Building Digital Exhibits Using Omeka

Franky Abbott, DPLA Project Manager
franky@dp.la
October 2, 2014
Mountain West Digital Library Fall Webinar Series
Why build digital exhibits?

Use valuable digital content to tell important stories.

Exhibits are stories told by marrying writing and items in a narrative structure.

“Hudson Park, Story hour.” Courtesy the New York Public Library.
What’s in it for cultural heritage orgs?

✧ Content in context

✧ New audiences

✧ Increase visibility

✧ Opportunities for collaboration
What’s in it for others?

✧ Tell stories with primary sources

✧ Build curation skills

✧ Take advantage of the visual emphasis of web publishing

✧ Collaborate!
As you plan exhibits, think about:

Audience?

Scope?

Maintenance?

Why in Omeka?

Can choose between hosted and self-hosted

Offers a searchable database integrated with online exhibits; built for web display*

Easy to use “out of the box”

Active development and open source community
To host or not to host?

Omeka.org – self-hosted (owning)

Omeka.net – hosted (renting)

You can do more with .org but it involves more work

See: http://bitly.com/compareomekas

Courtesy Georgia State University.
omeka.org

Serious Web Publishing

Create complex narratives and share rich collections, adhering to Dublin Core standards with Omeka on your server, designed for scholars, museums, libraries, archives, and enthusiasts. Learn More

Download Omeka
Linux, Apache, MySQL5, PHP5

System Requirements
No server? Try Omeka.net!
Your institution may be able to host…

Before installing Omeka, make sure your web server meets our basic system requirements. These are standard requirements that are available by most web hosting services. Once these system requirements are met, all you need to do is install the Omeka software:

### System Requirements

- Linux operating system
- [Server configuration](http://omeka.org/codex/Hosting_Suggestions) suggestions
- Apache HTTP server (with mod_rewrite enabled)
- MySQL version 5.0 or greater
- PHP scripting language version 5.2.11 or greater (with mysqli and exif extensions installed)
  - PHP version 5.3+ or the [Fileinfo extension](http://omeka.org/codex/Hosting_Suggestions) is highly recommended
- ImageMagick image manipulation software (for resizing images)

or you can buy commercial web hosting and do it yourself.

See: [http://omeka.org/codex/Hosting_Suggestions](http://omeka.org/codex/Hosting_Suggestions)
# Sign Up For A New Account!

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Plan</th>
<th>$</th>
<th>Storage</th>
<th>Sites</th>
<th>Plugins</th>
<th>Themes</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Plus</strong></td>
<td>49</td>
<td>1 GB</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>Unlimited</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Silver</strong></td>
<td>99</td>
<td>2 GB</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>Unlimited</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Gold</strong></td>
<td>299</td>
<td>5 GB</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>Unlimited</td>
<td>Unlimited</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Platinum</strong></td>
<td>999</td>
<td>25 GB</td>
<td>Unlimited</td>
<td>Unlimited</td>
<td>Unlimited</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Try the free Basic plan with 500 MB of storage, 1 site, 10 plugins, and 4 themes. If you need more than the Platinum plan's 25GB of storage, please contact us for a custom plan.

[omeka.net/plans](http://omeka.net/plans)
Basic Components in Omeka

**Item:** content “building block”

**Collection:** subset of your items

**Exhibit:** curated selection of your items

**Website:** controlled with themes and plugins

Courtesy University of Southern California Libraries.
Add a Site

Subdomain Name: manzanar.omeka.net

Site Title: Exploring Manzanar

Site Description: This site tells the story of Manzanar—a World War II relocation center for Japanese Americans—through images. Exhibition curated by Franky Abbott.
RECENTLY ADDED ITEMS
No recent items available.

FEATURED ITEM
No featured items are available.

FEATURED COLLECTION
No featured collections are available.
## Dashboard

### Getting Started with Omeka

**Items**
- Add a new item to your archive
- Browse your items

**Collections**
- Add a collection to group items
- Browse your collections

**Users**
- Browse Users

**Settings**
- Edit General Settings
- Manage Themes
- Manage Plugins

---

### Site Overview

*Exploring Manzanar* contains 0 items, in 0 collections, tagged with 0 keywords. There are 1 users.

### Recent Items

There are no items to display.

