Creating DC’s Built Environment Resource Directory (BERD)

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http://berd.artinterp.org/omeka/
*What we set out to build:* in-depth mobile-based, geo-referenced directory

**ENHANCE**

- More user-friendly interface
- Discoverability
- Accessibility
The Mouthful/Tongue-Twister that is 1998

Research Materials for Architecture and the Built Environment Located in Metropolitan Washington, D.C.

This directory updates the reference book, Architectural Research Materials in the District of Columbia, prepared by Sally Harlson in 1982 and published by the American Institute of Architects Foundation. It has been expanded to include resources in five suburban counties in Maryland (Prince George’s and Montgomery) and Virginia (Arlington, Alexandria and Fairfax). The Web site is an invaluable tool for architectural research in the Washington, D.C. metropolitan area. In addition, it serves as an Internet gateway to listed institutions, providing links to those who are involved in the Web.

The project has been assisted by the Lathope Chapter of the Society of Architectural Historians, and carried out at the University of Maryland School of Architecture by Ann Carson, former head of the Architecture Library and Dr. Isabelle Gourley, Associate Professor and former President of the Lathope Chapter. The Web site is hosted by the University of Maryland Libraries, produced by Katherine Conroy, Architecture Library Graduate Assistant in 1998-1999, and maintained by staff of the Architecture Library.

The directory on the Web compiles organizations who have thus far responded to our request for updated information. If your organization (library, preservation office, archives, etc.) holds documents pertaining to architectural research (whether related to the history of the D.C. metropolitan region or not) and has not yet responded or been approached, please contact Dr. Isabelle Gourley, Associate Professor at the School of Architecture, University of Maryland, College Park, MD 20742, phone: 301-405-6394 or 301-314-7073, email: igourley@umd.edu.
UMD Libraries' supported platform options were limited → started with omeka.net!
- Amazing general contact responses
- Various problems: technical limitations, visually not attractive presentation, better for simple narratives

New partnership with Michelle Smith Collaboratory → switch to omeka.org
- Added values: more maneuverability (ability to explore various presentation styles), visually attractive, collaboration in community of practice and a local student photographer

Journey from omeka.net to omeka.org

45th ARLIS/NA Annual Conference Arts du Monde, New Orleans 02.07.17
http://berd.artinterp.org/omeka/
Demonstration of site

http://berd.artinterp.org/omeka/
Open Scholarship

Association of Research Libraries defines open scholarship as scholarship, which encompasses open access, open data, open educational resource, and all other forms of openness in the scholarly and research environment, that is changing how knowledge is created and shared.
Principles of Openness

Open work requirements:

Open Access: provided as a whole & downloadable via the Internet without charge

Open License or Status: in the public domain or provided under an open license

Machine Readable: readily processable by a computer

Open Format: one which places no restrictions, monetary or otherwise, upon its use and can be fully processed with at least one free/libre/open-source software tool
Principles of Openness

Open access: freely available of scholarly material on the public internet for users to read, distribute, search, link to, and index

-- Budapest Open Access Initiative (BOAI), 2001

BERD directly collected data from repository websites, links to the original site, indexes the content, makes the content searchable, and distributes it in a collated manner

Open License: BERD data is released under a Creative Commons attribution Attribution 4.0 International license.
Principles of Openness

Machine readable: BERD content is marked-up in the language: XML

Open Format: BERD is open and free, there is no cost to use. BERD is published using the free, flexible, and open source web-publishing platform, Omeka, which was intended for the display of library, museum, archives, and scholarly collections and exhibitions
Principles of Openness

Open data - content is open if anyone is free to use, reuse, and redistribute it — subject only, at most, to the requirement to attribute and/or share-alike.

-- Open Knowledge International

Deposit: BERD will publish the raw data as open data in .csv files and .jpg files. In this scenario, researchers, students, and the general public will be able to download the complete data. People will be able to use the raw data for academic, educational, and creative projects.

Plugin: Open Archives Initiative Protocol for Metadata Harvesting (OAI-PMH) registered as a Repository and provides access to Harvesters

http://berd.artinterp.org/omeka/
Principles of Authority

Omeka provides plugins for Dublin Core metadata

Dublin Core Dublin Core Metadata Element Set is a vocabulary of fifteen properties for use in resource description.

BERD item records include the element set, but …
Principles of Authority

Persons, Places & Things: basic tenets of information organization

Process to create the BERD authoritative vocabulary

Natural language tagging ➔ review for synonyms and near matches

Standardize terms: place names ➔ postal abbreviations in contact, spelled out in tag

Set an authorized vocabulary ➔ revise records

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Controlled and consistent vocabulary results in:

Visualization through exhibits and mapping

New understanding
Principles of Authority

Personal Names

Modified Library of Congress Name Authority File

Getty Union List of Artist Names

Enhanced Biography

Occupation tags
Next Steps

We see it as a living source, not static - distributingpermalink

Crowdsourcing for peer review & discovery enhancement

Connect smaller institutions & repositories to each other

Send us your suggestions and/or request for institutional representation through the “Contact Us” tab

Enhanced interactive functions i.e. Neatline plugin
THANK YOU!

http://berd.artinterp.org/omeka/

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