# Work by Arden Kirkland

This PDF presents highlights from my online portfolio, sharing examples of my work with digital projects, project management, curatorial work, and teaching. I encourage you to view these items online at http://www.ardenkirkland.com/work/highlights/, where you can easily follow my links. From my full online portfolio you can also see a wider range of projects, with categories and tags to help you identify specific demonstrated skills.

PDF generated June 15, 2015

# College Women



As a semester-long project for my MSLIS in the spring of 2015, I contributed recommendations for planning, marketing, and outcomes-based assessment for "College Women: The History of Women's Education Digital Portal." The course was IST613, "Planning, Marketing, and Assessing Library Services" at the School of Information Studies at Syracuse University. I consulted with Joanna DiPasquale, the Digital Initiatives Librarian at Vassar College, representing one of the seven institutions participating in this digital portal, the original "Seven Sisters" women's colleges. My report focuses on recommendations for future developments, including a detailed literature review, project plan, marketing plan, and assessment plan, based on an analysis of the stakeholders and institutional focus areas for the digital portal.

The full report is available at http://ardenkirkland.com/Kirkland613FinalReportForPartner.pdf.

https://youtu.be/JXd32wGBQJo

The video of my presentation about my recommendations is also at https://youtu.be/JXd32wGBQJo

Image citation: "Agora." Wellesley College. 1897. College Women. Web. Accessed June 14, 2015. http://collegewomen.org/node/13705

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URL for this portfolio page: http://www.ardenkirkland.com/work/portfolio/college-women/

# Design for Learning

As a Graduate Assistant at the iSchool at Syracuse University, I worked with Dr. David Lankes and Diane Kovacs on the IMLS-funded project "Design for Learning: 21st Century Online Teaching and Learning Skills for Library Workers." This project provides a series of online course modules to help librarians learn how to take their own instructional skills online. I have developed the web presence for this project, customizing the CSS on existing themes so that the Wordpress and Moodle sites can work together seamlessly. My work on the information architecture for this project has focused on consistency and ease of navigation for both the students using the course materials and their instructors.

See this project at http://d4l.syr.edu



Screenshots from the Wordpress and Moodle sites for the Design For Learning project, showing the seamless integration of styling and navigation between the two sites.

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URL for this portfolio page: http://www.ardenkirkland.com/work/portfolio/design-for-learning/

# Digital Artifacts at Vassar



For this project I developed online access to a research collection of historic clothing and related archival materials, most recently using Omeka. The project began in 2001 as an Excel spreadsheet, then was migrated to a Filemaker database that I developed, with custom scripts for management of these complex objects and related materials. Along the way I also refined our process for creating ObjectVRs (interactive 3D views) of the clothing (which I discuss in greater detail at http://www.ardenkirkland.com/work/portfolio/objectvrs-3d-views/). In 2010 the project was migrated to the Omeka platform, combining the database with functionality for detailed exhibitions to accompany our gallery shows. Throughout the many phases of this project I have supervised undergraduate student employees for metadata entry and image processing.

