Building a Basic Neatline Exhibit

Contents

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:

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
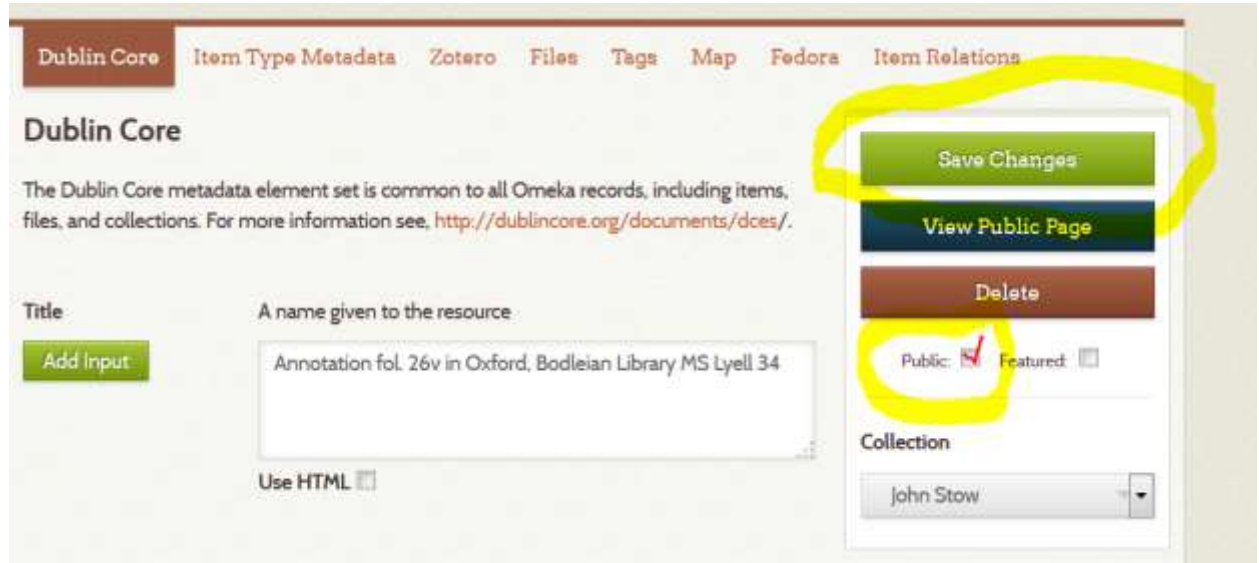
d. Get the file URL:

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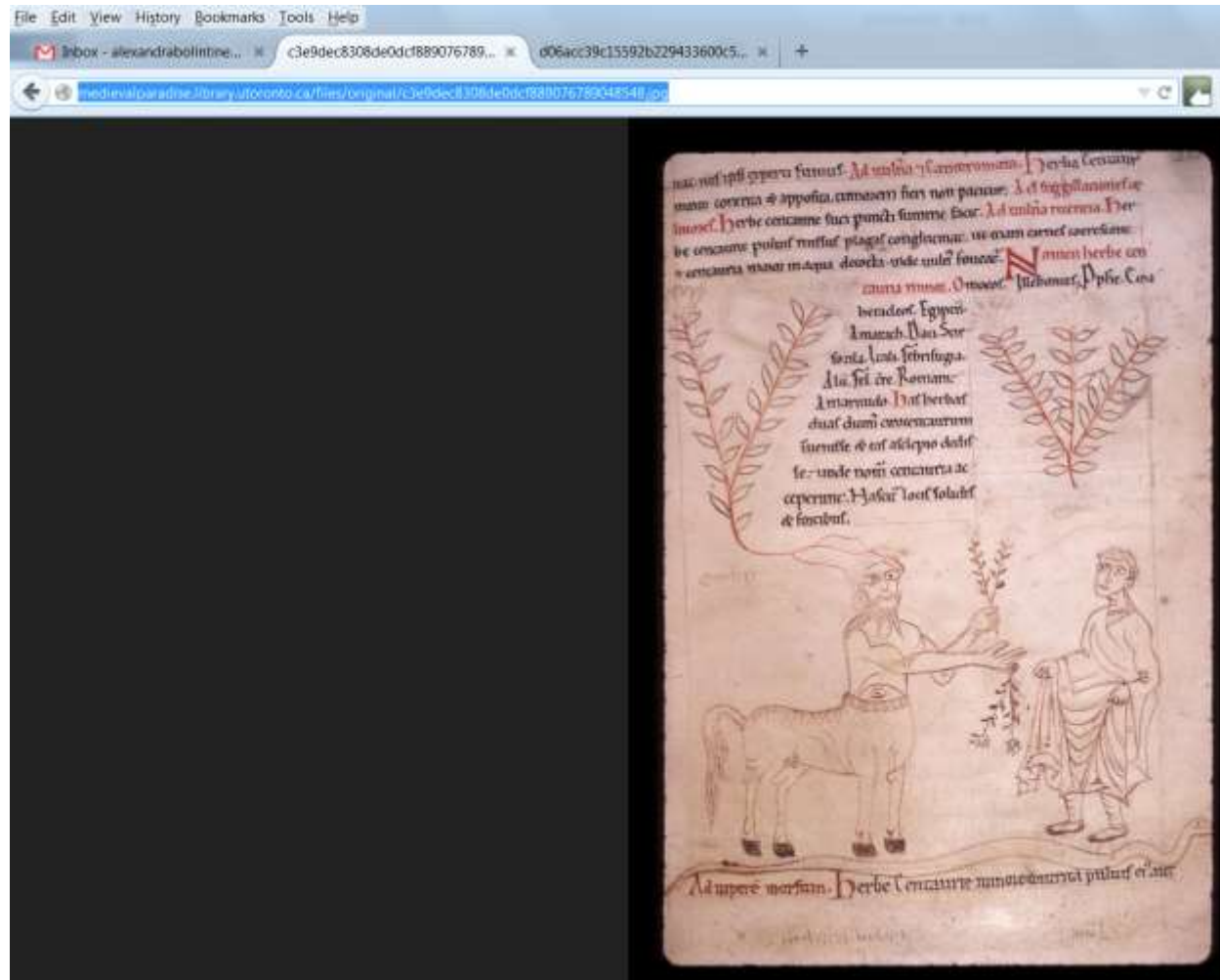

Click on the item. This should display your item with its image file and its metadata, just as you entered them. Click on the image thumbnail.

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.

2. Now you have an exhibit underway:

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:

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.
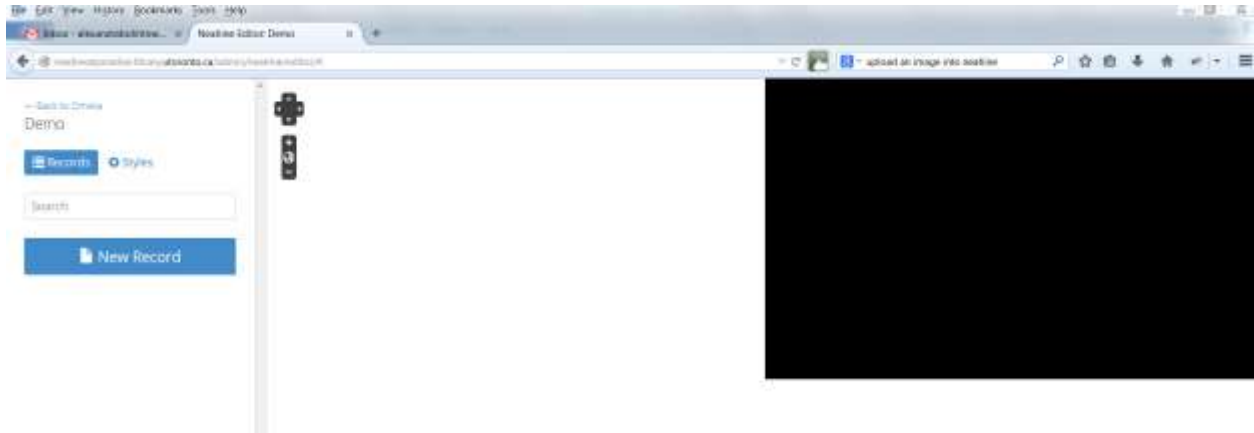

You find yourself here:

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.

