

Library Website Creation Using Wix Website Builder

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Abstract

In its endeavor of dissemination of information to its patrons, it has become inevitable for a library to have a website. And most libraries ignore this feature of the library due to the expense involved in employing a separate website for the library. But with the evolution of free website builders, having a website for the library has become a simple task that anyone can adopt without any expense of expertise required. This article defines the various features of Wix free website builder with a step by step guide showing how easy it is to create a library website using Wix.

Keywords: *Wix free Website builder, Library website, Features of Wix*

Introduction

A website is a collection of web pages and related content, published on a web server. With the emergence of website builders, one can establish an impressive website on your own. Using the professional design features of the builder, one can develop a professional website without any technical expertise and financial burden. Website builders are online tools provided by hosting companies for the development of websites without any manual code editing. Web builders are of two categories:

- Online [tools](#) provided by web hosting companies. Users can login and build their websites on their own. The site owner may also use alternative tools like content management systems.

- Application software used to create and edit webpages and the publish it on any host server. These are "website design application software", rather than "website builders".
- Top ranking experts in the field of technology Forbes, Techradar, PCMag, and websitebuilderexpert rank Wix.com as the No. 1 free website builder. The website builders are evaluated according to their popularity, features offered, marketing tools, help and support facilities, value for money, etc. Third party reviews are also evaluated in the ranking process.

Library Websites

A library website is a digital platform provided by a library to offer various services and resources to its patrons and the public online. It has become important for a good library to have a well developed website, which is a mirror of the library and meets the requirements of the library users in their search for information from the library. These websites typically serve several purposes:

1. **Catalog Access:** Users can access and search the catalog of the library's collection of books, e-books, and other resources.
2. **Account Management:** Library users can manage the renew books from the library, place holds, and check due dates.
3. **Digital Resources:** Users can access the digital resources like e-books, e-journals, and databases through the portal.
4. **Event Information:** Users can get information about events, programs, workshops, and exhibitions at the library.
5. **Contact and Hours:** Information about the contact details, location, working hours of the library are provided here.
6. **Research Assistance:** Most library websites provide help to users in research projects by providing tutorials, research guides, and related links.
7. **Online Renewals and Reservations:** Users can reserve books or renew borrowed items online.
8. **Interlibrary Loans:** Some libraries provide Inter-library lending facility through their websites.

9. Accessibility: Facilities like text to speech functions, screen readers, etc are provided by some websites to make it accessible to users with disabilities.

The features and content of websites of libraries vary but the aim of the websites will always be to provide its users access to its resources and services in digital format.

About Wix

Wix is an open-source cloud based web development portal. Wix is an online freemium platform where users can create websites. Whether building a personal blog, a portfolio, an online store, or a business website. Its intuitive interface and comprehensive features make it an ideal choice for both beginners and experienced users looking to establish a strong online presence. It offers tools for creating HTML5 websites and mobile sites using online drag-and-drop editing. Users can add applications for social media, e-commerce, online marketing, contact forms, e-mail marketing, and community forums to their web sites.

Account creation in Wix is simple as entering an email address and a password. You can choose the type of site you are looking for with a view of the purpose of the site – business, photography, designer, music, blog and so on. From there you journey into the creation of a website from scratch or can have Wix do it automatically for you.

Objectives

- To highlight the features provided by the Wix platform in creating a professional library website with ease, and low cost or no cost, and with no technical knowledge.
- To promote Do-it-yourself website builders and encourage librarians to have their own library websites.

Key features of Wix

- **Cloud platform** Wix offers a cloud service that users can access from any browser, any device, any time.

- **Powerful editor** The intuitive Drag & Drop Wix editor helps you develop your website the way you imagined it to be. No manual coding required.
- **Wix templates** Wix offers more than 800 templates, offering your website a professional appearance.
- **Fast** it works very fast loading every element as in any professional website.
- **Blog** A user-friendly and simple dashboard helps you manage the blog.
- **SEO plan** Wix guides you to optimize your website for search engines by helping in creating your own your own SEO plan.
- **Wix ADI** artificial intelligence design facility automatically creates the site for you if needed..
- **Optimisation for Mobile** Though Wix creates mobile friendly website by default, the smartphone icon provided switches you to mobile editing view even though no additional work is needed to be done to make the site mobile friendly.
- **Includes hosting** By signing up in Wix you sign up for free storage space for the website to be hosted.
- **Freemium** Wix gives users access to the free basic web-development services. Wix also offers paid upgrades for more advanced options.

