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Premium edition Version 2.8.6

August 7th, 2012 · [No Comments](#) · [Museum software](#)

I've released a new version of the premium edition. Get the new installation file at the web site (www.musarch.com), and use the same password to unlock the install. This release includes an enhanced barcode label printing facility - you can now add your own label specifications (length, width, paper size, etc.) and you can specify the starting print position (which label position to start on when you are printing on a previously used partial sheet of labels).

Storing Images Internally

This release also correctly checks to see that you do not overrun the 2GB file size limitation on the Images file. For most tables, a 2GB limit is never an issue - record lengths are pretty short, leaving room for millions of entries per table. Storing images internally is a different matter. Image files can be quite large, and adding many of them to a single table file can easily create a file that exceeds the limit. The software will now stop you from blowing through the limit. In general, **you don't need to store your images internally**. The software uses the path you specify to find and display the image. Putting a copy of the image into the database will only be useful if you want to distribute the entire database to the general public but do not want to distribute the images as individual files.

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If you do choose to store your images internally, make sure the stored image files are relatively small. The images placed in the database under this option are copies of your originals. If your original image has a file size of 10MB, you should create a smaller version of the file to add to the database. You can keep your original at full size in another folder. You have room for approximately 20,000 images if the average image file is 100k, but you only have room for a couple of hundred images if they each take up 10MB.

Feedback is appreciated.

Tags: [museum software:update:premium version](#)

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Musarch premium edition version 2.8.5 released

June 28th, 2012 · [No Comments](#) · [Museum software](#)

A new version of the premium edition of the Museum Archive software project is now available at the web site (www.musarch.com). This update adds the following features:

- Valuation of the Object - a new form that lets you do some basic accounting of the Object's acquisition;
- Appraisal/Insurance report now includes the Valuation data, and the report automatically generates a CSV file containing the data for use in a spreadsheet;
- The Folder and Valuation tables are now included in the XML import and export routines;
- The Detailed Object report can now optionally create an editable text file;
- plus some other minor tweaks and fixes.

As always, the update is free. Get the update from the web site and use your existing installation password. Feedback is appreciated.

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← [Folders](#) [Musarch premium edition version 2.8.5 released](#) →

Note Templates and barcodes in version 2.8

June 18th, 2012 · [No Comments](#) · [Museum software](#)

I've released a new version of the premium edition of the Museum Archive software. Version 2.8 includes a revised set of barcode reports, as well as a new feature called Note Templates.

Barcodes - There were some problems reported with the barcodes included in version 2.7, so I completely reworked the computation of the barcode using Code 128, and I've added a new barcode report using Code 39. The two new true type font files are copied into your installation folder. If they have not been previously installed on your computer (you'll know this to be the case if the reports show a string of characters instead of a barcode), simply copy those two font (ttf) files to your Windows/fonts folder. You can select either the Code 128 report or the Code 39 report - you don't need them both. Use whichever report works well with your barcode scanner.

Note Templates - This new feature is partially based on advice I've repeated to many users about storing information in the unlimited number of Object Notes you can create for each Object in your collection. It is also partially based on an idea submitted by Mary Nishio (thanks).

You can put any data into a Note; it is a good spot to store information that doesn't otherwise seem to have a spot in the Musarch software. If you have a need to record the same types of information about each of your Objects, you could discipline yourself to create a Note each time with the same layout and the same items in it, but filling out a form is a more natural way to work. Using the Note Templates procedure (located in the Supporting Data menu), you can create as many of these forms as you need. Once you use the form with an Object, it still writes the same basic Note, but using the form helps keep you organized, using the same structure each time.

I've provided two sample Templates. One (actually created by Ms. Nishio) shows how you can add fields to an Object that were not included in the original design - it keeps track of oriental porcelain properties. The second sample template lets you record when an audio Object is used at an event. Obviously, you can create Templates to store any information - use your imagination.

[QuickBooks Inventory](#)
www.FishbowlInventory.com
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 Trial.



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When creating a Note in the Object's main form, there is a new button: Insert with Template. Choose the template you want to use from the drop-down list and fill in the fields. The template will specify the prompt for each line, the maximum characters allowed on each line, and whether or not an entry is required for each line.

The Search Object Notes procedure in the Search menu works well with the Note Template feature, as does the search and tag capability built into the Detailed Object report previewer.

As always, backup everything before installing a new version. Feedback is appreciated.

Tags: [barcodes](#)·[museum software](#)·[update](#)·[premium version](#)·[note templates](#)

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Folders

June 1st, 2012 · [No Comments](#) · [Museum software](#)

The premium edition of the Museum Archive software package has a feature called Folders. I've had a few people ask me about Folders; they aren't sure they understand the concept. Others have commented that they don't store anything in folders, so they had no need for this new feature. I thought I would take a few minutes to explain what Folders are and how they can be used even if you don't use physical folders in your collection.

If you store documents in physical folders, the Folders feature is just what you need. Each document is an Object, and the Folder keeps a list of those documents as well as providing some extra information about the location of the Folder. Pretty self-explanatory.

You can also use virtual folders to organize things. A virtual folder isn't a physical thing; it simply provides a way for you to link Objects together to keep things organized. You already have the Collection concept to segregate Objects into groups, and that is a valuable organizing tool, but each Object can only belong to a single Collection. By making use of Folders, you can link Objects together in different ways. Each Object can belong to an unlimited number of Folders.

