

Here's a comprehensive comparison table of PastPerfect, CatalogIt, MuseumPlus RIA, and Coeli Collection Management Systems, focusing on key features and differences that matter to museums, archives, and collections professionals.



<i>Feature / Criteria</i>	PastPerfect	CatalogIt	MuseumPlus RIA	Coeli
Platform	Desktop (Windows), optional web edition	Cloud-based (Web + iOS)	Web-based (RIA = Rich Internet Application)	Cloud-native
Deployment	On-premise or web-hosted	SaaS	SaaS	SaaS
Mobile Access	Limited (only via cloud add-on)	Full mobile access	Yes (responsive web access)	Yes (responsive design)
User Interface	Legacy UI	Modern, user-friendly	Modern, configurable	Clean, minimalist UI
Cost Structure	One-time license + fees for add-ons	Subscription-based	Enterprise-level pricing	Subscription-based, scalable pricing
Target Users	Small to medium museums, historical societies	Small to mid-sized museums, individuals, artists	Medium to large museums, national institutions	Museums of all sizes, especially those focused on open data
Web Publishing	Optional (Web Edition or Virtual Exhibit)	Included by default	Strong capabilities, customizable portals	Strong open data publishing, Linked Open Data ready
Support for Standards	Customizable fields, not inherently standards-based	Custom templates, flexible schemas	Fully supports museum documentation standards (Spectrum, LIDO, CIDOC CRM)	Full standards support LIDO, Dublin Core, CDWA, SKOS Concept, CIDOC CRM, Spectrum and ISAD(G)
Multimedia Support	Yes (images, audio, video; web hosting required)	Yes, cloud-based storage	Robust multimedia handling	Native multimedia support, cloud-hosted
Integration/API	Limited (mostly manual or custom dev)	API available	Rich API for integrations	REST API and interoperability focused
Custom Reporting & Analytics	Basic to advanced (with training)	Built-in reports, limited customization	Advanced reporting engine	Analytics dashboards and export tools
Collaboration & Users	Limited to networked users or cloud upgrade	Multi-user, permission-based access	Scalable user roles and permissions	Multi-user collaboration, role-based access
Backup & Security	Manual or optional web/cloud backup	Automatic backups (cloud)	Enterprise-grade backup and security	Automatic backups, GDPR-compliant, ISO certifications
Training & Support	Manuals, online training, phone/email	Help center, email support	Training programs, documentation, support contracts	Help center, onboarding, premium support available
Ease of Use	Steep learning curve	Easy to learn, intuitive	Moderate (depends on configuration)	Easy for users, powerful for admins
Customization / Flexibility	Highly customizable but not always intuitive	Flexible templates and vocabularies	Fully configurable system	Highly modular, open data model
Notable Strengths	Proven legacy system with wide user base	Simplicity + mobile access	Robust standards support + large museum features	Linked open data + modern tech + accessibility