Learn@DLF 2023 Workshop Outline

Introduction to CollectionBuilder, Part I: Creating a Collection With CollectionBuilder-GH Using the GitHub Web Interface

This document will change as we progress through the workshop adjusting to the progress and interests of the group! The living version of this document can be found here: https://tinyurl.com/dlf-gh-workshop

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Date: Sunday, November 12, 2023
Time: 9:00am - 12:15pm CST
Location: Grand A, St. Louis Union Station Hotel, St. Louis, MO

Overview:

Participants in this workshop will learn how to use CollectionBuilder to create a free digital collection website that encourages browsing and contextualizing items through timelines, maps, and word cloud visualizations. No programming experience or software download is required for this workshop; beginners from any background are welcome.

Workshop Learning Objectives:

- Have a basic understanding of the structure and design of a CollectionBuilder site.
- Recognize the required metadata fields for a CollectionBuilder-GH instance.
- Be able to start a CollectionBuilder project using the CollectionBuilder-GH template.
- Understand the basics of working with the GitHub web interface.

Outline:

9:00am - 9:15am - Introductions

1. Name, institution, something about yourself, your favorite cookie!

9:15am - 9:30am - CollectionBuilder intro (Devin)

1. [Slides](#)
2. Tour a [CollectionBuilder demo site](#)
3. Intro to [CollectionBuilder docs](#)

9:30am - 10:00am - Metadata and objects (Julia)

1. Choose from demo collection data listed below:
   a. Psychiana (images, pdfs, video, audio), [objects](#) and [Sheet](#). alternative: [Sheet](#)
   b. Carleton Watkins Mine Interiors (images), [objects](#) and [Sheet](#).
   c. Idaho Cities and Towns (images), [objects](#) and [Sheet](#).
   d. Northwest Historical Postcards (images and multiples), [objects](#) and [Sheet](#).
   e. The same demo metadata with externally hosted objects, [collectionbuilder-sample-data](#)
2. Metadata
   a. [Required fields](#)
      i. Formats, filenames, field names
      ii. Fields required for visualizations
      iii. Adding a custom metadata field
3. Objects
   a. [Object types](#)
   b. [Object guidelines](#)
   c. Where to host items
      i. In CB-GH: jpg (and other images), pdf, and mp3 within reasonable web size limits can be hosted in your GitHub repository's "objects" folder
      ii. External items: YouTube, Vimeo, files hosted elsewhere, links – external items are a really powerful option!

10:00am - 10:30am - Repository set-up (Evan)

1. Overview of GitHub web interface
2. Copy [CollectionBuilder-GH Template](#) to create your new project
   a. ["use this template" button](#)
   b. How to name repository projects
   c. Repository settings intro (where to delete later if you want!)
   d. [Turn on GitHub Pages](#)
3. Edit the README
   a. Using the GitHub web editor

        b. Making a commit

        c. Look at repository history

4. Configure site-wide settings using "_config.yml"

        a. Introduction to YAML

        b. Edit YAML and Commit changes

5. Upload Objects

6. Upload Metadata

7. Look at GitHub repo history

8. Break the demo! Mess around with metadata to see what sort of odd things can happen

10:30am - 10:45am - Break time

10:45am - 11:15am - Configure repository theme (Olivia)

1. theme.yml

        a. Add a feature image

        b. Add a subject field

        c. Re-center map

2. Config -csvs

        a. Customize nav

        b. Customize browse cards

11:15am - 11:45am - Configure Home page and About page (Olivia)

1. Home page layout

        a. Customize the Home page

            i. Jekyll Layouts (_layouts/home-infographic.html)

            ii. Bootstrap columns and introduce Bootstrap classes

            iii. Liquid Includes in layout

2. about.md

        a. Introduce Markdown (headings, paragraphs, links, lists) to write content

        b. Introduce Liquid Includes to add collection objects and bootstrap features

            i. Add an image (_includes/feature/item-figure.html)

            ii. Update About nav (_includes/feature/nav-menu.html)

3. Hint at Design customization options (demo and point to docs)

        a. Bootswatch (cool demo, but probably not for production!)

            i. Bootswatch themes: https://bootswatch.com/

       b. [Fonts](#)
          i. Google Fonts: https://fonts.google.com/
       c. [Color theming](#)
          i. Color picker: https://www.w3schools.com/colors/colors_picker.asp
       d. [Custom CSS](#)
          i. Using "_sass/_custom.scss"

4. Possible customization options:
       a. [Add a new page](#)
       b. Update [navigation](#) with dropdown
       c. Point to other possibilities in docs:
          i. [Repurpose the timeline](#)
          ii. Create a new [TimelineJS page](#)
          iii. Create a new [Cloud page](#)

11:45am - 12:15pm - What's next? (Devin)

1. Questions?
2. Discuss how CollectionBuilder-GH has been used for teaching and prototyping ideas
3. Other templates:
       a. CollectionBuilder-Sheets
       b. CollectionBuilder-CSV
4. Want to keep working on your project and get support from other CB users? Join our Slack and Google Group! Learn more and sign up here: https://collectionbuilder.github.io/community/spaces/