Here's a simple example:

Our local historical society displays Objects each month at two local libraries. I want to keep a history of each month's display. I create a few folders:

Display - Metuchen Library - June 2012
 Display - Metuchen Library - July 2012
 Display - Edison Library - June 2012
 Display - Edison Library - July 2012

I can now associate any number of Objects with each of these folders. This doesn't change the Object record itself; it still belongs to the same collection and so on. But each Folder now has a list of Objects that were displayed at each location during each month.

AdChoices 

Note that Objects from different Collections can be associated with the same Folder. One Object can be associated with many different Folders.

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Here's another example:

www.DYMO.com...

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 Printers.

I have a series of house photographs in my collection. In order to organize them more easily, I create a series of Folders:

Photos - Metuchen - Graham Avenue
 Photos - Metuchen - Spring Street
 Photos - Metuchen - High Street
 Photos - Metuchen - Lake Avenue



I can now associate Objects with each of these Folders, making them easier to find. It also provides a simple way to get a list of houses on a particular street.

The Folder feature adds more flexibility to the organization of your archive. Use your imagination and you'll come up with many uses for it.

Tags: [Folders](#) · [Museum software](#) · [premium edition](#)

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AASLH scandal

May 31st, 2012 · [No Comments](#) · [Museum software](#)

I read this post today: <http://posterityproject.blogspot.com/2012/03/aaslh-expresses-shock-and-sense-of.html>

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Of Industrial Label
Makers And Label
Printers.

It's always sad when you see people in the nonprofit world using an organization or a cause for their own personal gain. I can't help but wonder if, in this case, the organization might have set the tone that made the unthinkable even possible:

<http://www.jhalpin.com/devblog/aaslhorg-impossible-mission/>

Tags: [AASLH](#)·[aaslh fraud](#)

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Free PHM Thesaurus stand-alone viewer

May 30th, 2012 · [No Comments](#) · [Museum software](#)

The Powerhouse Museum of Australia has allowed the Museum Archive software project to use their thesaurus. It is built into the premium edition starting with version 2.7. Here's the stand alone viewer for all basic edition users:

<http://www.musarch.com/anonymous/PHMviewer.zip>

DYMO Label Printers
www.DYMO.com/La...
Make Professional Labels Fast With DYMO® Label Printers. Purchase Now!



Just unzip the files and run the executable. If you double-click on a term, the term is copied to the Windows clipboard (and you can paste it anywhere you want to).

Tags: [museum](#) · [PHM thesaurus](#) · [stand-alone viewer](#)

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Bar codes, thesaurus, and more...

May 30th, 2012 · [No Comments](#) · [Museum software](#)

Version 2.7 of the premium edition has been released. You can get the update at the [web site](#); use the same password that you used for the previous version. AdChoices 

This new release has quite a few new features and updates.

The [Powerhouse Museum](#) (PHM) of Sydney, Australia has allowed me to include their Thesaurus with the package. It contains thousands of terms that they use for their collection, and it works along with the controlled vocabulary (Nomenclature) that you create and maintain. Special thanks to Luke Dearnley and Susan Davidson for making this happen.

There is a new quick image viewer that lets you browse through the images associated with your Objects.

There is a bar code label report that allows you to label Objects and more quickly locate them in the database. This feature requires the installation of a True Type font (Code128bWin) that is included with the installation. You might need to register this font yourself - you'll know that to be the case if the bar code report has numbers instead of bar codes on it. A copy of the font is located in the installation folder.

Take another look at Folders - this is a recently added feature that gives you more flexibility in organizing your collection. See the help file for more details.

I've updated the help file to reflect these additions and changes.

I'm going to be working on a stand-alone app to provide the PHM Thesaurus to users of the basic edition.

As always, your feedback is appreciated.

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More than 6000 downloads worldwide

April 22nd, 2012 · [No Comments](#) · [Museum software](#)

The Museum Archive software project has helped a lot of small organizations to manage their collections - more than 6000 downloads of the basic edition so far. A healthy percentage of those users have elected to upgrade to the premium edition. Thanks!

Tags: [Museum software](#)

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New feature in version 2.5

April 20th, 2012 · [No Comments](#) · [Museum software](#)

I am releasing version 2.5 of the premium edition today. It has a new feature which might prove useful: Folders. Using Folders is optional, but it provides you with another way to link Objects together. You could always set up multiple Collections, and you could assign specialized Status codes, and of course you could develop a highly differentiated list of Categories to group Objects together. Now you can also set up Folders.

A Folder has the following fields:

- Series - a set of related Objects (required)
- SubSeries - a series within a series (required)
- Identifier - a general description of the Folder's contents (required)
- Location - can be used in addition to each Object's Location if needed
- Notes - more details about the purpose of this Folder

Multiple Objects can be assigned to a Folder, and a single Object can be assigned to more than one Folder. Again, this is all optional. If you don't need this type of aggregation for your Objects, just ignore it. The first three fields in a Folder are required, but you can fill them in any way that makes sense for your collection.

There is a new Folder menu option; this lets you add and modify Folders. You can also assign Objects to Folders here.

AdChoices 

There is a new button on the Object form to let you see which Folders the current Object is associated with, and it lets you assign the current Object to any existing Folder.

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I haven't updated the Help file for the Folder feature yet, but I will get to it shortly.

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Please backup your installation before applying the update. Get the new installation file from the web site (www.musarch.com), and use the same password as you used for previous versions. Feedback is appreciated.

I still haven't heard back from the Australian government about their Thesaurus, but I still am hopeful that we can work something out and that I can make it available to Musarch users.



