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# Bringing Special Collections to Life: Open-Source Tools for Digital Exhibit Creation

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# Bringing Special Collections to Life:

Open Source Tools for Digital  
Exhibit Creation

BUTLER UNIVERSITY



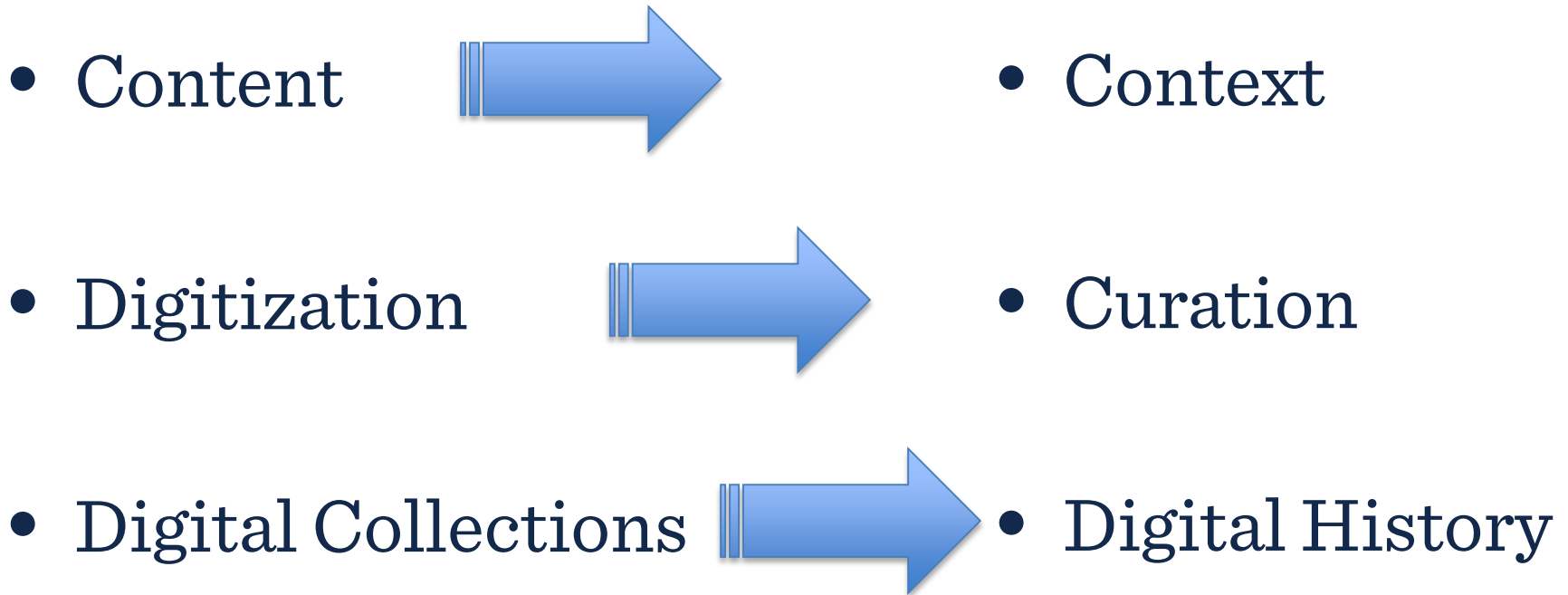
## SETTING THE STAGE

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- In 2014, Butler Libraries received a 2-Year “Innovation Fund” Grant (\$10,000) to digitize and curate our archives/special collections
  - It covered:
    - Student Personnel
    - New Equipment
    - **The Subscription to Omeka.net Platinum**
- The Butler Digital History Initiative was established.

# DREAMING BIG: BDHI

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**2 YEARS LATER**

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Just Like Magic...

# LETS BACK UP JUST A BIT



## TOOLS

- VPS hosting and maintenance (LAMP solution)
- FTP
- Omeka
- Neatline
- Timeline JS
- Universal Viewer
- HTML
- CSV
- PHP
- Javascript
- CSS
- Scanners
- Procedures
- PM Software
- CONTENT!!!!

## TALENT

- Web Development and Maintenance
- Information Architecture
- Project Management
- Archivists and Content Specialists
- Metadata Specialists
- Graphic Design
- External Stakeholders
- ...Exceptional Students

## LETS BACK UP JUST A BIT

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- Omeka.net = Waste of Money
  - Literally \$1000 down the drain.



- Ambitious goals require the correct tools...

