

Building a Basic Neatline Exhibit

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Introduction

For your assignment, Neatline Exhibits have the following basic building blocks:

- a. Records: these can be shapes drawn on the map (lines, polygons), text annotations placed on the map, links to Omeka items. One record can also have all of the above: it can have a shape drawn on the map, a text annotation, and a link to an Omeka item (which item can itself contain images, sound files, videos, text, etc).
- b. Widgets: Timeline, Waypoints. Widgets allow another dimension for your records. That is, the map layer of Neatline “locates” records in place; the Timeline widget “locates” records on a timeline at the bottom of the map; the Waypoints widget “locates” records in a narrative context established by headings on the right-hand side of the exhibit

Building a Basic Neatline Exhibit

Make the Map

To add an image into Neatline, you must first create an item in Omeka, attach the image file to that item, and create a Neatline exhibit whose Image Layer is the URL of that image file.

Part I: Create an item in Omeka and attach the image file to that item

1. In your Inbox, you should find an email inviting you to our Omeka site: chauceranditaly.library.utoronto.ca
2. Click on the link in the email and set up your password.
3. Log in.
4. Go to your Dashboard: [sitename/admin](#)
5. Add an item in Omeka: Select "Items" from the left-hand vertical menu. Then click on the "Add an Item" button (green below).



6. Now you have a new item with empty metadata fields:

The screenshot shows the 'Add an Item' form in the Omeka interface. The top navigation bar includes 'Medieval Paradise', 'Plugins Appearance Users Settings', and 'Welcome, Alexandra Bolintineanu Log Out'. A search bar is located in the top right. The left sidebar contains a menu with options: 'Add Item', 'Dashboard', 'Items', 'Collections', 'Item Types', 'Tags', 'Collection Tree', 'Comments', 'Dropbox', 'Embedded Items', 'Exhibits', 'Map', 'Neatline', 'Neatline Time', 'OAI-PMH Harvester', 'Simple Pages', 'User Profiles', and 'Zotero Import'. The main content area is titled 'Add an Item' and features a breadcrumb trail: 'Dublin Core > Item Type Metadata > Zotero > Files > Tags > Map > Fedora > Item Relations'. The 'Dublin Core' section is active, with a sub-header 'Dublin Core' and a description: 'The Dublin Core metadata element set is common to all Omeka records, including items, files, and collections. For more information see, <http://dublincore.org/documents/dces/>.' The form contains three main sections: 'Title' (with a description 'A name given to the resource'), 'Subject' (with a description 'The topic of the resource'), and 'Description' (with a description 'An account of the resource'). Each section has a text input field and a 'Use HTML' checkbox. A green 'Add Input' button is positioned to the left of each input field. On the right side of the form, there is a green 'Add Item' button, two checkboxes for 'Public' and 'Featured', and a 'Collection' dropdown menu labeled 'Select Below'.