Steps for creating a website in Wix

Creating a library website using Wix is a straightforward process. Here are some steps to get you started:

1. Sign Up on Wix

- a. Go to the Wix website and sign up for an account if you don't already have one.

2. Choose a Template

- a. Wix offers a variety of templates. Select one that suits the theme and style you want for your library website.

3. Customize Your Template

- a. Use Wix's drag-and-drop editor to customize the template.
- b. Add your library's name, logo, and branding elements.

- c. Create pages for different sections, such as Home, About Us, Catalog, Events, Blog, Contact, and more.

4. Content Creation

- a. Populate your website with content.
- b. Add information about your library, its history, mission, and services.
- c. Create an online catalog with book listings, descriptions, and cover images.
- d. Showcase upcoming events, news, and blog posts.

5. User-Friendly Navigation

- a. Ensure that your website is easy to navigate.
- b. Create a clear menu structure and use appropriate headings and categories.

6. Integration

- a. If your library offers online services like e-books or digital resources, integrate them into your website.
- b. Add a search function for the catalog, so users can find books easily.

7. Engagement Features

- a. Consider adding features like a newsletter signup, contact forms, and a calendar for events.

8. Mobile Optimization

- a. Make sure your website is mobile-friendly since many users will access it from smartphones and tablets.

9. SEO Optimization

- a. Optimize your site for search engines. Use relevant keywords, meta descriptions, and alt text for images.

10. Test and Publish

- a. Before publishing, thoroughly test your website for functionality and responsiveness.

11. Publish Your Website

- a. Once you're satisfied with the design and content, publish your library website for the world to see.

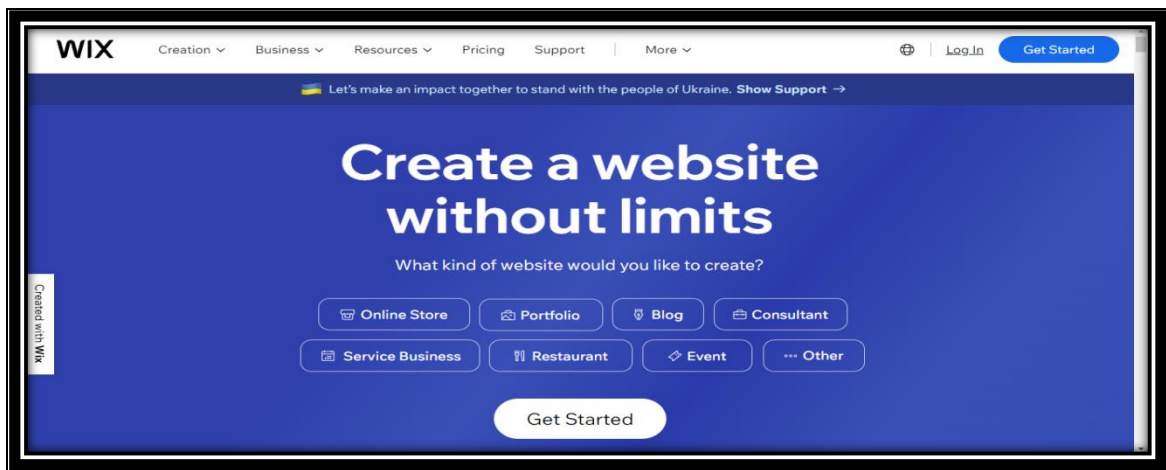
12. Promotion

- Share the website link on social media, and consider using online and offline marketing to promote your library's digital presence.