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!

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:

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

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.):

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.

← Back to Omeka
The Paradise Project

Records   Styles   Plugins ▾

Search

New Record

Sample Record   ✕

A Text   Item   Map
Style

Text Description

Slug ?

sample-record

Title (Edit HTML) ?

Sample Record

Body (Edit HTML) ?

This is a sample record.

Save   Delete

Seeds from Paradise grow in
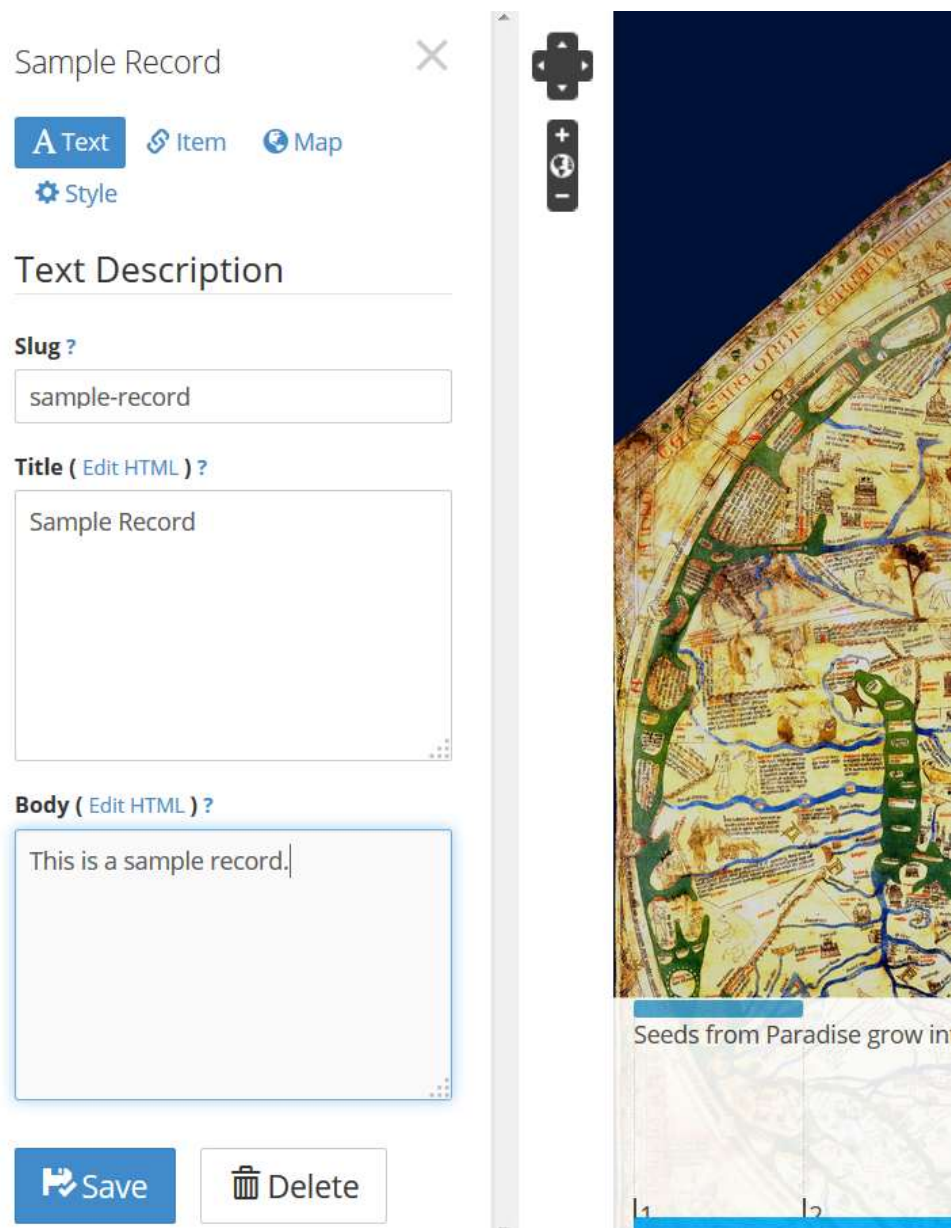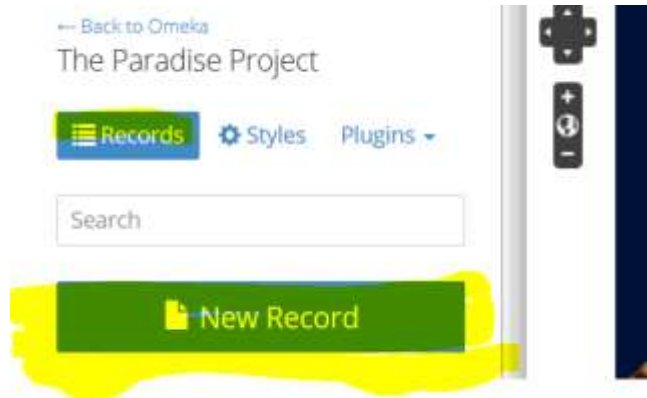
Place the Record on the Map, by drawing your own shapes if desired.
Clear the shapes by clicking "Clear All Geometry," below. Remember to Save!