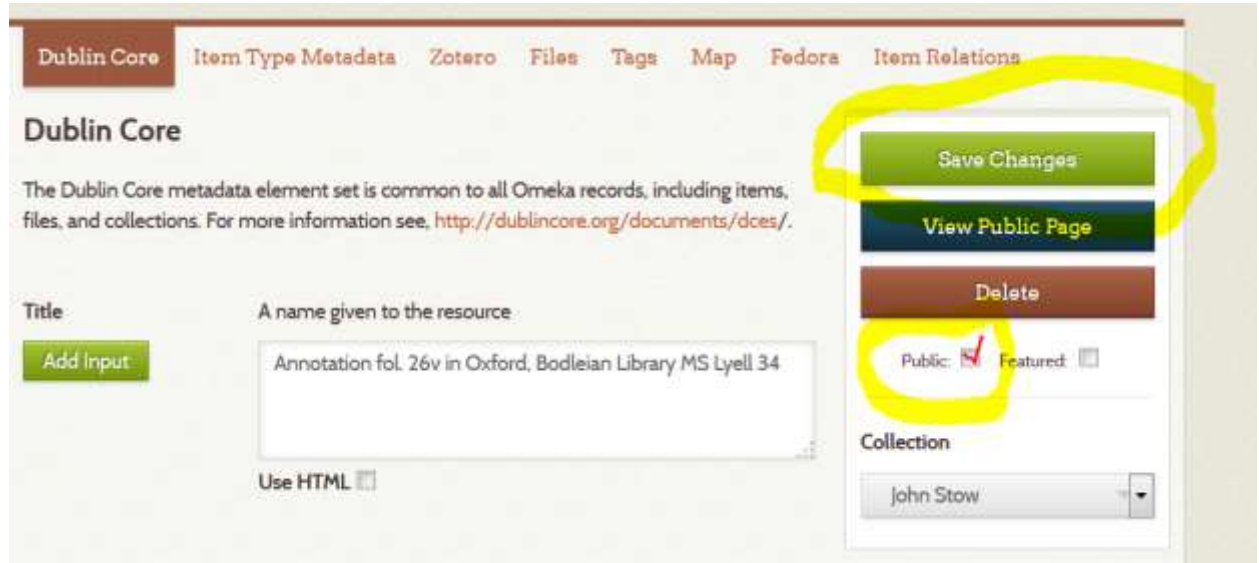
7. Fill out the fields in accordance with the modified metadata schema received in class (see Appendix 1).
8. Click the green “Add Item” button (right-hand side of the screen): this saves the item.
9. Congratulations: you have your first item.
10. Add your image file to the new item:
 - a. Open the item for editing. Within the item, click on Files:



b. Upload your image file:



c. Save the changes and make the item public



d. Get the file URL:

From within your admin panel, click on Items (left-hand menu). Your new item with its image thumbnail should appear at the top.



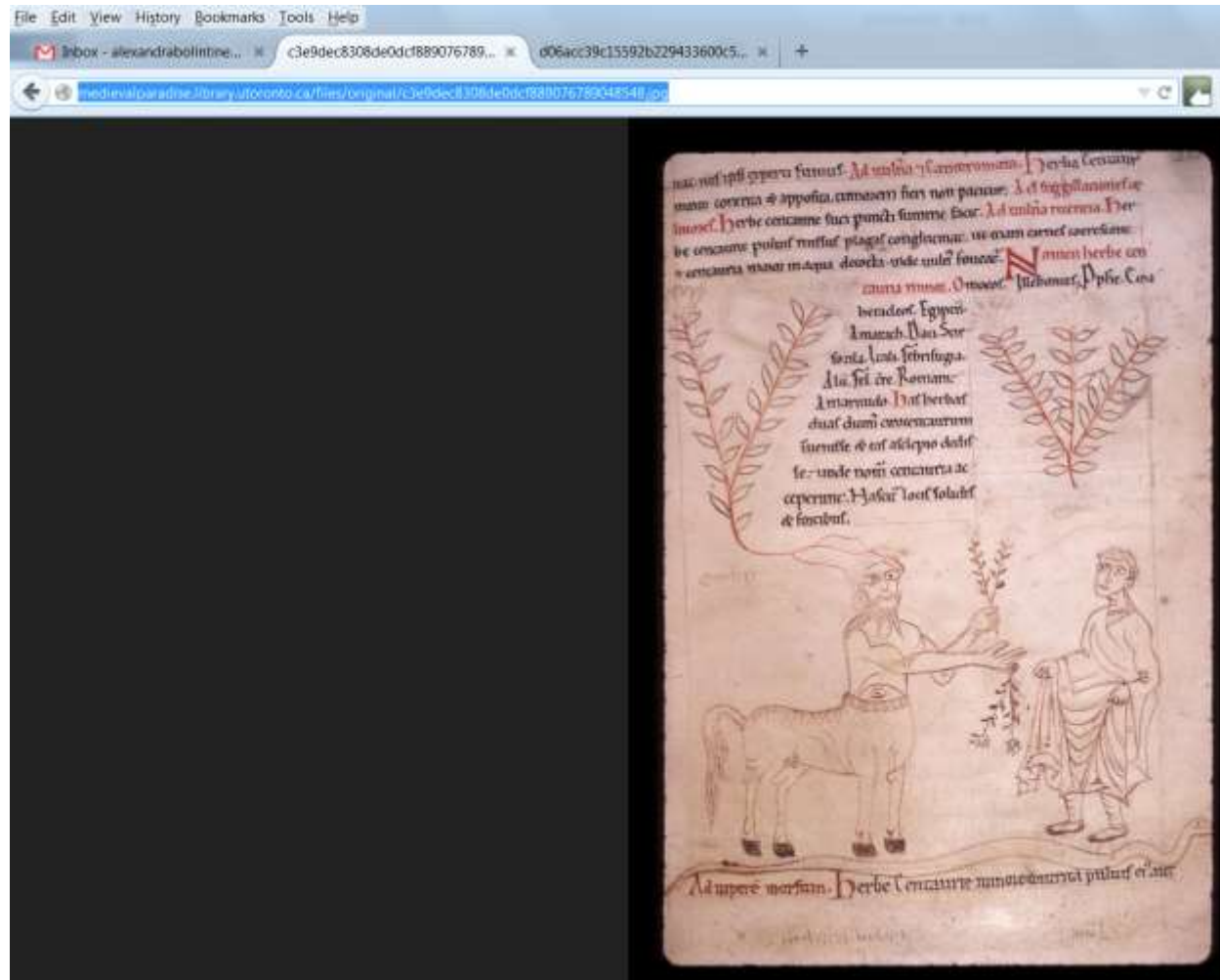
Click on the item. This should display your item with its image file and its metadata, just as you entered them. Click on the image thumbnail.