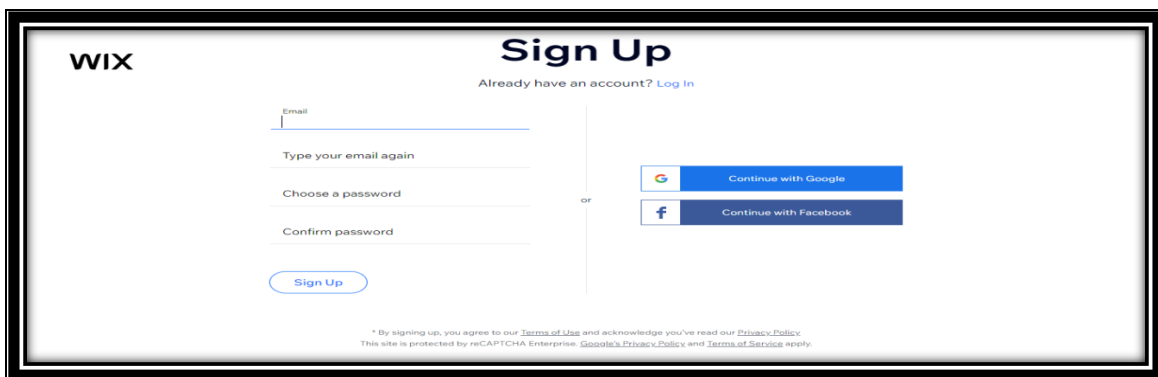
Remember to keep your website up to date with the latest library information, events, and resources. Wix provides tools and resources to make this process relatively easy for users with little to no web development experience.

How to Create a Website Using Wix (Step-by-Step Guide)

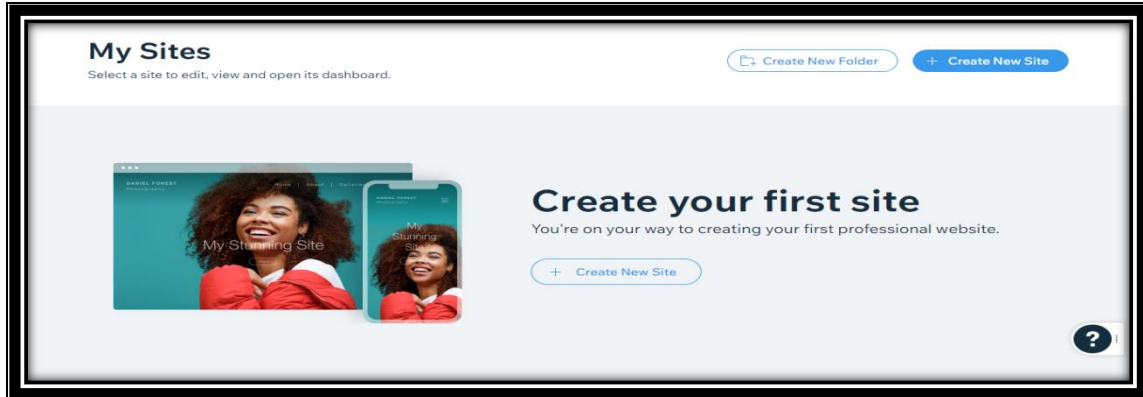
- **Browse to Wix.com and click the Get Started button.**



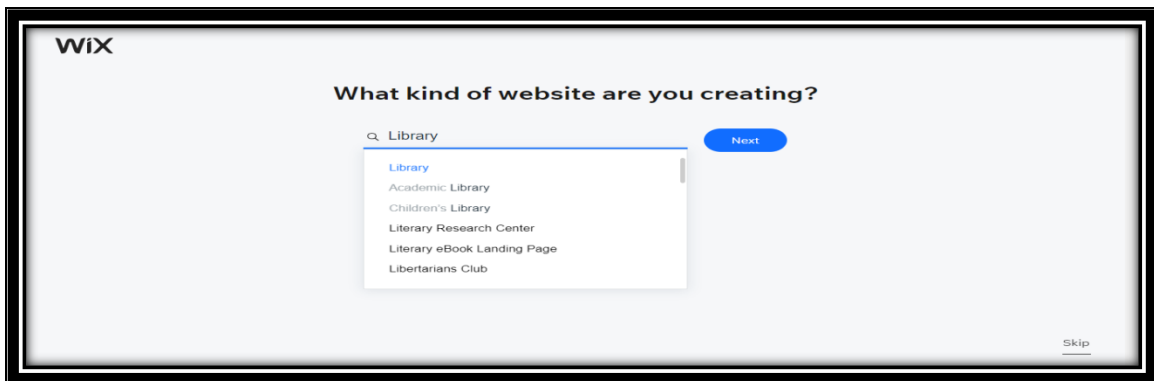
- **Sign up for an account if you don't already have one.** 'Sign up' and create a new Wix account or sign up with your Facebook or Google account.



