

Using Omeka to Exhibit Old Media Online

Jentery Sayers

Assistant Professor, English

University of Victoria

jentery@uvic.ca / [@jenterysayers](https://twitter.com/jenterysayers)

Saturday, 28 April 2012



**University
of Victoria**

Today

What Is Omeka?

Example Exhibits

Getting Started with Omeka

Modeling Projects in Omeka

Some Typical Omeka Workflows

An Omeka Test Run

Evaluating Omeka Projects

What Is Omeka?

“Omeka is a free, flexible, and open source web-publishing platform for the display of library, museum, archives, and scholarly collections and exhibitions. Its ‘five-minute setup’ makes launching an online exhibition as easy as launching a blog.”



Some Example Exhibits

THE DEENA LARSEN COLLECTION

Preserving the Electronic Literature Community's
"Great Library of Alexandria"



[HOME](#)

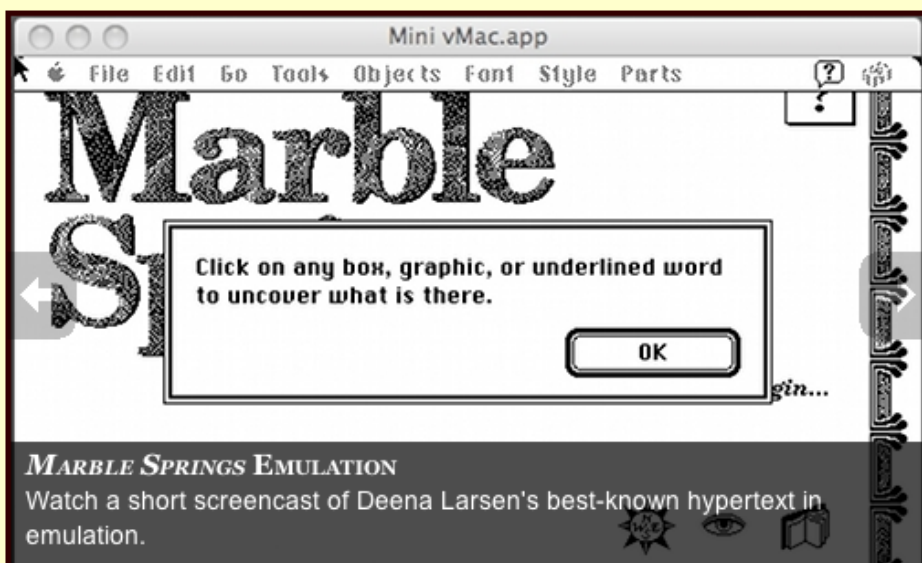
[ABOUT THE COLLECTION](#)

[MARBLE SPRINGS](#)

[BROWSE ITEMS](#)

[CONTACT MITH](#)

[ADVANCED SEARCH](#)



ABOUT THE COLLECTION

In May of 2007, MITH received the extraordinary gift of Deena Larsen's personal collection of early-era personal computers and software... [READ MORE](#)

RECENTLY ADDED: "ASPEN GOLD" DRAFT

This is a draft of Deena Larsen's poem "Aspen Gold", which eventually became part of Marble Springs....



[HOME](#) [ABOUT THE COLLECTION](#) [MARBLE SPRINGS](#) [BROWSE ITEMS](#) [CONTACT](#)

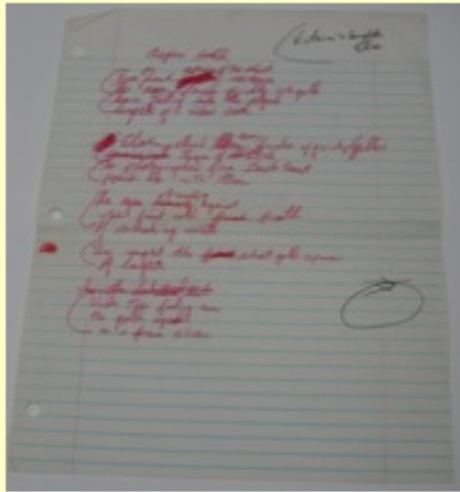
This website was created by the [MARYLAND INSTITUTE FOR TECHNOLOGY IN THE HUMANITIES \(MITH\)](#).

This work is licensed under a [CREATIVE COMMONS ATTRIBUTION-NONCOMMERCIAL-SHARE ALIKE 3.0 UNPORTED LICENSE](#).