This shows you the thumbnail by itself:



Click on the thumbnail again, until you get the full-sized file:



Copy the file URL and save it.

Part II: Create a Neatline exhibit whose Image Layer is the URL of that image file

1. Go to your Dashboard. From the left vertical menu, click on Neatline. Then click on Create An Exhibit.

Medieval Paradise Plugins Appearance Users Settings Welcome, Alexandra Bolintineanu Log Out

Neatline | Browse Exhibits

[Create an Exhibit](#)

Exhibit	Created	# Items	Public
JohnStow_Fake_Annotations Public View - Fullscreen View - Exhibit Settings - Import Items - Delete	Sep 8, 2014	1	No
Mappa Mundi: Story Made Space Public View - Fullscreen View - Exhibit Settings - Import Items - Delete	Aug 13, 2014	2	No
The Paradise Project Public View - Fullscreen View - Exhibit Settings - Import Items - Delete	Jun 9, 2014	12	No

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2. Now you have an exhibit underway:

Neatline | Create an Exhibit

Title* A top-level heading for the exhibit, displayed in the page header in the public view for the exhibit.

URL Slug* A unique string used to form the public-facing URL for the exhibit. Can contain letters, numbers, and hyphens.

Narrative. A long-format prose narrative to accompany exhibit.

Demo prose going on forever.

3. Add metadata: title, url slug (a shorter version of the title that will appear in the exhibit's URLs), and narrative. Leave most fields below blank, with two exceptions. First, select OpenStreetMap as your default spatial layer. Second, add the URL of your image file in the Image Layer field:

Image Layer

To use a static image as the base layer of the exhibit, enter the web-accessible location of the image.

4. Save the Neatline exhibit.
5. Congratulations. Your first Neatline exhibit is now ready for annotation. To add basic annotations, click on the exhibit's title.