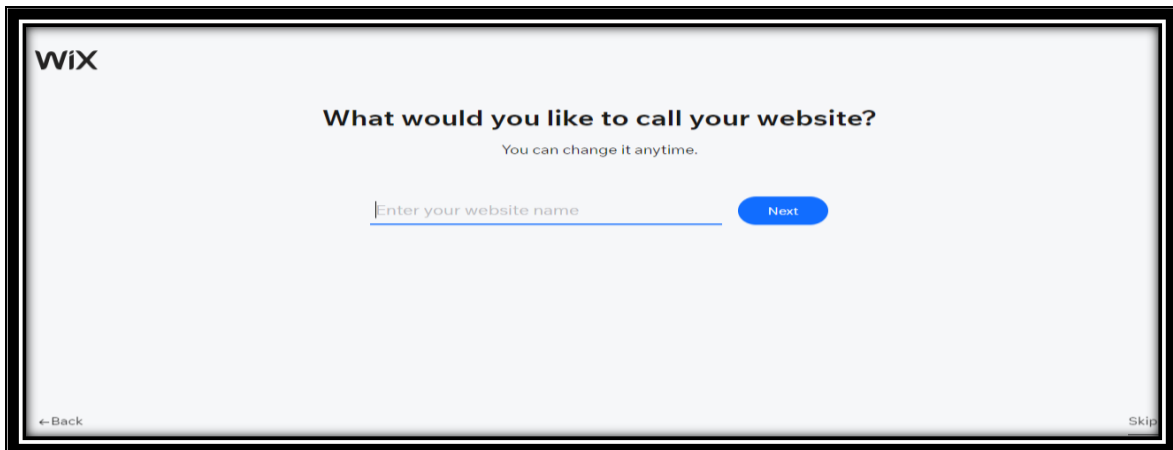
- **Log in and go to the My Sites page and click Create New Site.**



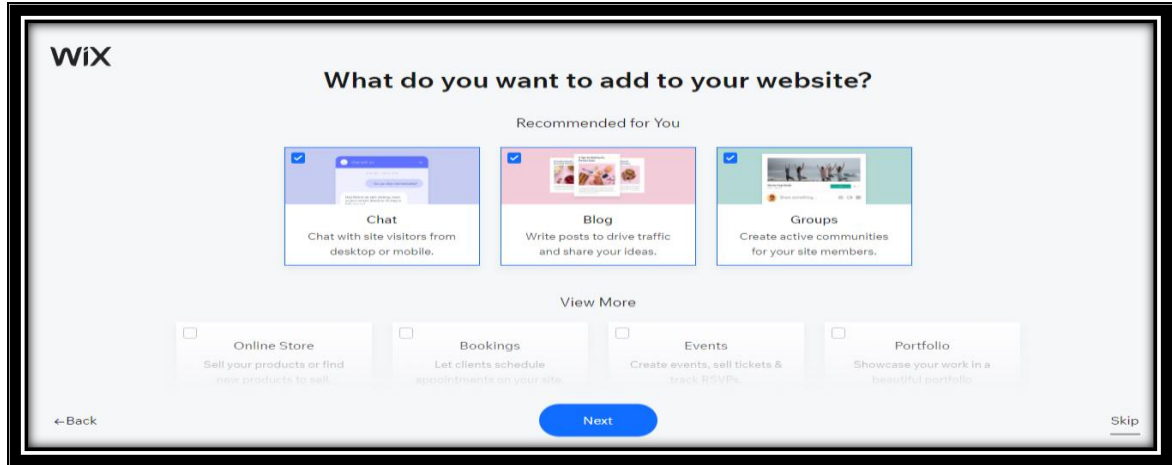
- To build a Library website type in in 'Library' and click Next