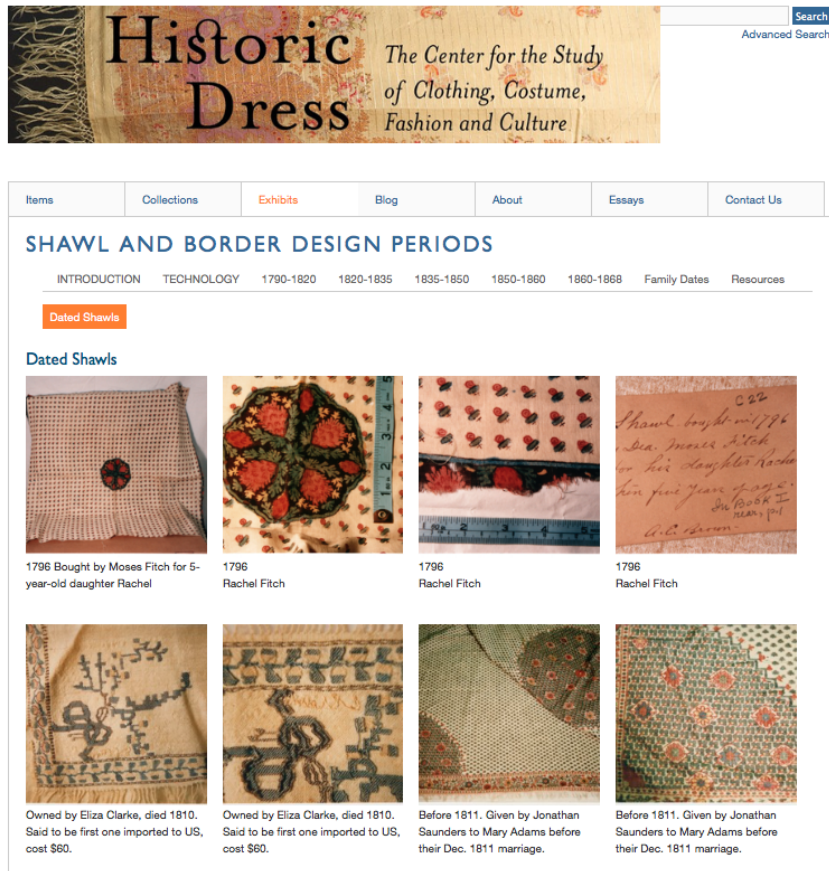**See this project at:** http://vcomeka.com/vccc/

To better represent relationships between items in this collection, I have taken an existing theme for Omeka and customized the functionality for media display, with custom PHP for displaying different metadata for different item types, and for displaying related items, as you can see in an example at http://www.ardenkirkland.com/work/wp-content/uploads/2014/06/kirklandomekaphpexample.pdf.

I have presented about this project on numerous occasions at different stages in its development. For example, in July 2014 I prepared a guest lecture about this project, in the form of a YouTube video, for a class at the School of Information Studies at Syracuse University, as you can see at http://www.ardenkirkland.com/work/portfolio/inside-a-digital-collection/. I also shared this project as a poster at the April 2012 symposium for the National Institute for Technology in Liberal Education (NITLE), as a capstone to my work with the Mellon funded "Digital Archives That Count" initiative, providing support for faculty research building digital archives at liberal arts colleges across the US (http://www.ardenkirkland.com/work/portfolio/digital-clothing-building-a-research-archive/).

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URL for this portfolio page: http://www.ardenkirkland.com/work/portfolio/digital-artifacts-vassar/

# HistoricDress



For this project I have developed prototypes, using both Omeka and ContentDM, for a digital collection of archival materials showing the history of women's clothing in America. I am part of a working group that has been meeting since 2012 to develop innovative digital tools that will increase the educational impact of historic clothing by allowing for specialized access to diverse digital collections of historic clothing and related materials from all across the country. For our prototypes, I worked with Elisa Lanzi to create application profiles for metadata for artifacts and images from the research archive of costume historian Nancy Rexford. I also supervised undergraduate metadata entry using Snapdragon and GoogleDocs, using remote tools to communicate when I could not be on campus.

**See this project at** http://HistoricDress.org/omeka

Our team of working group members and students has used existing platforms to explore the limits of traditional digital collection development and to develop plans for more innovative tools to build on existing and forthcoming collections. Notably, we are building on both the knowledge and the archive of costume historian Nancy Rexford to develop a tool for dating unidentified costume artifacts based on pattern recognition with documented objects. Our educational goal with such a tool is to allow novices working with material culture to more quickly move through the stages of identification and on to more nuanced stages of analysis. We also are working to bring together existing content from multiple collections across the country for enhanced access. Discussion of our progress with this project, especially including undergraduate participation, is documented in a blog at http://HistoricDress.org/wordpress. The ContentDM prototype is temporarily available at http://cdm16858.contentdm.oclc.org/cdm/landingpage/collection/p16858coll9 and has been preserved as screenshots which will be available when the site is no longer live.

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URL for this portfolio page: http://www.ardenkirkland.com/work/portfolio/historicdress-org/

# CDRS Internship

Over the summer of 2014, I was an intern at the Center for Digital Research and Scholarship (CDRS) at Columbia University. This internship was focused on data recovery for the sciences and humanities, into Columbia's institutional repository, Academic Commons.