Tags: [museum software](#); [premium edition](#); [update](#); [new feature](#)

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Premium edition 2.4

April 10th, 2012 · [No Comments](#) · [Museum software](#)

I've released a new version of the premium edition today. Changes include the ability to specify the status of Objects imported via CSV file and a bulk editor to allow you to make changes to many Objects at once for selected fields in the Object table. The installation file is available on the web site (www.musarch.com); use the same password as with earlier versions.

The bulk editor is great for changing the wording of a previous entry. For example, if you started out using a variety of phrases for the Source of an Object but now would like to standardize your terms, you can use the bulk editor to find all instances of a phrase and replace the old entry with a new entry in the Source field. You can replace a field's contents regardless of prior value, or you can replace the contents if the prior value contains a phrase, or you can replace the contents if the prior value equals a phrase. The editing of each field occurs independently of any other field.

Please backup your data before applying this update. As usual, feedback is appreciated.

I'm working with the Australian government to obtain the rights to include a comprehensive thesaurus with the Museum Archive software package. I hope to have more news on this front very soon.

The project is rapidly approaching 6,000 downloads worldwide. Thanks for spreading the word.

Tags: [bulk editor](#) · [Museum software](#) · [new version](#) · [premium edition](#)

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← [Musarch Premium edition - new version Premium edition 2.4](#) →

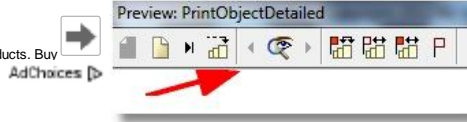
Search and Tag

March 9th, 2012 · [No Comments](#) · [Museum software](#)

One of the overlooked features of the premium edition of the software is contained in the print previewer for the Detailed Object Report. You can search for any text and optionally tag all pages containing the search value. Click this button:

label printing

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and a window will open. Type in the text you'd like to find and select the checkbox to tag pages where the text is found. You can optionally delete pages without the search text, a handy way to narrow your search. Give it a try!

send me an email.

<http://www.musarch.com>

Tags: [Museum software](#) · [tips and tricks](#)

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← [Using the Runtime File Manager Search and Tag](#) →

Musarch Premium edition - new version

February 21st, 2012 · [No Comments](#) · [Museum software](#)

The Museum Archive software project has a new version of the premium edition. Version 2.2 introduces a Nomenclature table to enable users to develop and use a controlled vocabulary while entering Objects in the database. I had hoped to distribute a complete controlled vocabulary as a 'working sample', but getting permission from the creator has been slow and difficult. I've decided to release the software now and continue to work on securing the rights to distribute a pre-populated vocabulary later.

You can maintain your own vocabulary in the Supporting Data menu section, and you can open up the Select Nomenclature window and use it with any appropriate field on any form. Simply double-click on the phrase to copy it to the clipboard, position the cursor on the form where you want to paste the phrase, and press Ctrl-V.

You are free to ignore the Nomenclature table - it will help you to standardize your entries, but its use is not required. Wikipedia describes the use of a controlled vocabulary this way:

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Controlled vocabularies provide a way to organize knowledge for subsequent retrieval. They are used in subject indexing schemes, subject headings, thesauri, taxonomies and other form of knowledge organization systems. Controlled vocabulary schemes mandate the use of predefined, authorised terms that have been preselected by the designer of the vocabulary, in contrast to natural language vocabularies, where there is no restriction on the vocabulary.

This update also fixes a small bug in the static web page export function having to do with file name case sensitivity. Registered users have been notified by email. Please backup your installation before applying any update.

Feedback is appreciated.

Tags: [controlled vocabulary](#)·[Museum software](#)·[nomenclature](#)·[premium edition](#)

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← [New version released Musarch Premium edition - new version](#) →

Using the Runtime File Manager

February 17th, 2012 · [No Comments](#) · [Museum software](#)

I changed the structure of the Documents table in the last release of the premium edition of the Museum Archive software, adding a few fields that had been suggested by a user. The software is designed to automatically notice the structure is different and change your existing table to match the new specification the first time you access the table. For some reason (and only occasionally) it does not do this and instead it reports an error 47 and shuts down the application. You can fix this by going to the Data Operations menu, Runtime File Manager option. Highlight the Document.TPS table and use the Fix button to repair it.

This error 47 will only happen when the software and the actual table structure do not agree, and once you repair the table, you'll never see the error again.

This is a good demonstration of the Runtime File Manager. You can use this utility in the unlikely event that your data files become corrupted by a power failure.

If you encounter this error 47, please send me a note describing the circumstances. I'd like to pin down the cause, but so far only two installations have experienced it so I don't have a lot of information to go on.

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Tags: [error](#) · [Museum software](#) · [runtime file manager](#)

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← [New QBE tool](#) Using the Runtime File Manager →

New version released

November 29th, 2011 · [No Comments](#) · [Museum software](#)

A new version of the Museum Archive software premium edition is now available on the web site. Registered users have been notified by email. This new version (2.0) adds a more powerful QBE (Query by example) tool to the main archive browse window, it adds some new reports, and incorporates functions that used to reside in a separate utility program.

A new version of the basic edition has also been released. It contains several tweaks and minor bug fixes.

The installation programs for both editions include the web server and the read-only viewer software. The basic edition still makes use of a separate utility program for import/export functions.

The software is available at www.musarch.com.

The basic edition has now been downloaded more than 5,000 times!

