

CREATING DIGITAL EXHIBITS IN THE CLASSROOM: USING OMEKA FOR STUDENT PROJECTS

NAOMI SKULAN

METADATA & TECHNICAL SERVICES COORDINATOR

UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA, MORRIS RODNEY A. BRIGGS LIBRARY

OVERVIEW OF PRESENTATION

- 1) Background
- 2) What is Omeka?
- 3) How to create an Omeka exhibit walkthrough
- 4) Omeka Project Examples
- 5) Using Omeka in the classroom
- 6) Resources
- 7) Questions

BACKGROUND

- Used Omeka as an undergraduate for a project for a British Empire History course
- Currently use Omeka for a digital collection and exhibit of my great grandmother's scrapbook photos
- Manage University of Minnesota, Morris' Digital Collections and Digital Well
 - Very familiar with metadata and digital collections

WHAT IS OMEKA?

- Open source
- Creating exhibits and digital collections
- Used by libraries, museums, archives, individuals, educators
- “Five-minute setup”
- Example: [Lincoln & the West](#)

Home
About the project
Further reading

LINCOLN & THE WEST
1809-1860

THE FIERY TRIAL
Abraham Lincoln & The Civil War

ARCHIVE
Every item in the collection

Introduction
America in 1809
Migration
Free Labor
Surveyor of Sangamon
Traveling by Flatboat
Navigating the Rivers
New Orleans
Wanted: "Industrious Laborers"
Black Hawk War
Lincoln the Whig
Mexican War
Antislavery
Slavery's Future

Wanted: "Industrious Laborers"

Railroad companies offered opportunities for "industrious laborers" willing to purchase and settle lands in the West. This pamphlet, issued by the Illinois Central Railroad Company in 1856, promised "continued employment at fair wages" and the opportunity to enjoy "independence and probably wealth."

As a private attorney, Lincoln prospered from his association with the railroad industry. He represented the Illinois Central in numerous cases during the early 1850s on disputes from tax exemptions to navigation over waterways.

2,000,000 Acres of Illinois Central R.R. Lands, Illinois Central Railroad Company, 1856

VIEW IN ARCHIVE

NEWBERRY LIBRARY
Tags: Illinois, free labor, pamphlets, railroads

© The Newberry Library and Chicago History Museum
Made possible by a grant from the U.S. Institute of Museum and Library Services. Additional information about copyright and permissions

INSTITUTE of Museum and Library SERVICES

THE NEWBERRY LIBRARY CHICAGO

ChicagoHistoryMuseum

LINCOLN BICENTENNIAL

Newberry Library. "Wanted: 'Industrious Laborers.'" *A. Lincoln at 200*, 24 May, 2017, <http://publications.newberry.org/lincoln/exhibits/show/thewest/freelabor/industrious>

HOW TO CREATE AN OMEKA EXHIBIT: OMEKA.ORG VS. OMEKA.NET

OMEKA.ORG

- Requires server and FTP client
- Significantly more IT time/equipment needed
- More themes and plugins available
- More customization available
- No storage/file size limitations by Omeka

OMEKA.NET

- Hosted—no server/FTP client
- No IT support needed—create an account and you are ready to go
- Very limited themes and plugins
- Limited customization
- Storage/file size limits

HOW TO CREATE AN OMEKA EXHIBIT: USING THE OMEKA DASHBOARD

The screenshot shows the Omeka.net Dashboard interface. On the left is a vertical navigation menu with the following items: Dashboard, Items, Collections, Item Types, Tags, LC Suggest, and Exhibits. The main content area is titled "Dashboard" and features a search bar at the top right. Below the search bar, there are statistics: 55 items, 1 collection, 5 tags, 3 plugins, Minimalist theme, and 1 exhibit. The "Recent Items" section lists five items, each with an "Edit" link: "Jesse and Leva Trulock's home", "Postcard of the town of Northboro, Iowa", "Postcard of 1912 Northboro football team", "Postcard of 1912 Northboro football team", and "Postcard of Jesse Trulock on a tractor". Below this list is a link to "Add a new item". The "Recent Collections" section shows one collection, "Scrapbook A: Trulock Family and Irma's early life", with an "Edit" link, and a link to "Add a new collection". At the bottom of the dashboard, there is a footer with the text "Powered by Omeka.net | Help | Terms of Service | Privacy Policy".