Neatline | Browse Exhibits

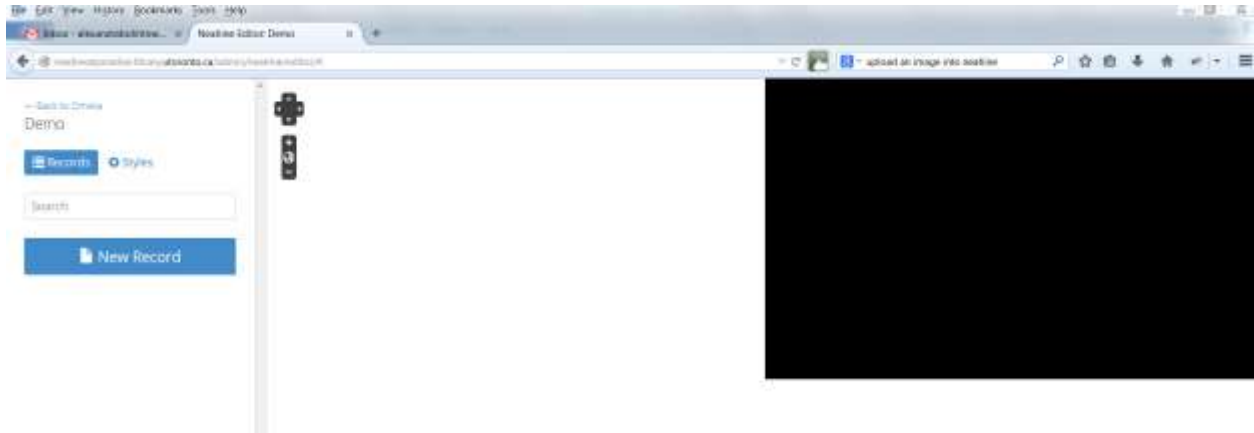
Create an Exhibit

Exhibit	Created	# Items	Public
Demo Public View · Fullscreen View · Exhibit Settings · Import Items · Delete	Sep 17, 2014	0	No
JohnStow_Fake_Annotations Public View · Fullscreen View · Exhibit Settings · Import Items · Delete	Sep 8, 2014	1	No
Mappa Mundi: Story Made Space Public View · Fullscreen View · Exhibit Settings · Import Items · Delete	Aug 13, 2014	2	No
The Paradise Project Public View · Fullscreen View · Exhibit Settings · Import Items · Delete	Jun 9, 2014	12	No

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You find yourself here:



To centre the image, click the little earth icon:



Use the + and – buttons to zoom in and out. Once you have found a zoom and focus you like, set these as the default way your static image will be displayed:

Click on “Styles.” Then click “Use Current Viewport as Default” (just above Save button). Then Save.

The screenshot shows the Omeka Neatline interface for a project titled "The Paradise Project". At the top left, there is a link "← Back to Omeka". Below the title, there are navigation buttons for "Records", "Styles" (which is highlighted in blue), and "Plugins". A "Stylesheet" editor is open, showing a large empty text area. Below this, there are settings for "Default Map Focus" (with a text input field containing "1379,1108.25") and "Default Map Zoom" (with a text input field containing "1"). A button labeled "Use Current Viewport as Default" is also present. At the bottom left of the settings area is a blue "Save" button with a floppy disk icon. On the right side of the interface, a vertical map viewer is visible. It features a navigation toolbar with a compass, a plus sign, a globe icon, and a minus sign. The map itself is a detailed historical map of a city, likely Jerusalem, with various buildings, streets, and a river. A blue overlay is visible at the bottom of the map viewer, with the text "Seeds from Paradise g" and a small table with columns labeled "1" and "2".

1. Create an item containing the static image that will serve as the basis of your exhibit.
2. Create a new Neatline Exhibit. Add the static image as the base layer.
3. Decide how you want the static image to display: zoom level, specific part of the image.

Make the Timeline

1. Return to your Neatline Exhibit Settings. Enable the widgets you want to use: Timeline, Waypoints. Save the Exhibit!

Medieval Paradise Plugins Appearance Users Settings Welcome, Alexandra Bolintineanu Log Out

Neatline | Browse Exhibits

The exhibit "Sample Exhibit" was successfully deleted!

[Create an Exhibit](#)

Exhibit	Created	# Items	Public
JohnStow_Fake_Annotations Public View · Fullscreen View · Exhibit Settings · Import Items · Delete	Sep 8, 2014	2	No
The Paradise Project Public View · Fullscreen View · Exhibit Settings · Import Items · Delete	Jun 9, 2014	10	Yes

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Widgets

Select the user-interface widgets available in the exhibit.