Place the Record on the Timeline, if desired:

a. Click "Style"

b. Add "Simile Timeline" to the "Widgets" box

c. Enter "Start Date" (in YYYY format). This makes your record a point on the Timeline, at Start Date.

d. 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.

e. Save.

Seeds from Paradise grow into Christ's Cross.
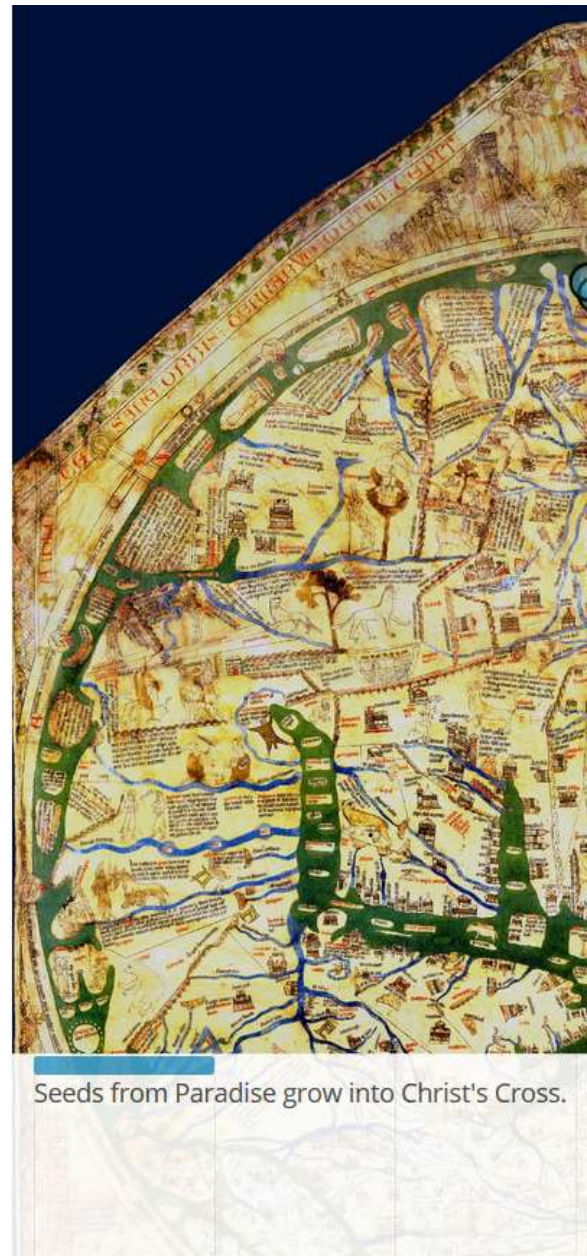
Link the Record to an Omeka item.

