

Applications for Content-Specific Taxonomy, Exposed Forms and Field-based Views in Higher Ed

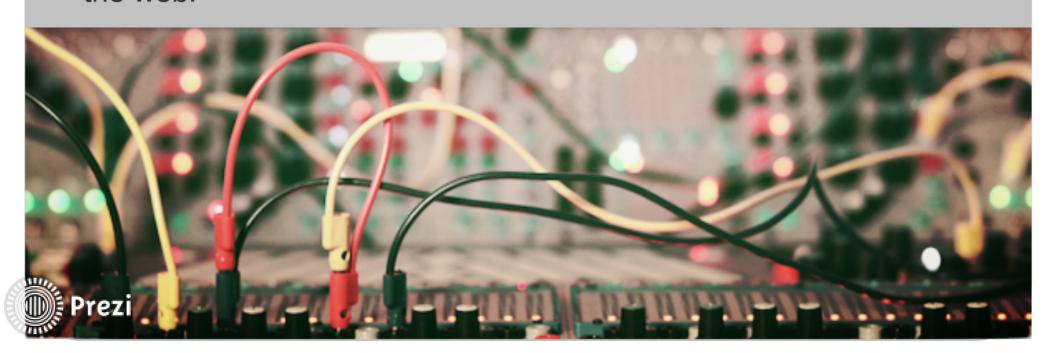
#### Presented by Rachel Evans

Web Coordinator & Digital Media Specialist University of Georgia School of Law & Law Library



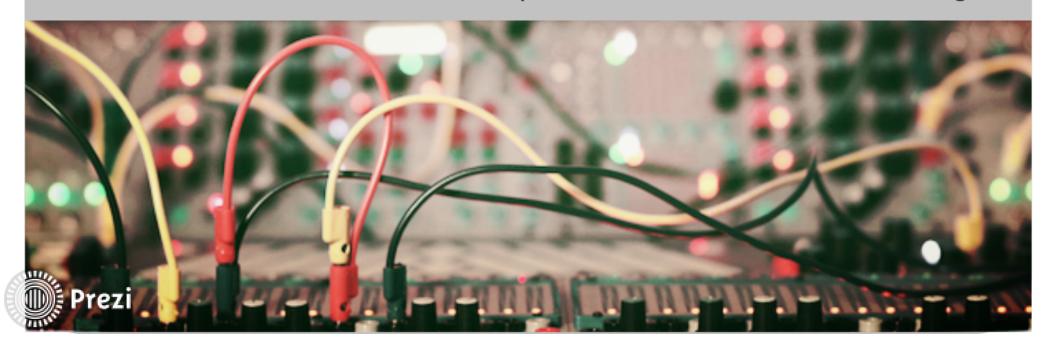
# Drupal can do amazing things, so why not?

- One of the beauties of Drupal is our ability to extend it.
- The idea of modules you use in combination with other modules to invent new and easier methods of web content creation, management and presentation is fascinating!
- This visually reminds me of other modular systems, like modular synthesizers (for example).
- Modular synthesizers represent the same endless possibilities with sound that content management systems like Drupal represent with the web.



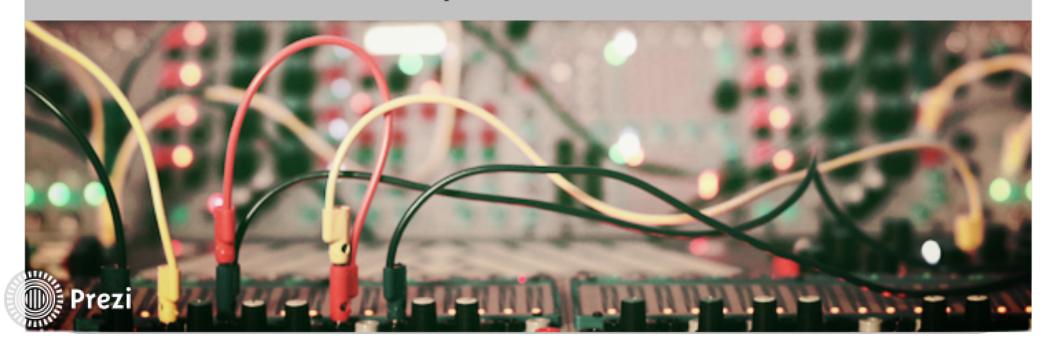
# Background

- Web editors are often tasked with time-consuming updating of content
- Many large websites, including educational institutions, use Drupal to help manage their content and make creating and updating it easier.
- UGA School of Law has been using Drupal as its CMS since 2009.
- In summer 2014 we made the leap from Drupal 6 to 7, and took the upgrade and migration as an opportunity to revise many site features.
- There were many things we knew Drupal was capable of, but that we had not always taken full advantage of.
- Our D6 site utilized views and exposed filters a little, but not enough.