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← [Thanks for the suggestions](#) [New version released](#) →

New QBE tool

November 29th, 2011 · [No Comments](#) · [Museum software](#)

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Inserted Broaching Tools for CNC lathes, VMCs, and Machining Centers

Version 2 of the Museum Archive software project's premium edition contains a new Query By Example (QBE) tool on the main archive browse window. [Click here to see a video](#) that shows you how you can use it to help you locate Objects in the database. Unlike the query procedure in the previous version, this QBE tool supports searching in tables related to the Object table: Images, Events, Conditions, Appraisals, Provenance, and Notes. You can still search for specific Object Details in the Search menu, but this new tool fills a gap and makes it easy to find (and optionally print) any Objects.

The Museum Archive software project (www.musarch.com) will release version 2 of the premium edition in the next day or so. Registered users will be sent a notification.

Tags: [Museum software](#) · [premium edition](#) · [QBE](#)



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← [Windows 7 and Musarch New QBE tool](#) →

Thanks for the suggestions

November 6th, 2011 · [No Comments](#) · [Museum software](#)

I'm preparing a new release of the premium edition; it should be ready in the next two weeks. Quite a few changes and improvements - I'd like to thank everyone for their input and suggestions. Watch for the announcement in your inbox!

[The Gift of Togetherness](#)

RMHC.org/giftoftogetherness
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← [A little more detail about the automatic web generator](#) [Thanks for the suggestions](#) →

Windows 7 and Musarch

November 6th, 2011 · [No Comments](#) · [Museum software](#)

I just learned that the Windows 7 internal messaging system can make it appear as though the Museum Archive software is 'hung up' when you press the Alt key all by itself. Musarch loses the focus. I'll be addressing this programmatically in the next release, but for now, you can simply press Alt-Esc to regain focus. This behavior is new to Windows 7; earlier Windows versions don't seem to cause this.

Sorry for any inconvenience - just remember to press Alt-Esc if you are stuck.

Tags: [Museum software](#)

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← [Automatic web site generator Windows 7 and Musarch](#) →

A little more detail about the automatic web generator

October 14th, 2011 · [No Comments](#) · [Museum software](#)

The Museum Archive Import/Export utility now lets you generate a complete web site from your database with a few mouse clicks. You then have the chance to customize the look and feel of the pages it produced. Here's a little more detail on the index.htm and the musarch_export.css files used by the import/export utility:

In your installation folder, there is another folder called 'webstd'. This holds the standard CSS file and a copy of index.htm. There's another copy of index.htm in the 'webexport' folder.

During generation, I copy the CSS file from webstd to webexport (after renaming the existing file to save it). So, you can safely edit the CSS file in webexport to play around/experiment, but any changes you make are moved to the backup file when you generate. To make your CSS changes permanent, change the CSS file in the webstd folder – that is the one that gets copied during the generation of the web site.

The index.htm file isn't copied, but I put it in two places because I know everyone is going to edit it. Index.htm is not generated. Because index.htm is never generated, any changes you make to the copy in webexport remain in the 'real' copy. The index.htm file in webstd is just a copy for reference.

Open up index.htm (in webexport) using Notepad. You can safely edit the plain text – the words that match the parts you can see when displaying the file in your browser. Leave the command tags alone. Save your changes and look at it in your browser. Another option is to replace index.htm altogether and just provide links to the 'sort by' pages on the new index.htm page.

Someone asked me to explain how styles and the CSS (cascading style sheet) can be used to change the look and feel of the generated web pages. This is too big a topic for me to handle in any detail, but here is a simple example that shows you the potential power of styles.

Each generated Object web page starts off with a field called Object ID. This is an internal number that doesn't mean anything to the visitors to your web site, so let's get rid of it. One way to get rid of it would be to edit every web page to physically remove it from the code, but this is labor intensive, and if you have thousands of Objects, it would be crazy. It really doesn't matter if the Object ID is still in the html code as long as it doesn't clutter up our web page, so why go to all of the trouble to change all of those web pages? There are easier ways to get it off of the page using styles. Here is a simple example:

Navigate over to your webexport folder. Load an Object's web page in your browser.

Open up the file called musarch_export.css in a text editor (like Notepad). Add these lines to the top of the file:

```
span#objectid_prompt
{
visibility: hidden;
}

span#objectid
{
visibility: hidden;
}
```

[Used generator](#)
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Save the file and re-load your web page in your browser. The Object ID is gone. And it is gone from EVERY Object web page.

How does this work? By assigning a class and an id to every element on your page.

The web page for each Object places the Object ID title and value on the page by including them in an element called 'span'. When the utility produces the web page, it gives the title (Object ID) a class called 'prompt' and an id called 'objectid_prompt'. It gives the value (the actual Object ID from your database) a class called 'data' and an id called 'objectid'. You can see this if you open up the web page in a text editor (or use your browser's menu to view the page source).

What's a class? A class is a group of similar elements (components of a web page) that can be styled as a group. For example, all of the titles for an Object's details have a class equal to 'prompt', so this style:

```
span.prompt
{
color: gray;
}
```

in the style sheet file turns all of the titles gray. There can be many elements with the same class name.

What's an ID? An ID is a unique label for a single element. No two elements should have the same id in the same web page file. In this example, the title for the Object ID is 'objectid_prompt', but other titles have different id names. This gives us the ability to style a single element. So this style:

```
span#objectid_prompt
```

```
{  
visibility: hidden;  
}
```

only has an impact on the single title with that exact id.

Even though the id for an element must be unique within a web page, you can (and do) have the exact same ids throughout the web site. Every Object page has an Object ID field within a span, and the class and id names are the same for every Object. This lets us set a style rule one time and have it be automatically applied throughout the web site.

For those interested: the element name (span) is followed by a dot and then by the class name, or it is followed by a hash mark (pound sign) and then by the id name.

