

Latest Posts by Category Archive WP Plugin

Author: Alex Cristache

Author websites: [Blogsessive.com](http://blogsessive.com) - Blogging Tips, QBKL.net - QBKL Media (Design Studio)

Plugin version: 1.2

Plugin URL: <http://blogsessive.com/blogging-tools/wp-plugin-latest-posts-by-category-archive/>

This plugin will generate a list-based archive of your latest posts, organized by categories. The selection model only works for top level categories.

Starting with version 1.2 the plugin is also available as a widget for your theme's widget-ready areas.

1. Installation

1. Upload the folder lpbc-archive to the plugins directory of your blog (wp-content/plugins);
2. In the administration interface, go to the "Plugins" menu and activate the "Latest Posts by Category Archive" plugin.

2. Usage: Template files

This method is usable within template files, either inside or outside the loop, however you prefer.

```
<?php lpbc('arguments');?>
```

If you decide to use the plugin in hard-coded page templates, here is the require

Arguments

categories

Defines the list of category IDs to be excluded from the archive, or restricts the list to the specified category IDs if unsigned. By default, all top level categories will be included.

The following example will exclude categories 2 and 4 from the final listing:

```
<?php lpbc('categories=-2,-4');?>
```

The following example will ONLY include categories 3, 6 and 7 in the final listing:

```
<?php lpbc('categories=3,6,7');?>
```

Note: *If you will provide both negative and positive values ('categories=1,2,-3,4,-5'), only the positive ones will be considered, and thus the script will limit the listing to those categories represented by the positive values.*

posts

Set the limit of how many posts per category shall be displayed. Default is set to '5'.

Possible values: numeric OR "all".

The following example will return the latest 10 posts from each category:

```
<?php lpbc('posts=3');?>
```

The following example will return all posts from each category:

```
<?php lpbc('posts=all');?>
```

date

Changes the display settings of post dates. Set to 'true' to display post dates or leave undefined to hide. Default is set to 'false'. If active, the date will be added to the end of the post title like this:

```
o Post title sample - 2009-03-13
```

The following example will activate the display of post dates

```
<?php lpbc('date=true');?>
```

The whole date zone is enclosed within a CSS class called 'lpbcDate' in order to allow styling.

excerpts

Changes the display settings of post excerpts. Set to 'true' to display post excerpt or leave undefined to hide. Default is set to 'false'.

The following example will activate the display of excerpts:

```
<?php lpbc('excerpts=true');?>
```

length

Set the excerpt length in words to the defined value. Default is set to '30'.

The length is applied only to post that do not have set a custom excerpt via the administration panel in the add/edit post/page sections. If such excerpt has been defined, it will be used and will be displayed in full length, no matter the value defined for 'length'.

The following example will limit the excerpt to 20 words:

```
<?php lpbc('length=20');?>
```

more

Defines the custom text used for the link to the complete archive. Default is set to "More from Category Name".

If the total queried posts from a category is smaller than the limit or if the limit is set to "all", the link to the complete archive will not be displayed.

The following example will replace the link text with 'More from this category':

```
<?php lpbc('more=More from this category');?>
```

You can include the category name by the use of %name%:

```
<?php lpbc('more=Archive of the %name% category');?>
```

Mixing the arguments

You can either use the function without passing any argument, in which case, all values will be reset to default:

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

Or you can use any number and combination of arguments, based on your needs. For example, the next snippet of code will generate a list that will exclude the category with ID 2, will show excerpts of 10 words in length and set the more link text to "Complete archive" (4 out of 5 arguments):

```
<?php lpbc('categories=-2&excerpts=true&length=10&more=Complete archive');?>
```

Note: You can define the arguments in whichever order you wish.

3. Usage: Shortcodes

A "Latest Posts by Category Archive" can be generated within a post's or page's content, through the add/edit posts/pages panels in the administration menu.

To do so you can use this shortcode in the HTML view of your post/page:

```
[lpbc]
```

Visually, it should look like this:

```
Lorem ipsum dolor sit amet, consectetur adipiscing elit, sed diam nonummy nibh euismod tincidunt ut laoreet dolore magna aliquam erat volutpat.
```

```
[lpbc]
```

```
Ut wisi enim ad minim veniam, quis nostrud exerci tation ullamcorper suscipit lobortis nisl ut aliquip ex ea commodo consequat.
```

Arguments

The same arguments as in the hard-code method are available, so please see above for reference and default values.

