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Adventures with Omeka.net: Metadata, Workflows, and Exhibit-based Storytelling at UNO Libraries

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Adventures with Omeka.net: Metadata, Workflows, and Exhibit-based Storytelling at UNO Libraries
Adventures with Omeka.net: Metadata, Workflows, and Exhibit-based Storytelling at UNO Libraries

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Yumi Ohira, Digital Initiatives Librarian
Lori Schwartz, U.S. Senator Chuck Hagel Archivist

Brick & Click: An Academic Library Conference – Maryville, MO – November 2, 2018
Outline

1. Introduction
2. About Omeka.net
3. Why we chose Omeka.net
4. Workflow
5. Metadata
6. Storytelling with Exhibits
7. Conclusion
8. Q&A
Archives and Special Collections @ UNO

Collecting Areas
• University Archives
• Special Collections and Rare Books
• Arthur Paul Afghanistan Collection
• U.S. Senator Chuck Hagel Archives

Systems
• ArchivesSpace for finding aids
• WorldCat for books
• Digital Commons for institutional repository
• VidGrid for videos
• Soundcloud for audio
• CONTENTdm for digital collections
• Omeka.net for exhibits and digital collections
• & etc. (this is a non-comprehensive list)
Omeka.net ≠ Omeka.org

Omeka.net
- Web-based
- Hosted
- Limited plugins
- Limited customization
- Small learning curve

Omeka.org
- Maintain your own server
- Open source
- Great variety of plugins
- Very customizable
- Requires in-house experts
- Now in “Classic” or “Omeka S” flavors!
## Omeka.net Plans

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<th>Trial</th>
<th>Plus</th>
<th>Silver</th>
<th>Gold</th>
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* COInS, CSV Import, Exhibit Builder, Library of Congress Suggest, Locale, OAI-PMH Harvester, SharedShelfLink, Simple Pages
UNO’s Omeka.net Sites

• unomaha.omeka.net – used both for exhibits and as a digital repository for materials in University Archives and miscellaneous Special Collections
• hagel.omeka.net – used exclusively for exhibits of materials in the US Senator Chuck Hagel Archives
• queeromahaarchives.omeka.net – used exclusively as a digital repository for the Queer Omaha Archives. No exhibits (yet?)
• omahastories.omeka.net – used primarily as a digital repository for oral histories, but has a subject guide built using the exhibit framework
• And a few more sites that haven’t quite taken off yet.
Why We Use Omeka.net: Veterans in the U.S. Senator Chuck Hagel Archives

• Hagel served in Vietnam in 1967-1968. This informed countless decisions of his as U.S. Senator and U.S. Secretary of Defense.

• UNO consistently ranks among the top universities for veterans, active duty members, and their families.
Oral History

“Oral history is primary resource material created in an interview setting with a witness to or a participant in an event or a way of life for the purpose of preserving the information and making it available to others. The term refers both to the process and the product.”

Omaha Stories: Oral Histories of Omaha, Nebraska

○ Native Americans
○ European immigrants
○ Veterans of the Vietnam War
○ UNO alumni, faculty and administrators

LGBTQ+ Voices: The Queer Omaha Archives Oral History Project

○ Greater Omaha LGBTQ+ Communities
Staffing & Project Tracking

((P1) LGBTQ+ Oral History Dr. Jay Irwin (UNO-0240))
- Joe Price
- Lynne Mytty
- Mary Tourak
- Michael Gordon
- Nick Newman
- Terry Sweeney

Add a to-do:
- Lauren Ward
- Katie S.
- Steve Jackson
- Upload the audio files to SoundCloud

Discussion:
- Add a comment or upload a file...

