Modules in Joomla

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Modules in Joomla!

Welcome
Instructor for this Workshop
School of Arts & Sciences, Web Development

Once you arrive:

1. Login to the workstation with your NetID
2. Open a web browser (Firefox or Chrome)
3. Go to the website: http://www.sas.rutgers.edu/cms/sandbox3
4. Open a 2nd tab for the ‘back end’

What is Joomla?
Joomla! is Content Management System (CMS) software that runs on a web server, and allows you to update your unit’s web site through a browser (such as Google Chrome, Mozilla Firefox, or Safari).

A content management system isolates the process of updating information from the more technical aspects of updating a website (such as administration, configuration, and design), and eliminates the need to edit HTML or use web design software.

Visit www.joomla.org and help.joomla.org for more information on Joomla!

We host the local NJ User Group Meeting: joomlausersnj.com

What is a Module?
A Module in Joomla is a ‘mini program’ that can be displayed in various positions on the website. Modules can make your site more dynamic and easier to work with if used properly. A module as two very important properties:

1. Position

This determines WHERE on the web page it will display

2. Menu Assignment

This determines what page(s) the module will display on. If a position doesn’t ‘exist’ on a specific page it will not display.
MODULE POSITIONS
Each template that is used in Joomla! Has different module positions. For our SAS-RED template the positions are as documented below:

See position names in the modules
CREATE A CUSTOM MODULE
A custom module allows you to add custom text or image and place it in a position on the website.

CREATE A NEW MODULE

1. Extensions → Modules

2. Click the New Button to create a new module

3. Select TYPE of Module (select CUSTOM MODULE)
4. Define the Custom Module

1. Module Title
2. To display title on page, click ‘show’
3. Module Position (where it will display on the page)
4. Content can include text, image or anything that you like

(For this class, title should be: Custom First Name, Last Initial)

5. Determine what PAGE(s) the module will appear on (For class select YOUR MENU ITEM)

1. Select Module Assignment:
   Only on the pages selected
2. Click on ‘none’ to ‘de-select’ all items, before selecting the items to click.
3. Check the box next to the menu item(s) or pages you want the module to be displayed on
EDIT A CUSTOM MODULE
If a module already exists on your website, and you need to edit it, first figure out what type of module it is. If it just has text or an image in it, it is probably a CUSTOM module type.

(For this class, Edit YOUR Module that you just created)

1. Sample Custom Module

![Contacts Module](image)

Contacts is a Custom Module. It has text ‘typed’ into it.

2. Go to back end, Extensions → Modules

3. In the search, type ‘Contacts’

Type ‘contact’ in the search.
Hit <ENTER>
Click on Contacts (in position sidebar-b)

4. Edit the module as needed (similar to editing an article)
PLACE A MODULE WITHIN CONTENT

Normally a module is displayed in a specific module ‘position’. It is possible to ‘nest’ a module inside of an article. For example if you have a list of courses that are taught for a specific ‘unit’ you can put this ‘list’ or ‘schedules’ inside of the article.

1. Create the Module first

In this example, I’m creating a Articles – Category Listing of Faculty Members

This module has the following criteria:

- Filtered → Faculty Category
- Position → NONE (do not set the position)
- Menu Assignment → NONE (Do not set it to appear on menu items)

2. Create the Article

Title: Faculty

Description: Place cursor where you want the ‘module’ to appear.

3. Click on modules button...

Click on the module button that looks like it has ‘multiple’ items.
6. This tool is ‘Modules Anywhere’

Enter Faculty in the Search
Can click on the Module ID number, this way if you change the ‘title’ of the module, this tool will still work.

7. See the display of the module in the article

The coding for this one uses the Module ID.
FYI, you can just change the module id to display a different module, as long as you know the Module ID Number

8. Preview of using the module inside of the article
ADD MENUS TO YOUR SITE

It is useful to display right hand menus on your site pages, especially pages where there are multiple navigation options.

1. Create Menu Module -> Type = Menu

2. Define Module Options

3. Define Menu Assignment tab

4. Select Pages to display on (in Menu Assignment Tab)

See Dropdown Menu ‘under people’.
The menu on the right is the IDENTICAL menu.
This gives users easy navigation options.

1. Select Menu = Main Menu
2. Start Level = 2 (since it is just going to show the ‘sub menu’) 
3. Show title = SHOW
4. Position = sidebar-b
ADD RU COURSES MODULE TO YOUR WEBSITE

CREATE NEW MODULE TO ADD TO SITE
1. Click new Module, select RU Courses
2. Module setup
   a. Select Subject
   b. Select Course Level (Graduate or Undergraduate)
   c. Select Semester
3. In this instance, we are going to work with the module that I already created (module id = 1031)

ADD MODULE TO ARTICLE FOR DISPLAY
1. Go into the article for that semester, add the module, {module 1031}
2. Check for display on the front end.

Add syllabus to display

The syllabus is controlled by the NAMING convention of the .pdf files that you place in the syllabi folder (using the jce editor → file browser)

1) Rename the syllabus files.

Use the following naming convention:

YYYYsemester-school-subject-course.file_extension or YYYYsemester-school-subject-course-section.file_extension

- YYYY: the four digit year.
- semester: To indicate "semester", use corresponding number below:
- Spring: 1
- Summer: 7
- Fall: 9
- Winter: 0
- school-subject-course: standard course number
- section: [optional] If the section is not supplied, the syllabus will be treated as a default syllabus for the course and be loaded for any sections which do not have one uploaded.

file_extension: The extension can be pdf, doc, docx, txt. PDF is preferred as it will retain text and layout formatting.

Example:
A syllabus for 01:377:140 (Foundations of Exercise Science and Sport Studies) Section 06, Fall 2018, PDF format:

20189-01-377-140-06.pdf

2) Upload the files.

Be sure to upload the documents to the "syllabi" folder on the root level of images. If uploaded elsewhere, "RU Courses" will not be able to find them.

To create, or check for a "syllabi" folder, go to Components --> JCE Editor and click the "File Browser" icon that shows in the center of the page. If no syllabi folder exists at the root level (under "Home"), click the "New Folder" icon and create one named "syllabi".

- Navigate so that you are in the "syllabi" folder. When you are, its name will appear highlighted (left column).
- Click the cloud icon to upload files. More than one file may be uploaded at a time.
- If a file was not named properly, it can be renamed here. To do that, click the file then look for the edit icon in the right side of window.

Sample Result:

Notice the syllabi for section 01, is a different NAME of a file than the others. We named with 2 different names:

20189-01-790-102.pdf (this is display for all sections)

20189-01-790-102-01.pdf (this is displayed for section 01 only)