SIMILE Timeline ✕

Waypoints ✕

2. If you are working with a Timeline, establish its settings: what year you want to see when the timeline opens, what kind of interval (hours, minutes, millennia etc.) you want to deal with.

Click on your Exhibit title:

Medieval Paradise Plugins Appearance Users Settings Welcome, Alexandra Bolintineanu Log Out

Neatline | Browse Exhibits

[Create an Exhibit](#)

Exhibit	Created	# Items	Public
JohnStow_Fake_Annotations Public View · Fullscreen View · Exhibit Settings · Import Items · Delete	Sep 8, 2014	2	No
The Paradise Project Public View · Fullscreen View · Exhibit Settings · Import Items · Delete	Jun 9, 2014	10	Yes

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Inside your Neatline Exhibit, go to Plugins→Simile Timeline:

The screenshot shows the Omeka interface for 'The Paradise Project'. The sidebar on the left includes a 'Back to Omeka' link, the project title, and navigation buttons for 'Records', 'Styles', and 'Plugins'. The 'Plugins' dropdown menu is open, showing 'SIMILE Timeline' and 'Waypoints'. Below the menu is a search bar and a 'New Record' button. A list of records is visible, with the first one titled 'Chapters in The Book of John Mandeville'. The main content area displays a detailed medieval manuscript map of Paradise, featuring a central tree, rivers, and various structures, with Latin text labels throughout.

Then set the starting date of your timeline (i.e. what appears at the bottom when you first open your exhibit) and the interval (i.e. days, years, centuries, etc.):

The screenshot displays the Neatline configuration interface for a project titled "The Paradise Project". On the left, a sidebar contains navigation links: "← Back to Omeka", "Records", "Styles", and "Plugins". The "Plugins" menu is open, showing "SIMILE Timeline" and "Waypoints". Below this, several configuration fields are visible: "Default Date" is set to "0005", "Interval Unit" is set to "Year", "Interval Pixels" is set to "100", "Track Height" is set to "30", and "Tape Height" is set to "10". A blue "Save" button is located at the bottom of the configuration panel. To the right of the configuration panel is a vertical toolbar with a directional pad, a zoom-in (+) button, and a zoom-out (-) button. The main area on the right shows a portion of a historical map with a green timeline overlaid on it.

