

Introducing Omeka for Digital Projects

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Steven L. MacCall, PhD

Associate Professor

School of Library and Information Studies

University of Alabama

What is Omeka?

- Open source software (IOW, free like puppies)
- Center for History and New Media @ George Mason University
- Follows “industry” standards including
 - Metadata Input - Dublin Core
 - Data Sharing - OAI-PMH
 - Copyright - Creative Commons

What is Omeka? (cont)

- Database driven
 - “Out of the box” functionality
 - Extendable with [plugins](#)
- Choice for hosting
 - On local server either by UA department or OIT
 - In the cloud using [Omeka.net](#) hosting service (\$\$)
- Digital library composed of
 - Digital repository
 - Digital collections
 - Digital exhibitions

Omeka is a Digital Repository

- Database for digital assets
- Default data design is Dublin Core, which can be enhanced by [metadata input plugins](#)
- Processing records after digitization
 - Through [data entry interface](#)
 - Batch upload - [CSV Import plugin](#)
- Example of local [Omeka project](#) for SLIS metadata education ([indexing wiki](#))

Omeka Provides for Digital Collections

- Collections allow for the aggregating of items into logical sets according to a criterion
 - Donator
 - Format
 - Etc
- Example of omeka.net hosted [Omeka project](#) for the local Tuscaloosa Area Virtual Museum project ([indexing wiki](#))

Omeka Provides for Digital Exhibitions

- Suitable for 3rd party authors/creators and others who want to produce scholarship as a result of research using the your repository
 - Textual narration
 - Items linked directly from repository
 - Links to external content
- Example of [Omeka project](#) that has built exhibits

Neatline: New Era for Exhibitions

- Plugin that creates [exhibits](#) based on item geotemporal metadata, maps, and narration
- Based on Geoserver
 - An open-source geospatial server that pipes georeferenced historical maps into Neatline exhibits
 - Start with [high resolution image](#) (map or aerial photo)
 - Process of assigning geographic coordinates to [static image file](#) (called “georeferencing” or “georectifying”)
- Workflow [here](#).

Conclusion

- No cost software, but requires experienced webserver administrator to manage
 - Installation of database driven repository software
 - Installation of plugins for user activation
 - We have campus precedent for dept. and OIT hosting
- Beware ongoing compatibility problems with plugins as Omeka core software evolves
 - Challenge for any open source, plugin-driven software
 - Will improve as more plugins are incorporated into core