As a case study, I worked with a recent student's digital humanities project published as an Omeka website. I developed procedures for converting data (including audio and a map) to preservation formats, for cleaning metadata (using OpenRefine), and for submitting the website itself to Columbia's web archiving project. Then I developed a sample data management plan for future student/faculty digital humanities projects.

For another project, I also developed a detailed survey, using Qualtrics, to examine the details involved in getting Columbia researchers in the ecological sciences to submit raw data from their published research into Columbia's institutional repository.

Please see my blog post, "Musings of a CDRS Summer Intern," for more detail about this experience.

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URL for this portfolio page: http://www.ardenkirkland.com/work/portfolio/cdrs-internship/

# Capability Maturity Model for Research Data Management



As a part of my work as a Faculty Research Assistant to Professor Jian Qin at the iSchool at Syracuse University, I edited and maintained a wiki, using XWiki, for documentation of a Capability Maturity Model for Research Data Management (CMM4RDM). This project, a collaboration between Dr. Qin, Dr. Kevin Crowston, and PhD student Charlotte Flynn, opened my eyes to the current lack of maturity in research data management.

**See this project at** http://rdm.ischool.syr.edu

Based on their writing, I developed a rubric for examining the maturity of the research management process for any project or institution, as discussed at http://rdm.ischool.syr.edu/xwiki/bin/view/Blog/A+Rubric+for+the+CMM4RDM. I also helped briefly to promote the project after its initial public launch, in short form on Twitter and in longer blog posts on the wiki itself. My work on this project inspired my greater interest in research data management, especially for the arts and humanities, and led to my internship at the Center for Digital Research and Scholarship at Columbia University, discussed further at http://www.ardenkirkland.com/work/portfolio/cdrs-internship/.

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URL for this portfolio page: http://www.ardenkirkland.com/work/portfolio/cmm4rdm/

# ObjectVRs (3D views)



Since 2009 I have worked with students at Vassar to create ObjectVRs of clothing from the Drama Department's collection. This process involves mounting the garment on a mannequin, placing it on a large turntable, lighting it, and taking at least 18 high resolution still photographs at defined intervals of the rotation. These stills can then be "stitched" together using software such as Object2VR and output as QuickTime or HTML5 movies that allow interaction from the user, who can rotate or zoom in upon the object as desired. It would require hundreds of close-up shots to capture the detail that is revealed when zooming, but in this format the user has the added benefit of experiencing a sense of the three-dimensionality of the object. The hardest part of this process is properly mounting the garment on a mannequin and lighting it, which is true even if only a single front view is going to be photographed, so I find it extremely worthwhile to photograph the objects in this way when they are already mounted for an exhibition, considering it could be decades before the object will be mounted again.

**See an example objectVR view at** http://vcomeka.com/vccc/VR/2004.031/2004.031.htm

**All objectVRs currently in the Vassar digital collection are listed at** http://vcomeka.com/vccc/items/browse?collection=6

In 2010, one of my students created a series of YouTube videos to share our process for creating objectVRs, which you can see at http://www.ardenkirkland.com/work/portfolio/360-photography-tutorials/. However, our process has evolved since that time to use a different software, Object2VR. I shared the steps of processing in that software in a session at THATCamp Museums NYC, at the Bard Graduate Center in 2012, with instructions at http://www.ardenkirkland.com/work/wp-content/uploads/2014/12/ObjectVRinstructions.pdf.

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URL for this portfolio page: http://www.ardenkirkland.com/work/portfolio/objectvrs-3d-views/

# Lesson Plan: Using Omeka to Make Connections Between Collections



This plan for an information literacy workshop is targeted for undergraduate students at a liberal arts college, and each part of the plan is mapped to the Information Literacy Competency Standards for Higher Education, developed by the Association of College and Research Libraries in 2000. While this workshop does include both technical work with the Omeka platform and content-based research, the main goal of this workshop is to help undergraduate students, faculty, and administrators be more aware of their own information literacy as both consumers and producers of information, by showing them how databases and digital exhibits are constructed with human labor and decision making, including respect for intellectual property.