Location	Notes	Title	Author	Conference	Format	Date	Genre	Length	Annotations	Notes
Loose-HT96		Hypertext '96 Demos, blue stapled packet		ACM on Hypertext 7	Stapled packet					
Loose-HT97		Hypertext 97 Southampton, UK Final Programme		ACM on Hypertext 8 1997	Final Program	04-06-97	Conference 28			
Loose-DAC00		Digital Arts and Culture 2000		Digital Arts and Culture 2000	Conference Proc	08-02-00	Conference 1 (3 sections)			Schedule
Loose-HT/DL00		DAC 00, HT00 (Yellow folder)		Digital Arts and Culture 2000, Hypertext 2000 Conference						
Loose-HI03		DAC 03 (Green hanging file folder)		Digital Arts and Culture 2003						
Bound		DAC 2003 Proceedings		Digital Arts and Culture 2003	Conference proc	May-03	conference 212 pp		none	
Loose-other cons		Electronic Publishing and PAL		ELO State of the Arts 1	Plastic sleeve	10-15-99	Summary		None	
Loose-ELO-02		Electronic Literature Organization (2 copies)		ELO State of the Arts 1	Program	04-04-02	Symposium 16			
Loose-ELO-02		Electronic Literature Organization Folders (4 copies)		ELO State of the Arts 1	Blue folders					
Loose-HT96		Call for Papers		Hawaii International Conference on Systems Sc	Single-sheet	1/7/1997-1/10/1997				
Loose-HT/DL00		Hypertext 2000 Digital Libraries 2000 Final Program		Hypertext 2000 and Digital Libraries 2000	Plastic sleeve	2000				
Loose-HT/DL00		The Second Annual Hypertext Writer's Workshop, CyberMountain 2	Deena Larsen	Hypertext Writer's Workshop 2	Single-sheet	08-01-00	Workshop 1			I got sick and this n
Loose-other cons		Pennwriter's 13th Annual Pennwriter's Conference, letter and memorabilia		Pennwriters 13	Plastic sleeve	5/19/2000-5/21	Conference brochure, thank you note, and bookmark			
Loose-other cons		Hypertext: Electronic Writing and Reading on the Web	Wayne Ashley	Rocky Mountain Conference on Art and Technol	Stapled	2/5/1999-2/6/1999				
Loose-RMN94		Mapping the information highway		Society for Technical Communication, Rocky Mc	Booklet	Spring 1994				
Loose-other cons		The Southwest/Texas Popular Culture Association American Culture Association		The Annual Meeting of the Southwest/Texas Po	Spiral-bound	02-12-00			Open to page 12	
Loose-Incubation02		Incubation (2 copies)		IRace international conference on writing and th	Flyer					
Loose-HT00		Panel Session Achieving Practical Development - Merging Skill Xases (Proposed Script)			Multiple single sheets		Panel Scrip 4			Discusses issues re
Loose		Notes for and slides of presentation for E-Poetry Buffalo	Deena Larsen	E-Poetry 2001 Buffalo New York	Plastic sheets in	Apr-01	transparent overheads and handwritt			Compares spatial m
Loose		Script for play developed online.	M.D. Coverley	HT93 at Nottingham	stapled sheets (1993	play written 28			
Bound		Draft copy of Cybermountain proceedings. Bill had two of them.		edited Peter Nue CyberMountain Colloquim	Notebook--3 ring,					Courtesy of Bill Bly.
Loose HI-02		Schedule, participant roster of ACM HT 02, Maryland			Paper, bound pa	2002				
Loose-DAC-03		Lecture in Sydney--same trip as the DAC 2003.	Deena Larsen	Writing New Media Hyper/Text	Paper with notes					
Loose-ELO 04 meetings		Minutes, notes for ELO Board meeting 2004.	ELO board	board meetings	Paper	2004				Trying to determine
Loose-HT99	Mailed brochure	Brochure ACM Hypertext '99. Returning to our diverse roots February 21-25, 1999								
Loose-HT/DL00		Menger San Antonio Receipt		Hypertext 2000 and Digital Libraries 2000	paper					
Loose-HT97		Map of Southampton		ACM on Hypertext 8 1997	paper					
Loose-HT/DL00		Notes on time cards			handwritten					
Loose-other cons		Attendees at the Literary Symposium		Rocky Mountain Book Festival, 1999	stapled paper					
Loose-DAC01		Schedule		Digital Arts and Culture 2001						
loose-Epoetry01		Schedule								
Ephemera Box 1-to co		Black binder with ELO governance, other administrative information								
Ephemera Box 1-to co		Envelope with ELO mailing inviting membership								
Ephemera Box 1-to co		1996								
Ephemera Box 1to Co		Clear plastic envelope containig photos and negatives								
Ephemera Box 1to co		Gunmental gray folder containig various papers, including "STC's Guide to Netspeak"								
Loose-digital99		Loose papers. Printed from http://www.webphotojournals.com/dstory/1d34_m.htm								
Loose-99		Tape		The Future of HyperWriting. Deena Larsen Rocky Mountain fiction Writers Conference						
Loose-other cons		handout								
Loose-cybermountain		probably planning CM	Deena Larsen	Other conferences--not specified	papers					
Loose-cybermountain		Photos	Deena Larsen	CyberMountain Colloquim	5 by 8 handwritt	1998?				
Loose-cybermountain		Blue sheet I was trying tyo do another cybermountain	Deena Larsen	CyberMountain Colloquim						
Loose-cybermountain		Sheet from list of participants	Deena Larsen	CyberMountain Colloquim						
Loose-HT DL00		Handwritten list	Deena Larsen	CyberMountain Colloquim						This is why I will ne
Loose-cybermountain		Paper	Deena Larsen	Probably HT00/DL00 But not sure...		8 by 11 sheet.				
Loose-HT96		Photos	Kate Hayles	CyberMountain Colloquim						Photos of Deena's
Loose-HT97		Photo	Deena Larsen	HT96		3 by 5 photos				
Loose-Fin04		binder	Deena Larsen	HT97		3 by 5 photos				
Loose-HT97		Brochure	Deena Larsen	Seminar on Digital Media and Literature, Jyvaskyla 3/19-20/2004						
Bound			ZKM	HT99						
Bound		Open Hypertext Systems and Structural Computing, 6th International Workshop, Reich, Siegfried; HT00								Lecture N 3-540-41084-8
Loose-HT99		Photo	Deena Larse							Deena took this in f
Loose		8 by 11	Deena Larsen	E-Poetry 2001 Buffalo New York		8 by 11 sheet.				Deena had to spell
Loose-HI93		8 by 11 cards		HT03 at Nottingham						
Loose-ELO08		nametag								
Loose-HT03		Photo	Deena Larsen	HT03 at Nottingham						
Bound		DAC09		Digital Arts and Culture Conference 2009						Wasn't able to go.
Loose-ELO08		Spiral bound								