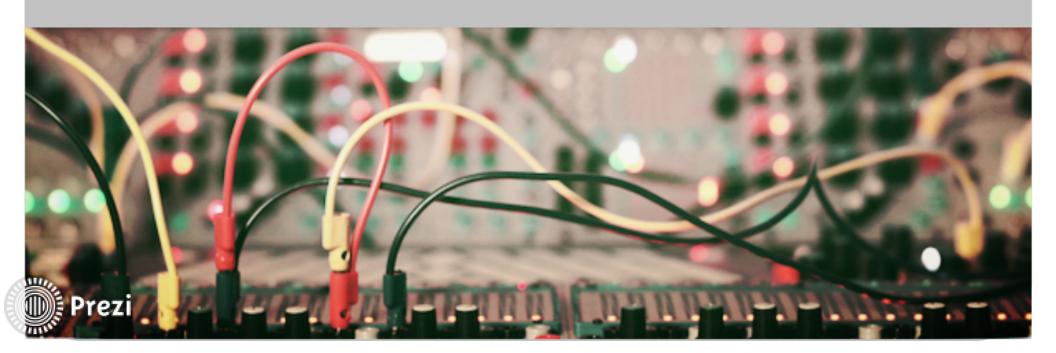
# Making Things Easier

- We knew there was a lot of room for improvement when it came to some of our more dense pages on the website.
- We aimed to revise a couple of pages that had valuable content but somehow lacked the user-friendliness of our other pages.
- Two pages came to mind right away:
  - 1. Course Offerings
  - 2. External Scholarships



# Why Revise?

- These two pages were so dense because they were very long lists. The content of each list item was fairly simple, but there was nothing in place to allow for easy searching of the content.
- The **course offerings page was actually two pages**, one alphabetically listed by course title, and one numerically listed by course number.
- The external scholarships page was directed toward prospective students, but elsewhere in the school a separate physical list of similar opportunities existed for current students. Some of these opportunities were the same.



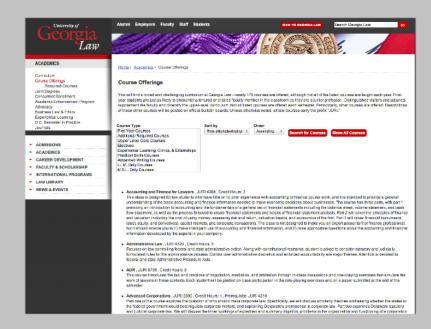
# Before & After: Course Offerings

### before:



Previously two pages, one alphabetically listed by course title, and one numerically listed by course number. No good way to search or sort!

### after:



### http://www.law.uga.edu/course-offerings

New method allows searching and sorting alphabetically, numerically, by number of credit hours, and by course categories (new vocabulary featuring terms like "required", "elective", etc.)

# Before & After: Scholarship & Writing Opportunities

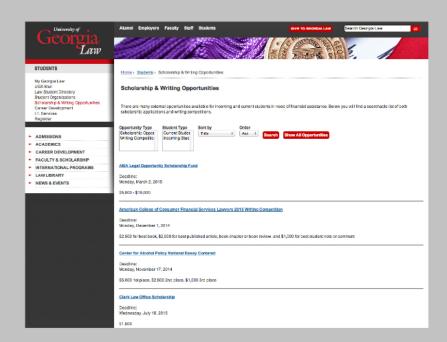
### before:





Previously one web page for prospective students and a separate physical book for current students. Some opportunities were the same. No good way to search or sort the web page. Few students were aware of the physical book.

