

# Digital Scholarship Systems for Connecting Scholars and Libraries

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**Document developed to support research and library collaborative project case study presentation and accompanying discussion, on June 24, 2014 at the UF Smathers Libraries.**

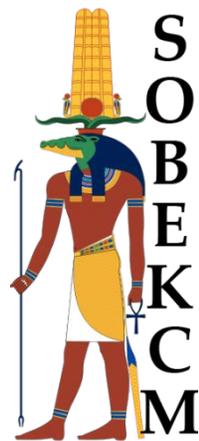
## Overview<sup>i</sup>

Selected examples of digital scholarship systems for connecting scholars and libraries are briefly explained below. The example systems are parallel, integrated, or serve as digital library systems as well as digital scholarship systems.

Digital scholarship projects perhaps most frequently utilize various existing software and tools, often creating new modules or entirely new software. In many of cases, these systems are used by scholars without direct collaboration with libraries. In many project-based and specifically focused cases, scholars may be using digital library and similar software, and it may have some connection or support through the libraries. For these, the specific implementations may be unscaled by design and often have more bespoke development.

The selected examples below are major systems in use by scholars and scholarly communities with that use both including and extending beyond finding and storing research materials, and with that use being in a manner that integrates with and extends to current and future ongoing scholarly practices.

## Collection, Project, and Program (Research Field) Systems



**Example: SobekCM**

SobekCM was designed by and for libraries, archives, museums, and scholars in collaboration together to meet access and preservation needs at the institutional and community member or partner levels, and in a manner that did so while supporting and integrating with parallel activities and systems.

SobekCM supports these needs in part through the underlying architecture with an aggregation-based model for collections/groupings, PairTree structure for digital preservation and repository functions, online user management tools for different contributor and curator levels, online curator tools for digitization and digital curation workflows with tracking and reporting which support holding institution and scholar needs, online web editing tools, extensive metadata mapping and integration with automatic transformations and harvesting, and more. SobekCM's development is done based on user

collaboration, formal, usability studies, and informal feedback gathering. When new features are implemented for specific needs, they are available for all.

SobekCM is a foundational system for digital scholarship, which implements sustainable features and functions that are cutting-edge. SobekCM has not implemented bleeding-edge technologies or experimental technologies. SobekCM is often used as one of two or more core components for cutting edge digital scholarship, with experimental and volatile functions provided by the other component systems.

Selected project examples powered by SobekCM include:

- Digital Library of the Caribbean ([www.dloc.com](http://www.dloc.com)) and dLOC as Component in Experimental Projects-in-Development
  - Early Caribbean Digital Archive (<http://omekasites.northeastern.edu/ECDA/about>)
  - Caribbean Digital /Caribbean Commons (<http://caribbean.commons.gc.cuny.edu/2014/04/01/the-caribbean-digital/>) with *small axe's sx:archipelagos*.
- Baldwin Library of Historical Children's Literature (<http://ufdc.ufl.edu/baldwin>) including the in-development the Early American Children's Literature Collection
- UF Center for the Humanities & the Public Sphere, Digital Humanities Collection, as part of a proposal for a UF Digital Humanities Graduate Certificate (<http://ufdc.ufl.edu/digitalhumanities>)



#### **Example: Collex Software and the Advanced Research Consortium (ARC)**

Collex<sup>1</sup> was designed by and for scholars as an open-source aggregator for digital objects, which harvests metadata from various repositories and placing all materials within an interface specifically tailored for scholarly needs. Collex supports collections and exhibits has been in use for NINES (Nineteenth-Century Scholarship Online) since 2006, and continued to expand with usage by scholars for other scholarly fields. The Advanced Research Consortium (ARC) was created to support communities in gathering resources together from various sources, including libraries, "to allow one-stop searching of materials organized in ways that scholars think."<sup>2</sup>

Projects powered by Collex and in collaboration with ARC include:

- 18<sup>th</sup>Connect: <http://www.18thconnect.org/>
- NINES (Nineteenth-Century Scholarship Online): [www.nines.org](http://www.nines.org)
- Medieval Electronic Scholarly Alliance (MESA): <http://www.mesa-medieval.org/>
- ModNets (Modernism on the Net): [www.luc.edu/ctsdh/researchprojects/modernistnetworks/](http://www.luc.edu/ctsdh/researchprojects/modernistnetworks/)
- ReKn (Renaissance Knowledge Project): <http://rekn.idhmc.org/>

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<sup>1</sup> <http://www.collex.org/>

<sup>2</sup> <http://idhmc.tamu.edu/arcgrant/about/> ARC is hosted by Texas A&M University's Initiative for Digital Humanities, Media, & Culture, in the English Department: <http://idhmc.tamu.edu/original-mission-statement/>



### Example: DH Press

DH Press (<http://dhpress.org/>) was created by the Digital Innovation Lab at UNC-Chapel Hill. The Digital Innovation Lab is “Associated with the Department of American Studies” (<http://digitalinnovation.unc.edu/about-2/>).

