



The Handbook

Codex

http://codex.wordpress.org/Alphabetizing_Posts

Version Date

6 August 2005

Alphabetizing Posts

By default, WordPress organizes and displays posts in descending chronological order: newest first, oldest last. Sometimes, though, you might want to list posts in alphabetical order. Using different templates in WordPress, you may implement post listings in an alternative manner.

Category Template

For example, say you have a category named "Glossary" that serves as (obviously) a glossary, where each post is a definition of a specific term, and each term is used as the post title. You want one master list of all the terms, plus their definitions. Edit your theme's [category.php](#) file, and make the following changes, just before [The Loop](#):

```
<?php
get_header();
?>

<div id="content">

<?php
// we add this, to show all posts in our
// Glossary sorted alphabetically
if (is_category('Glossary'))
{
    $posts = query_posts($query_string .
    '&orderby=title&order=asc&posts_per_page=-1');
}
// here comes The Loop!
if (have_posts()) : while (have_posts()) : the_post(); ?>
```

Specific Category Template

If you want your "Glossary" category to have a very different style from the rest of your site, you could create a custom category template file just for it. First, find the category ID of your "Glossary" category. The category ID is listed in the left-most column of your [Manage > Categories](#) administration panel. For this example, we'll assume that the "Glossary" category has a category ID of 13.

Copy your theme's `index.php` or `category.php` file (or create a brand new file, if necessary) named `category-13.php`, and insert your code as needed:

```
<?php
get_header();
?>

<div id="content">

<?php
// we add this, to show all posts in our
// Glossary sorted alphabetically
```

```
$posts = query_posts($query_string .
'&orderby=title&order=asc&posts_per_page=-1');
// here comes The Loop!
if (have_posts()) : while (have_posts()) : the_post(); ?>
```

Using a separate category template file for your "Glossary" category means that you do not clutter up your main `category.php` file with a bunch of conditional template tags.

Index Templates

Maybe you want to list *all* your posts alphabetically on the main page. Edit your theme's `index.php`:

```
<?php
// we add this, to show *all* posts sorted
// alphabetically by title
$posts = query_posts($query_string .
'&orderby=title&order=asc&posts_per_page=-1');
// here comes The Loop!
if (have_posts()) : while (have_posts()) : the_post(); ?>
```

Archives List

To display a list of links to your posts, sorted in alphabetical order, use the following:

```
<?php
wp_get_archives('type=postbypost&sort=post_title&order=ASC');
?>
```

References

- [Customizing Category Templates](#)
- [The Loop in Action](#)
- [WordPress Support Forum Thread on Sorting Posts and Categories Alphabetically](#)