Constellation of the Commons

Guide to Site Architecture and Maintainability Practices for the Non-Coder:

Site Architecture Overview & How Everything Works

What is Omeka? ✦ Omeka ✦ content mgmt system

We've built out this project using Omeka, which is an open source web publishing platform that is commonly used for digital scholarly projects and known for its rich metadata features. You can think of it as a content management system suited well for academic institutions. Generally speaking, Omeka is great for this project—storing records related to a set of social justice collectives and grouping them thematically—as it encourages record collecting and categorizing in an intuitive, not-too-techy interface called **Omeka Site Manager**. It should be noted, though, that a bit of customization is needed to express to a visitor (user) the notion of a thematic 'constellation' across these various collectives.

General Overview of Site Structure ✦ nav bar ✦ page views

On the site's navigation bar, there are four different pages a visitor can go to:

Homepage | About | Collectives | Protocol

- *Homepage* houses the site's main visualization of a spider web of connections btwn themes and collectives, or a "constellation of the commons" if you will.
- *About is a simple "about" page giving overview information on the project.*
- *Collectives* is the central page for browsing through the set of collectives either on the whole or by thematic tag.
- Protocol is a page detailing the permissible codes of use re: project data that lives on the site.

Homepage & Constellation Visualization ✦ dynamic viz ✦ interactive tool ✦ constellation effect ✦ nodes & links

The main visualization displayed on the homepage is intended to be an interactive tool for visitors, to help them explore the different thematic connections and mission overlaps across the collectives. Through engagement, the visitor can start to grasp the desired "constellation effect" of the project dataset and scope.
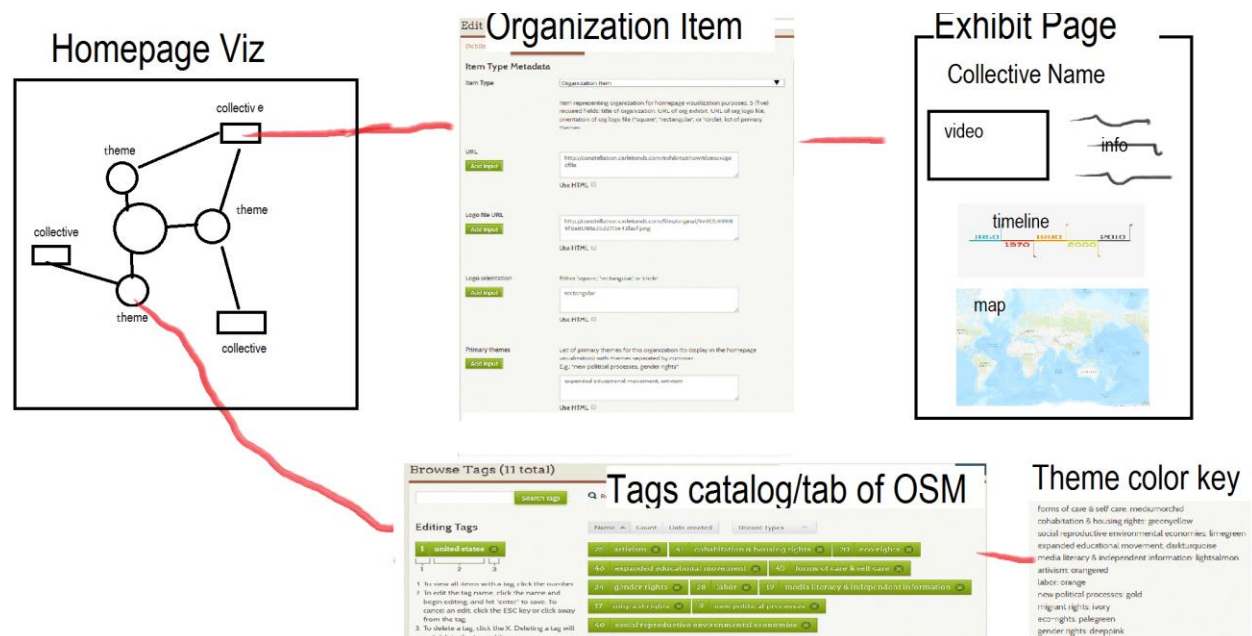
Here's a high-level breakdown of the components in the viz:

- There are nodes, and there are links.
- Nodes are clickable objects in the viz:
  - Themes represented as color-coded circles.
  - Collectives represented as logo images.
- Links are the lines connecting various nodes together, representing a thematic relation.
- There is code that generates the viz by pulling data about themes and collectives from Omeka's databases, and assigning this data to shapes and images. This code is executed whenever the homepage loads for a visitor! Since the code allows for real data to be incorporated, which can be updated live by site admins using Omeka Site Manager, the viz is considered to be **dynamic** vs. static.

