Kent State University

From the SelectedWorks of Virginia A Dressler

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Adapting Omeka for Special Collections and Archival Content

Virginia A Dressler

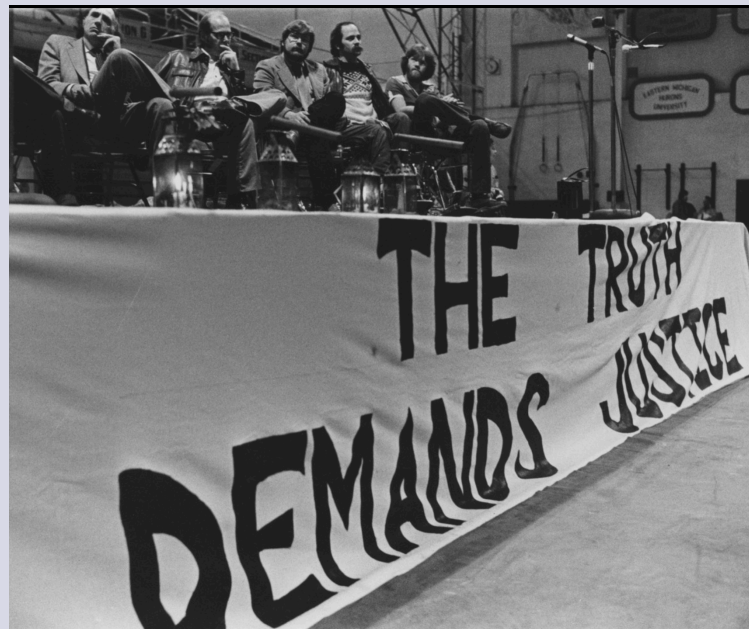# **Adapting Omeka for Special Collections and Archival Content**

Virginia Dressler, MA, MLIS
Digital Projects Librarian
Kent State University

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Background of project

- Migrated to Omeka in November 2015
  - Provided a solution that catered to previous custom interface and potential for future growth
- NHPRC grant: Sept 2016- awarded 2 year grant to digitize a large portion of the May 4 Collection (~72,000 pages of content)

Recent enhancements @ KSU

- Admin updates
  - Move to batch ingesting
  - Shift in ingest process
  - OCR processing change
  - "Auto-linker" finding aid tool
- Implemented Mirador image viewer
  - Better reflects archival arrangement

Move to batch ingest

- For the purpose of the grant, ingesting each subcollection within a larger archival collection made sense for large scale digitization

- Excel spreadsheets provide framework for metadata templates from archival collection metadata

Sample Excel file

Subcollection Title

Finding Aid URL

Access Rights

Ingest individual image files instead of PDFs

- Previously, we ingested raw image files to offline storage while uploading a single PDF to reflect multi-page text items

- Offline storage is now synced to Omeka ingest
  - PDF is automatically generated upon publication (PDF/A 1-b)
  - Ingesting the image files allowed for switch in OCR processing

Tesseract OCR

- Open source software
- More accurate than Adobe Acrobat after comparison tests
- Streamline production workflow

"Auto-linker"

- Detects finding aid URL in metadata record and updates corresponding Drupal based finding aid with new Omeka link
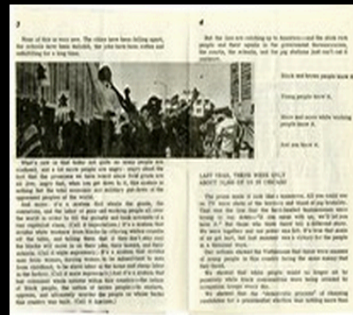
Mirador image viewer

Future work…

- Exploring crowdsourced transcription plug-in for handwritten content

- Digital exhibits

- Expand on existing outreach and promotion of digital collections

**And all code currently available in GitHub

EMBRACE **TECHNOLOGY**

Thank you!

Virginia Dressler

Digital Projects Librarian

vdressle@kent.edu

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