UC campus library Omeka deployments: profiles

UC Santa Cruz | UC Santa Barbara | UC San Francisco

Prepared by the California Digital Library, UC3
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The following summaries offer a snapshot of deployments (both planned and in production) of the Omeka software system, as of April 2012, within the UC campus libraries. It also describes how each campus is incorporating the software into digital collection management and preservation workflows, including existing or potential utilization of Merritt for long-term storage.

Omeka is an open-source web publishing platform, designed for libraries, museums, and archives. It is optimized to support the publication and exhibition of digital collections. For more information, see the Omeka site: http://omeka.org/about/

Case study 1:
UC Santa Cruz Library

Current status of Omeka implementation / instance URL:
In development; no public URL at this time

Extent and types of collections featured:
Initially starting with content drawn from UCSC Special Collections' Grateful Dead Archives. Content will include graphic materials, textual documents, and A/V resources.

How Omeka is primarily being used:
Using Omeka as a platform for publishing digital collections. End users will be able to create digital content and submit it to the library for hosting, via Omeka. The library is using a separate system, CONTENTdm, to create and manage digital objects.

As described below, UCSC is actively developing plug-ins for Omeka. A METS import and export plug-in is anticipated for release in 2012. Additionally, UCSC has submitted an IMLS grant to develop an Omeka "Curation Dashboard" to extend the software's functionality, including the following: scan and quarantine files on import, assign new file names, provide additional tools for viewing large batches of materials, and track status of appraisal and disposition actions.

Workflow summary / Merritt integrations
UCSC is planning to implement the following workflow for Grateful Dead Archives materials; however the workflow for other UCSC collections in CONTENTdm is still in discussion.

1) End user created content

- Contributes a resource directly through UCSC-hosted Omeka instance; will most likely be simple image or A/V object
- UCSC will mint an ARK (through EZID), but not assign to the resource
- Resource by default will initially be publicly viewable, but visually distinguished from other objects. Per UCSC: "the distinction will indicate that it it's still in a staging mode (hasn't been reviewed by UCSC staff, hasn't been submitted to Merritt). The item display may use different colors and will lack social bookmarking options, etc. We haven't thought of a label for these things, but it may be something like "hot off the press", "new submission", etc. There will be an option on the item record for users to flag the item as spam, etc. The thought is we'll be crowdsourcing curation a little bit, (as well as giving us time to review). Once it's out of staging, it will look like any other object in the collection (with no distinction made that it came from Omeka's submission vs. via UCSC/ContentDM)."
- UCSC will conduct a weekly screening/curatorial assessment of the content, to determine if the content should potentially be deleted. The idea is that content will be curated in Omeka before being pushed to Merritt; and possibly deleted from Merritt at a later time.
- If approved, an ARK will be assigned to the resource; object is maintained in Omeka as a published resource
- METS object generated from Omeka
    - UCSC will be creating a custom export routine from Omeka, to generate METS. The METS will have MODS-based metadata, and will conform to the UCSD simple or complex object registered METS profile
    - The export routine will be packaged as an open-source Omeka plug-in, for interoperability with other repositories
- METS submitted to Merritt (will post the METS to the web, and use the METS feeder for ingest; their original plan was to push METS to Merritt, as ZIP'ed files)

2) UCSC Library created content

- Creates a resource directly using UCSC-hosted CONTENTdm instance. Will range from simple to complex image and A/V objects
- UCSC will mint an ARK (through EZID), and assign to the resource
- METS object generated from CONTENTdm using UCSD profile workflow is In planning and development stage pending routinized access to CONTENTdm API
- METS submitted to Merritt (will post the METS to the web, and use the METS feeder for ingest; their original plan was to push METS to Merritt, as ZIP'ed files). Workflow is in planning and development stage pending routinized access to CONTENTdm API
- METS will also be submitted to Omeka. Workflow is in planning and development stage pending routinized access to CONTENTdm API

<u>Staffing support</u>

Maintained by UC Santa Cruz Library, Digital Initiatives Department.

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Case study 2:
UC Santa Barbara Library

Current status of implementation / instance URL:
In production. Public display available at **http://digital.library.ucsb.edu/**

Extent and types of collections featured:
Primarily drawn from UCSB Libraries Dept. of Special Collections. Ranges from historic photographs (prints, glass plate negatives, etc.) and graphic materials (posters, etc.) to audio recordings.

How Omeka is primarily being used:
Is primarily using Omeka as a platform for publishing digital collections. Using a separate system, Extensis Portfolio, to create and manage digital objects.

Workflow summary / Merritt integrations
Currently using Omeka's import mechanism to add individual copies of service files (JPEG access images, MP3 files, etc.), and add metadata for each item. Also using bulk import process to add multiple files, and associate with metadata in spreadsheet format. Preservation/master file formats are stored offline or on restricted webserver.

Is now moving towards a process where digital objects will be initially created in Extensis Portfolio, a commercial digital collection management system. Exploring mechanisms to generate exports from Extensis, for loading into Omeka.

UCSB anticipates that it would export objects from Extensis Portfolio to Merritt, using an automated process (e.g., use Merritt API to programmatically transfer objects).

Staffing support
Input from the UCSB Library has a Digitization Advisory Committee (DAC). Digitization of content is managed by Tom Moon, in consultation with Special Collections and Archives; programming and support for Omeka handled by Ian Lessing.

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Case study 3:
UC San Francisco Library

Current status of implementation / instance URL:
In production, but may be superceded. Public display available at **https://digital.library.ucsf.edu/**

Extent and types of collections featured:
Primarily drawn from UCSF Libraries Archives and Special Collections. The bulk of the materials comprise scans of historical photographs and graphic materials; currently working on creating a PDF pamphlet collection pertaining to cholera, which will be loaded into Omeka.

How Omeka is primarily being used:
Has primarily used Omeka as both a platform for publishing digital collections, as well as a “stopgap” system for creating and managing digital objects.

Workflow summary / Merritt integrations

Currently using Omeka's import mechanism to add individual copies of service files (JPEG access images, MP3 files, etc.), and add metadata for each item. Has used bulk import process to add multiple files, and associate with metadata in spreadsheet format; but encountered some difficulties with this process. Preservation/master file formats are stored offline or on restricted webserver.

Is now moving towards a process where digital objects would be created in Razuna, an open-source digital collection management system. In lieu of Omeka, UCSF is considering utilizing a WordPress plugin for Razuna, for the purpose of publishing the digital collections and creating exhibits.

UCSF anticipates that it would export objects from Razuna to Merritt, using an automated process (e.g., use Merritt API to programmatically transfer objects).

Staffing support
Maintained by the UCSF Library, Digital Content Development department.

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