HTML tables;

or,
Handy tips for organizing information in your Omeka exhibition

These slides were originally created by Brenna Bychowski for a presentation at AAS in February 2016.

Why tables?

Tables provide an effective, simple, and sometimes invisible method of organizing a web page. They allow you to keep information separate (or together), while keeping various elements consistently relative to each other. Tables are surprisingly flexible, and they provide many layout and organizing options for your pages.

Tables are created using HTML coding directly in your simple page or exhibit page, and they can be customized individually in the HTML or all at once in the CSS.

HTML Refresher

Like all HTML, tables are created using opening and closing tags. Tags are enclosed in angle brackets <> and closing tags are preceded in the brackets by a forward slash /.

This text is bold.
This text is bold.
<i>This text is in italics.</i>
This text is in italics.

Tags can be nested, creating multiple effects at once. Notice that tags are closed in reverse order from being opened. E.g. <i></i>. NOT <i></i>

<i>This text is bold and in italics.</i>
This text is bold and in italics.

Basic Table Tags

The following are the standard tags for creating a table:

- <table>
    o Defines the beginning and end of the table .

- <tr>
    o Defines a table row. This is repeatable within <table> to create as many rows as you would like.

- <td>
    o Defines a cell within a table row. Rows within a single table should contain a consistent number of cells. The cells line up to create table columns.

Example:

```
<table>
<tr>
<td>This is row 1, cell 1.</td>
<td>This is row 1, cell 2.</td>
<td>This is row 1, cell 3.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>This is row 2, cell 1.</td>
<td>This is row 2, cell 2.</td>
<td>This is row 2, cell 3.</td>
</tr>
</table>
```

This code creates a table with two rows, with each row containing three cells.

Customizing Tables with HTML

Within the opening table tag <table>, you can add elements to customize to look and format of your table. Some options:

- align
  - Justifies the table left, center, or right.

- width
  - Defines table width.

- border
  - Defines thickness of the table border. If you are only using tables to format your page, not to look like tables, set the border to 0.
- cellpadding
  - This allows you to space out the cells relative to each other.

Example:

```
<table align="center" width="50%"
border="0" cellpadding="5">
<tr>
<td>This is row 1, cell 1.</td>
<td>This is row 1, cell 2.</td>
<td>This is row 1, cell 3.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>This is row 2, cell 1.</td>
<td>This is row 2, cell 2.</td>
<td>This is row 2, cell 3.</td>
</tr>
</table>
```

This table will be centered in the page it's on, it will be 50% of the width of the page it's on, and it will have no border.

Further Customization

Style

- The style element can be used in many HTML tags, but for our purposes it can be used in the table tag <table>, the table row tag <tr>, and the table data <td> tag
- The style element allows you to customize the look of the table
- The style element can be filled with CSS properties and values, such as
    - color
    - font
    - text-align
    - background-color
    - border-color
- Used in <table>, it affects the whole table. Used in <tr>, it affects that row. Used in <td>, it affects only that cell.

Examples (using only opening tags):

<table style="border-color:pink">
This table will have a pink border

<td style="text-align:center">
All text in this cell will be centered

<tr style="background-color:gray">
<tr style="background-color:white">
<tr style="background-color:gray">
The rows in this table will have alternating background colors of gray and white

Customizing in CSS

This is not the place to get into the deep dark recesses of CSS, but if you want to modify or format multiple tables at once in the same way, CSS is the best place to do it. This creates uniformity without having to fiddle with the code of multiple tables. You can adjust <table>, <tr>, and <td> in the CSS, individually or in groups.

You can also specify in the CSS special formatting for elements (such as images or links) only when they appear in tables.

There are also some style and customization changes that can only be done via CSS and not HTML.

Examples (using only opening tags):

table h1 {
text-variant:small-caps
}
All text tagged h1 in tables will appear in small caps

td a:link {
font-style:italic
}
All unclicked links in table cells will be italicized

#home table img:hover {
opacity:.5
}
This is actual CSS from my Omeka exhibition. The images in the table on my home page will fade to 50% opacity when the cursor hovers over them.

Adding Other HTML

Any standard HTML tags can be used within a table cell to define the data in the cells.

HTML:

```
<table>
<tr>
<td><i>Cell 1.</i></td>
<td><b>Cell 2.</b></td>
<td>Cell 3.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cell 1.</td>
<td><i>Cell 2.</i></td>
<td><b>Cell 3.</b></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><b>Cell 1.</b></td>
<td>Cell 2.</td>
<td><i>Cell 3.</i></td>
</tr>
</table>
```

Resulting table:

Cell 1	**Cell 2**	Cell 3
Cell 1	*Cell 2*	**Cell 3**
Cell 1	Cell 2	*Cell 3*

Look! More Tables!

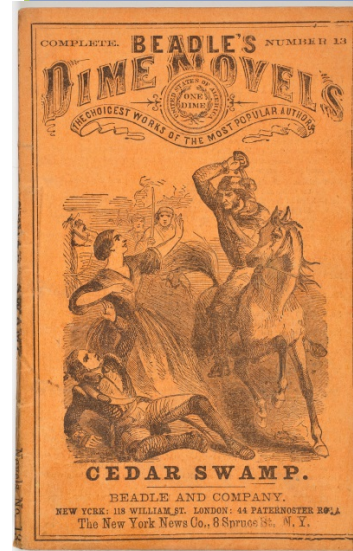Tables can also be nested inside each other, for more granular organizing.

Example:
```
<table border="0">
<tr>
<td><center><img src="dimenovelcover.jpg."
width="75%"></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>
    <table border="0"><tr>
    <td><h3>Cedar Swamp; or, Wild Nat's
    Brigade</h3></td>
    <td><p><i>Cedar Swamp</i> is a dime
    novel. Dime novels are awesome.</p></td>
    </tr></table>
</td>
</tr>
</table>
```

I've indented the second table in the above HTML for clarity.

Resulting table:

| *Cedar Swamp; or, Wild Nat's Brigade* |
| *Cedar Swamp* is a dime novel. Dime novels are awesome. |

Additional Tips & Tricks

- Sometimes, you need a cell in your table for formatting reasons, but you want it to be empty. The easiest way to do this is to use the following: <td> </td>.   is HTML code for a non-breaking space, but for our purposes creates an empty cell.

- It's generally best to compose your text outside of the Omeka editor, and then copy and paste it in, and this is also true for any HTML work. However, I strongly recommend NOT using a standard word processor to code HTML, as word processors use special characters and coding that will cause problems with your HTML code. It's best to use a generic text editor like Notebook, or the more specialized Notebook++ (which is great for editing HTML).

Table References

Basic HTML coding

http://www.w3schools.com/html/html_tables.asp

    Gives a good overview of the various HTML elements for creating and customizing tables, including elements not discussed in this presentation

Basic CSS coding

http://www.w3schools.com/css/css_table.asp

    Goes in-depth into the various customizations you can make to tables using CSS. It can get pretty fancy, but it's all relatively straightforward and definitely fun to play around with, if you're comfortable with CSS