### Recent Tags

No tags are available.
Add an Item

Dublin Core

The Dublin Core metadata element set. These elements are common to all Omeka resources, including items, files, collections, exhibits, and entities. See http://dublincore.org/documents/dces/.

Title

☐ Use HTML
A name given to the resource. Typically, a Title will be a name by which the resource is formally known.

Subject

☐ Use HTML
The topic of the resource. Typically, the subject will be represented using keywords, key phrases, or classification codes. Recommended best practice is to use a controlled vocabulary. To describe the spatial or temporal topic of the resource, use the Coverage element.

Description

☐ Add Input
Themes – Look and Feel

- **Rhythm**
  
  **Author:** Chris Raymond  
  **License:** GPL  
  **Website:** http://omeka.org

- **Seasons**
  
  **Author:** Jeremy Boggs and Ken Albers  
  **License:** GPL  
  **Website:** http://omeka.org

- **Berlin**
  
  **Author:** Ken Albers & Jeremy Boggs  
  **License:** GPL  
  **Website:** http://omeka.org

- **Minimalist Omeka Theme**
  
  **Author:** Laura Veprek  
  **License:** GPL  
  **Website:** http://veprek.com
Plugins - Functionality

- COins
- CSV Import
- Docs Viewer
- Exhibit Builder
- Google Analytics
- Library of Congress Suggest
- OAI-PMH Harvester
- Shared Shelf Link
- Simple Pages
- Social Bookmarking
Users

Can add as many as you want with any Omeka plan-instance.

Four roles:

- Super
- Admin
- Contributor
- Researcher
RECENTLY ADDED ITEMS

Barack Obama at UNC Charlotte on the eve of the 2008 Election
This is a color photograph of Senator Barack Obama on campus at UNC Charlotte on November 3, 2008. He is on stage speaking to a large audience of... see more

J. Murrey Atkins Library
Special Collections at UNC Charlotte

FEATURED ITEM
John F. Kennedy at the Charlotte Coliseum
This is a black and white photograph of Senator John F. Kennedy at the Charlotte Coliseum in 1960 campaigning for President. In this image, he is...

Inside Spread of Ford’s Visit from "Around City Hall"
This is the inside spread of a collage taken from "Around City Hall" Magazine from 1975. Several photographs are presented that were taken from the... see more

FEATURED EXHIBIT
Dwight Eisenhower and Freedom Celebration Day
On May 18, 1954, a great celebration took place in Charlotte in commemoration of the signing of the Mecklenburg Declaration...
BROWSE ITEMS (48 TOTAL)

Barack Obama at UNC Charlotte on the eve of the 2008 Election

This is a color photograph of Senator Barack Obama on campus at UNC Charlotte on November 3, 2008. He is on stage speaking to a large audience of college students.

Tags: campaign, Charlotte, Obama, President, UNC Charlotte

Inside Spread of Ford’s Visit from "Around City Hall"

This is the inside spread of a college taken from "Around City Hall" Magazine from 1975. Several photographs are presented that were taken from the bicentennial celebration at Freedom Park in 1975. The issue is from June 1975, Volume II, number 11.

Tags: 1975, Bicentennial, Charlotte, Ford, Jesse Helms, Mack Day, President

Invitation Letter in Honor

This is a sample invitation letter sent out to distinguished guests for the Freedom Celebration Day in 1975 at Freedom Park. It lists Gerald Ford as a guest of honor.
BROWSE COLLECTIONS

Presidential Visual Aids

Description

This collection holds an assortment of items used to exhibit some of the Presidential visits to Charlotte, in particular those with fewer showcased...

Collector(s)

Brian Faulknerby

View the items in Presidential Visual Aids

President Taft Collection

Description

This collection contains all resources used for the exhibit featuring President William Howard Taft's visit to Charlotte in 1909.

Collector(s)

Brian Faulknerby

View the items in President Taft Collection

President Franklin D. Roosevelt Collection

Description

This collection contains all resources used for the exhibit featuring President Franklin D. Roosevelt's visit to Charlotte in 1936.

Collector(s)

Brian Faulknerby
BROWSE EXHIBITS (4 TOTAL)

A Snapshot of Presidents in Charlotte

A number of U.S. Presidents have visited Charlotte in years past. George Washington, Theodore Roosevelt, Woodrow Wilson, John F. Kennedy, and others at one point stopped by the New South City. Some came to campaign, hoping to engage the Southern voters. Others came as part of a holiday honoring the history of the purported signing of the Mecklenburg Declaration of Independence on May 20, 1775. Whatever the event or occasion, each visit was unique and added to the rich history of Charlotte.