Collection Finding Aid in Excel Format

1 2 3 4 5 NEXT LAST



"ASPEN GOLD" DRAFT

This is a draft of Deena Larsen's poem "Aspen Gold", which eventually became part of Marble Springs. The draft is written in red ink on ruled paper.



MAC CLASSIC II IN "MAC COZY", DISPLAYING MARBLE SPRINGS START PAGE

This is a May 2009 photograph of one of the collection's Mac Classic IIs displaying the start page of Deena Larsen's Marble Springs. The computer is wearing the "Mac Cozy" that Larsen created to give the Macs an antique look in keeping with Marble...

Search for and Browse Items Individually

TREDEGAR

A LEGENDARY IRON WORKS

[HOME](#) [BROWSE ITEMS](#) [BROWSE COLLECTIONS](#) [ABOUT](#) [SCRIPTO](#)

Search

[ADVANCED SEARCH](#)

TREDEGAR IRON WORKS

The remnants of Tredegar Iron Works are on the James River in Richmond, Virginia at the terminus of the city's thriving nineteenth century industrial waterfront. Buildings, brick walls, waterwheels, empty canals and millraces evoke specters of the people who worked there and of the products they made.

The archaeological site animates the anomaly of Tredegar in the annals of nineteenth-century southern industrial development. Few, if any, southern manufacturing firms attained the regional or national marketing scope Tredegar achieved throughout the nineteenth century; few, if any, achieved the manufacturing diversification of Tredegar; and

RECENT ITEMS

Letter, Mary Anne Mason Anderson to her parents

Mary Anne Mason describes



this as her first letter as a wife. Topics rest mainly on thank yous and messages to her family as she and Archer Anderson begin their

COLLECTIONS

Iron Works Maps

Description

Iron Works maps includes maps, diagrams, and blueprints of the Richmond facility.