### after:

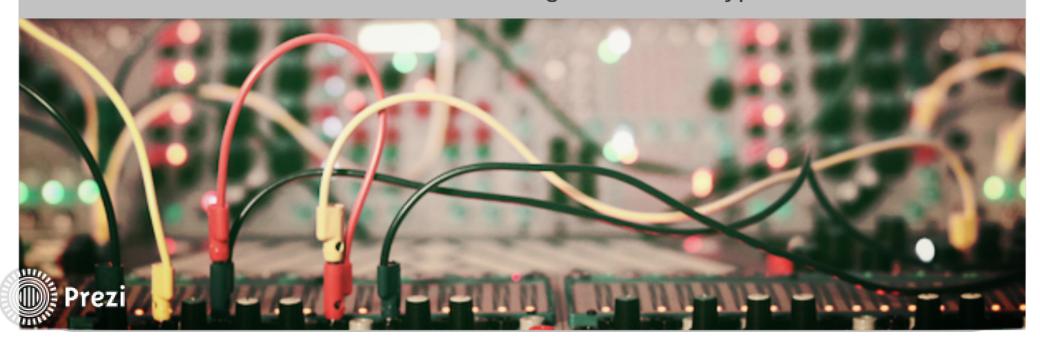


#### http://www.law.uga.edu/external-scholarships

New method allows searching and sorting alphabetically, by opportunity deadline, by opportunity type (scholarship or writing), by student type (current or incoming), as well as by award amount.

### Modules Needed

- Views part of Drupal 8 core, but not in 7's core
- Chaos Tools required by the module needed to expose a filter in a block
- Views Block Exposed Filter Block allows a form to be exposed in a block
- Link optional, part of Drupal 8 core, but not in 7's core
- **Taxonomy** core for 7 and 8, allows creation of term collections called vocabularies, which can be used as "tags" in content types

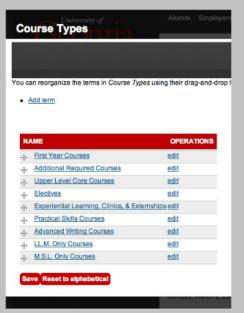


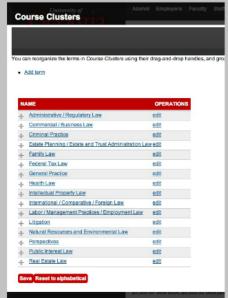
# How To: 10 Steps

- 1. Create a new vocabulary (possibly more than one).
- 2. Create a new content type with specific fields.
- 3. Add the new vocabulary to your content type as a field to enable "tagging".
- 4. Create some draft content so you have something to work with as you set up your new view.
- 5. **Create a new block view** which your new content will populate. (I like to create a page view first for easier testing, then turn it into a block later, but that is totally optional.)
- 6. **Use filters and sorts** for your various fields and vocabularies to make the new view's content easily search-able and thus more user-friendly.
- 7. Decide if you want to link your view content back to the original, and if you want a pager.
- 8. **Expose the form of your new block view as a second block**. To do this, in "advanced settings" enable Ajax, and set "exposed form" to "Yes" (and adjust any settings if you want, like the button's text). Unless you want a title to appear above each block on your final page, use <none> for the block title.
- 9. When you are ready, transform your old HTML list page into a mostly empty page (leave title and description if you like).
- 10. **Set your new view block and exposed form block to display on the chosen page** in the main content region. Drag and drop the blocks as needed (I prefer having exposed forms appear above (Succe).