Incorporating Real Data from Omeka Site Manager ✦ ADMIN USER ✦ ORGANIZATION ITEM ✦ LOGO IMAGES ✦ EXHIBITS

How does the code for the homepage viz actually retrieve real data from record collections stored by the site? This is where site admins with access to the Omeka Site Manager (OSM) come in.

Here's the high level:

Representing Collectives in OSM

For every collective, there are 3 Omeka-standard components associated with it (denoted by typeface):

- Create `Item` of the type `Organization Item` – this stores data to be loaded specifically into the homepage viz
    - In <u>Dublin Core</u> tab, set <u>Title</u> field as the collective's title
    - In <u>Item Type Metadata</u> tab, set <u>Item Type</u> to <u>Organization Item</u> and set the four required fields listed there as well, expanded upon below
        - <u>URL</u> – URL link to the collective's Exhibit page
        - <u>Logo file URL</u> – link to the collective's logo image (should be of Still Image item type)
        - <u>Logo orientation</u> – either 'square', 'rectangular,' or 'circular'
        - <u>Primary themes</u> – List of 1-3 themes to connect to the collective **FOR THE VIZ ONLY** (These are the main themes associated with the collective, and will be the only themes to display as connected to the collective in the viz. We limit the number of primary themes to 3 as to relieve connection density and overall clutter in the viz.)
    - In the <u>Tags</u> tab, add **all** related tags for the collective—can be more than 3. **note: this is different from the primary themes field in the Type Metadata tab***). Adding tags for the collective allows Omeka to group the collectives by theme.
    - Lastly, on the block to the right, check off the <u>Public</u> box and for the <u>Collection</u> dropdown, select <u>Organization Items</u>. Then <u>Save Changes</u>.

Edit Item #102: "Alcesxxi"

Dublin Core **Item Type Metadata** Files Tags Map

Item Type Metadata

Item Type

Organization Item ▼

Item representing organization for homepage visualization purposes. 5 (five) required fields: title of organization, URL of org exhibit, URL of org logo file, orientation of org logo file ("square", "rectangular", or "circle"), list of primary themes

URL

Add Input

http://constellation.carletonds.com/exhibits/show/alcesxxi/profile

Use HTML ☐

Logo file URL

Add Input

http://constellation.carletonds.com/files/original/9e20b89889f8a8081a35d2115e42facf.png

Use HTML ☐

Logo orientation

Add Input

Either 'square,' 'rectangular,' or 'circle'

rectangular

Use HTML ☐

Primary themes

Add Input

List of primary themes for this organization (to display in the homepage visualization) with themes separated by commas
E.g.: "new political processes, gender rights"

expanded educational movement, artivism

Use HTML ☐

Save Changes

View Public Page

Delete

Public: ☑ Featured: ☐

Collection

Organization Items ▼

- Create `Item` of type `Still Image` – this is the collective's logo image stored in distinct place in the Omeka database, to be associated with the collective's `Organization Item`
    - In <u>Dublin Core</u> tab, set <u>Title</u> field as the collective's title
    - In <u>Item Type Metadata</u> tab, set <u>Item Type</u> to <u>Still Image</u> and leave all remaining fields blank
    - In <u>Files</u> tab, upload a .png file of the collective's logo image
    - Lastly, on the block to the right, check off the <u>Public</u> box and for the <u>Collection</u> dropdown, select <u>organization logos</u>. Then <u>Save Changes</u>.
    - *****Note: To retrieve the logo image URL needed for the collective's `Organization Item`, find the newly added img `Item` in the `Item` catalog, click on the image once, click on it again, and then click on it one more time. The logo should then render large and you can copy the URL here.**