# IF YOU WANT TO GET IT DONE RIGHT...DO IT YOURSELF

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- Getting the exhibit online requires...  
A Server!!!
  - LAMP = Linux + Apache + MySQL + PHP
  - Dreamhost.org- VPS (Virtual Private Server) LAMP in a box.
  - In actuality, any computer can act as a server...





# IF YOU WANT TO GET IT DONE RIGHT...DO IT YOURSELF

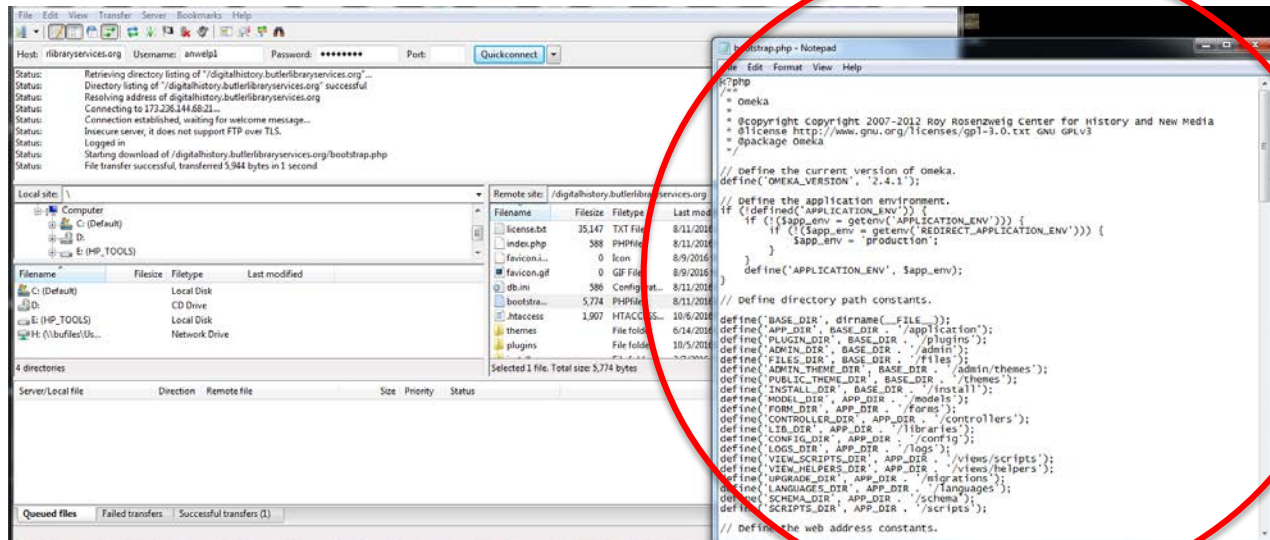
- FTP Client

- Getting content to your server necessarily some protocol to do so.

- Open source solutions:

- FileZilla, WinSCP, CyberDuck (Mac)

Hi, I'm Omeka!



# IF YOU WANT TO GET IT DONE RIGHT...DO IT YOURSELF

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- Omeka

- Backbone of Butler Digital History Initiative
- Open Source Software Suite, ***NOT***, Omeka.net
- Powerful tools for Content Management and Digital Curation
- Completely Customizable, Format Agnostic
- Not hosted by 3<sup>rd</sup> party- **If it breaks, you have to fix it!**



# IF YOU WANT TO GET IT DONE RIGHT...DO IT YOURSELF

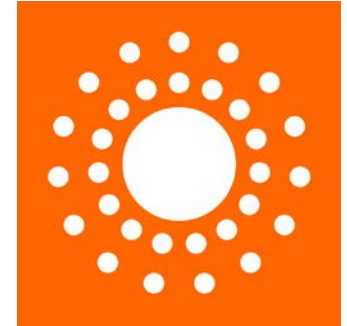
- Ingesting Content in Omeka:

- Manually

- CSV import;

- Dublin Core, and DC Terms Compliant

- Requires objects to be hosted (<http://example.jpg>)