# Step 1: New Vocabularies

# **Course Offerings**

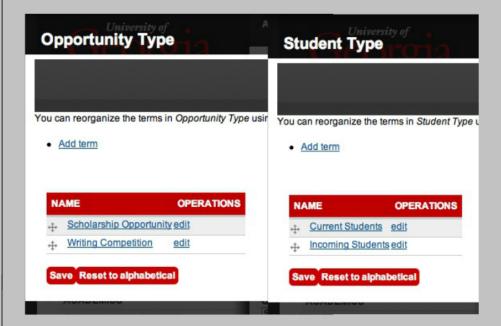




#### Created two new vocabularies:

- 1. Course Types
- 2. Course Clusters (for future use)
  Prezi

# **Opportunities**

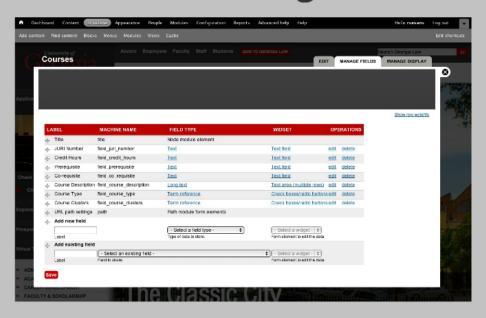


### Created two new vocabularies:

- 1. Opportunity Type
- 2. Student Type

# Step 2: Create New Content Type Step 3: Add the New Vocabularies

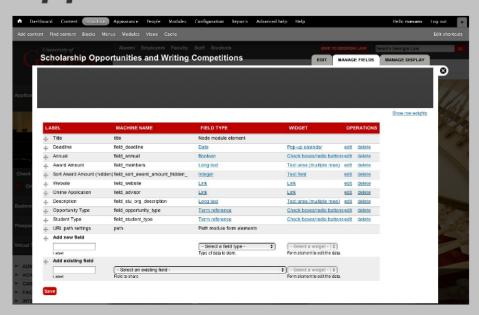
## **Course Offerings**



For courses, the basic information needed included:

- Title (course name)
- JURI number (course number)
- · Credit Hours
- Prerequisite (only shows if entered)
- · Co-requisite (only shows if entered)
- · Course Description (body field)
- Course Type (vocabulary 1)
- Course Clusters (vocabulary 2)

## **Opportunities**

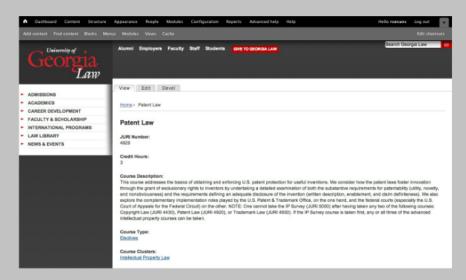


For scholarship & writing opportunities, the basics included:

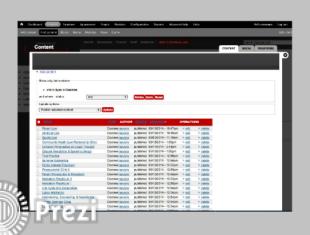
- Title (course name)
- Deadline (date)
- · Annual (select if annual or not)
- Award Amount (for public display, includes \$ sign)
- Sort Award Amount (not visible, used for sorting)
- · Website (link field)
- · Application (link field)
- Opportunity Description (body field)
- Opportunity Type (vocabulary 1)
- Student Type (vocabulary 2)

# Step 4: Create Draft Content

## **Course Offerings**

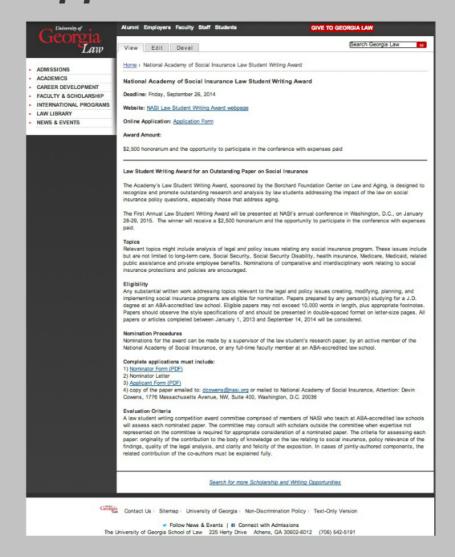


### **Find Content**

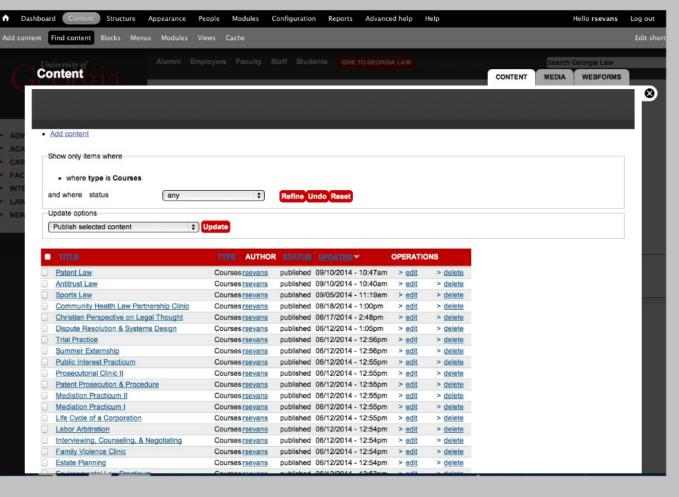


Now that you have new content types, you can much more easily search for and locate that type specifically (making editing even quicker and easier!)