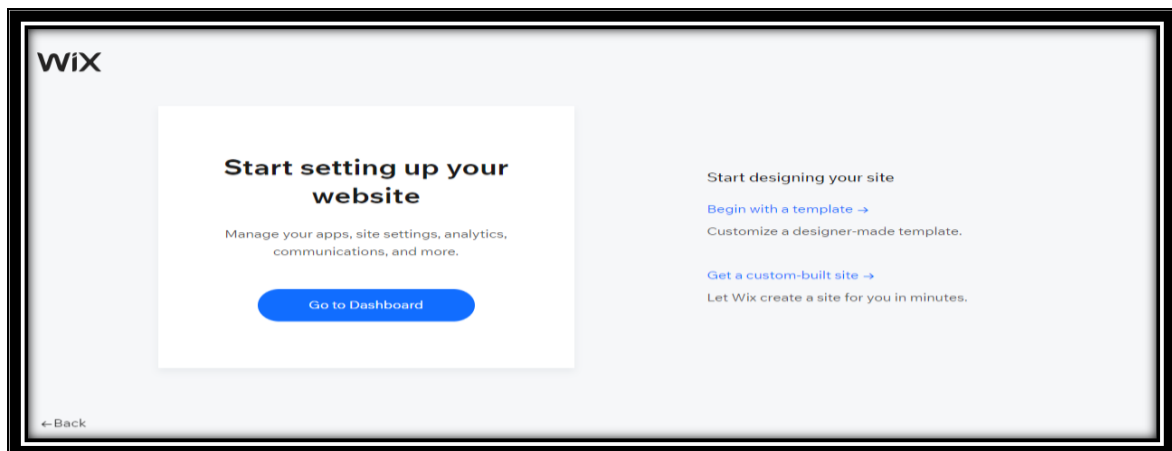
- Type in the name that you wish to give to your website and click Next.



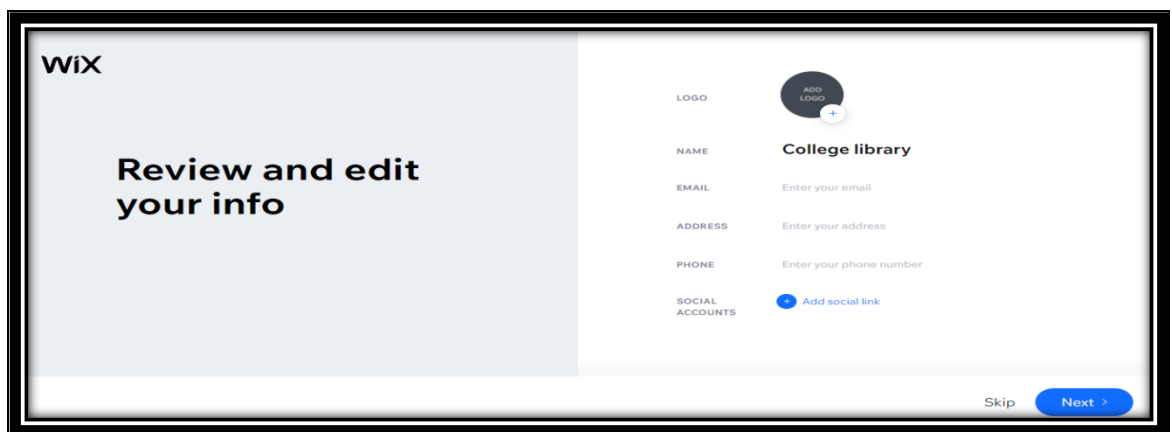
- Select the additional components you would like to be added to your website and click 'Next'



- For simple website building, select 'Get a custom builtsite'