**View the full lesson plan outlined here:** http://ardenkirkland.com/IST605_Kirkland_Lesson_Plan.pdf

Also, my slides are available for one module of the proposed series, on Slideshare at http://www.slideshare.net/ardenkirkland/using-omeka-to-make-connections-between-collections.


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URL for this portfolio page: http://www.ardenkirkland.com/work/portfolio/lesson-plan-using-omeka/

# For Better and For Worse



FOR BETTER AND FOR WORSE

Introduction    *Four Generations, Five Dresses*    Balancing Tradition and Innovation    Choices and Changes    The Right Time and Place    Buying, Making, Re-making    Rotating Views    Video    Conclusion    About the Collection

Four Generations, Five Dresses | 1. 1929 Wedding Dress of Leontine McPhillips | 2. 1954 Wedding Dress of Mary Lee Hartzell | 3. 1968 Wedding Mini-Dress of Ellen McPhillips Baumann | 4. 1981 Wedding Dress of Leontine Hartzell | 5. 2012 Wedding Dress of Anna Langdell

3. 1968 Wedding Mini-Dress of Ellen McPhillips Baumann

ID#: VC2007020abc
Date: 1968
Creator: Henri Bendel (store - dress); Design by Evins (shoes)
Region: New York, USA
Culture: American
Materials: rayon moire faille, plastic buttons (dress); satin, leather, rhinestones (shoes)
Label reads: Henri Bendel NY Young Bendel (dress); Design by Evins (shoes)

An interview with Ellen McPhillips Baumann - *read the transcript*

view at full size

"For Better and For Worse: Sixteen Decades of Wedding Wear at Vassar," was held in the spring of 2013. The digital exhibition includes photographs from the exhibition, three-dimensional rotating views of featured objects (objectVRs), personal photographs and stories shared by Vassar community members, a video slideshow of photographs with highlights from our oral history interviews, and the full length oral history interviews, with transcripts.