## **Opportunities**



# **Find Content**

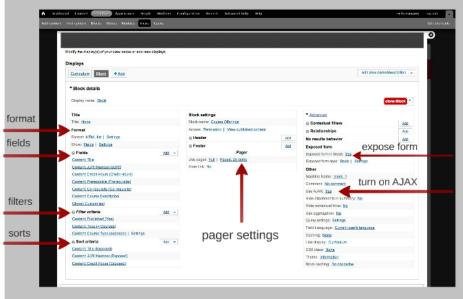


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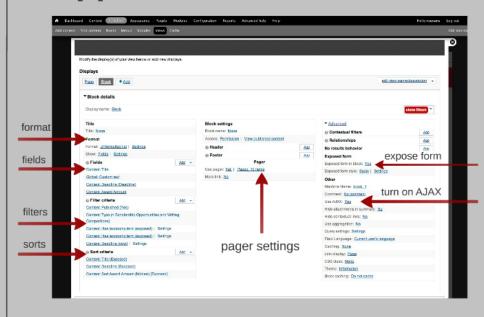


# Steps 5 - 8: Set Up Your New Views

### **Course Offerings**



### **Opportunities**



#### Step 5: Create a new view.

- Include all fields you want to display in the view (could also use "teaser" if you have teaser display preferences set up for the content type)
- · Decide the display format/style (I used HTML list, table is also nice)

#### Step 6: Use filters and sorts to make the view easily search-able.

- This is where your vocabularies will come in handy! Sort by them.
- · You can also sort using specific fields (ex. we used Award Amount)
- · Check the box for "expose" in sort and filter settings so people can use it.

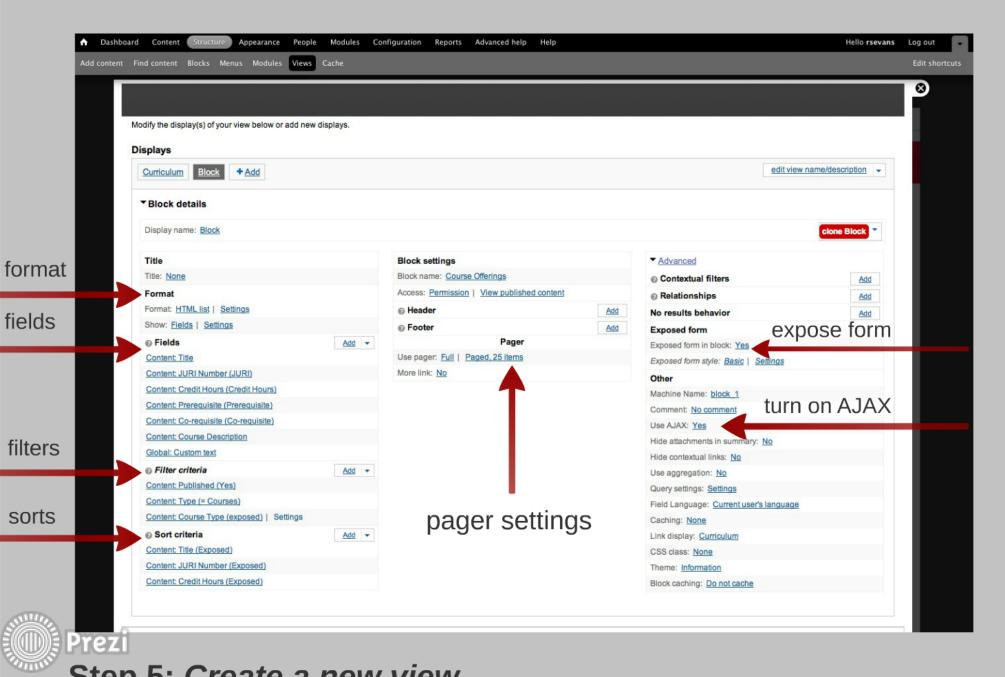
#### Step 7: Decide if you want to link back to original content, or use a pager.

- Under "fields" choose "title" and check the box for linking to original content on/off.
- Under "pager" choose "full" to use pager, and set the number of items you want per page (this feature can help shorten page lengths for long lists).