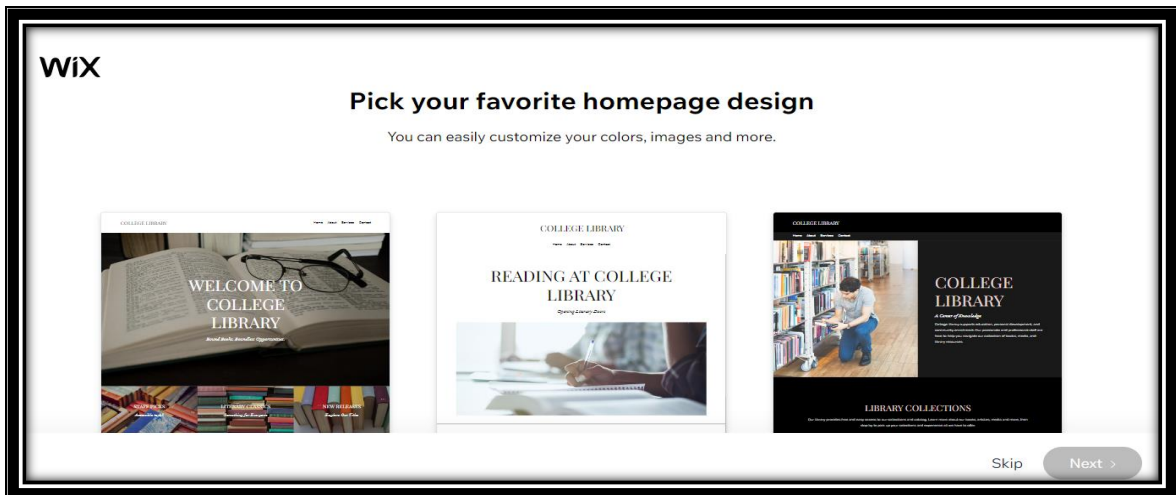
- Review and site info such as logo, email, address, etc. and click 'Next'



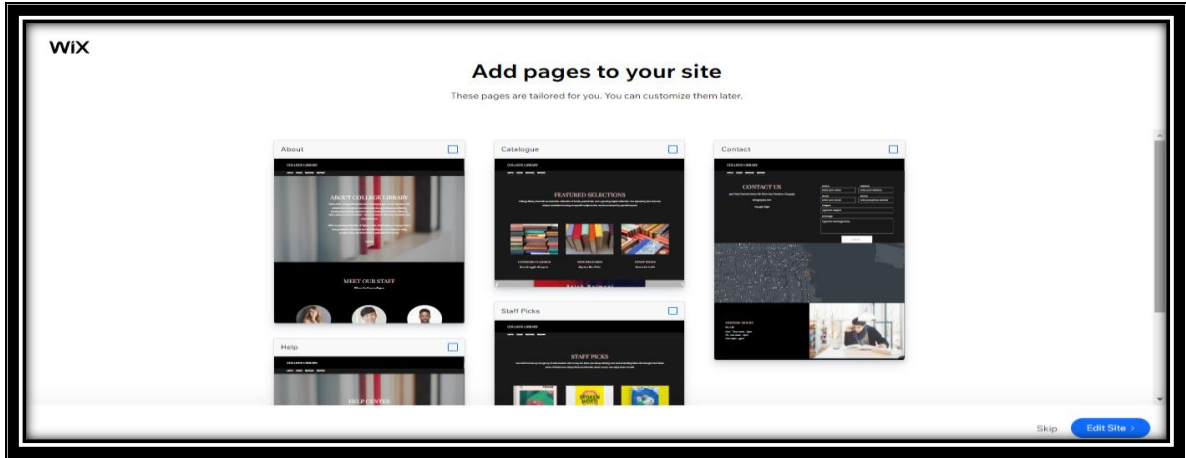
- o Select a suitable theme and click 'Next'