Mixing the argument

A short code defining all 6 arguments would look like this:

```
[lpbc categories="-2,-4" posts="all" date="true" excerpts="true" length="20" more="Complete archive"]
```

2. Usage: LPBC Widget

Since version 1.2, the plugin is also available as a widget for your theme's widget-ready areas.

Activate the plugin, go to the "Widgets" administration page and add the "Latest Posts by Category" widget to the target widget-ready area.

The screenshot shows the 'Latest Posts by Category' widget settings. At the top, there is a blue header with the widget title 'Latest Posts by Category' and a 'Cancel' button. Below the header, the settings are organized into sections: 'Widget title:' with a text input field containing 'Latest Posts'; 'Categories to display:' with four checkboxes: 'Blogging Tips' (checked), 'Blogging Tools' (checked), 'Domain Names' (unchecked), and 'News & Reviews' (unchecked); 'Number of posts:' with a dropdown menu set to '3' and a note 'type all to display complete archive'; 'Display dates:' with a checked checkbox and the text 'Yes'; 'Display excerpts:' with an unchecked checkbox and the text 'Yes'; 'Excerpt length:' with a dropdown menu set to '20' and the text 'words'; 'Archive link title:' with a text input field containing '%name% archive' and a note 'Default is set to 'More from %name%'. %name% includes the category name in the archive link.'; and 'Hide link love:' with an unchecked checkbox and the text 'Yes'. At the bottom, there are two buttons: 'Done' and 'Remove'.

To the left you can see a screenshot of the widget's available settings. The widget output can be styled as follows:

Styling the widget

You can either style the widget output based on you standard sidebar classes or by using the following predefined widget classes:

.lpbcWidget

The widget is enclosed in a list item (`<li class="widget lpbcWidget">widget code`) for easier general styling.

.lpbcWidgetCategory

Each category output is enclosed in a list item (`<li class="lpbcWidgetCategory">widget code`) for easier styling.

.lpbcWidgetPost

Each post output is enclosed in a list item (`<li class="lpbcWidgetPost">widget code`) for easier styling.

.lpbcWidgetPostTitle

Used to customize each post's title. Is applied to a link.

.lpbcWidgetDate

Used to customize each post's date output if dates are displayed. Is applied to a `` element.

.lpbcWidgetMore

Used to customize the output of the "more" link, the link that points to the complete archive of each category. Is applied to a list element, which acts like the link container.

4. Styling the archive

The code generated by this plugin will be enclosed in a DIV with the "lpbcArchive" class assigned, like this:

If excerpts are inactive:

```
-----  
  
<div class="lpbcArchive">  
<ul>  
  <li><h4><a href="category-url">Category Name</a></h4>  
    <ul>  
      <li><a href="post-url" class="lpbcTitle">Post Title</a></li>  
    </ul>  
  </li>  
</ul>  
</div>
```

If excerpts are active:

```
-----  
  
<div class="lpbcArchive">  
<ul>  
  <li><h4><a href="category-url">Category Name</a></h4>  
    <ul>  
      <li><a href="post-url" class="lpbcTitle">Post Title</a><br />  
      Lorem ipsum dolor sit amet, consectetur adipiscing elit,  
      sed diam nonummy nibh euismod tincidunt ut laoreet dolore  
      magna aliquam erat volutpat [...]</li>  
    </ul>  
  </li>  
</ul>  
</div>
```

Some available CSS classes

In order to style the list, you can adjust the following classes, either in your theme's CSS file (style.css) or in the CSS file of the plugin, located in `wp-content/plugins/lpbc-archive/lpbc-archive.css`.

.lpbcArchive

Adds styling to the container.

.lpbcArchive ul

Adds styling to the archive list.

.lpbcArchive h3 & .lpbcArchive h3 a

Adds styling to the category names and their links.

.lpbcTitle

Adds styling to every post title and its link. If using excerpts, you might consider setting the font-weight to bold for this one.

.lpbcDate

Adds styling to the post dates.

5. Additional information:

Thank you for using this plugin. If you're ever in need of a custom WordPress theme, the [QBKL Media](#) team of qualified designers (over 10 years of experience) will gladly help you! If you're looking for the best blog & blogging tips, make sure you check out [Blogsessive.com](#).