	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M	N	O	P	Q
1	Dublin Co	Dublin Co	Dublin Co	Dublin Co	Dublin Co	Dublin Co	Dublin Co	Dublin Co	Dublin Co	Dublin Co	Dublin Co	Dublin Co	Dublin Co	Dublin Core:	Item Type	Metadata:URL	
2	Burgess H	Butler Col	Postcard f	W. Frank J	Butler University Arc	Buildings	postcard	Indianapolis; Indian	CC-BY-NC	StillImage	English			butlerlibraryservices.org/buildingsgr			
3	Burgess H	Butler Col	Reverse si	W. Frank J	Butler University Arc	Buildings	postcard	Indianapolis; Indian	CC-BY-NC	StillImage	English			butlerlibraryservices.org/buildingsgr			
4	Burgess H	Butler Col	Photo featuring Burg	Butler University Arc	Buildings	photo	Indianapolis; Indian	CC-BY-NC	StillImage	English				butlerlibraryservices.org/buildingsgr			
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13	Burgess H	Butler Col	Photo featuring Burg	Butler University Arc	Buildings	photo	Indianapolis; Indian	CC-BY-NC	StillImage	English				butlerlibraryservices.org/buildingsgr			
14	Burgess H	Butler Col	Photo featuring Burg	Butler University Arc	Buildings	photo	Indianapolis; Indian	CC-BY-NC	StillImage	English				butlerlibraryservices.org/buildingsgr			
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16	Chemical	Butler Col	Photo featuring Che	Butler University Arc	Buildings	photo	Indianapolis; Indian	CC-BY-NC	StillImage	English				butlerlibraryservices.org/buildingsgr			
17	Chemical	Butler Col	Photo featuring Che	Butler University Arc	Buildings	photo	Indianapolis; Indian	CC-BY-NC	StillImage	English				butlerlibraryservices.org/buildingsgr			
18	Chemical	Butler Col	Photo featuring Che	Butler University Arc	Buildings	photo	Indianapolis; Indian	CC-BY-NC	StillImage	English				butlerlibraryservices.org/buildingsgr			

# IF YOU WANT TO GET IT DONE RIGHT...DO IT YOURSELF

- Exhibit Builder
  - Facilitates Curation and Contextualization
  - Digital Object Model: *Items Live Independently*



The screenshot displays the Butler Digital History Exhibit Builder interface. The top navigation bar includes "Butler Digital History", "Plugins", "Appearance", "Users", "Settings", "Welcome, Butler Digital History Initiative", and "Log Out". A left sidebar menu lists various options: Dashboard, Items, Collections, Item Types, Tags, Exhibits (highlighted), Simple Pages, Neatline, Neatline Time, CSV Import, Comments, and LC Suggest. The main content area is titled "Browse Exhibits (5 total)" and features a search bar and an "Add an Exhibit" button. Below this is a table listing five exhibits with columns for Title, Tags, Theme, and Date Added.

Title	Tags	Theme	Date Added
 Physicians Assistant 20th Anniversary Edit · Delete		Avantgarde	Apr 7, 2016
 Irwin Library 50th Anniversary Edit · Delete		Emiglio	May 18, 2016
 Indiana Bicentennial Edit · Delete		Thanks, Roy	Jun 7, 2016
 Tony Hinkle and His Fieldhouse Edit · Delete		Seasons	Jun 16, 2016
 Butler Tree Hunt (Private) Edit · Delete		Seasons	Jul 25, 2016

