

Omeka 101

A Brief Introduction to the Omeka Digital Library Platform

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Acknowledgements



Preview

- Content management systems (CMS)
 - digital library platforms as one kind of CMS
- Omeka: overview and versions
- Demonstration
- Omeka: strengths and weaknesses
- Sites using Omeka

Content Management Systems (CMSs)

“A CMS is essentially a software package that lets you create and edit website content without having to know how to write code”

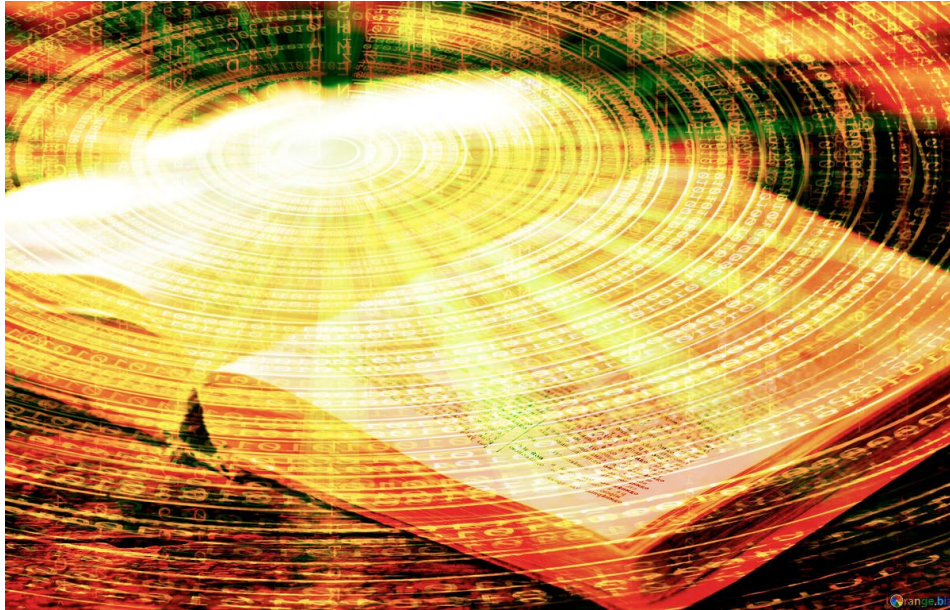
A CMS normally has the following features:

- content creation
- content storage
- workflow management
- management of privileges and responsibilities based on roles
- live publication to the web
- search and browse
- user interface design and templating

Fitzgerald, A. (n.d.). What is a CMS and why should you care?

<https://blog.hubspot.com/blog/tabid/6307/bid/7969/what-is-a-cms-and-why-should-you-care.aspx>

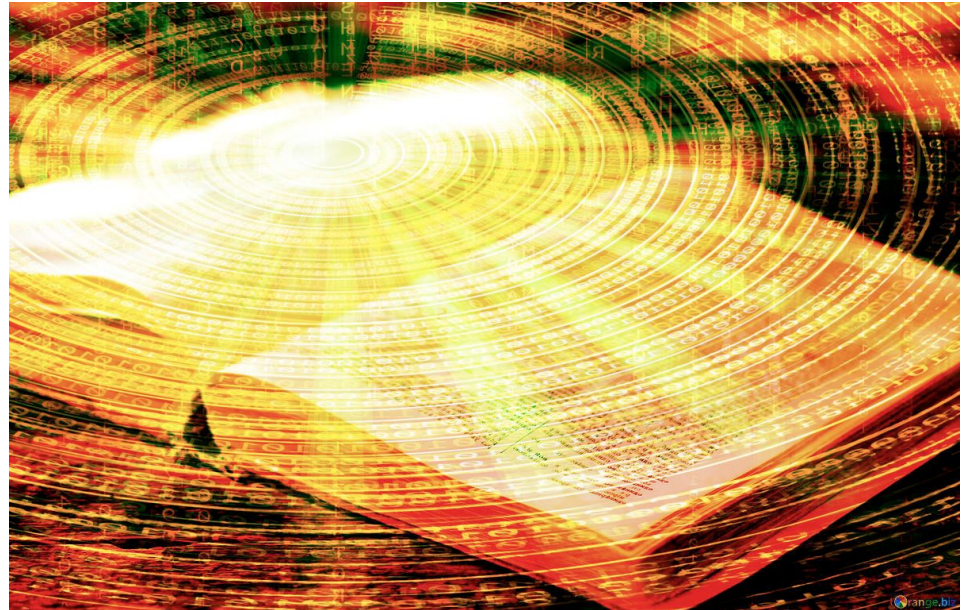
Digital Libraries as a type of CMS



- A digital library is an online environment for organizing, sharing, and providing access to resources in digital form
- A digital library's content, functionality, organization, and metadata should reflect the needs, interests, and contexts of its community/communities of users

Digital Libraries

- There are dozens or more platforms that can be used as digital libraries, including
 - [Omeka](#)
 - [Greenstone](#)
 - [Mukurtu](#)
 - [Koha](#)
 - [Spotlight](#)
 - [DSpace](#)
 - [Eprints](#)
 - [Samvera](#)
 - [Alfresco](#)





“Omeka is a Swahili word meaning to display or layout wares; to speak out; to spread out; to unpack.”

<https://omeka.org/about/project/>

Omeka

- Open-source CMS designed specifically for building digital collections
- Based on standard open-source technologies including Linux (operating system), Apache (web server software), PHP (scripting language), and MySQL (relational database)
- Modular in that it makes use of plugins and themes
- Robust developer and user community
- Flexibility for customization around look and feel, indexing and search, resource description, and adding functionality

Omeka

- Omeka Classic
 - web publishing platform for digital collections
 - designed for individual projects and educators
 - requires Linux operating system, Apache web server, MySQL relational database, PHP scripting language, and ImageMagick
- Omeka S
 - web publishing platform designed for connecting collections with other online resources
 - designed for institutions needing multiple sites
 - similar install requirements to Omeka Classic

Omeka

- Omeka.Net
 - hosted service option
 - includes a free version with scoped functionality
 - lightweight option that removes need for installation or hosting
 - ideal for piloting the software and for learning about building, administering, and curating a digital library

Omeka - Links and Resources

- Project sites
 - <https://omeka.org/classic/>
 - <https://omeka.org/s/>
 - <https://www.omeka.net/>
- Forum
 - <https://forum.omeka.org/>
- Code
 - <https://github.com/omeka/>

DEMO

Omeka: Strengths and Weaknesses

- Like any technology, Omeka has its strengths and weaknesses
- Some unexpected things (good and bad)
 - some metadata element labels are hard-coded
 - changing the default sort order for search results is nearly impossible
 - the community has developed a broad set of plugins
 - PHP is a well-known language and many developers have expertise in it, but ...
 - Omeka's structure on top of PHP is not always as intuitive as one might think
- Quite often the things that seem as though they should be easy are the things that trip you up

Omeka Examples

- Omeka Classic
 - [Baltimore Uprising](#)
 - [Ancestors](#)
 - [Inuvialuit Digital Library](#)
 - [Omeka Classic Showcase](#)
- Omeka S
 - [Miss Pink's Wildflowers](#)
 - [Université Paris Digital Library](#)
 - [Omeka S Showcase](#)
- Omeka.Net
 - [Big Stuff Heritage](#)
 - [Humboldt Redwoods Project](#)
 - [Omeka.Net Showcase](#)

Thank You!

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