create a new page, click 'New' in the upper right hand corner. You may also edit, delete, or unpublish existing pages. The home 'About' page lives here, in case it ever needs to be edited/updated. Be sure to publish any new pages created, or they will not be visible to the www.

The only menu that we are using in this site is the 'main menu'. There are several others available, and more can be created if needed, using the 'Menu Manager'. However, for the purposes of linking to our existing menu, we will focus on editing the main menu. From the Home page, select 'Menu' from the main menu, then mouse down to 'main menu'.

The screenshot shows the Joomla! Administrator interface. At the top, the Joomla! logo and 'Administrator' text are visible. Below the logo, a navigation bar contains links: Home, Site, Menu, Content, Components, Modules, Mambots, Installers, Messages, System, and Help. To the right of the navigation bar, there are links for 'Preview', a user icon, and 'Logout admin'. The 'Menu' link in the navigation bar is highlighted, and a dropdown menu is open, showing options: Menu Manager, mainmenu, othermenu, topmenu, and usermenu. The 'mainmenu' option is highlighted. Below the navigation bar, there is a grid of icons for various management tasks: Add New Content, Content Items Manager, Static Content Manager, Frontpage Manager, Section Manager, Category Manager, Media Manager, Trash Manager, Menu Manager, Language Manager, User Manager, and Global Configuration. On the right side of the interface, there is a 'Logged' section with tabs for 'Components', 'Popular', 'Latest Items', and 'Menu Stats'. The 'Logged' tab is active, showing a table of 'Currently Logged in Users'.

Currently Logged in Users		
1	smlunden	Registered
2	admin	Super Administrator

Below the table, there are navigation links: << Start < Previous 1 Next > End >>. At the bottom of the 'Logged' section, there is a 'Display #' dropdown menu set to '30' and the text 'Results 1 - 2 of 2'.

The main menu page: Here are all the links that are currently in operation on the site. You can create links to Fabrik components in this window, or link to other dynamic elements that Joomla! can create, such as RSS feeds. You can also link to articles and content pages which have been created by you. You may additionally edit, unpublish or delete existing links.

Storytime / com_menus

Menu Manager [mainmenu] Max Levels Filter:

* You cannot 'delete' this Menu as it is required for the proper operation of Joomla! *

* The 1st Published item in this Menu [mainmenu] is the default 'Home page' for the site *

#	<input type="checkbox"/> Menu Item	Published	Reorder	Order	Access	Itemid	Type	CID
1	<input type="checkbox"/> About			11	Public	7	Link - Static Content	1
2	<input type="checkbox"/> Login			12	Public	4	Component - Login	15
3	<input type="checkbox"/> Search			13	Public	3	Component - Search	16
4	<input type="checkbox"/> Student-db			14	Registered	8	Component - Fabrik	27
5	<input type="checkbox"/> Email			15	Registered	9	Component - Fabrik	27
6	<input type="checkbox"/> Non-student			16	Registered	10	Component - Fabrik	27
7	<input type="checkbox"/> For Kids			17	Public	12	Component - Fabrik	27
8	<input type="checkbox"/> New Stories			18	Public	13	Link - Newsfeed	1
9	<input type="checkbox"/> SwitcherForm			19	Registered	15	Component - Fabrik	27
10	<input type="checkbox"/> For Kids 2			20	Public	20	Component - Fabrik	27
11	<input type="checkbox"/> For Kids 3			21	Public	21	Component - Fabrik	27

<< Start < Previous 1 Next > End >>

Display # Results 1 - 11 of 11

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Done

To create a new link, click 'New' in the upper right hand corner. This will send you to this page:

Storytime / com_menus / new

Next Cancel Help

New Menu Item

* Note that some menu types appear in more than one grouping, but they are still the same menu type.

Content	Components	Links
Blog - Content Category	Component	Link - Component Item
Blog - Content Category Archive	Link - Component Item	Link - Contact Item
Blog - Content Section	Link - Contact Item	Link - Content Item
Blog - Content Section Archive	Link - Newsfeed	Link - Newsfeed
Link - Content Item	Table - Contact Category	Link - Static Content
Link - Static Content	Table - Newsfeed Category	Link - Url
List - Content Section	Table - Weblink Category	
Submit - Content		
Table - Content Category		

Miscellaneous
Separator / Placeholder
Wrapper

Submit
Submit - Content

Done

Let's say that you want to create a link to a static content page which you have created. You would select 'Link-Static Content' from the 'Content' section:

Joomla! Administrator VERSION 1.5

Home Site Menu Content Components Modules Mambots Installers Messages System Help Preview 0 1 Logout admin

Storytime / com_menus / new

Next Cancel Help

New Menu Item

* Note that some menu types appear in more than one grouping, but they are still the same menu type.

Content

- Blog - Content Category
- Blog - Content Category Archive
- Blog - Content Section
- Blog - Content Section Archive
- Link - Content Item
- Link - Static Content
- List - Content Section
- Submit - Content
- Table - Content Category

Miscellaneous

- Separator / Placeholder
- Wrapper

Components

- Component
- Link - Component Item
- Link - Contact Item
- Link - Newsfeed
- Table - Contact Category
- Table - Newsfeed Category
- Table - Weblink Category

Links

- Link - Component Item
- Link - Contact Item
- Link - Content Item
- Link - Newsfeed

http://www.jbblo.org/storytime/administrator/index2.php?option=com_menus&menutype=mainmenu&task=edit&type=content_typed&hidemainmenu=1

Which would take you to this page: where you can create the link and define the parameters associated with it. You can set the name, which menu it belongs to, whether an image appears next to the link, etc.