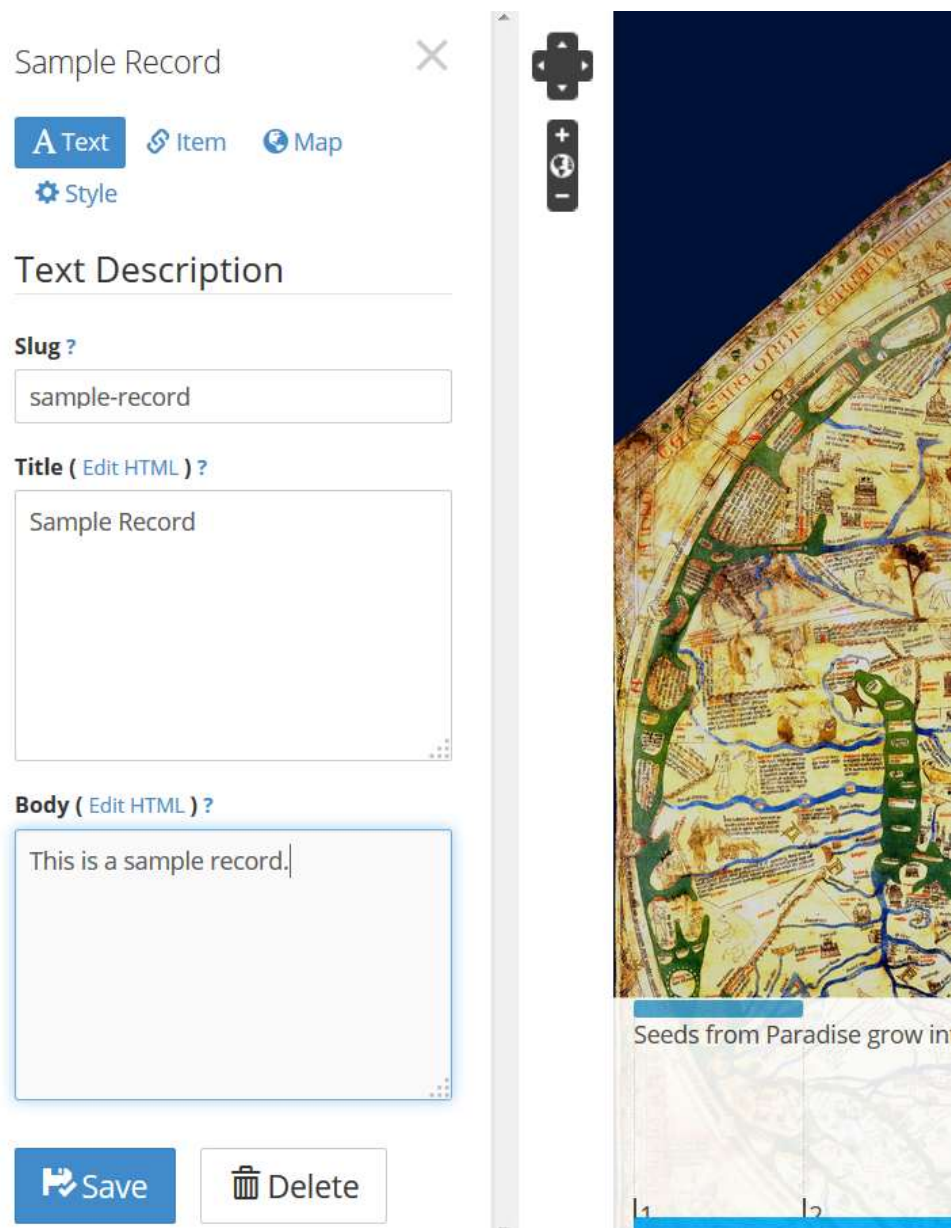
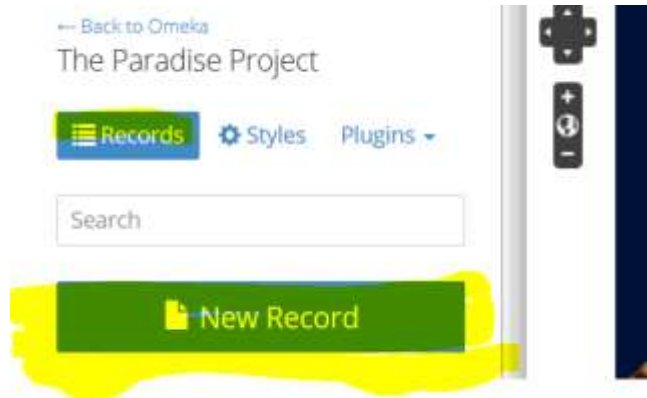
More details on Timeline can be found in Neatline's own documentation:
<http://docs.neatline.org/working-with-the-simile-timeline-widget.html>

Make Records for Your Exhibit (i.e. map annotations, timeline events)

For each Record, you can:

Make the Record

Click on Records → New Record; type in relevant metadata for the Record; and Save Record.



Place the Record on the Map, by drawing your own shapes if desired.
Clear the shapes by clicking “Clear All Geometry,” below. Remember to Save!

Sample Record ×

A Text

Item

Map

Style

Drawing Tools

- Navigate ?
- Draw Point ?
- Draw Line ?
- Draw Polygon ?
- Draw Regular Polygon ?
- Sides ?
- Snap Angle ?
- Irregular? ?
- Draw SVG (Enter Markup) ?
- Modify Shape ?
- Rotate Shape ?
- Resize Shape ?
- Drag Shape ?
- Delete Shape ?

Clear all Geometry ?