[View All Items](#) | [More Information](#)

Botetourt County

Description

Description of Anderson family properties, leases, resources in Botetourt County.

[View All Items](#) | [More Information](#)

Virginia Maps

Description

Geologic, topographical, municipal, and regional historic Virginia maps

[View All Items](#) | [More Information](#)

Organizing Items into Collections

Inventing Europe

Connecting Europe with technology

Europe

Current Exhibition

Europe, Interrupted

"Europe, Interrupted" is a collaboration between historians and museums to tell stories about the way technology has helped and hindered the circulation of people, things and ideas in modern Europe. To do this, we have developed a "virtual exhibition", a multimedia web environment that combines text and visual material from a wide range of sources throughout Europe. In addition, the site allows you to explore the stories further by finding related content on other websites. [Find out more](#) or [Take the tour](#)



The Exhibitions

Europe, Interrupted

The European Union emphasizes four 'freedoms of movement' – of goods, people, services and money – as both its key purpose and the basis of European citizenship. The idea is that by setting these things in ever greater motion, relationships in Europe will become closer.

We mostly notice and understand these connections only when there is an interruption, such as the Italian blackout of 2003; or when big new connections like the Channel Tunnel are made, piercing our horizon of expectations.

Engineers and manufacturers have faced similar interruptions in their attempts to create broad standards or larger markets for their products. One way or another, interruptions allow us – and sometimes force us – to stop and think about the role technology plays, and has always played, in European movements.

This virtual exhibition uses such 'interruptions' as way of telling a longer story about the efforts to connect Europe in the modern world. It will help us to look at the combinations of ideas, materials and institutions that must be made to work together in order to create and maintain the strange and changing things called 'Europe'.



[» Take the tour](#)

Structure of the exhibition

The exhibition consists of thirteen individual stories, illustrated with material from participating museum collections. On the sidebar, the exhibit presents further related material. This will change as the content on the internet changes.

The stories stand on their own, but also form part of five different themed tours through the website. Each of these tours (each a 'line' on a exhibit's 'network' map) emphasizes a different theme in interaction between technology and Europe.

Compose Exhibits Based on Collections



BRACERO HISTORY ARCHIVE

The *Bracero History Archive* collects and makes available the oral histories and artifacts pertaining to the Bracero program, a guest worker initiative that spanned the years 1942-1964. Millions of Mexican agricultural workers crossed the border under the program to work in more than half of the states in America.

[Browse the Archive](#)

[Español](#)



[Archive](#)

[Teaching](#)

[History](#)

[Resources](#)

[About](#)

[Partners](#)

[Login](#) here to add your own notes and make a poster using items from the archive.

[My Archive](#)

The Bracero History Archive is continuing to collect the stories of the Bracero program.

[Tell Your Story](#)

Check out news about the Bracero History Archive and the Smithsonian exhibit, *Bittersweet Harvest*.

[Bracero History News](#)



BRACERO
HISTORY ARCHIVE



Archive

Teaching

History

Resources

About

Partners

Contribute a Story or File

Title of Contribution (optional)

What kind of contribution will you be making?

Your Story

Allow for Contributions

The New Woman Online

[Browse Items](#) [Browse Collections](#) [Browse Exhibits](#) [About](#)

Featured Item

Donna Quixote



"Donna Quixote" (Punch 28 April 1894). The caption quotes Cervantes's novel: "A world of disorderly notions picked out of books, crowded into..."

Featured Collection

New Woman Online

The New Woman Online is an interdisciplinary online environment through which scholars and students can interact with scientific, literary,...

Recently Added Items

"Man or Woman - a Toss Up"



"Man or Woman - A Toss Up" by Linley Sambourne (Punch 10 April 1880) [see more](#)

Donna Quixote



"Donna Quixote" (Punch 28 April 1894). The caption quotes Cervantes's novel: "A world of disorderly notions picked out of books, crowded into..." [see more](#)

Featured Item

Donna Quixote



"Donna Quixote" (Punch 28 April 1894). The caption quotes Cervantes's novel: "A world of disorderly notions picked out of books, crowded into..."