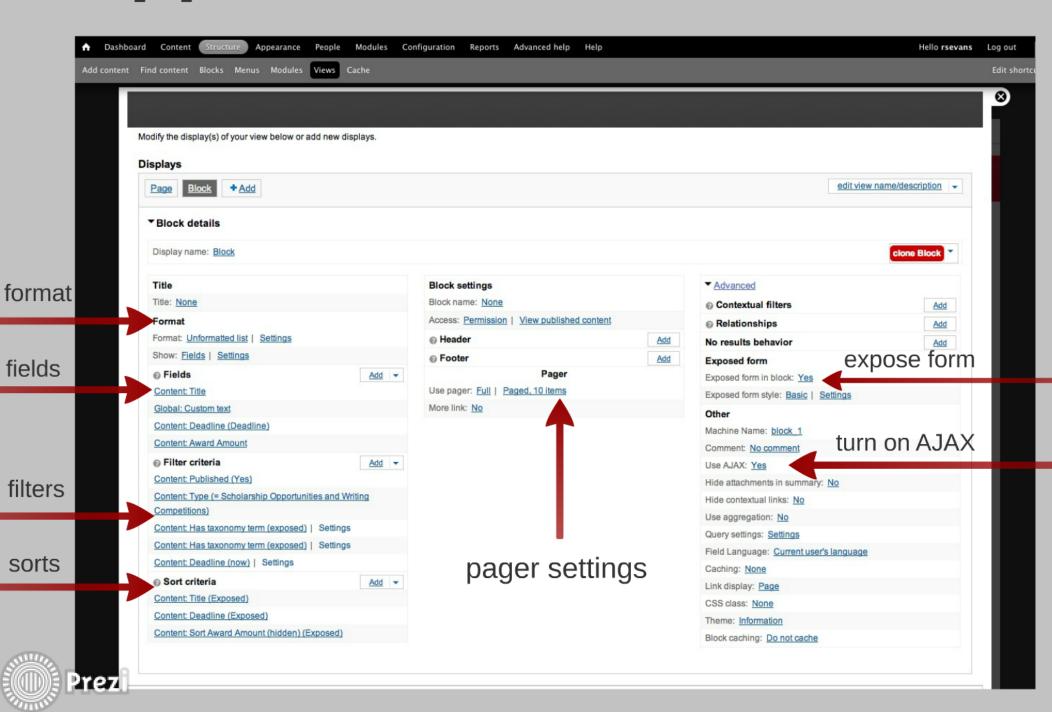
#### Step 8: Expose the form of your new block view as a separate block.

- Under "advanced settings" enable AJAX, and set "exposed form" to yes.
- Unter form settings" you can also change button preferences.

# Course Offerings

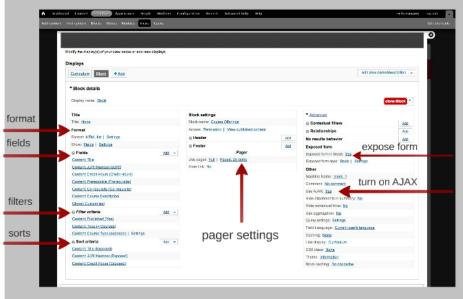


# **Opportunities**

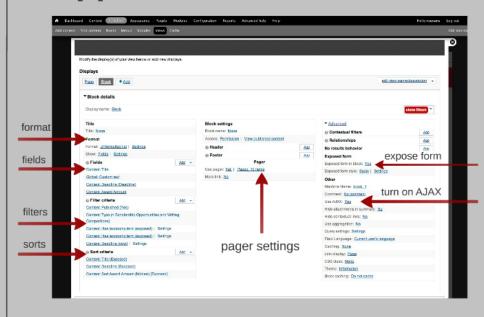


# Steps 5 - 8: Set Up Your New Views

### **Course Offerings**



### **Opportunities**



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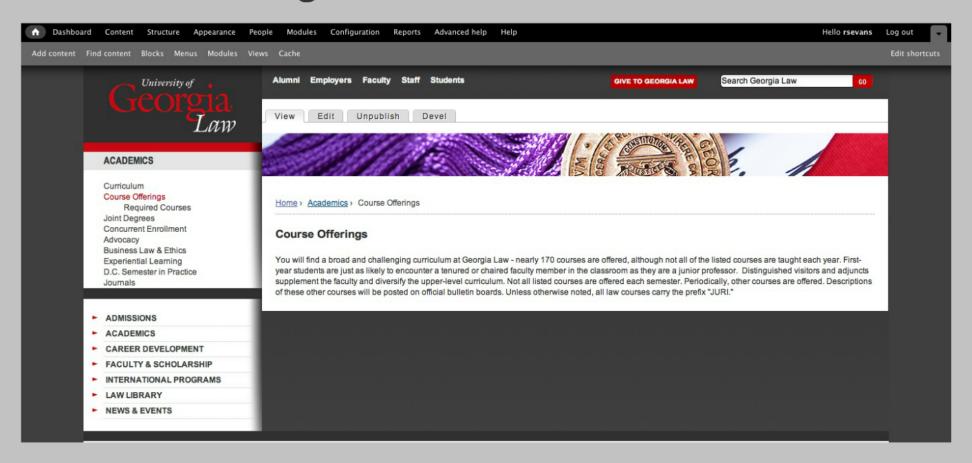
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# Step 9: Prepare the old page for new views