Seeds from Paradise grow into C

Place the Record on the Timeline, if desired:

- Click "Style"
- Add "Simile Timeline" to the "Widgets" box
- Enter "Start Date" (in YYYY format). This makes your record a point on the Timeline, at Start Date.
- Enter "End Date" (in YYYY format). This makes your record a span on the Timeline, beginning at Start Date and ending at End Date. If the two dates are the same, your event won't show up.
- Save.

A Text Item Map

Style

Groups

Tags ?

Widgets ?

× SIMILE Timeline

Presenter ?

Static Rubble

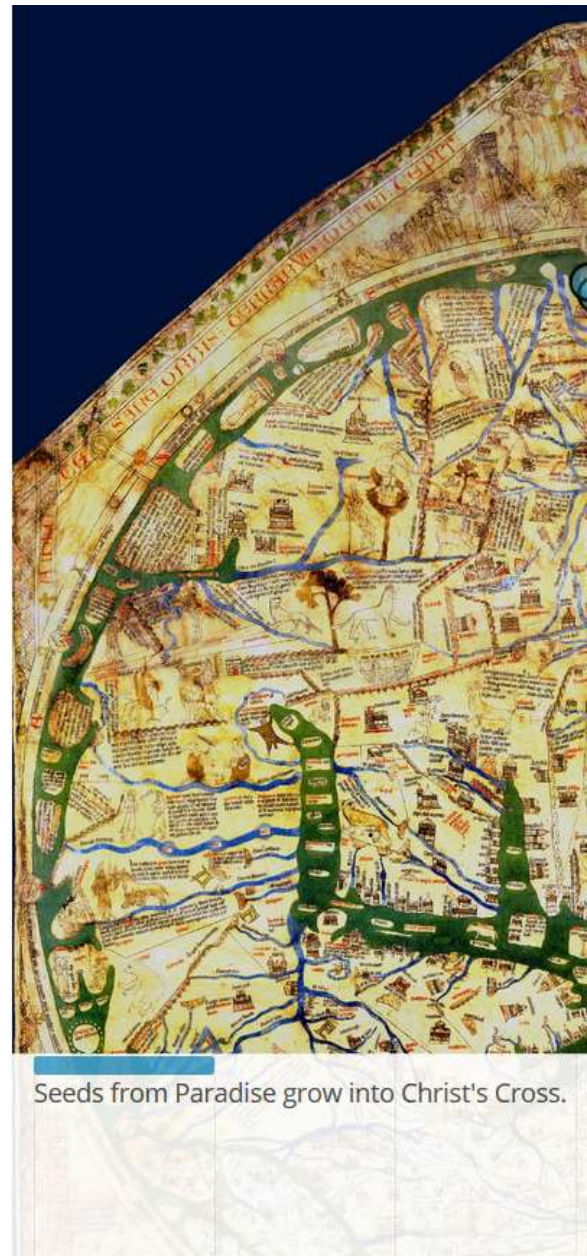
Colors

Fill Color ?

Fill Color (Selected) ?

Stroke Color ?

Stroke Color (Selected) ?