Powered by Omeka | Documentation | Support Forums

Version 2.4.1 | System Information

# IF YOU WANT TO GET IT DONE RIGHT...DO IT YOURSELF

- Other Tools and Add-Ons

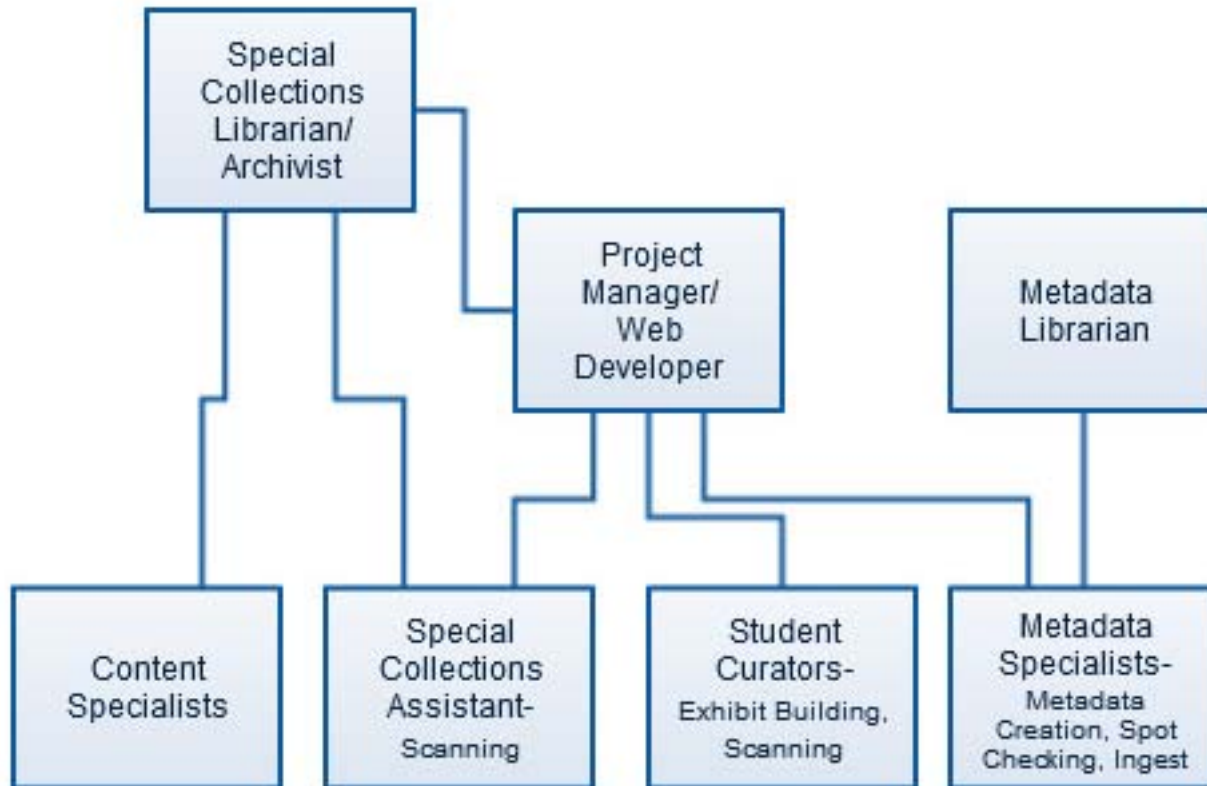
- Enable additional functionality; move us from the realm of Digital Collections to Digital History



# ...YOU'LL ALSO NEED A TEAM!

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- BDHI Project Structure



## ...YOU'LL ALSO NEED A TEAM!

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- Archivist and Special Collections Librarian
  - Dictates priorities for digitization and curation
    - Data driven decisions
      - based on highly used collections and reference statistics
  - Historical Accuracy
- Content Specialist(s)
  - Provides professional copy for exhibits

## ...YOU'LL ALSO NEED A TEAM!

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- Web Development and Maintenance
  - BDHI relies on internal web development and maintenance
  - We run and maintain our own server and install all software ourselves.
- Exhibit and Website Customization
  - PHP, Javascript, HTML, CSS are all necessary.
- Project Management
  - Coordinates different personnel and serves as point of contact



## ...YOU'LL ALSO NEED A TEAM!

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- Metadata Specialists
  - Dublin Core and Dublin Core Terms
  - DPLA compliant elements
  - Controlled Vocabularies (LCSH, Name Authority Creation)
  - Content Accuracy Spot Checking
    - Incredibly important

## ...YOU'LL ALSO NEED A TEAM!

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- Our Students!
  - The All-Stars of our team!
  - Initially Grant-Funded
    - Talks of restructuring our student personnel
  - Do Not Underestimate What They're Capable Of!
  - Have defined SLOs
    - Cross-seeding with RIO mission statements/strategic priorities



# MOVING FORWARD

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- Interoperability
  - OAI/PMH Repo/Harvester Compliance
    - Plugin Available, Limited Scope- Needs Customization (further schema modifications)
  - DPLA Ingestion
    - Our Hub at ISL has multiple available options for this
      - OAI Protocol Gold Standard (automation)
- Staffing
  - Grant Ran Out This Year
  - Strategic Initiatives/Prioritization

# IF YOU BUILD IT THEY WILL COME

- Internal Institutional Partners
  - Physician Assistant Program Archives



- History Department
  - Digital History curricular integration

# IF YOU BUILD IT THEY WILL COME

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- IN 200 Legacy Project
  - Our Digital Exhibit on Butler and the Bicentennial is an official IN 200 Legacy Project.
  - Made in Conjunction with Physical Event



# CONSIDERATIONS FOR IMPLEMENTATION

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- Administrative Buy-In
  - Strategic Prioritization
  - Staffing
    - How much would you need to outsource to other departments?
- Infrastructure
  - Your goals should dictate your tools
  - You don't need a lot to start!
  - Keep in mind your server limitations
- Alternatives
  - CONTENTdm, ArchivesSpace, WordPress

# QUESTIONS

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