

Omeka Activity: Thinking about Digital Collections

(For instructors:

If you like, you can post this file as a Google doc, for students to fill out in class together.

Below you can see some sample questions and answers that our class worked through.)

Welcome to Omeka!

Omeka is a content management platform for museums—a platform for displaying collections of things and information about those things online. Think of Omeka as a library catalogue...for all kinds of material. Like any library catalogue, it lets you look at images of things, or sound files or videos of things; and it also gives you information about things (e.g. when things are books, you can look at the book's title, author, date of publication, etc.).

To prepare for next class, I would like to invite you to look at the sites below and answer the following questions, in point form.

- What is the topic of the site?
- What kind of materials does it collect and describe? Books? Videos? Interviews? Other materials?
- What information does it provide about each item?
- What kinds of stories does it tell with its items? How are these stories structured: by theme, by chronology, by person, by type of material? Do the stories make any arguments? If yes, how do they support these arguments with the collection's items?

Sites:

- <http://steepletoplibrary.org/>
- <http://marthawashington.us/>
- <http://gothicpast.com/>
- <http://pilgrims-progress.richmond.edu/>
- <http://silveragecomics.omeka.net/>
- <http://nelc133.omeka.net/>
- <http://pafoodways.omeka.net/>
- <https://omeka.library.ualberta.ca/exhibits/show/culinaria/intro>

Exercise

Each student in the class is responsible for one Omeka site, as discussed in class. First, please copy and paste the rubric below into our shared Google doc. Write your name in your copy of the rubric. Then, alone or with a partner, please turn to your Omeka site and analyze it, answering the following questions:

1. What is your first name?	
2. What is your site?	
3. What is the topic of the site?	
4. What kind of materials does your site collect and describe? Books? Videos? Interviews? Other materials?	
5. What information does your site provide about each item?	
6. What kinds of stories does your site tell with its items? How are these stories structured: by theme, by chronology, by person, by type of material? Do the stories make any arguments? If yes, how do they support these arguments with the collection's items?	