## **Course Offerings**

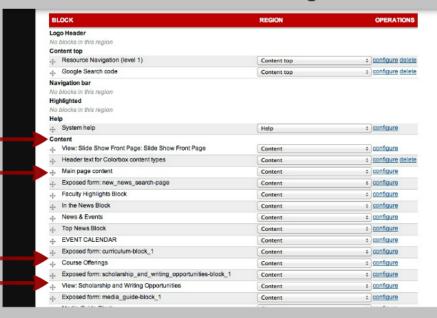


Remove all content, except for the required title and a description (if you want one).

# Step 10: Display new blocks

### **Locate the Blocks**

Move them to the correct region.



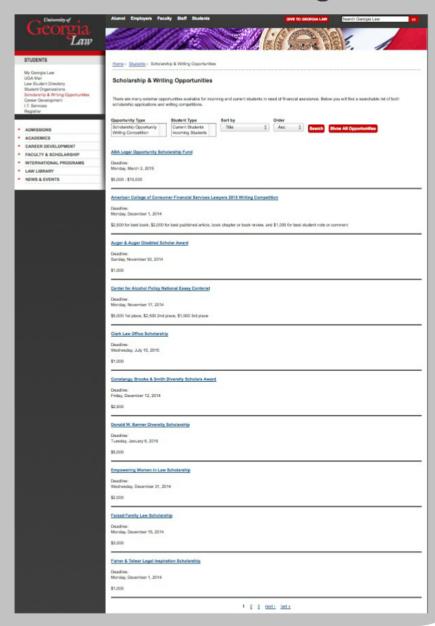
### Set the Page and Title



Ensure that the blocks show only on the page you want.

Unless you want a title for each block, use <none> for title.

### **Review the New Page!**

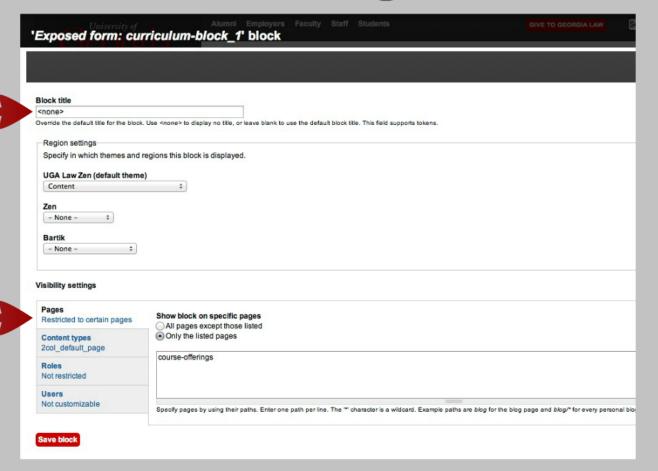


# Locate the Blocks

# Move them to the correct region.

BLOCK	REGION	OPERATIONS
Logo Header		
No blocks in this region		
Content top		
Resource Navigation (level 1)	Content top	configure delete
Google Search code	Content top	configure deleti
Navigation bar		
No blocks in this region		
Highlighted		
No blocks in this region		
Help		
System help	Help	configure
Content		
View: Slide Show Front Page: Slide Show Front Page	Content	configure
+ Header text for Colorbox content types	Content	configure delete
Main page content	Content	configure
Exposed form: new_news_search-page	Content	configure
Faculty Highlights Block	Content	configure
n the News Block	Content	configure
News & Events	Content	configure
Top News Block	Content	configure
EVENT CALENDAR	Content	configure
Exposed form: curriculum-block_1	Content	configure
Course Offerings	Content	configure
Exposed form: scholarship_and_writing_opportunities-block_1	Content	configure
View: Scholarship and Writing Opportunities	Content	configure
Evnocad form: modia quido block 1	C	* configure