I hope this simple example gives you some idea about the power of style sheets. Every time you generate your web site with the utility, I save your old style sheet by giving it a new name so that you never lose any changes that you make. You can simply replace the standard style sheet with your version by renaming files. Play around with the style sheet and see what you can come up with. There are plenty of CSS tutorials available on the web.

When you have a 'final' version of your style sheet, save it to the 'webstd' folder – this is the official style sheet that is copied over to the webexport folder when the web site is generated.

Tags: [import export utility](#) · [Museum software](#) · [style](#) · [web site generation](#)

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← [Museum Archive project is international](#) A little more detail about the automatic web generator →

Automatic web site generator

October 12th, 2011 · [No Comments](#) · [Museum software](#)

Make a web site from your Musarch data with just a few mouse clicks. Change the look and feel of the pages by substituting images and changing the style sheet. A quick and easy way to get your collection of Objects online - the new version of the Museum Archive software project's Import/Export utility (a free download).

[Install Generator Prices](#)

[InstallGenerator.iCastle.com](#)
List of Install Generator Pros. Find Install Generator By Zip Code.



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Here's the announcement:

Introducing a new version of the Import/Export utility from the Museum Archive software project - free software that provides a popular way for museums, historical societies, and other organizations to catalogue their collections. Included in the utility is the ability to create an entire web site of your archive, complete with indices, with a few mouse clicks - no coding required.

An example of this web site generation is available at <http://www.musarch.com/webexport> - this example web site was built by the utility using the sample data that comes with the basic edition of the Museum Archive software. With the Import/Export utility, you simply tell it to create the site and then you upload the resulting files to the web host of your choice.

The latest version of the Import/Export utility is available as a separate download from the software project's web site.

More than 4,700 organizations and individuals from around the world have taken advantage of the Museum Archive software, a free package that rivals many commercial offerings in features and in reliability.

The basic edition (free) is available for download at the web site (<http://www.musarch.com>). A premium edition (also free) is available to anyone who purchases the project's book.

Tags: [import export utility](#) · [Museum software](#) · [web site creation](#) · [web site generator](#)

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Museum Archive project is international

September 29th, 2011 · [No Comments](#) · [Museum software](#)

It's nice to see that the Museum Archive software project (www.musarch.com) is popular around the world: AdChoices 

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← [Import / Export utility version 1.5 for Musarch Museum Archive project is international](#) →

Museum Archive premium edition version 1.8

September 26th, 2011 · [No Comments](#) · [Museum software](#)

I am releasing another version of the premium edition of the Museum Archive software project. Version 1.8 contains a number of fixes/additions:

- The name of the Object is now a part of the form window's caption;
- The accession number field is now easily visible in the browse list box;
- The Location Reference field is now included on the Detailed report;
- A second version of the Detailed report is now included - the original version is sorted by Object Name, and this second version is sorted by Accession Number.

This upgrade requires a password and it requires that you have previously installed a prior version of the premium edition.

[Bergen Fence](#)
www.bergenfence.com
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Registered users have been notified by email; if you would like to upgrade to the new version and did not receive any notification, write to support and I will provide you with the details. As always, backup your installation before applying the update.

Tags: [Museum software](#) · [premium edition](#) · [update](#)

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Import / Export utility version 1.5 for Musarch

September 15th, 2011 · [No Comments](#) · [Museum software](#)

I'm releasing a new version of the Museum Archive software import /export utility. Before using the utility, please back-up your data! The utility now has the ability to import CSV files (comma separated value, also known as comma delimited) – the type of file you can create using spreadsheet software. There is a PDF document included in the download which explains the utility; please read it before trying to import a CSV file.

This software is brand new. While it has been tested, it probably still has a few rough spots. Your comments and feedback are appreciated.

Being able to import data from a spreadsheet environment opens up a lot of possibilities for the project. For example, in a classroom setting, each student can use a spreadsheet to add Objects, and the teacher can then import each student's work to the 'master' database. Museums with old lists of Objects can now start using the Museum Archive software package without having to re-key all of the data.

Get the utility here:

http://www.musarch.com/anonymous/musarch_ie_1_5_3.zip

Save the file to your hard drive, and then extract the EXE and PDF to your current Musarch installation folder (normally c:/musarch). The utility EXE replaces the previous version. Read the PDF. Back-up your data before trying the utility.

[Update - I fixed a small bug, so get the new version 1.5.3 from the above link - 20Sept2011]

Tags: [Museum software](#) · [utility](#)

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September 3rd, 2011 · [No Comments](#) · [Museum software](#)

The [Museum Archive software project](#) is still going strong, 4,584 downloads so far..

I am currently working on two additions to the software: a way to import Objects from a spreadsheet (actually, from a comma delimited file), and a true client/server version that you can run remotely. Pretty exciting stuff; I'll have more details available soon.

[The Gift of Togetherness](#)
RMHC.org/gifttogetherness
Help Sick Kids Get Better By Keeping Families Together.



Tags: [Museum software](#) · [premium edition](#) · [update](#)

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Musarch Premium edition version 1.7

July 26th, 2011 · [No Comments](#) · [Museum software](#)

[Dashboard Tool](#)
[www.Domo.com/Das...](#)
All Your Key Data In
One Place. Mobile,
Powerful Info. Demo
Now!

A new version of the premium edition of the Museum Archive software (<http://www.musarch.com>) is available for registered users. This new version corrects a few minor errors and adds two new procedures: a new Search procedure for Notes on an Object, and a new Report Writer module for Notes on an Object. Registered users have been notified by email; if you would like to upgrade to the new version and did not receive any notification, write to support and I will provide you with the details. As always, backup your installation before applying the update.