Recently Added Items

"Man or Woman - a Toss Up"



"Man or Woman - A Toss Up" by Linley Sambourne (Punch 10 April 1880) [see more](#)

Recently Added & Featured Items on Index Page

Getting Started with Omeka: Things to Know

Open Source

Server-Side (LAMP: Linux, Apache, MySQL, PHP5)

Omeka.net (Test Before Committing)

Designed with Non-IT Specialists in Mind

Resembles Many Other CMS's (e.g., WordPress)

Dreamhost Offers One-Click Installs

Anchored in Dublin Core Metadata for Discovery

Can Be Used for Essays, Dissertations,

Collaborations, and Primary Source Collections

Getting Started with Omeka: Questions to Ask

Why Omeka instead of, say, WordPress?

Do I know HTML, CSS, PHP? (4 Themes Available)

Who will push updates when they're necessary?

How long will it take to build? (Double the estimate.)

Do I have necessary permissions?

Does my university provide technical support?

Where will it be stored? On what server?

How will the work figure into my career trajectories?

What themes & plugins are available? Affordances?

Getting Started with Omeka: Questions to Ask

Who else has used it? Persuasive example uses?

Who will moderate contributions (if applicable)?

What does it mean to “publish” an exhibit?

Who are potential partners? Collaboration charter?

What are smart practices for digitization?

Could I integrate it into, say, project-based courses?

How do I avoid reinventing the wheel?

Have I talked with a librarian?

How will it function ten years after it is “done”?

Modeling an Omeka Project

DIY Exhibit

Items

Collections

Item Types

Tags

Exhibits

Simple Pages

Dropbox

Dashboard

Core Components:

Item (with Dublin Core and Type)














Collection

Tag

Exhibit

Browse Item Types (13 total)

[Add an Item Type](#)

Type Name	Description	Total Number of Items	Edit?
Document	A resource containing textual data. Note that facsimiles or images of texts are still of the genre text.	0	 Edit
Moving Image	A series of visual representations that, when shown in succession, impart an impression of motion.	0	 Edit
Oral History	A resource containing historical information obtained in interviews with persons having firsthand knowledge.	20	 Edit
Sound	A resource whose content is primarily intended to be rendered as audio.	44	 Edit
Still Image	A static visual representation. Examples of still images are: paintings, drawings, graphic designs, plans and maps. Recommended best practice is to assign the type "text" to images of textual materials.	15	 Edit
Website	A resource comprising of a web page or web pages and all related assets (such as images, sound and video files, etc.).	0	 Edit
Event	A non-persistent, time-based occurrence. Metadata for an event provides descriptive information that is the basis for discovery of the purpose, location, duration, and responsible agents associated with an event. Examples include an exhibition, webcast, conference, workshop, open day, performance, battle, trial, wedding, tea party, conflagration.	0	 Edit
Email	A resource containing textual messages and binary attachments sent electronically from one person to another or one person to many people.	0	 Edit
Lesson Plan	Instructional materials.	0	 Edit
Hyperlink	Title, URL, Description or annotation.	0	 Edit
Person	An individual, biographical data, birth and death, etc.	0	 Edit
Interactive Resource	A resource requiring interaction from the user to be understood, executed, or experienced. Examples include forms on Web pages, applets, multimedia learning objects, chat services, or virtual reality environments.	0	 Edit
Music Clip	A sound file of a musical recording.	0	 Edit

A Typical Omeka Workflow for Items (after Omeka is installed and the project is modeled, w/ a finding aid and functional design)

Add Files to Server (Batch Upload Possible)

Attribute Dublin Core Metadata (Controlled Vocab)

Attribute Item Type

Assign to Collection

Assign Files to Item (1st File Should be a Thumbnail)

Attribute Tag(s)

License the Item

Assign Item Relations (if applicable)

Add an Item

Public: Featured:

Dublin Core

Item Type Metadata

Collection

Files

Tags

Miscellaneous

Item Relations

Dublin Core

The Dublin Core metadata element set. These elements are common to all Omeka resources, including items, files, collections, exhibits, and entities. See <http://dublincore.org/documents/dces/>.

Title


 Add Input

Use HTML

A name given to the resource. Typically, a Title will be a name by which the resource is formally known.

Subject

 Add Input

Select Below 

Use HTML

The topic of the resource. Typically, the subject will be represented using keywords, key phrases, or classification codes. Recommended best practice is to use a controlled vocabulary. To describe the spatial or temporal topic of the resource, use the Coverage element.

