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

Getting Started

Plan Your Site
- Think about content, goals, audience before you start building
  - One place to start to help you thinking about what you want to build:
    Digital History: A Guide to Gathering, Preserving, and Presenting the Past Online: http://chnm.gmu.edu/digitalhistory/
- Site Planning Tips for using Omeka as your platform:
  http://omeka.org/codex/Site_Planning_Tips
- Suggestions for Using Omeka: http://omeka.org/codex/How_Might_You_Use_Omeka
- Review Omeka sites built by others:
  http://omeka.org/codex/View_Sites_Powered_by_Omeka

General Terminology

Content Management System:
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Content_management_system

Controlled Vocabulary: what and why: http://www.controlledvocabulary.com/

Metadata: data about data, or descriptive information about a thing. In Omeka, the thing is an item.
- Understanding Metadata (PDF): from National Informational Standards Organization http://www.niso.org/publications/press/UnderstandingMetadata.pdf

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

Detailed Comparison Chart: **http://bit.ly/compareomekas**

.org:
- Allows for most flexibility in design
- Gives you access to all plugins and themes, all are free
- Requires a Linux server host and responsible for upgrades.
- 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
- Storage, number of sites, plugin and theme availability varies by plan, some potential costs involved: 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?

- Omeka and Its Peers: http://omeka.org/blog/2010/09/21/omeka-and-peers/

- When Not to Use Drupal: http://drupal.forhumanists.org/book/when-not-use-drupal

Intros, Reviews, Resources about Omeka

- Introduction to Using Omeka.net, by Miriam Posner, *The Programming Historian*
  - Up and Running with Omeka.net: http://programminghistorian.org/lessons/up-and-running-with-omeka
  - Creating an Omeka.net Exhibit http://programminghistorian.org/lessons/creating-an-omeka-exhibit

- Zotero group with many resources, including using Omeka in classrooms, libraries, museums, archives : 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 thematic tour of your items. Each exhibit has pages, and pages can be nested. A page is a group of items (along with descriptions). 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 just the kind of thing the item is. 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. Pages can be nested.

Help with Omeka

- Start with our documentation that contains step-by-step tutorials:
    - Downloaded version: http://omeka.org/codex
    - Omeka.net Help, with downloadable user guides: http://info.omeka.net

- Ask a question:
    - Downloaded version: Search through the Omeka 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