

# Digital Tools to Showcase Collections



**Nichole Shea, Statewide Metadata Coordinator Boston Public Library**  
**Julia Howington, University Archivist, Suffolk University**

## Program Outline

**Introductions**

**Selection Criteria**

**Survey of Digital Platforms**

**Questions and Discussion of Audience Projects**

---

## Selection Criteria

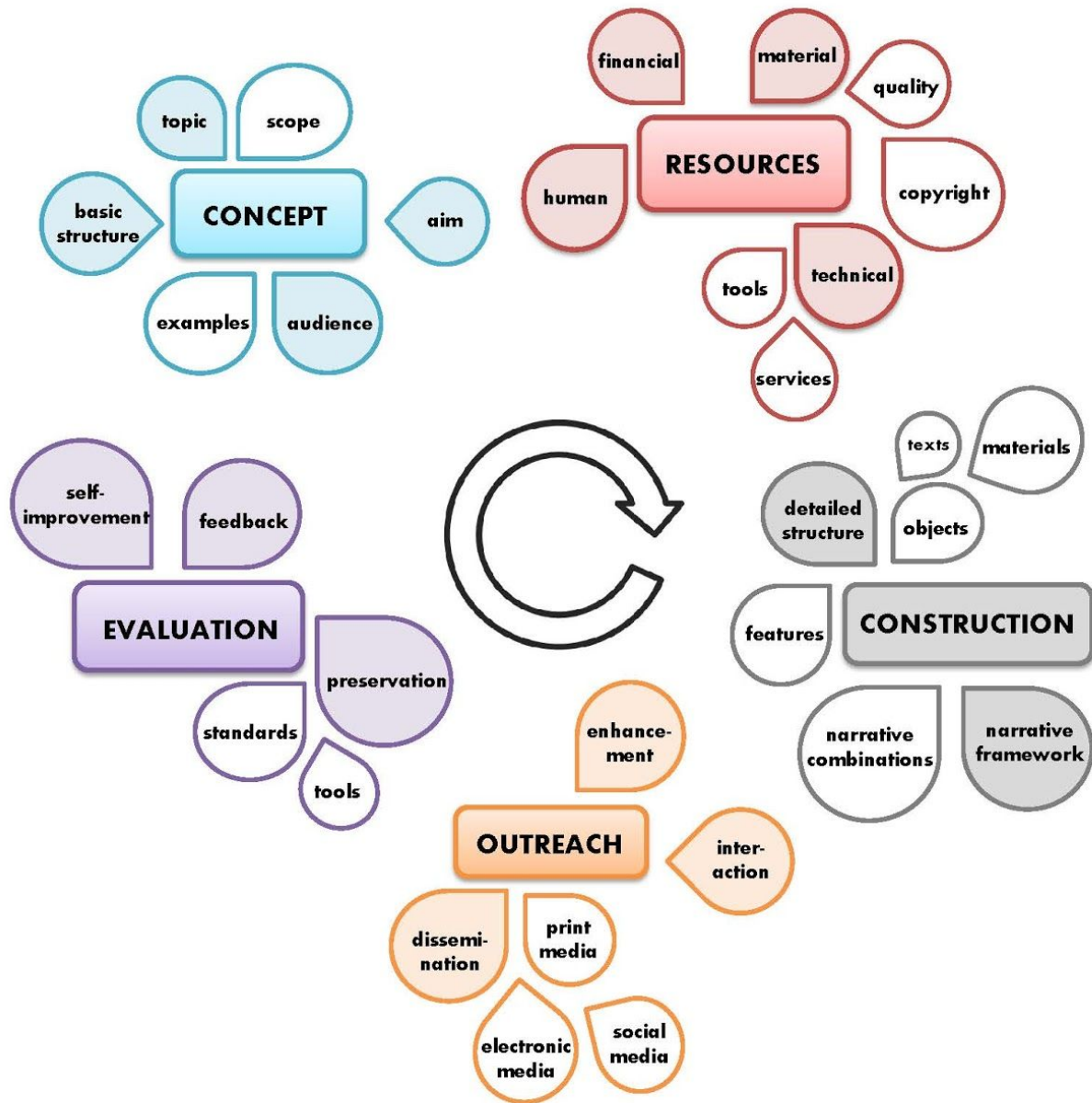
### Functionality

- Project purpose
- Audience
- Need for Interactive or Social Features

### Resources

- Budget
- Staffing
- IT Infrastructure
- Amount of Content

# Things to consider before creating a DIGITAL EXHIBITION



[www.digitalexhibitions.org](http://www.digitalexhibitions.org)  
by an international working  
group in cooperation with



Poster produced by the digital exhibitions working group in 2015

## Technical Considerations

### Media

- Does it support your file format and size?
- Can users see enough detail?
- Where will your files live?