**View the exhibit at** http://vcomeka.com/vccc/exhibits/show/fbfw/intro

This exhibition of wedding wear from the Vassar community showcased items from Vassar's research collection of historic clothing, housed in the Drama Department. The exhibition explored changing views of marriage over the last 160 years, including views on marriage equality. In 2007, Vassar received a donation of four wedding dresses from the same Vassar family—three generations of dresses. This exhibition included these four dresses, plus a fifth dress on loan to represent the fourth generation, as well as other wedding wear and photographs collected over the years.  Additional items loaned by Vassar community members allowed us also to explore same-sex, inter-faith, and inter-racial marriages, along with issues of divorce. This was one of several exhibitions over the years in Vassar's Palmer Gallery for which I was the Curator.
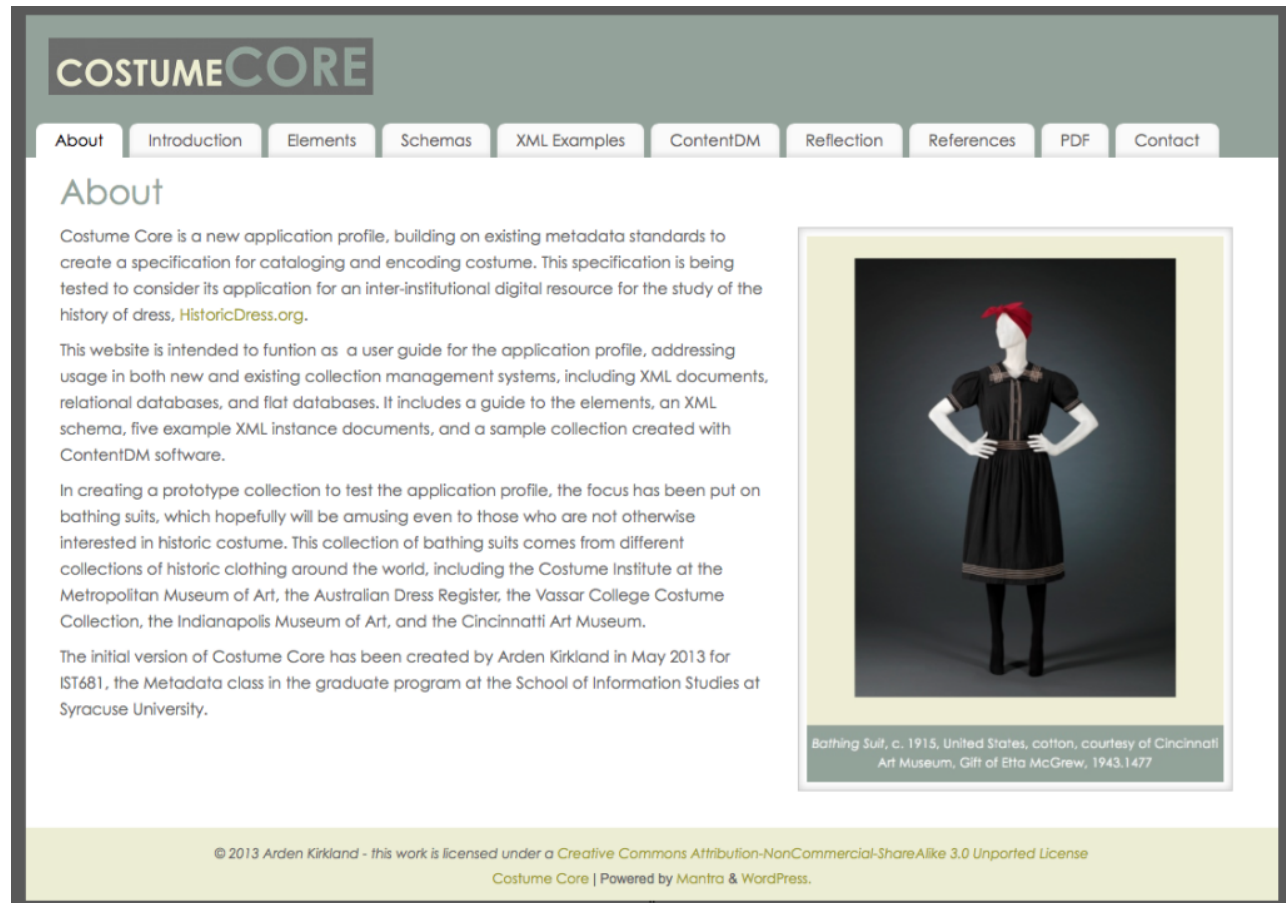
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URL for this portfolio page: http://www.ardenkirkland.com/work/portfolio/for-better-and-for-worse/