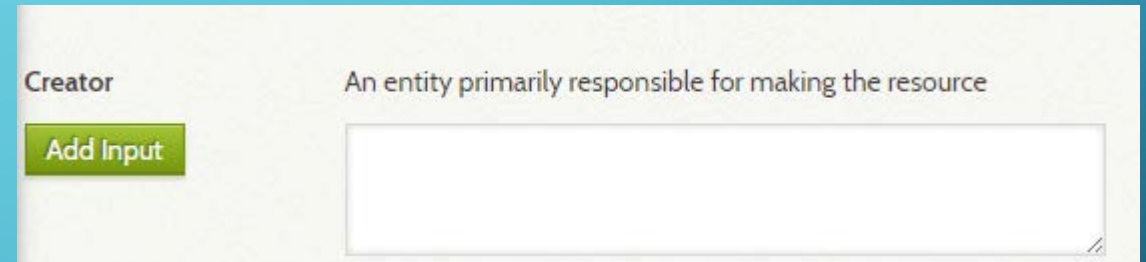
[Omeka.net Dashboard](https://omeka.net)

EXAMPLES

- <http://projects.umwhistory.org/cwh/>
- <http://projects.umwhistory.org/jmp/>
- <http://njdigitalhistory.org/NJDHA/>
- <https://salleescrapbooks.omeka.net/>

USING OMEKA IN THE CLASSROOM

- Copyright
- Metadata
- Clear instructions of expectations
- Content vs. Aesthetics
- How extensive of a project?



The screenshot shows the Omeka.net admin interface. On the left, there is a label 'Creator' and a green 'Add Input' button. To the right, there is a text description: 'An entity primarily responsible for making the resource'. Below the description is a large, empty text input field.

"Dashboard." Omeka.net 24 May 2017 <http://salleescrapbooks.omeka.net/admin/>

USING OMEKA IN THE CLASSROOM: SHORTFALLS

- Aesthetics
 - <http://hist787.cas.sc.edu/>
- Students' digital knowledge may not prepare them for using the tool to its potential
 - <http://hist787.cas.sc.edu/exhibits/show/methods-of-memory/medieval-rememberings/manuscripts>
- Technical support

RESOURCES

- [http://omeka.org/codex/Teach with Omeka](http://omeka.org/codex/Teach_with_Omeka)
- [http://omeka.org/codex/How Might You Use Omeka](http://omeka.org/codex/How_Might_You_Use_Omeka)
- <http://omeka.org/codex/Documentation>
- <http://omeka.org/codex/Screencasts>
- <http://amandafrench.net/2013/11/12/introduction-to-omeka-lesson-plan/>

The background is a gradient of blue, darker at the bottom. In the four corners, there are white line-art graphics resembling circuit traces or neural network connections, with small circles at the end of the lines.

QUESTIONS?

REFERENCES

- Cobourn, Alston. “Spreading Awareness of Digital Preservation and Copyright via Omeka-based Projects.” *The Journal of Interactive Technology & Pedagogy*, 2016, <https://jitp.commons.gc.cuny.edu/spreading-awareness-of-digital-preservation-and-copyright-via-omeka-based-projects/>. Accessed 12 June 2017.
- Marsh, Allison C. “Omeka in the classroom: The challenges of teaching material culture in a digital world.” *Literary and Linguistic Computing*, 2013, doi:10.1093/lc/fqs068. Accessed 12 June 2017.
- McClurken, Jeffrey W. “Teaching with Omeka.” *The Chronicle of Higher Education*, 2010, <http://www.chronicle.com/blogs/profhacker/teaching-with-omeka/26078>. Accessed 12 June 2017.