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

"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.

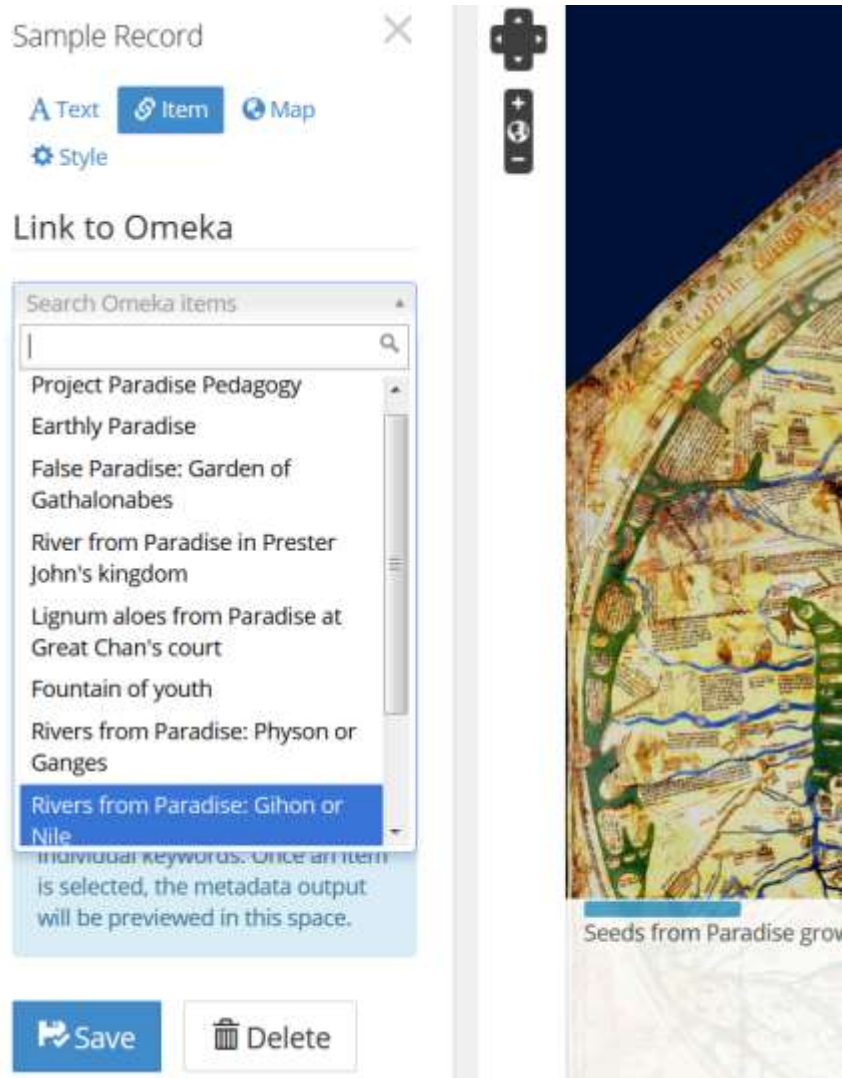Then go to the left-hand editing pane and scroll allllll the way down, to the Visibility section. Click "Use Current Viewport as Default."

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