Description

 Add Input

A Typical Omeka Workflow for Exhibits (after Omeka is installed, project is modeled with aid, site is designed, and items are added)

Install Exhibit Builder Plugin (under settings)

Author an Exhibit Locally (e.g., HTML, Word)

Give Exhibit a Title, “Slug,” Credits, & Tags

Add Exhibit Sections and Pages

Pull Items into Pages

Paste Content (i.e., Text/Markup) from Local Drive

Save the Exhibit

Exhibit Metadata

Exhibit Title

Exhibit Slug (no spaces or special characters)

Exhibit Credits

Exhibit Description








B *I* U        Format HTML

Exhibit Tags

Exhibit is featured:



Exhibit is public:



Exhibit Theme


Exhibit Sections and Pages

Introduction


 [Edit Section](#)

 [Delete Section](#)

Pages:

 Introduction

 [Edit](#)

 [Delete](#)

 [Add a Page](#)


To reorder sections or pages, click and drag the section or page up or down to the preferred location.

Definition


 [Edit Section](#)

 [Delete Section](#)

Pages:

 Definition

 [Edit](#)

 [Delete](#)

 [Add a Page](#)

Evolution of DIY

 [Edit Section](#)

 [Delete Section](#)

1

 Remove This Item

[Untitled]



Caption

B *I* U    Format HTML

Sto Money of Cinders

<http://archive.cindersgallery.com/news/sto+kbhallway.jpg>

2

B *I* U    Format HTML

"DIY is getting your hands dirty. It's staying up all night, covered in silkscreen ink, delirious, making posters for a show and then going out and wheat-pasting them all over town as the sun comes up. It's hanging out in Kinkos when your friend has a shift there so you can scam free copies, use their glue and paper-cutter, and finally finish that zine you've been talking about doing. It's sleeping on lots of floors, barely making enough for gas money to get to the next town. It's emailing A LOT of people. It's trusting yourself and your community. It's making it work no matter what. It's SHARING. It's improvising. It's walking a tight rope without a net. It's making mistakes. It involves a certain amount of Positive Mental Attitude, along with

A Typical Omeka Workflow for Delivery (after Omeka is installed, project is modeled, site is designed, items are added, & exhibits are built)

Determine Which Items and Exhibits Are “Featured”

Add “About” & Other Such Pages (Simple Pages)

Conduct a Round of Content Editing

Conduct Usability Tests

Repeatedly Test the Search Engine

Make Items and Exhibits Public

Announce Release

Edit Item #38: "The Thermals (1 of 3)"

Public: Featured:

Dublin Core

Item Type Metadata

Collection

Files

Tags

Miscellaneous

Item Relations

Dublin Core

The Dublin Core metadata element set. These elements are common to all Omeka resources, including items, files, collections, exhibits, and entities. See <http://dublincore.org/documents/dces/>.

Title

 Add Input


The Thermals (1 of 3)

Use HTML

A name given to the resource. Typically, a Title will be a name by which the resource is formally known.

Subject

 Add Input

Sound recording 

Use HTML

The topic of the resource. Typically, the subject will be represented using keywords, key phrases, or classification codes. Recommended best practice is to use a controlled vocabulary. To describe the spatial or temporal topic of the resource, use the Coverage element.

Description

 Add Input

The Thermals performing at the Crocodile Cafe in Seattle

Omeka Test Run

Cluster 1: bit.ly/1omeka

Cluster 2: bit.ly/2omeka

Cluster 3: bit.ly/3omeka

Cluster 4: bit.ly/omeka4

Model Possible Project (Items & Exhibit Names)

Add Five Items (w/ Dublin Core, Type, & Collection)

Try Sketching an Exhibit (w/o content?)

Play with Themes (under settings)

Evaluating Omeka Projects

BaseCamp for Documentation and Organization

Have Someone Review Your Exhibit

Use Deliberate Rhetoric (e.g., avoid “website”)

Treat Exhibit as a Genre (particular kind of argument)

Review Department Policies for Digital Scholarship

Review MLA Guidelines for Digital Scholarship:

Accessibility, Medium Specificity, Clear Roles/

Contributions

Exhibits and Sites Referenced Today

Omeka.org and Omeka.net

Deena Larsen Collection: mith.umd.edu/larsen/

Tredegar: leeannghajar.com/tredegar/

Inventing Europe: inventingeurope.eu/

Bracero History Archive: braceroarchive.org/

The New Woman Online: newwoman.omeka.net/

Thank You

Jentery Sayers

Assistant Professor, English

University of Victoria

jentery@uvic.ca / [@jenterysayers](https://twitter.com/jenterysayers)



**University
of Victoria**