Storytime / com_menus / edit

Back
Save
Apply
Cancel
Help

Add Menu Item :: Link - Static Content

Details

Name:
Static Content:
About()
URL:
On Click, open:
Parent Window With Browser Navigation
New Window With Browser Navigation
New Window Without Browser Navigation
Parent Item:
Top
About
Login
Search
Student-db
Email
Non-student
For Kids
New Stories
SwitcherForm
Ordering:
New Items default to the last place. Ordering can be changed after this Item is saved.

Parameters

Menu Image
- Do Not Use -
Unique Itemid
No
Yes

Done

6. About Templates

Templates are what define the look and feel of the website. Storytime uses four separate templates, which are each bundled into a package of files called Earth, Air, Wind, and Water. The template manager can be accessed from the Home page by clicking 'Site' on the main menu bar, and then 'Template Manager'. Select 'Site Templates' from the sub-menu. 'Administrator Templates' has to do with the look and feel of the back-end interface. 'Module Positions' has to do with the set up of the templates, so please do not touch.

Joomla! Administrator Version 1.6

Home Site **Menu** Content Components Modules Mambots Installers Messages System Help Preview 0 1 Logout admin

Story

- Global Configuration
- Language Manager
- Media Manager
- Preview
- Statistics
- Template Manager**
 - Site Templates
 - Administrator Templates
 - Module Positions
- Trash Manager
- User Manager

Frontpage Manager Section Manager

Category Manager Media Manager Trash Manager Menu Manager Language Manager

User Manager Global Configuration

Logged Components Popular Latest Items Menu Stats

Currently Logged in Users

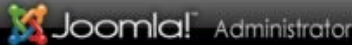
1	smlunden	Registered	✖
2	admin	Super Administrator	✖

<< Start < Previous 1 Next > End >>

Display # Results 1 - 2 of 2

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Here is the 'Site Templates' page:



Version 1.8

[Home](#)
[Site](#)
[Menu](#)
[Content](#)
[Components](#)
[Modules](#)
[Mambots](#)
[Installers](#)
[Messages](#)
[System](#)
[Help](#)

[Preview](#)
0
1
[Logout admin](#)

[Storytime / com_templates](#)

[Default](#)
[Assign](#)
[Delete](#)
[Edit HTML](#)
[Edit CSS](#)
[New](#)
[Help](#)


Template Manager [Site]
Preview Template ☒

#		Name	Default	Assigned	Author	Version	Date	Author URL
1	<input type="radio"/>	Air		✓	Sarah Kahn and Stacey Lunden	1.0	January 2008	www.ibiblio.org/storytime
2	<input type="radio"/>	Earth		✓	Sarah Kahn and Stacey Lunden	1.0	January 2008	www.ibiblio.org/storytime
3	<input type="radio"/>	Fire	✓	✓	Sarah Kahn and Stacey Lunden	2.0	January 2008	www.ibiblio.org/storytime
4	<input type="radio"/>	Water		✓	Sarah Kahn and Stacey Lunden	1.0	January 2008	www.ibiblio.org/storytime

[<< Start](#)
[Previous 1](#)
[Next >](#)
[End >>](#)

Display # Results 1 - 4 of 4

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This page shows all of the installed templates. In order to assign a template to a new page, select the template you would like to assign by clicking the bubble next to the name, then click 'Assign' in the upper right hand corner.

Joomla! Administrator 1.0.15

Home Site Menu Content Components Modules Mambots Installers Messages System Help Preview 0 1 Logout admin

Storytime / com_templates Default Assign Delete Edit HTML Edit CSS New Help

Template Manager [Site] Preview Template ☒


#	Name	Default	Assigned	Author	Version	Date	Author URL
1	 Air		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Sarah Kahn and Stacey Lunden	1.0	January 2008	www.ibiblio.org/storytime
2	 Earth		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Sarah Kahn and Stacey Lunden	1.0	January 2008	www.ibiblio.org/storytime
3	 Fire	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Sarah Kahn and Stacey Lunden	2.0	January 2008	www.ibiblio.org/storytime
4	 Water		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Sarah Kahn and Stacey Lunden	1.0	January 2008	www.ibiblio.org/storytime

<< Start < Previous 1 Next > End >>

Display # Results 1 - 4 of 4

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The 'Assign' button will take you to this window, which lists all the existing Joomla! pages that are available.

 Joomla! Administrator

Home Site Menu Content Components Modules Mambots Installers Messages System Help

Preview01Logout admin

Storytime / com_templates / assign

SaveCancelHelp

Assign template Air to menu items

Page(s):

None

Unassigned

mainmenu | About

mainmenu | Login

mainmenu | Search

mainmenu | Student db

mainmenu | Email

mainmenu | Non-student

mainmenu | For Kids

mainmenu | SwitcherFom

mainmenu | For Kids 2

mainmenu | For Kids 3

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