eHive by Vernon Systems

Disadvantages first, because there are fewer:

- Some of the back-end information is hidden in unexpected places on the website – but the documentation for everything is very good if you know where to look.
- The search function for collections is not very powerful, just a one-term keyword search.
- While it's easy to separate what can be seen by the public and what can be seen by your staff, there is only one level of staff access: you can't designate an administrator.
- They are located in New Zealand, so while their customer service is quite responsive, their hours are quite different from ours.

The advantages are everything else! Some key advantages:

- Very straightforward and easy to use.
- Tiered pricing allows you to make it work for your budget.
- They frequently release new updates and bug patches, and seem very responsive to customer feedback.
- All the advantages of cloud-based storage: they handle the IT and server backups. You can also create your own backups.
- It's easy to tell what information will be made public and what will not.
- eHive has several optional social features, such as commenting, public-generated tagging, and online communities for connecting with other eHive users and their collections.
- Usage is very customizable. They have a variety of in-depth information fields specific to the needs of museum collections, such as fields for acquisition and conservation data and loan history. However, if you don't use a field, it doesn't show up in the item's record, so it is easy to streamline for what you need and don't need.
- If you have a web developer, they can easily incorporate your eHive catalog into a wordpress page that can be integrated into your regular website.

eHive tips and tricks:

- For their in-depth how-to guide, which is formatted like Wikipedia (although it is not a user-editable wiki), click the “Home” tab and follow any of the links under “Getting Started.”
- For their forum which covers FAQs and many other usage questions, click the “What is eHive?” tab and choose “Forum” from the list on the left.
- For information on importing data, including the import spreadsheet itself, click the “What is eHive?” tab and choose “Importing Data” from the list on the left.
- For website customization options, click the “What is eHive?” tab and choose “Do More” from the list on the left.

As stated above, their own resources on how to use the site are excellent, just poorly placed. Follow the above guide and you will find everything you need to know about eHive on their own site.