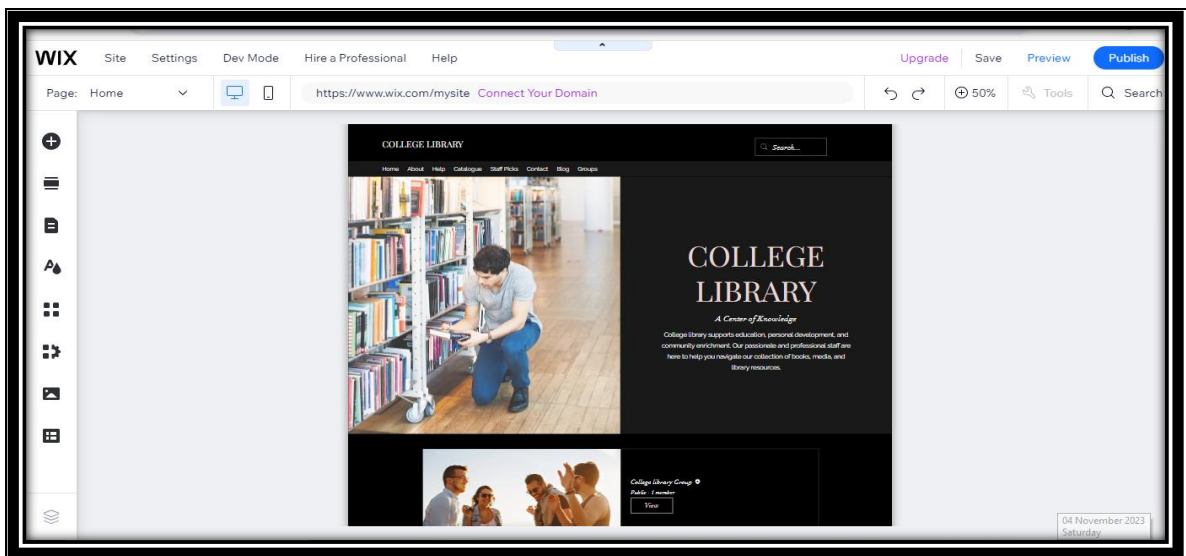
- o Pick a design for the 'Homepage' and click 'Next'



- o Add the custom designed library pages provided and click 'Edit Site'. Additional pages if needed can be added later

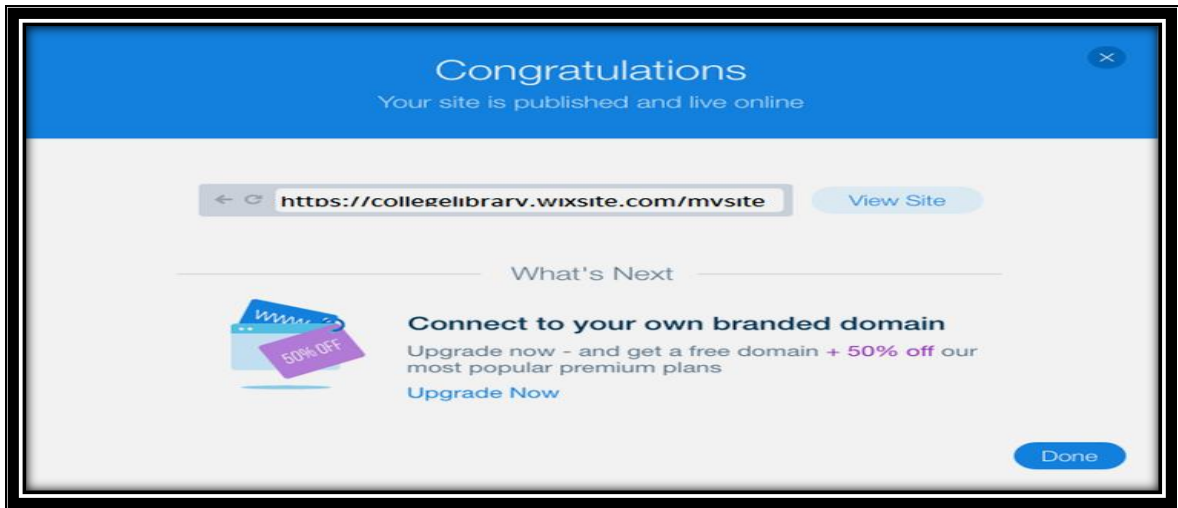


- You have now successfully completed building the basic Wixlibrarywebsite. You can now further develop it typing in matter, addinglibrary content, pictures, modifying fonts, background, etc.



On completing the design of the new site, to make it live click the blue **‘Publish’** button in the top right hand corner.

You should then get a message saying that your site has been published, with a direct link to it. Let's take a look at our site.



You can check the live website by clicking '**View site**' button.

Conclusion

Websites designed using free website builders may have its limitations, but on the other hand, it also provides a variety of benefits. These websites offer good access speed, are mobile friendly and are compatible known browsers. They are now very popular among small and medium concerns and meets all their requirements. And in the long run, if one feels that is not enough, they can still go for paid upgrades to suit to the requirements they may need later.

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