# Costume Core



This application profile builds on existing metadata standards to create a specification for cataloging and encoding historic clothing. The project includes a guide to element definitions, a crosswalk between existing standards, an XML schema based on VRA core, XML instance examples, and examples of implementation in ContentDM.
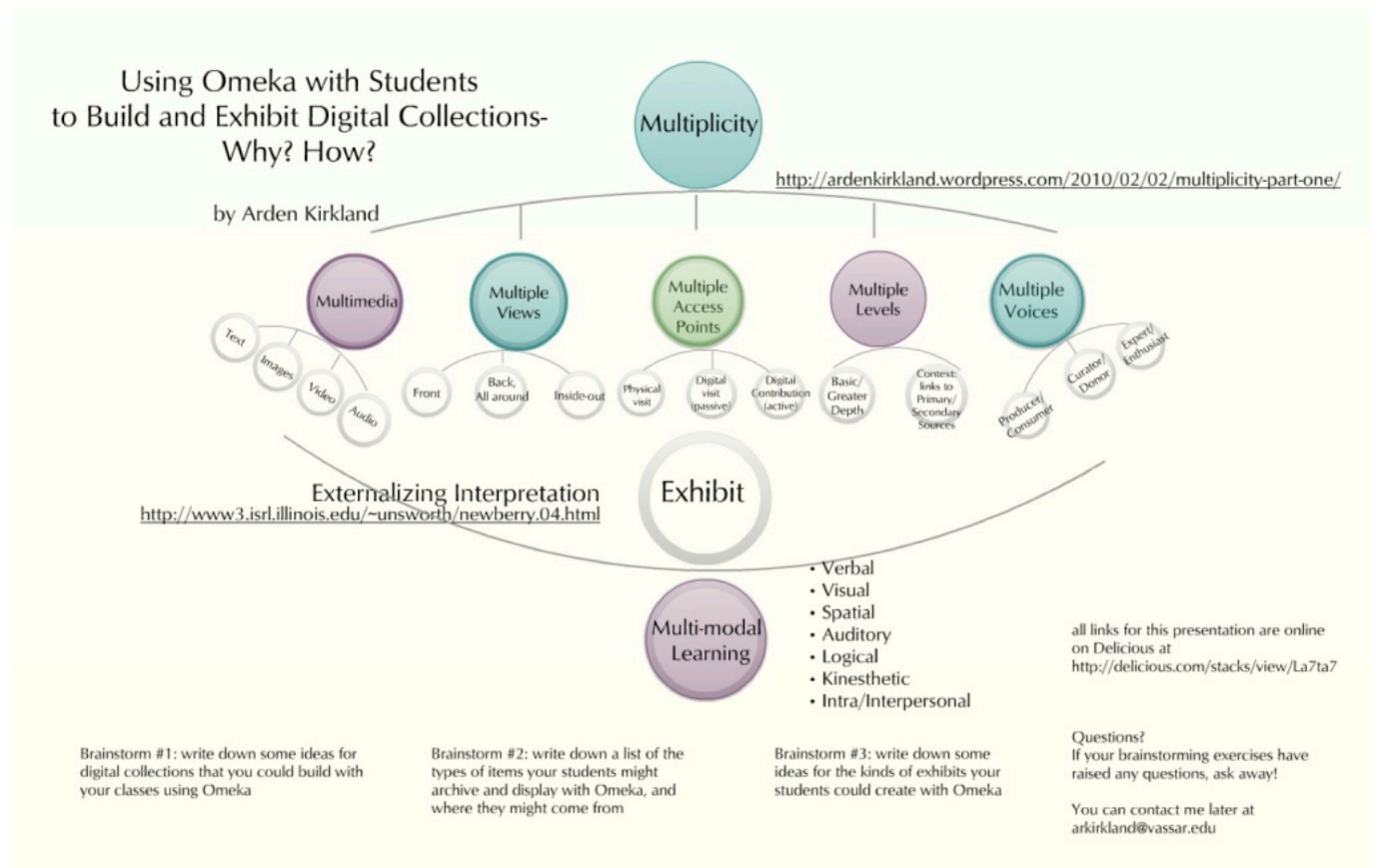


**See more about this project at** http://www.ardenkirkland.com/costumecore/

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URL for this portfolio page: http://www.ardenkirkland.com/work/portfolio/costume-core/