- Create `Exhibit` page – this a unique webpage on the site that stores the info for each collective (like profile for the collective)
  - In the Exhibit Metadata view, set the following metadata fields:
    - Title – collective's title
    - Slug – collective's title with dashes instead of whitespace (slug will be appended to the exhibit's URL for search engine optimization)
    - Tags – add all tags associated with the collective
    - Theme – select Current Theme
    - Cover Image – select the logo image item you uploaded for this collective
  - The Pages block in the Exhibit Metadata view is where you will define the layout and content for the exhibit page.
    - The layout protocol is explained in detail in the next big header section on `Exhibits.`

Edit Exhibit "Antic Teatre"

Exhibit Metadata

Title

Antic Teatre

Slug

No spaces or special characters allowed

antic-teatre

Credits

Description

| B | I | U | ≡ | ≡ | ≡ | ≡ | ≡ | 🔗 | Paragraph | – | <> |

Tags

artivism, cohabitation & housing rights, expanded educational movement, forn

Theme

Current Public Theme ▼

Use Summary Page?

Start the exhibit on the summary page. If unchecked, start on the first exhibit page if it exists.

Cover Image

Choose a file to represent this exhibit. The selected file will serve as the thumbnail for the exhibit.

NTIC T
PAI DE   #3: Antic Teatro   ✕

Change

Save Changes

View Public Page

Delete Exhibit

Public: ☐   Featured: ☐

Pages

To reorder or nest pages, click and drag a page to the preferred location.

About Antic Teatre   ✕

Add Page

Representing Themes in OSM

Themes are tags in Omeka. Themes are defined in two places. The same list of themes with the same spellings and formatting should be used in both places.

- In the `Tags` catalog/tab of the OSM dashboard. Here you can browse the list of tags used on the site, which automatically updates every time you tag an `Item` or `Exhibit`. You can also see the number of Items and Exhibits associated with each tag in this tab.

Browse Tags (11 total)

Search tags

Q Record Type: All

Editing Tags

| 1 | united states ⊗ |

1 — 2 — 3

1. To view all items with a tag, click the number.
2. To edit the tag name, click the name and begin editing, and hit "enter" to save. To cancel an edit, click the ESC key or click away from the tag.
3. To delete a tag, click the X. Deleting a tag will not delete the tagged items.

Name ▲ Count Date created   Record Types ▼

25 artivism ⊗   41 cohabitation & housing rights ⊗   20 eco-rights ⊗
46 expanded educational movement ⊗   45 forms of care & self care ⊗
24 gender rights ⊗   28 labor ⊗   19 media literacy & independent information ⊗
17 migrant rights ⊗   9 new political processes ⊗
40 social reproductive environmental economies ⊗

- In the `Item` titled "constellation of the commons" of type `Viz Backend`. You can access this item by typing "commons" into the search box of the `Items` catalog.
  - The Theme Color Key field houses the color key for all of the site's themes in the following format: theme1: color1, theme2: color2, theme3: color3, etc.
  - If you need to change the color key, do so here.
- Whenever the names or formatting of a theme is changed, be sure to reflect this change in the `Tags` catalog AND the "constellation of the commons" `Viz Backend Item`.

Item #1: "constellation of the commons"

Title	constellation of the commons
URL	http://constellation.carletonds.com/about
Theme Color Key	forms of care & self care: mediumorchid
	cohabitation & housing rights: greenyellow
	social reproductive environmental economies: limegreen
	expanded educational movement: darkturquoise
	media literacy & independent information: lightsalmon
	artivism: orangered
	labor: orange
	new political processes: gold
	migrant rights: ivory
	eco-rights: palegreen
	gender rights: deeppink

Laying Out Exhibits ✪ COLLECTIVE PROFILES ✪ VIDEO ✪ TIMELINE ✪ MAP

****MORE INFO ABOUT HOW TO ORGANIZE THE PIECES INTO A LAYOUT COMING SOON****

Each collective, in addition to having an associated `Organization Item`, has an `Exhibit` page.

These are the necessary pieces of an `Exhibit` page:

- Interview video
- PDF transcription and translation
- Profile info (mission, date of establishment, website URL link, etc.)
- Tags displayed
- Timeline
- Map

Browse Exhibits by Tag functionality allows for visitor to view collectives that have a common theme ('themes' meaning all themes, not just the primary ones displayed in the viz) in the same space, further emphasizing the constellation effect!