[AdChoices](#) ▶ Don't forget to use the Detailed Report previewer to search for (and optionally page tag) any text value - a simple way to "query" the entire database.

Things are pretty quiet during the summer months, but the project continues to have impressive download stats, with many users located around the world. Spread the word!

Tags: [museum software](#); [premium edition](#); [update](#)

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Another way to search

June 17th, 2011 · [No Comments](#) · [Museum software](#)

The premium edition of the Museum Archive software project has an effective way for you to find anything in your collection - by using the Print Preview for the Detailed Object report. Just print everything (no query required), and when the print preview opens up, you can tell it to tag pages containing the search phrase you are looking for. It will find every instance of the phrase, whether it is buried in a Note or is part of the Object's name or is included in a specific field. You can optionally ask the preview search routine to delete pages NOT tagged, leaving you with the Objects containing your search value. Give it a try...

Tags: [Museum software search](#)

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Solid, mature museum software application

April 14th, 2011 · [No Comments](#) · [Museum software](#)

The Museum Archive software application has matured into a solid piece of software. With almost 4,000 downloads since it was first released, we've come a long way towards meeting the goal of the Museum Archive software project: helping small organizations to electronically organize their collections without spending a small fortune on software.

Requests for changes and/or bug fixes have slowed to a crawl, but that does not mean the software cannot be improved. If you have any ideas that you would like to see implemented, send them to support AT musarch.com. And continue to spread the word about the project! Visit <http://www.musarch.com> for the latest version of the software.

Tags: [Museum software](#)

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← [Museum Archive software project stats](#) Solid, mature museum software application →

Museum Archive software premium edition ver 1.5

February 14th, 2011 · [No Comments](#) · [Museum software](#)

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AdChoices 

I released a new version of the premium edition today. This version fixes a small bug pointed out by Paul Ewell (thanks, Paul) that reared its ugly head when you stored images in the database. If an object did not have an image associated with it, and the preceding object had an internally stored image, and the objects were the most recently added records, the image preview got all confused. You can download the new version on the web site (www.musarch.com) and use the same password to install it (backup your data before installing any new software).

Tags: [images](#) · [Museum software](#)

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Museum Archive software project stats

January 22nd, 2011 · [No Comments](#) · [Museum software](#)

As of today, the basic edition has been downloaded 3,409 times. People seem to be hearing good things about the software and giving it a try. The web site had more than 67,000 page views during 2010, and the search engines tend to place musarch.com in the top ten results when you search for 'museum software'. Satisfying results; thanks to everyone who gave the package a try, and particularly to those who made helpful suggestions along the way.

Work continues on a new web server. I asked users for suggestions about the desktop software, and there were several good ones submitted. When I get back to that part of the project, I'll see what I can do. In the meantime, if you have any thoughts, send them in (support at musarch.com).

Tags: [Museum software](#)

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Easy to install &
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with Asset mgmt,
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One overlooked opportunity for a small organization to distribute information about its collection is to produce a PDF report which can be posted to the web site. In the Reports menu of the Museum Archive software, you can specify that a report be “sent” to a PDF file format. Uploading the resulting file to your web site and creating a link is a simple way to let visitors to the site see information about your collection of Objects. And for a more interactive experience, take a look at the Musarch web server.

Tags: [Museum software](#)·[museum web server](#)·[web reports](#)

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Delays, delays

November 17th, 2010 · [No Comments](#) · [Museum software](#)

I've had a series of other issues to deal with, so I haven't been working on the Museum Archive software project at all in the last month. That should change soon. The first order of business is to create a new version of the Musarch web server. Thanks for your patience.

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3,000 downloads!

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The Museum Archive software project basic edition has now been downloaded 3,000 times since May 2009. Not bad for a little package designed for a niche target audience. Thanks to everyone who has tried it, and much thanks to all who have made suggestions and offered valuable feedback. I hope to release a new version of the Musarch Web Server soon.

Tags: [Museum software](#)

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microsoft.com/dyna...
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Easy to install & Use, Web based, with Asset
mgmt, Self Service. Try!



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Microsoft has a new protection package named 'Microsoft Security Essentials' that might not be very nice to your data files. It seems that MSE is not designed to be run in a multi-user environment. The software I write is designed to be run in a multi-user environment, so combining my stuff with MSE is playing with fire. I have had no reports of database corruption from my users, but there is a lot of anecdotal evidence in the newsgroups of problems. I recommend that you (1) backup your data often and (2) use some other security package instead of MSE if you are running my software.

Tags: [data corruption](#) · [database](#) · [security](#)

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[Online Time Tracking](#)

www.timesheet.com

Cloud Based Time Tracking & Expense Reporting Software. Live Demo!



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With the start of another school year, the Museum Archive software project is really taking off. Total downloads have now passed the 2,200 mark, and the new Musarch Web Server is a popular addition to the software.

Most small organizations can't envision putting their collections on the web - they figure that it will be too much work, that they don't have the expertise, or that it will be too costly. With the Musarch Web Server, they've already done the work, it is easy to set up, and it is free. It's time to aim high and get those collections online - go to <http://www.musarch.com>.

Tags: [Museum software](#) · [school](#) · [web server](#)

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Musarch Web Server 1.0 released

September 14th, 2010 · [No Comments](#) · [Museum software](#)

The new Museum Archive software project web server is now [available here](#). This is version 1.0, so there are still some things to do, but it works well, and it will allow you to show the world the Objects in your collection with almost no additional work on your part.