# Using Omeka with Students



This series of three screencasts introduces some of the "why" and "how" of using Omeka as a platform for building digital collections with students. It was originally created to introduce other faculty and staff to Omeka, but I have since found it useful to share parts of the series directly with students, modeling some of the functionality of Omeka. It is broken into three modules with exercises at each break to encourage meta-cognition, inviting viewers to record some ideas for applying the content to their own projects.
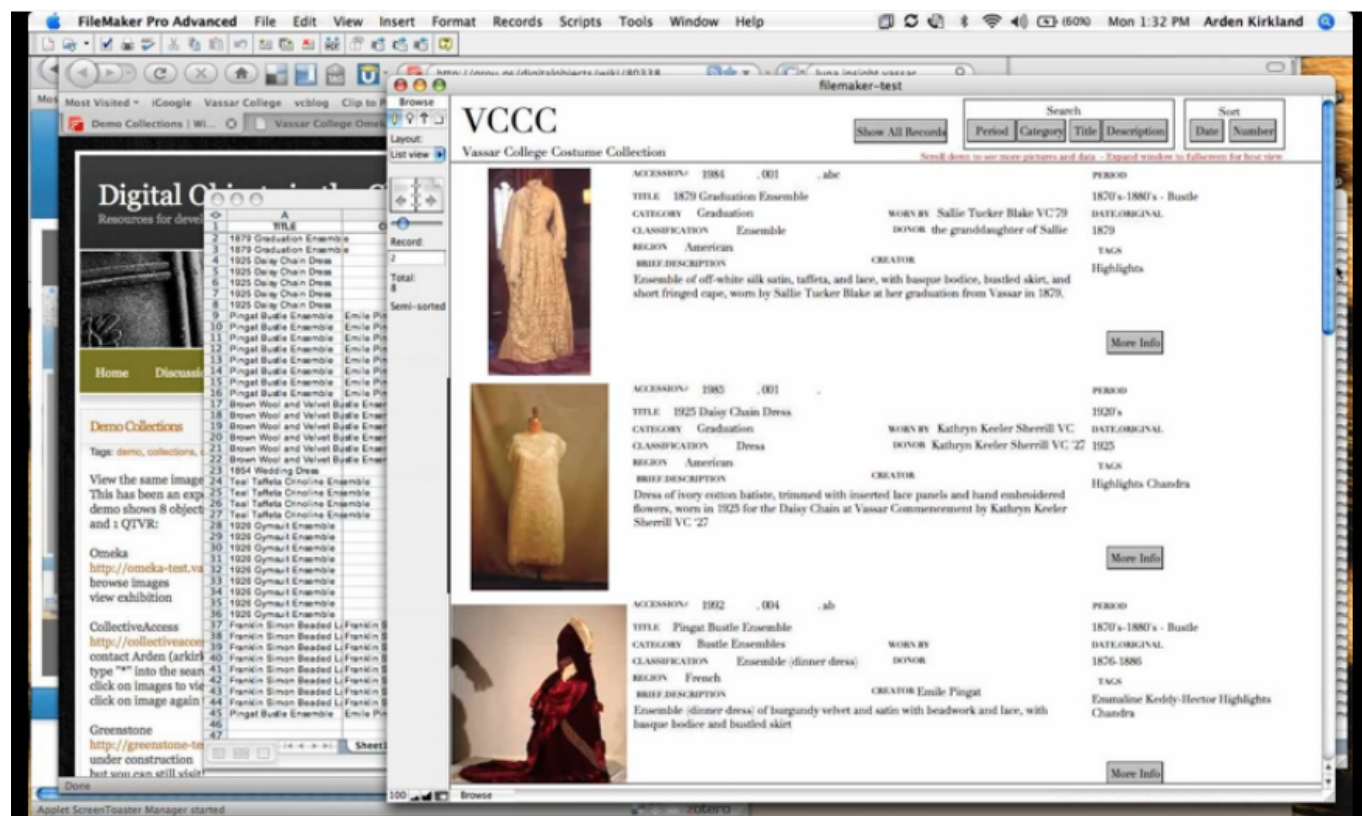
**View this series as a playlist on YouTube:**

http://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PL5268E1CFBE921AC9

If the embedded YouTube playlist does not appear above, you can view it at:
https://www.youtube.com/watch?list=PL5268E1CFBE921AC9&v=9W6urJhsuOk

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URL for this portfolio page: http://www.ardenkirkland.com/work/portfolio/using-omeka-with-students/

# Digital Objects in the Classroom



In 2009, my team at Vassar received funding from the National Institute for Technology in Liberal Education (NITLE) Instructional Innovation Fund to host a workshop on the subject of "Digital Objects in the Classroom." As a part of this workshop, I built demonstration collections to compare the same test set of 8 objects (with 43 images) side by side in Omeka, Greenstone, Collective Access, ContentDM, and VCAT (based on Filemaker), working hands-on to experience their differences. I shared this work as a series of screencasts posted on YouTube. The workshop brought together teams of faculty, librarians, and technologists from liberal arts colleges across the country to learn about strategies for integrating work with digital surrogates of three dimensional objects into the curriculum.

**This series of videos can be viewed in a playlist on YouTube:**

http://youtu.be/SB9O0cVY_s8?list=PLD3911043917853AE

If the embedded YouTube playlist does not appear above, you can view it at: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SB9O0cVY_s8&list=PLD3911043917853AE

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URL for this portfolio page: http://www.ardenkirkland.com/work/portfolio/digital-objects-in-the-classroom/