William Howard Taft and the Mighty Downpour

On May 20, 1909, President William Howard Taft visited Charlotte by invitation in order to partake in the celebration of the alleged signing of the Mecklenburg Declaration of Independence. It was a big day in the Queen City filled with parades and speeches. It was also a day that featured unusual circumstances evidenced by a torrential rain that fell just as soon as the parade concluded. The President spoke twice on this day: once to a white crowd at the City Auditorium and again at the historically black Biddle University. His speeches, and the celebratory mood of the city, ensured this to be another memorable Meck Dec Day.

1909, Biddle, Charlotte, President, Taft

Franklin D. Roosevelt and the Green Pastures Rally

"Your life and mine, though we work in the mill or in the office or in the store, can still be a life in green pastures and beside still waters..." -FDR 9/10/1936

On September 10, 1936, President Franklin Delano Roosevelt was in Charlotte as the keynote speaker at the Green Pastures Rally. The rally took place at the newly constructed American Legion Memorial Stadium. H. Haywood Robbins organized the event as an opportunity for the South to collectively celebrate the President and his economic policy of the previous four years. Slowly, as the Depression continued on, improvements were noticeable in Charlotte and in the surrounding Southern states. The Green Pastures Rally was a celebration of these gains as the region looked forward to a promising future with President Roosevelt at the helm.

1936, Charlotte, Green Pastures, President, Roosevelt
FRANKLIN D. ROOSEVELT AND THE GREEN PASTURES RALLY

The Green Pastures Rally  FDR at the Rally

Description
"Your life and mine, though we work in the mill or in the office or in the store, can still be a life in green pastures and beside still waters..." - FDR 9/10/1936

On September 10, 1936, President Franklin Delano Roosevelt was in Charlotte as the keynote speaker at the Green Pastures Rally. The rally took place at the newly constructed American Legion Memorial Stadium. H. Haywood Robbins organized the event as an opportunity for the South to collectively celebrate the President and his economic policy of the previous four years. Slowly, as the Depression continued on, improvements were noticeable in Charlotte and in the surrounding Southern states. The Green Pastures Rally was a celebration of these gains as the region looked forward to a promising future with President Roosevelt at the helm.

Credits
Evan Faulkenbury

Sections
The Green Pastures Rally
FDR at the Rally
In commemoration of the Green Pastures Rally, a souvenir program was made available for 25 cents apiece. The program featured information on the rally, a brief biography of Roosevelt, and documented landmarks from around Charlotte and North Carolina.
America's Great Depression and Roosevelt's New Deal

Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC)

While there were many relief programs aimed to put Americans back to work, the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) had the unique goal of preserving the country's natural resources through the establishment of conservation jobs. This meant that more than three million men between 1933 and 1942 went to work in the parks and forests performing tasks such as “planting trees, building flood barriers, fighting fires, and maintaining roads and trails.” One of the legacies of the CCC was that over three billion trees were planted in just nine years.

The CCC not only showed that the federal government valued protecting the environment, but also that many government agencies could join together in the face of national struggle to create a stronger nation. The Department of Labor recruited young men, the War Department trained them, and the Department of Agriculture decided on and managed the specific jobs of the workers. The work of these young men would become the foundations of the National Parks.

Supporting Omeka
Open Source

Means source code is available online (so others can modify and adapt it)

Benefit: encourages community participation
Active development

development team at CHNM

• write new releases, updates, and fixes
• develop new plug-ins
• monitor and participate in forums
• respond to users’ development requests
Omeka documentation

Guides and directions

Screencast videos

Different directions for different releases - make sure you’re using the right one!
omeka.org/forums/

Active community of users and developers

Search for your questions first

Post your own questions
Additional resources

Omeka.net showcase of sample sites

Omeka.org showcase of sample sites

Omeka documentation

UCLA DH101 tutorial (Anthony Bushong & David Kim)

The Programming Historian tutorial (Miriam Posner)

UIUC guide (Harriet Green)

Introduction to Omeka Lesson Plan (Amanda French)