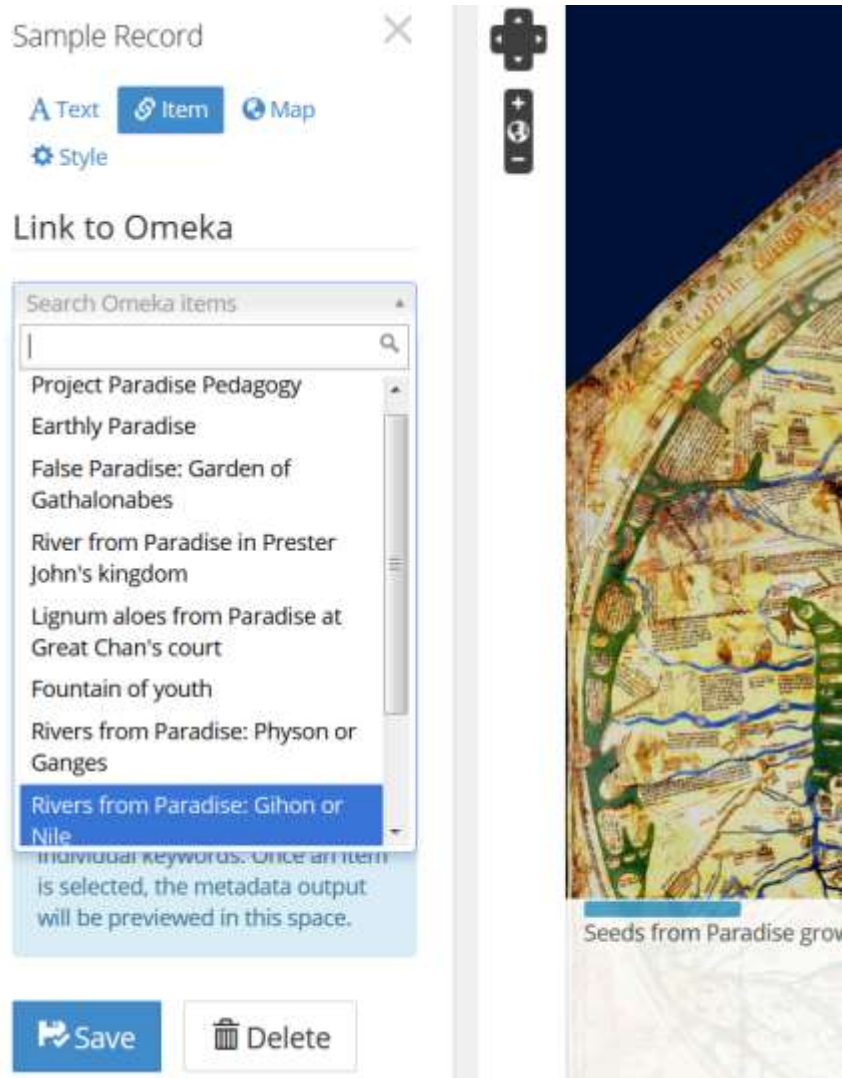
Dates

Start Date ?

End Date ?

Link the Record to an Omeka item.

Click "Item," then "Search Omeka Items." Select the Omeka Item you want. (This item must already exist in your Omeka Collection.)



The screenshot shows the Omeka interface. On the left, a 'Sample Record' window is open, displaying a search for Omeka items. The search results list several items, with 'Rivers from Paradise: Gihon or Nile' selected. Below the search results, there is a 'Save' button and a 'Delete' button. On the right, a map view is visible, showing a historical map of a landscape with rivers and a city. The map is titled 'Seeds from Paradise grove'.

“Style” the Record: Determine How It Displays on Map and Timeline

Decide on the zoom level and portion of the map you want to show when that record is clicked.

Using your map, navigate and zoom to find the right display.



Then go to the left-hand editing pane and scroll alllllll the way down, to the Visibility section. Click “Use Current Viewport as Default.”

Visibility

Min Zoom (Use Current) ?

Max Zoom (Use Current) ?

Default Focus ?

Default Zoom ?

Use Current Viewport as Default ?



Decide on your record’s colour and on any graphics you want to display at that point.

For example, if you are tracing the travels of two different writers across Europe, you can use red for the points belonging to Dante and green for the points belonging to Chaucer (See Style→ Colors). Or you

can mark some points with a little graphic image (e.g. Travelling Chaucer) (See Style → Imagery: enter the URL of the image under “Point Image”).

Further Reading

1. Neatline Demos: Beautiful Neatline Exhibits

<http://neatline.org/demos/>

2. Neatline Documentation:

General: <http://docs.neatline.org>

Timeline: <http://docs.neatline.org/working-with-the-simile-timeline-widget.html>

Waypoints: <http://docs.neatline.org/working-with-the-waypoints-plugin.html>

3. Alexandra’s Stuff:

Project Paradise: <http://medievalparadise.library.utoronto.ca/neatline/show/project-paradise>

Email: alexandrabolintineanu@gmail.com

Office: Lillian Massey Hall (across from ROM), Room 314A