

THATCamp Piedmont 2016: Omeka Bootcamp

Workshop led by Sharon Leon, notes by Sylvia Miller

Basic Introduction

Controlling logic of WordPress is the post. Controlling logic for Omeka is the item. Often digital collections. Originally designed for small historical societies and museums.

Picking a Platform: What are you seeking from your site, and a content management system? Suggestions put together by Sharon Leon and colleague.

If you want to publish collections and exhibit about them, then Omeka is for you. Designed to be core software easily change look and feel and extend via plug-ins. 3 plug-ins that ship with the software if you were to install it, and some themes, right out of the box.

There are two kinds of Omeka. Now actually 3, but the original 2 are:

- Omeka Classic if you have access to a Linux server.
- Omeka.net if not. Go and sign up and get a single test site to play with and determine whether you like it.
- Omeka S

Nice intro video. Gives you 15 plug-ins and 5 themes. Sign up and get authorization email.

Example: Ann Lewis Women's Suffrage Collection. Featured item, collection, and recently added items. Browse collections, browse items. All Omeka sites have these features.

Dublin Core metadata at its base. Might be a little bit cumbersome if you are not a librarian. 14 core fields. For museum folks, seems super cumbersome. Wonderful reasons to do it: makes your stuff findable and usable.

Images x3: You get thumbnail, full size image, and you keep your original.

You can attach Word docs, sound, video. Omeka will try to make a thumbnail.

Collections are sorted by type. Creating originally for museum folks; original item might be only in one collection. Collections also can have Dublin Core metadata, though most people don't use it. Omeka does not display data that you don't fill in.

American Antiquarian Society has built nice tutorials for Omeka.

Dot-net runs the very latest version of Omeka always.

You may invite other omeka.net users to use your site. You need to have them sign up; you invite them via their email to participate. You are super user; don't give super user privileges to others!. You can give admin role to create and edit anything you want. Researchers can log in and see everything including private, but view only. Contributors can create and edit their own things but not anyone else's.

Dropbox server has nothing to do with the DropBox service.

Uploading via csv file. Plug ins to view pdfs. Finally geospatial stuff.

Documentation, forums, plug-ins and themes. Need Linux service, MySQL, Apache, installatron button.

Showcase shows some of the things people have done with Omeka + Neatline.

See Battersea Collection; they had good designers and built fancy things Using omeka.net restricts what it looks like.

Gothic Past site looks different. Basics the same.

There is also a big wiki; not all of the sites still exist. Gives you a sense of the plugins people are using to make some things that you like.

You should never be far from the Omeka documentation; keep it open in a tab. See link on right to screencasts 2.0 or better versions. Now 2.4.3 version current.

Heart of documentation is about working with Omeka Plugins. Plugins created by Center for History and New Media. There are other plugins out there not created by us. Lots of them have good documentation.

Finally, everybody gets stuck. Use the forums to ask a question. Forums are staffed by Omeka team; answered w/in a day, sometimes an hour.

There is also a developers' Google group. About customizing and building.

Sharon shows 26 plugins loaded in. You'll see some here such as BagIt that are not in the documentation. Bulk Metadata Editor is created by our friends at San Diego.

Always check that plugin will run on your version of Omeka.

"Get support" goes to GitHub repository where you can submit an issue.

Neatline: plot your course in space and time. A plugin for representing items temporally and spatially. Their 'more info' links to GitHub. Documentation is linked from the description.

CSVImport, to create multiple items at once, is one of the most useful plugins. No config variables; just install and activate. Can choose csv file. Each item is a row; each field is a column.

Open CSV files with LiberOffice not Excel because file is in Cyrillic.

Import one item type at a time.

Field delimiters are commas.

Can select which metadata element each column will map to!

It will grab publicly available files if the importer can read the URL.

Batch add items. Dropbox is when giant scans or maps or you want to use ftp client to put them on the server you can do it this way.

Omeka API import lets you move a bunch of stuff from one Omeka site to another. You can turn your API on and off.

OAI PMH protocol for metadata harvesting: point harvester at API and get METS, MODS, etc. IR may have OAI (Open Archives Initiative).

18,000 Omeka sites

National Mall site is a mobile first site.

Can set controlled vocab for a field and make that field linkable; it's doing a special search on the field. Plugin: Simple Vocab.

You can have a controlled vocabulary for any field. Guarantees that text in that field is shared. You can create hypertext links through the metadata; will show all other items with that same metadata topic.

Applies just to the items, no matter where the items are. Collections also have Dublin Core metadata so it might pick those up, too; not sure.

Plugin: Item Relations.

Label=people readable. We are going to make the relationship show on the public page.

Two file viewers. PDF Embed will make PDFs readable embedded, not just attached file.

Modern browsers have stopped using outside media player plugins. If you need a movie player, they won't ask you.

Preserve the Baltimore Uprising 2015 Archive Project; people submitting images and stories. To contribute, you create an account.

The September 11 Archive. You can submit photo or audio. Administrators decide whether to make it public. You can see everything submitted by that person.

Record relations is optional; connects user profile to the guest user. Collect user data.

You can look at most recently contributed items and decide whether to make them public or not.

There's a Documenting Ferguson site, as well. In a couple of days with Reclaim Install and a couple of plugins, they were up and running.

Hypothes.is. Right now you can drop javascript text into your header file. We are working on plugin.

We have a Geolocation plugin. People can geolocate their contributions. You can only pin items on a map; you can't change the underneath location. Geolocation does not play nicely with . . . you don't have to use map server.

Usually you have to have GIS server to connect with map coordinates. If you don't have that to run neatline map. The map becomes your canvas for creating exhibits.

Curatescape sites. Public humanities projects to go out and curate the landscape. A set of plugins that work with Omeka. Look at Cleveland Historical Site is nice on a phone. A set of tours and stories. Curatescape developers want people to sign up for help and pay them, so they make it slightly hard to find the plugins themselves. But they actually are available. Visit the GitHub repo; they're all linked there. If you hit download on Curatescape JSON, my folder says 'Curatescape JSON-master' and won't work as plugin. Take dash '-master' off the directory name. That is the biggest hurdle right there. You don't need a subscription!

The thing the Curatescape folks are good at helping with is packaging that site as a mobile app for iPhone and Android. If you just want to build the site, it's free.

Uncheck HTML filtering box to embed. If there is something you'd like to embed and you can't, fill out the form and ask us to add it to the white list.

Omeka basics links are available at <http://bit.ly/PiedmontOmeka>.

Follow Sharon Leon on Twitter @sleonchm.