Still to come:

- I need to do some additional work on the image display function. Right now, I don't deal with images saved within the database files. In addition, the printed reports do not use the web/images path - they still use the original image path embedded in the database. This means that printed reports will not always contain the image (it depends on where you put the web server software).
- The web server is not yet a Windows service, which means you need to start it every time your computer is restarted, and it does not run automatically if no one is logged in to the machine it is installed on.
- I'd like to add some additional search functionality.

Feedback is appreciated.

Tags: [Museum software](#) · [web server](#)

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Musarch Web Server version 1.0

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I'm putting the finishing touches on this new addition to the Museum Archive software project. I should have it ready for download by Monday (Sept 13, 2010). It is free to all users of the software (basic or premium editions). It's easy to install and it makes displaying your collection of Objects a snap. Keep an eye out for the release. (www.musarch.com)

[Dedicated Server Hosting](#)
www.Terremark.com/DedicatedHosting
Need a Server? Push a Button. Cloud
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I am making good progress on the web server for the Museum Archive software project. You can see a brief write-up [here \(PDF file\)](#). I hope to release a beta version by Labor Day. Feedback is appreciated.

Tags: [Museum software](#) · [web server](#)

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Web Server version 0.1

August 14th, 2010 · [No Comments](#) · [Museum software](#)

Users of the premium edition of the Museum Archive software project are invited to contact me in order to participate in testing (playing with) the first version of the project's web server. This is version 0.1. It has very limited functionality – it is really just a quick example to see how this approach might work.

You can see your Objects in a web browser. You can sort by column. You can use a locator field to jump to a specific Object in the list. That's it – no viewing of the Object's details, no editing, no reports. Just a simple browse list with basic locator and navigation controls. But it is a start. If you want to see how it works, contact me and I'll send you a link.



Museum Archive software project

Objects in the collection

Object Name	Gen Category Name	Category Name	Accession Number
Please Please Me	Audio	Classic Rock - Audio	2009.1
With the Beatles	Audio	Classic Rock - Audio	2009.2
Old Post Road	Maps	Maps - General	2009.3
Metuchen Memories	Oral History	Oral History - General	2009.4
Metuchen Scenes	Video	Video - General	2009.5
Abbey Road	Audio	Classic Rock - Audio	2009.6
Archeology object	Archeology	Archeology - General	2009.10
Art Object	Art	Art - General	2009.21
Sample Document object	Documents	Documents - General	2009.22
Geology Object	Geology	Geology - General	2009.23

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The web browser produces the web pages served on the fly. There are style sheets and javascript code that make it work, although I am totally ignoring the user interface style at the moment. Eventually, you'll be able to apply your own styles and make this look the way you'd like.

How does this work?

The Museum Archive software database exists in a folder on one of your computers on your network. This computer has an IP address. In this example, let's say that the IP address is 192.168.1.20. Other computers on your network have similar IP addresses; these addresses typically all begin with 192.168.1, with only the last segment having a distinct value.

Continuing with our example, let us say that the Museum Archive software is located on the computer's C: drive in a folder called Musarch. When you are working on that computer, the path to the software is C:\Musarch. You can allow other computers on your network to share the contents of the C:\Musarch folder, and they can access those contents by specifying a path from their machine to the shared folder. This is how you set up a multi-user environment to use the software.

What we want to do is place a new application in the C:\Musarch folder. This new app is a special purpose web server; its job is to watch a specific computer port for web requests and answer those requests when appropriate. The web server coexists with the rest of the Museum Archive software, and it accesses the same database. In this example, the web server watches port 88 (normal web browser traffic happens on port 80). When you start the web server app, it just sits there waiting for a web request to show up on port 88.

[I always advise you to backup your data before trying anything new, so back up now.]

Download the zip file from the link I provide in the email (you'll get an email from me after you tell me that you are interested). Extract the contents to the installation folder of the Museum Archive software package – be sure to enable the use of folder names for the extraction process. You'll end up with a musarch_server.exe file in the installation folder, as well as a new sub-folder called web. Double-click on the exe to start the server.

If you start a web browser (Internet Explorer, Firefox, Chrome, Safari, etc.) on the same computer that holds the Museum Archive software, you can point to this special web server and see your data. In the address bar of the browser, type this:

<http://localhost:88>

Localhost is a way of telling your browser to look at this computer, and the port number following the colon tells it not to use the default port number (80).

You can access this same web server from another machine on your network. Start the browser and type in the IP address of the computer running the web server, and don't forget to add the port number. In this example, you could go to a computer with an IP address of 192.168.1.25, start the web browser, and specify this address:

<http://192.168.1.20:88>

Your web browser will communicate with the web server running on the computer with the IP address of 192.168.1.20 (the computer with the Museum Archive software on it).

[Note: Your firewall might ask you for permission before making these connections.]

Eventually, you can open up access to this special purpose web server to the whole internet. This involves setting up your router to forward requests made on a specific port to a specific computer on your network and so on. We won't be dealing with this now. This example is merely a "test of concept", something to see if I am on the right track as I attempt to develop a web-based component for the Museum Archive software project.

Is this safe?

The special web server can only do the tasks that I build into it, so in that sense it is safer than a general purpose web server such as Apache or IIS, which are designed to do many things and are much more flexible. Because the backend of the Museum Archive software project does not use an off-the-shelf database engine, it is not vulnerable to the usual tricks and techniques favored by malicious users. Plus, you can simply close the web server app at any time.

This example is meant to be used on your own computer (localhost) or, at most, on your local network. It only displays data. Play with it and let me know what you think.