### Functionality

- Does it work across browsers/devices?
- Do you need to consider accessibility?
- Do you need to add a plugin?

## Survey of Digital Platforms

### Digital Commonwealth Features

#### Share items directly from DC

- Supports sharing on many popular social media platforms
- Facebook
- Twitter
- Pinterest

#### Use Folders and Saved Search Results

- Sign in to create an account
- Create folders for materials sets
- Create citation lists
- Email lists of items to patrons
- View Shared Folders created by other users:  
<https://www.digitalcommonwealth.org/folders/public>

### Omeka

- Web-based platform designed for digital exhibitions
  - <http://www.omeka.net/> or <http://omeka.org/>
  - Free account with hosted space OR Paid accounts with more versatility
  - Plugins extend functionality
  - Thorough documentation provides support
- Example projects
  - Pullman: Labor, Race, and the Urban Landscape in a Company Town
    - <http://publications.newberry.org/pullman/>

- Simple pages move the user through a narrative with supplemental materials
- A Concourse for Her Desires: Gender and Urban Renewal
  - <http://acad.colby.edu/mappingwaterville/neatline/show/charles-street>
  - Neatline plugin displays map overlay
- Making the History of 1989
  - <http://chnm.gmu.edu/1989/>
  - Powered by Omeka.org, this project facilitates educational use of materials

### **Historypin**

- Geared towards community, Historypin is a social platform
  - <https://www.historypin.org/>
  - Discussion boards
  - Users can comment on pins
  - Users can add their own pins to open collections
  - Users can add your pins to their collections and tours
  - Creators are allowed to give approximate dates and locations, while users can suggest dates, locations, and tags
- Example projects
  - H. H. Richardson: Massachusetts Architecture
    - <https://www.historypin.org/en/h-h-richardson-massachusetts-architecture>
    - Good use of Google Maps for then/now images
  - Sound Connections: Birdlife
    - <https://www.historypin.org/en/sound-connections/birdlife>
    - Audio clips and crowdsourcing/comments
  - Mission St. from the 1920s to the 1990s
    - <https://www.historypin.org/en/mission-st-from-the-1920s-to-the-1990-s>
    - Example of a tour

### **Knight Lab Applications**

- Developed out of the Northwestern University School of Journalism, <http://knightlab.northwestern.edu/>
- “The Lab develops prototypes, projects and services that help make information meaningful and promote quality journalism, storytelling and content on the internet.”
- 4 applications are really well-suited for digital exhibits
- Each application comes with detailed instructions and examples
- Options to add/embed to existing webpages or blog platforms, or can also be used stand-alone (hosted by Knightlab in Google Drive)

### **Timeline:**

- Plot text, photos, links and av on a timeline
- Embed it on almost any webpage, stand-alone possible
- pull in media from Twitter, Flickr, YouTube, Vimeo, Vine, Dailymotion, Google Maps, Wikipedia, SoundCloud, Document Cloud and more
- Example Projects:
  - WBUR Radio: Bulger on Trial  
<http://bulger.wbur.org/story/1977/?location=44444>
  - Obama Presidential Library:  
<https://www.obamalibrary.gov/timeline#event-69>

### **StoryMap**

- Layer content (photos, video, audio, etc.) on standard web maps
- Suited for geographically-themed stories: Paul Revere's Ride, Annual Animal Migrations
- Works on Wordpress, custom sites, SquareSpace and Wix
- Example Project:
  - Minnesota Post Green Line:  
<https://www.minnpost.com/stroll/2014/06/hockey-hip-hop-and-other-green-line-highlights>

### **Sound Cite:**

- Insert music, interview clips, sounds or other types of audio inline on a page of text
- User can read text and listen to audio at the same time, can start and stop anytime
- Works with SoundCloud and other audio storage services
- Example Project:
  - New York Times Article about Tahrir Square protest  
<https://soundcite.knightlab.com/examples-naturalsound.html>

### **Juxtapose:**

- Allows you to place two photos side-by-side to create “then and now” type graphics
- Example Projects:
  - Chicago Tribune  
<http://www.chicagotribune.com/news/history/chi-then-and-now-photos-the-aragon-and-apollo-20150424-htmlstory.html>

## Questions and Discussion of Audience Projects

- **Who is already using a digital tool?**
  - What was your topic?
  - What platform did you use?
  - What did you learn?
  - Challenges?
  - What would you have done differently?
  - Do you have any advice?
- **Who is interested in creating digital exhibits or digital project?**
  - Where in the process are you?
  - What are examples of questions you have right now?
  - Is there anything daunting ahead of you?