# Set the Page and Title



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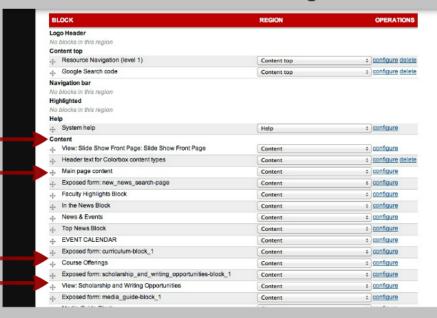
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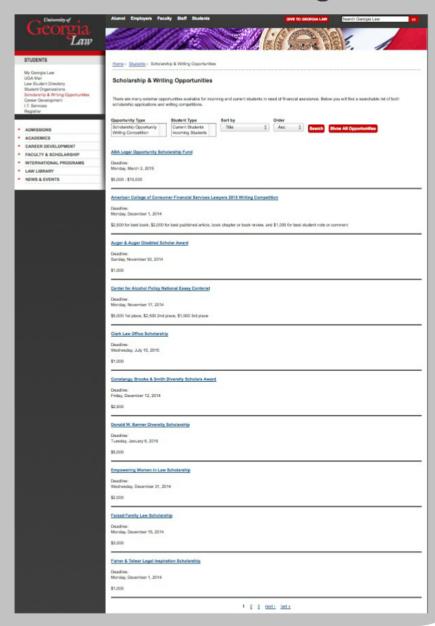
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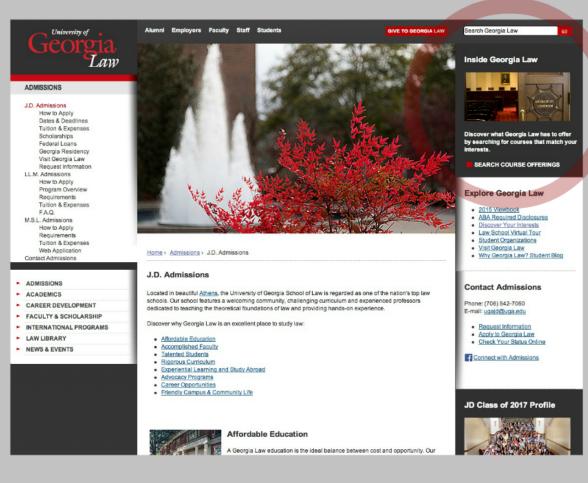


Ensure that the blocks show only on the page you want.

Unless you want a title for each block, use <none> for title.

### **Review the New Page!**





### **General Tips**

- Be enthusiastic! It is contagious.
- Find a colleague or two who are as enthusiastic as you are about the new method (perhaps staff whose job will be made easier because of it).
- Prepare a complete working draft in a development server first to show to others. Help them visualize this!
- Make the case for your new approach by selling the many advantages such as improved usability, more efficient searching and updating, and the potential for a marketing angle.

**Example**: the old methods for course and opportunity listings weren't pretty enough to publicize. Now they are promoted to students on other pages across the site, and through the school's social media.



**GIVE TO GEORGIA LAW** 

Search Georgia Law

60



### Inside Georgia Law

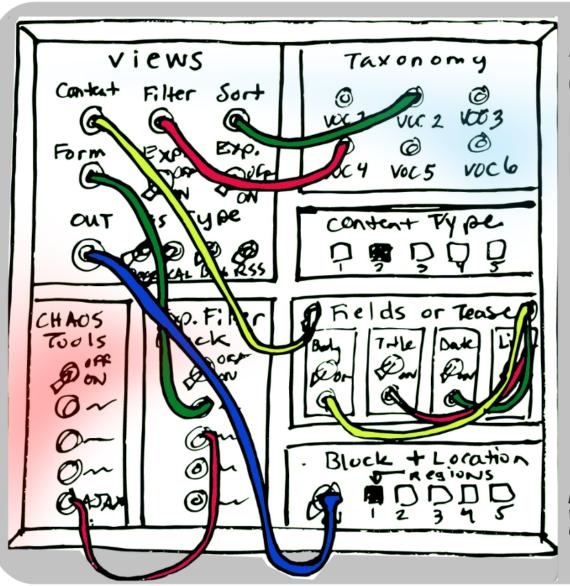


Discover what Georgia Law has to offer by searching for courses that match your interests.

**SEARCH COURSE OFFERINGS** 

**Explore Georgia Law** 

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ANY QUESTIONS?

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