Building Digital Exhibits Using Omeka

MWDL PLPP Omeka Training
May 4, 2015
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 public libraries?

✧ Content in context

✧ Engage new audiences (or familiar audiences in new ways)

✧ Increase visibility

✧ Opportunities for collaboration
As you plan exhibits, think about:

Audience?
Scope?
Maintenance?

Process

Which collection(s) do you want to work with?

Which story do you want to use them to tell?

Which particular items can tell that story?

What text is needed to fill in gaps and create a complete story? Items from other institutions?

ITERATE until you have an effective, engaging story
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/compareo mekas

Courtesy Georgia State University.
## Sign Up For A New Account!

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Plus</th>
<th>Silver</th>
<th>Gold</th>
<th>Platinum</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>$49.00/year</td>
<td>$99.00/year</td>
<td>$299.00/year</td>
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<tr>
<td>FOR INDIVIDUAL USERS.</td>
<td>BEST FOR MOST USERS.</td>
<td>FOR TEAMS AND GROUPS.</td>
<td>FOR INSTITUTIONS.</td>
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<tr>
<td>1 GB Storage</td>
<td>2 GB Storage</td>
<td>5 GB Storage</td>
<td>25 GB Storage</td>
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<tr>
<td>2 Sites</td>
<td>5 Sites</td>
<td>10 Sites</td>
<td>Unlimited Sites</td>
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<tr>
<td>15 Plugins</td>
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<tr>
<td>Try the free Basic plan with 500 MB of storage, 1 site, 10 plugins, and 4 themes.</td>
<td>If you need more than the Platinum plan’s 25GB of storage, please contact us for a custom plan.</td>
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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

[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.

Add Your New Site
Exploring Manzanar

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.
One website can include many items.

An item can be associated with multiple collections and exhibitions.
EXAMPLE
Website: Exploring Manzanar
Dashboard

Getting Started with Omeka

Items

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

Manage items in your archive: add, edit, and delete items.

Collections

- Add a collection to group items
- Browse your collections

Manage collections in your archive: add, edit, and delete collections.

Users

- Browse Users

Manage users of various levels: from researcher to super.

Settings

- Edit General Settings
- Manage Themes
- Manage Plugins

Manage your general settings for the site, including title, description, and themes.
Themes – Look and Feel

- **Rhythm**
  Author: Chris Raymond
  License: GPL
  Website: [http://omeka.org](http://omeka.org)

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

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

- **Minimalist Omeka Theme**
  Author: Laura Veprek
  License: GPL
  Website: [http://veprek.com](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
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/](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**
Omeka vs CONTENTdm

• PLPP participants are currently using CONTENTdm with a MWDL service hub
  • (University of Utah Marriott Library, Utah State University Library, Montana Memory Project and more!)

• Can Omeka replace CONTENTdm or other digital collections software?
No

- Omeka is for display, and telling a story, not searching and faceting.
- Omeka stores display images.
- A MWDL service hub using CONTENTdm may also have ways of preserving the high resolution source images (.tiffs) for your collection.
- Size limits for items in Omeka vs no size limits in library repository software.
Metadata differences

- MWDL required fields:
  - date, description, format, identifier, rights, subject, title, type, also conversion specifications and creator if available

- Omeka required fields:
  - Title
Adding Metadata in Omeka

- Add fields manually
- Can also use CSV Import Plugin for spreadsheet of items you want to use in your exhibit
- Spreadsheets can be exported from CONTENTdm for your current collections
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

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

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...

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)

1 2 3 4 5 Next Last

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 collage 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, Meck Dec 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)
Evan Faulkenbury

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)
Evan Faulkenbury

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)
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 this New South City. Some came to campaign, hoping to engage 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, 1776. 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

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Credits
Evan Faulkenbury

Sections
The Green Pastures Rally
FDR at the Rally
FRANKLIN D. ROOSEVELT AND THE GREEN PASTURES RALLY

The Green Pastures Rally  FDR at the Rally

Green Pastures Souvenir Book  Origins  A Welcome from the Chairman  A Welcome from the Mayor  Southern Dignitaries

Green Pastures Souvenir Book

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.
Choose a layout by selecting a thumbnail on the right.
Page Layout

Gallery Full Right
Displays a gallery of 8 thumbnails, with a wider right column for 1 full-size image and text block.

Edit Page Metadata

Page Content

Primary

1

There is no item attached. Attach an Item

2

Paragraph
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!
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)