DH Press Beta is designed as a Digital Humanities Toolkit that is a WordPress plugin. The plugin enables administrative users to mashup and visualize a variety of digitized humanities-related material, including historical maps, images, manuscripts, and multimedia content. DH Press can be used to create a range of digital projects, from virtual walking tours and interactive exhibits, to classroom teaching tools and community repositories — all at the touch of a button through the WordPress content management system architecture. Example projects with DH Press use WordPress as the system for holding and organizing materials (ingested or referenced from repositories).

Example Project: Recovering Hayti: <http://dhpress.org/recovering-hayti/>



### Example: Omeka

Omeka.net is web-publishing platform that allows anyone with an account to create or collaborate on a website to display collections and build digital exhibitions. Omeka.net and the downloadable Omeka software<sup>3</sup> are being used by many small libraries and scholars for exhibits and digital scholarship projects. Omeka came out of the Roy Rosenzweig Center for New Media at George Mason University.<sup>4</sup>

For larger, cross-project activities, Omeka’s easy single-project templating can become an obstacle as reported by Ohio State University.<sup>5</sup>

Example Project: Boston Marathon Archive (<http://marathon.neu.edu/about>)

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### End Notes

<sup>1</sup> The UF Smathers Libraries are atypical in the degree of integration across systems. Many academic research libraries utilize separate systems for different materials types and activities related to collections and scholarly activities. This can include separate software, hosting, support people, activities, and more for a great variety of systems, including:

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<sup>3</sup> <http://info.omeka.net/about/> and <http://omeka.org/>

<sup>4</sup> <http://chnm.gmu.edu/>

<sup>5</sup> <http://library.osu.edu/documents/exhibits-committee/DigitalExhibitsPilotProjectFinalReport-wAppendicies.docx>

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- Institutional digital libraries; often as:
    - Single system for “library” materials only; not including research materials, data, less traditional/common material types, etc.
    - Institutional digital libraries and systems for different material types, projects, etc. (e.g., a system for each major material type: newspapers, photographs, books, audio, video, etc.)
  - Institutional repositories (e.g., internally and externally hosted versions of various software and systems, sometimes defined to support only research articles or only materials of certain types, etc.)
  - Data repositories (can be for data only)
  - Software repositories
  - Collaborative digital libraries (often entirely separate software to support needs of the collaborative, format types, activities, workflows, etc.)
  - Exhibits (e.g., basic web/HTML, content management system, specific supports for each or all local exhibits)
  - Archives (e.g., Archon and Archivists’ Toolkit which are becoming ArchivesSpace, Aeon)
  - Museum collections (e.g., TMS, Past Perfect, etc. with supports for provenance, labels, label changes, etc.)
  - Separate systems connected to (or no connection with) research computing and high performance computing systems (e.g., UF Research Computing and HiPerGator)
  - Separate digital scholarship systems (e.g., may be with community software to support sharing of digital scholarship with discussions). Digital scholarship community systems provide online places and tools for communicating, collaborating, sharing resources, and similar community activities which are akin to commons areas and physical library meeting spaces (e.g., community systems powered by Commons in a Box, <http://commonsinbox.org/>, Modern Language Association, <http://commons.mla.org/>, and the beta Florida Digital Humanities site <http://fldh.org/>).

The UF Smathers Libraries are very parallel to the University of North Texas Libraries in having an integrated approach to institutional and collaborative digital libraries (all materials/types, including IR, data, newspapers, etc.; see: [http://digital.library.unt.edu/ark:/67531/metadc185795/m2/1/high\\_res\\_d/Exhibit%20Proposal.pdf](http://digital.library.unt.edu/ark:/67531/metadc185795/m2/1/high_res_d/Exhibit%20Proposal.pdf)) along with digital scholarship, and along with integration across other connected and related systems. The UF Smathers Libraries use SobekCM for the core integrated system. In addition to SobekCM, the UF Smathers Libraries utilize various other systems connected with and separate from SobekCM as best supports workflows, user needs, and resource availability. Other separate systems in use include:

- UF Data Centers for hosting and other centralized data needs
- UF Research Computing and HiPerGator for high performance computing, with additional integration planned for metadata/findability in the SobekCM digital library with computational support for digital library materials through UF Research Computing
- Florida Digital Archive for digital preservation (with investigation/discussion of DPN and others)
- Exhibits, primarily hosted on the Libraries’ web space or in SobekCM, with materials in SobekCM
- Internal archival location information in Archon
- Museum collections (item database and digitized items) in SobekCM
- Access and findability through many systems using SobekCM’s API, MARXML feed, OAI-PMH, XML browses, RSS feeds, sitemaps, microdata, and more, and are thus available through major web search engines with search engine optimization (SEO), major library portals (Digital Public Library of American, National Library of Australia’s Trove catalog), major scholarly portals (NINES: Nineteenth-Century Scholarship Online; 18thConnect for Eighteenth-Century Scholarship), and more: <http://ufdc.ufl.edu/sobekcm/harvesting> and <http://ufdc.ufl.edu/sobekcm/robots>