Basecamp
https://basecamp.com/
American Indian Oral History and Omaha Folklore Project Oral History Collection
- Audio cassette tapes -- digitized already by a vendor.
- Some interviews contain sensitive or confidential information.
- Some interviews don’t have a release form.
- Some interviews include indexes and/or transcriptions

Reflections in Time
- Video interviews on the UNO YouTube
- Some interviews include unfinished indexes and descriptions

LGBTQ+ Oral History
- Audio interviews
- Oral History Specialist -- all process (creating descriptions, indexes, transcriptions, etc.)
(1) Interview selection
(2) Editing and QC process of interviews
(3) Creating Indexes and Transcriptions
(4) OHMS (Oral History Metadata Synchronizer)
(5) Presentation
(1) Interview selection
(2) Editing and QC process of interviews
(3) Creating Indexes and Transcriptions

VidGrid

2:20 – Hired by Omaha University in 1963.
2:42 – Described his early childhood.
3:05 – Wounded by a land mine during World War II.
3:55 – Developed an interest in philosophy while recuperating from wounds.
5:05 – Dissertation was on American philosophy.
5:40 – Asked if he ever regretted going into philosophy.
6:40 – First teaching experience.
8:10 – Married and taught at Drake University in Des Moines, IA, in 1950.
9:55 – Professor Robert Harper called to recruit him to Omaha.
10:50 – First impressions of Omaha.
12:00 – He accepted the position at UNO for financial factors and the opportunity to create a department.
13:03 – He met Professor Wilfred Payne.
OHMS (Oral History Metadata Synchronizer) Process
Omaha Stories: Oral Histories of Omaha, Nebraska

Reflections in Time: Interview with Harry Duncan, 1986

Click here to access the interview, "Interview with Harry Duncan, 1986"
(5) Presentation

- CSV Import
- omeka.net
- ArchivesSpace
- Server

Excel sheet with data:
- Column A: Title
- Column B: Notes
- Column C: Subject1
- Column D: Subject2
- Column E: Subject3

Example data:
1. Title: Interview with Betty Robertson
2. Notes: Depression -- 1929
3. Subject1: audiocassettes
4. Subject2: oral histories (g)
5. Relation: University of the LGBTQ+ Oral History Collection finding aid (Luke Wegener)
Attempting to Synchronize Metadata Between Various Platforms
Some Settling May Occur During Shipping
Gay Freedom
A Case Study in Metadata Chaos
Different People, Different Workflows

• 2nd record: Omeka.net, created during digitization process, title “GAY FREEDOM, Issue #1.” Subject headings from ArchivesSpace collection-level record for Terry Sweeney and Pat Phalen Papers.
• 3rd record: WorldCat, cataloged as serial according to RDA, title matching masthead, “GAY FREEDOM : newsletter of the Omaha Gay Freedom League.” Subject headings for publication, not collection.
• 4th record: ArchivesSpace again, Digital Object. Metadata copied and pasted from Omeka.
**Moderately-Improved Metadata Workflow**

1. Collection-level record, with no items, is created in ArchivesSpace
2. Item-level records are created in Omeka.net as items are digitized
3. Metadata from Omeka.net is
   a. Put into a spreadsheet
   b. Transformed into EAD
   c. Uploaded into ArchivesSpace
   Thus creating the item-level records in ArchivesSpace which match the Omeka.net records.

Oh, but those subject headings, tho . . .
Omaha Stories Subject Headings

Step 1. Yumi emails Angela, requesting subject headings for items being digitized.
Step 2. Angela determines appropriate LCSH and adds to ArchivesSpace at the collection level.
Step 3. Yumi copies the subject headings from ArchivesSpace and applies them to the appropriate items in Omeka.net.
Step 4. After all items in the collection have been added to Omeka.net, Yumi sends Angela the spreadsheet with all the metadata.

(to be continued)
Omaha Stories Subject Headings

(continued)

Step 5. Angela hammers the metadata into the EAD template. Not everything fits neatly. Some reformatting is required.
Step 6. The EAD is uploaded to ArchivesSpace, creating item-level records with linked subject and agent records.
Step 7. Manual cleanup, record transfers, de-duping, etc.
Step 8. Eat a well-earned chocolate chip cookie.
Using Omeka.net to tell stories from the U.S. Senator Chuck Hagel Archives

About Hagel & Nebraskans
Using Omeka.net to tell stories from the U.S. Senator Chuck Hagel Archives

About Nebraska & the World

War in Iraq

Drought in Nebraska
Using Omeka.net to tell stories from the U.S. Senator Chuck Hagel Archives

About Nebraska & the World

Clinton Impeachment

September 2001
How does Omeka.net help us tell stories?

• Omeka supports several document types.
• Items tell many stories.
• Design options (themes) are easy to use (and easy on the eye).
• Maps! (and other plug-ins)
Maps in Omeka.net
Questions?

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