Omeka Workshop Tip Sheet: Getting Started, Terms, and other Resources

Getting Started

Plan Your Site

- Think about content, goals, audience before you start building


- Explore Omeka sites built by others: [http://omeka.org/codex/Sites_Using_Omeka](http://omeka.org/codex/Sites_Using_Omeka)

General Terminology

**Content Management System:** [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Content_management_system](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Content_management_system)

**Controlled Vocabulary:** what and why: [http://www.controlledvocabulary.com/](http://www.controlledvocabulary.com/)

**Metadata:** data about data, or descriptive information about a thing. In Omeka, the thing is an item.


**Dublin Core:** Dublin Core Metadata Initiative provides an international standardized metadata schema for describing items in your Omeka site. Because the items are described with a standardized vocabulary, that data can easily be moved into, shared with other systems.

[http://omeka.org/codex/Working_with_Dublin_Core](http://omeka.org/codex/Working_with_Dublin_Core)
Hosting My Own Omeka Classic Site vs. Omeka.net


**Classic (.org):**
- Requires a server which meets system requirements.
- You are responsible for upgrading core, plugins, and themes.
- Allows for most flexibility in design
- Gives you access to all plugins and themes, all are free
- Best for complicated sites that want a unique design, and access to many different plugins.

**.net:**
- No server required, web app only
- Sites and plugins automatically upgraded
- Number of themes varies by plan; Silver, Gold, and Platinum plans can use the CSS Editor plugin to tweak design.
- Storage, number of sites, plugin and theme availability varies by plan, some potential costs involved: [http://info.omeka.net/sign-up-for-account/](http://info.omeka.net/sign-up-for-account/)
- Best for creating a site quickly and economically, focus is on the content. Works very well for as project space for students.

How does Omeka compare to other systems?

- Drupal compared to Omeka [http://drupal.forhumanists.org/drupal-humanists-chapter-1-first-things/drupal-compared-omeka](http://drupal.forhumanists.org/drupal-humanists-chapter-1-first-things/drupal-compared-omeka)

Intros, Reviews, Resources about Omeka


- Zotero group with many resources, including using Omeka in classrooms, libraries, museums, archives: [http://www.zotero.org/groups/omeka](http://www.zotero.org/groups/omeka)
**Omeka-Specific Terms**


- **Omeka installation:** folders and files packaged together in one main directory on your server that work together to build an Omeka website.

- **Item:** the basic unit of an Omeka site. An item can be anything: a photograph, a work of art, a person, an idea. You’ll describe each item, and you can upload files to represent it, too. You’ll build your Omeka site by assembling items.

- **Collection:** a set of items that you’ve grouped together. Your Omeka site can have multiple collections, but an individual item can only belong to one collection at a time.

- **Exhibit:** a tour of your items, which can be organized thematically, chronologically, or however you want. Each exhibit has pages, which can be nested. A page can have text, a group of items, or a group of items with text. You can have multiple exhibits, and items can belong to multiple exhibits.

- **Item Type:** an item can be many different things, like a photograph, a website, a book, or a person. An “item type” is the kind of thing the item is – still image, audio recording. You can choose from a built-in list of item types, or you can create your own.

- **Simple Page:** a web page on your Omeka site that isn’t part of an exhibit or item. For example, you can add an “About” page using Simple Pages.

**Help with Omeka**

- Start with our documentation that contains step-by-step tutorials:
  - Omeka Classic (downloaded version): [http://omeka.org/codex](http://omeka.org/codex)
  - Omeka.net Help, with downloadable user guides: [http://info.omeka.net](http://info.omeka.net)

- Ask a question:
  - Omeka Classic (downloaded version): Search through the Omeka forums, [http://omeka.org/forums](http://omeka.org/forums). If you don't find your answer, post a question.
  - Omeka.net: Email us using the Contact form, [http://info.omeka.net/contact](http://info.omeka.net/contact)