



PRESERVING THE PAST WITH TOMORROW'S TECHNOLOGY

*How DePaul University and the University of Ireland,
Galway secured a new home for a Vincentian digital
collection in the Cloud*

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Introduction

DePaul University Library assisted researchers at the National University of Ireland, Galway to preserve their catalogue of Vincentian documents by migrating metadata from an unstable server to a hosted web publishing platform designed for cultural institutions. Based on the collection's requirements and the technical abilities of the researchers and their budget, the project team chose Omeka.net.

The project included simplifying and restructuring the original metadata, encoding it in Unicode, and mapping the elements to the Dublin Core Metadata Element Set. The catalogue will exist as a searchable online database in a stable, standardized, hosted environment that can be easily managed by the researchers as their project expands.

Problem Statement



Due to budget cuts in Ireland, the Early Modern Documents researchers had lost funding for their project. Their data existed on an unsupported website. The DePaul University Library offered technical assistance but faced the challenge of extracting the metadata from the researcher's spreadsheet, and re-formatting it for use on the new platform, Omeka.net.

Collection Info



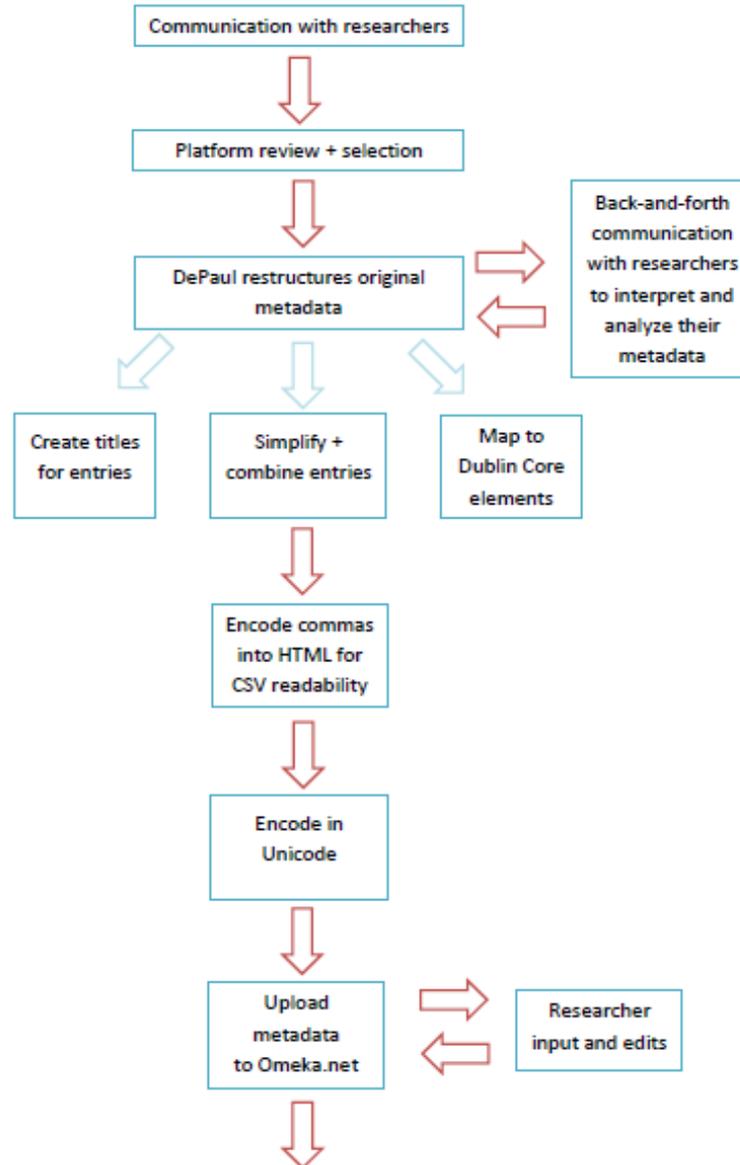
The Early Modern Documents database presents an annotated catalogue of letters and other primary sources from early modern Europe and Africa, tracing the development of Vincent de Paul's Congregation of the Mission over the course of the 17th century. The documents listed in this collection are drawn from the Vatican archives and illustrate the missionary activities of the Congregation from its inception (1625) to the first few years following the death of its founder, Vincent de Paul (1581-1660). They underscore a rich and complex relationship with the Roman Curia and highlight the role of the Papacy in shaping early modern religious, cultural and political frontiers in the context of the Catholic Reformation.

DePaul University has partnered with the National University of Ireland, Galway to ensure accessibility and stability of this online collection.



What is Omeka.net?

Omeka.net is a subscription-based, web-publishing platform designed for creating and collaborating on digital collections and exhibits. It is the hosted version of the Omeka Project, meaning that it requires no IT staff to maintain. The platform forms the center of a growing community of museums, libraries, scholars and developers. In keeping with best practices, Omeka.net employs digital collection standards like Dublin Core and Open Archives Initiative Protocol for Metadata Harvesting (OAI-PMH).



<http://earlymoderndocs.omeka.net>

Value



Through partnering with DePaul University Library, the researchers were able to preserve their valuable database for future use by students and scholars.

Omeka.net is a robust and easy to use platform that will integrate the collection within Omeka's growing digital humanities community.

Outcomes



- Long-term stability
- Metadata standardized
- Enabling researchers to manage collection
- Migrated away from an IT-dependent platform to a hosted platform
- Integrated collection into the larger Omeka Project
- Applied standards to the collection (OAI-PMH, Dublin Core, Unicode) for long-term interoperability