Intro to Omeka

Backgrounds

Explain the basics of how database-driven web publishing systems work

- Open Source software

    - Understanding Web Applications
    - How database content becomes screen content
    - Modularity – plugins and themes

What is Omeka?

- NOT an archive
- NOT a DAMS
- IS web publishing

    - Omeka self-hosted vs Omeka.net

Omeka vs WordPress vs Drupal

Compare the strengths and weaknesses of some web publishing systems

- WP
    - Up and running quickly. Text-based posts
- Drupal
    - Longer setup and planning time
    - Structured connections between custom content types
- Omeka

    - Metadata-centric on items and custom item types
    - With Exhibit Builder, narratives around items

Omeka Example Sites

Examples of what can be done with Omeka

- Florida State Archives
- Lincoln at 200
- Europeana sites
- Gothic Past
- Jeff McClurken's Digital History classes
- Hurricane Digital Memory Bank
- Exhibit-based vs Collection-based sites

Items, Files, and Dublin Core Metadata

Explain the basic steps of creating content in Omeka.

Activities

Walk through the process of adding an item and a file

Sample files if people didn't bring them are in sample_files folder

- Create some Items

    - Add Files to Item (Add Files in order, absent other plugins)
    - Add DC metadata

Changes coming in Omeka 2.0 (Fall 2012)

- Completely new admin interface

Item Types and Custom Item Types

Explain that "item" is to be taken very generically, and can refer to many types of content, with different sets of metadata.

Activities

- Change some of the created items into appropriate Item Types (pdf => Document, mark-sample => Person) with appropriate metadata
- Edit an Item Type to add or remove fields (e.g., add Transcriber to Document?)
- Create a "Dataset" item type (.csv or .xls file)

  - Possible discussion of when and why to diverge from Dublin Core

Elements and Element Sets

Explain the system of Element Sets and Elements (metadata fields) in Omeka

- General Element Sets
- The Item Type Element Set

Site Building

Explain how to use tags, exhibits, collections, and pages to build a site

- Tags
- Exhibits
- Collections
- Simple Pages

Pages and Collections

Explain how to use pages and collections to build a site

- "About" and other pages
- Managing Collections

  - Items belong to only one collection (absent other plugins)

Activities

- Edit the About page
- Add child pages to the About page
- Add a collection, and add item(s) to it

Exhibits

Explain the details of how to use exhibits to build a site

- Exhibits provide a narrative and interpretation around items
- Exhibit-Section-Page structure

  - Choose a page layout
  - Add items to pages
  - Add narrative

Activities

- Create an exhibit, a section, and a page
- Add item(s) to a page
- Create some text about the item(s)

Changes coming in Omeka 2.0 (Fall 2012)

- Exhibit Builder pre-2.0 requires a section level between exhibits and pages. That goes away in 2.0. Instead, exhibits can have three levels of child pages. Existing sections will be converted to parent pages containing only the text of the section's description.

- Exhibit Builder 2.0 will allow you to either choose a predefined layout, or create a customized one by choosing 1-3 rows and columns, and defining content for the "panes" generated by that grid (tentative plan as of mid-May 2012)

Settings Page

Explain where to look to change theme, activate plugins, manage users

- General Settings
  - Derivative images sizes
  - Items per page
- Activate plugins
- Change Themes
- Manage Users
- Security Settings

Activities

- Create a new user
- Activate Simple Pages plugin
- Change theme to Seasons
- Change the number of items displayed per page

Theme Configurations

Explain how the site can be customized through theme configuration settings

Activities

- Remove the link to Collections from header
- Activate Simple pages, create a "Further Reading" page, and add it to the header

Where to go for help and how to contribute

- Forums
- Codex
- Recipes
- Dev list
- Issues and forks on GitHub
- Twitter @omeka

Some Plugins

- MyOmeka
  - To be replaced Fall or Winter 2012
  - Allows public to annotate items and create simple "posters" of their favorites
- Dublin Core Extended

- ○ Adds Dublin Core refinements to available metadata
- Collection Tree
  - ○ Allows you to create nested collections
- Item Order
  - ○ Allows you to change the order of items in a collection
- Commenting
  - ○ Allows users to comment on items, collections, and more (with some theme work)
- Dropbox
  - ○ Allows batch importing of files
- CSV Import
  - ○ Allows importing items from a CSV file
- OAI-PMH Harvester
  - ○ Allows importing from an OAI-PMH repository
- OAI-PMH Repository
  - ○ Turns your Omeka site into an OAI-PMH repository
- Simple Vocab
  - ○ Create a controlled vocabulary on metadata fields
- Search By Metadata

  - ○ Turns metadata field text into links -- best practice is to use in conjunction with Simple Vocab

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- Completely and awesomely redesigned admin interface

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