An Introduction to Content Management Systems
Sharing Digital Objects, Collections and Knowledge Online

Today’s Objective

To appreciate the range of content management systems available to digital humanities scholars and to be able to judge between them
What is a CMS?

A web content management system (WCMS) is a software system that provides website authoring, collaboration, and administration tools designed to allow users with little knowledge of web programming languages or markup languages to create and manage website content with relative ease.

- wikipedia
What is a CMS?

- Collect and Disseminate
- Categorise
- Curate
- Is it a Blog? Is it Wiki?

Benefits of a CMS

- Allow for a large number of people to contribute to and share stored data
- Control access to data, based on user roles (defining which information users or user groups can view, edit, publish, etc.)
- Aid in easy storage and retrieval of data
- Reduce repetitive duplicate input
- Improve the ease of report writing
- Improve communication between users
Why/How Would *You* Use a CMS?

- Any thoughts?
- Dissemination?
- Collaboration?
- Feedback?

Introduction

- Document Management vs Object Management vs Content Management vs Knowledge Management
- Open Source Versus Paid/Commercial
- Evolution/History
  - DSpace/FEDORA - Duraspace
- What about the Wiki?
Features of CMS

- Templating
- User Management
- Scalability of Deployment
- Easy Editing of Content
- Extensibility of Features/Functionality
- Adherence to Web Standards
- Workflow Management
- Collaboration
- Delegation
- Authentication and Access Control
- Document Management
- Content Syndication
- Multilingual
- Versioning

Technical Considerations

- Programming language: PHP/PERL/Java
- Database or Flatfile: MySQL/Postgres/SQLServer
- Hosted versus Your own Server Space
Planning

1. Setting site goals;
2. Identifying target audiences;
3. Wireframing and planning site function and flow;
4. Installing CMS applications;
5. Working with ISPs to add site features to servers;

Major Open Source Players

- PHP/MySQL
  - Drupal
  - WordPress
  - Joomla
  - PHP-Nuke
  - Typo3
- .Net/ASP/SQLServer
  - DotNetNuke (€€)
  - KenticoCMS (€€)
- Umbraco
- PERL
  - biosxom
  - MoveableType
- Java
  - OpenCMS
  - dotCMS
**PHP/MySQL Popularity**

**Drupal**

**Pro's**
- Widely Used
- Many Modules
- Authentication and Security
- Scalable
- Many Custom Forks
- Commercial Forks

**Con's**
- Steep Learning Curve
- Proprietary Cycle
- Deep
WordPress

**Pro's**
- Widely Used
- Many Plug-Ins
- Social
- Approachable
- Multi-User
- Very Refined User Experience

**Con's**
- Less Scalable
- Less Secure

Joomla

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Hybrids
Omeka

Hands-On Exercise I

- Setup Wordpress.com
- Differentiating between Wordpress.com and Wordpress.org
- Extending the Community --bbPress
- Understanding the differences between Wordpress.com sites and Wordpress.org sites
- Setting up and installing a Wordpress site
- Finding and adding templates to a new site
- Customize site features
- Overview of administrative functions
What to Do with Wordpress

- Manage Basic Settings
- Choose/Install Theme
- Tweak Appearance
- Discuss/Explore Plug-ins (Install in Wordpress.org)
- Security Issues
- Basic Maintenance

Trends and Vision

- What's the future for CMS?
- How does the cloud change the picture?
- How does social media impact?
Extending a CMS

- What Might You Add to a standard CMS install to turn it into something beyond a simple textual content sharing system?
- Maps
- Timelines
- Authentication

Where Else to Go?

- Joomla (www.joomla.org)
- SocialGo (www.socialgo.com)
- Wikimedia (www.wikimedia.com)
- Moodle (www.moodle.com)

- Consideration - does your host or institution support or install these for you?
Hands-On Exercise II

- Differentiating between Omeka.org and Omeka.net
- Differentiating between a true CMS and a hybrid such as OMEKA
- Check out the showcase: http://omeka.org/showcase/
- Metadata?
- Setting up and installing an OMEKA site
- Customize site features
- Overview of administrative functions
- Extending

What to Do with OMEKA.net

- Sign Up for an Account
- Manage Basic Settings
- Choose Theme
- Install/Manage Plug-ins
- Add Items
- Manage Collections
- Create an Exhibit
Further Reference

- Joomla (www.joomla.org)
- SocialGo (www.socialgo.com)
- Wikimedia (www.wikimedia.com)
- Moodle (www.moodle.com)
- Head First Wordpress (O'Reilly Press)
- Drupal: The Guide to Planning and Building Websites by Cynthia McCourt

Thanks

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