

Character count for WordPress content and excerpt fields

How to add a simple character counter to excerpt & content fields in WordPress.

UPDATE: I've corrected the JS code by adding a check for the existence of the excerpt and the word counter entries; without this, JS would fail to load on pages and custom posts.

I've been looking for a simple letter counter for the WordPress content & excerpt fields, but the only plugin I've found is not working as of WordPress 3.8^[1]. I've also come across with a blog post how to do this for the excerpt^[2], but that was throwing errors, so I corrected it and added the content counter.

Add this to your theme's functions.php:

```
/* letter counter */
add_action( 'admin_head-post.php', 'letter_count_js' );
add_action( 'admin_head-post-new.php', 'letter_count_js' );

public function letter_count_js() {
    echo '<script>jQuery(document).ready(function() {

        if( jQuery("#excerpt").length ) {
            jQuery("#postexcerpt .handlediv").after("<input
type='text' value='0' maxlength='3' size='3'
id='excerpt_counter' readonly='' style='background:#fff;
position:absolute;top:0.2em;right:2em; color:#666;'/>");

jQuery("#excerpt_counter").val(jQuery("#excerpt").val().length);

            jQuery("#excerpt").keyup( function() {
```

php

```

jQuery("#excerpt_counter").val(jQuery("#excerpt").val().length);
    });
}

if( jQuery("#wp-character-count").length ) {
    jQuery("#wp-word-count").after("<td id='wp-character-count'>Character count: <span class='character-count'>0</span></td>");
    jQuery("#wp-character-count .character-count").html(jQuery("#wp-content-wrap .wp-editor-area").val().length);
    jQuery("#wp-content-wrap .wp-editor-area").keyup( function() {
        jQuery("#wp-character-count .character-count").html(jQuery("#wp-content-wrap .wp-editor-area").val().length);
    });
}

});</script>';
}

```

Links

1. <http://wordpress.org/plugins/posts-character-count-admin/>
2. <http://premium.wpmudev.org/blog/daily-tip-how-to-add-a-character-counter-to-the-wordpress-excerpt-box/>

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