Tags: [Museum software](#) [Web app](#)

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← [aaslh.org - impossible mission?](#) Web Server version 0.1 →

Want to help spread the word?

August 10th, 2010 · [No Comments](#) · [Museum software](#)

If your organization works with local museums, historical societies, schools, or other nonprofits and you would like to take a look at the premium edition of the Museum Archive software project, send me an email (support AT musarch DOT com) asking me for a review copy. I want to get the word out about the package, and I want to get feedback from as many users as possible. Maybe you'll tell a few friends...

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aaslh.org - impossible mission?

August 6th, 2010 · [No Comments](#) · [Museum software](#)

Are you a member of the AASLH (American Association for State and Local History)? Are you expecting them to give you the latest information about software packages to help you organize your collection? You might be out of luck if you want any meaningful guidance from them.

I was searching for *Museum Software* on Google a few weeks ago, just to see where the Museum Archive software project turned up in the search results. It was nice to see two entries in the top ten. I then read the snippet underneath the number one entry, which said:

Approved by the American Association of State and Local History for museums and historical societies.

I thought that was cool, so I decided to contact the AASLH to see what it took to be “approved” by their organization. A week went by; no reply. I sent a follow-up email; once again, no reply. After another week or so, I forwarded my question to other staff members listed on the organization’s web site. Finally, I received a nice reply from one of them. The reply was nice in the sense that it was pleasant and polite, but the substance of the answer struck a nerve:

“At this point, though, we endorse only one software and that’s [a well-known software package]. We have had a formal partnership with them for many years...”

The bottom line seems to be that the AASLH does not review software packages or provide information to their members about new offerings in the collection management software field. They have a business relationship with a single vendor, and it is that vendor’s package that they endorse and push on their site.

The software they endorse is probably a fine product. I’ve never used it, but I’ve heard that many organizations do. The problem is that it is rather expensive, particularly if your organization has limited resources (which includes most small nonprofits and local historical societies). I specifically started the Museum Archive software project to address this concern. Why should a smaller organization have to struggle to catalog their collection using a spreadsheet or a text document these days? My software is designed to help them, and you cannot beat the price (**It’s free!**)

Wait a minute - aren’t you selling a book?

As to my own motivations for this project: Some might object by pointing out that the premium edition is only free to people who buy the book, so it is not really free. Two points: First, the basic edition is totally free. Second, you really must have never tried to sell a book. Anyone who has knows that the less-than-generous author’s share of the sale price is not a real motivator. My share of the proceeds thus far means that I have made almost one dollar per hour on this project. I should report myself to the Department of Labor. Not to mention that I spend more time setting up premium users and answering their questions than I care to count.

Wrong or just cheesey?

I have no objection to a nonprofit organization like the AASLH cutting a deal with a vendor and making a few bucks. The part that bothers me is that they allow the vendor to claim “approval”, and they themselves talk about “endorsing” a product, in a way that implies testing and evaluation and comparison with other offerings. Why not say to AASLH members, “Hey, we like this product and if you buy it, you also help us out financially. But you should know that there are other options, including these products...”

A nonprofit organization exists to fulfill a mission. The AASLH mission statement talks about providing leadership to its members. If by “leadership” they mean to “influence or induce”, then this software endorsement arrangement makes sense. Call me crazy, but I think that most nonprofits use the term “leadership” to mean something different: to “guide in direction, course, action or opinion” - to provide information to stakeholders to help them in their own missions.

With the AASLH’s current practice of limiting approval and endorsement to their business partner’s product, they have no shot at providing their stakeholders with much needed guidance. You might say that the AASLH’s mission is impossible.

Tags: [AASLH](#)· [Museum software](#)

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← [Museum Archive \(web\) software project aaslh.org - impossible mission?](#) →

Don't forget about the Object Details!

August 5th, 2010 · [No Comments](#) · [Museum software](#)

I've recently had a number of comments from users about the Museum Archive software not providing a needed field for an Object (such as, "I wish it had a spot for the book's author"). Of course, most of the time the needed field does exist, but the user was not aware that it existed on the Object Details form. I guess a lot of people populate the Objects without ever using the Object Details button, which is a shame because the Object Details provide the real guts of the data. The Object "header" form is the same for every Object, but the Object Details form is specifically designed to match the Object's category. The Object Details form for a piece of Art is completely different from the Object Details form for an Oral History recording, and so on.

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Don't forget to click on that Object Details button!

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Museum Archive (web) software project

August 4th, 2010 · [No Comments](#) · [Museum software](#)

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I've been looking at various technologies, trying to decide how to port the Windows version of the Museum Archive software project to the web. I think I've settled on a plan... Using the same database and a small Windows-based web server application, the new web version will allow authorized users to edit and maintain the database through their web browser, and it will allow guests to view a sub-set of the data, all without any

downloads or hassles with installing apps.

The technology I've chosen uses jQuery and css - giving you the ability to customize the look and feel of the pages served, even though those pages are 'virtual' - created on the fly by the web server app. It will be pretty cool. The downside is a fairly long development schedule; I'll keep you posted on my progress.

Tags: [Museum software](#) · [web application](#)

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Museum Archive software status

July 4th, 2010 · [No Comments](#) · [Museum software](#)

It's been 14 months since I released the basic edition of the Museum Archive software package (www.musarch.com). Despite the fact that (due to the nature of the software) it appeals to a very limited number of users, and despite the fact that many organizations are already using other museum collection management software, there has been a steady number of new users. More than 700 people have downloaded the basic edition, and the feedback I've received has been all positive.

I am currently investigating the development of a specialized web server for the Museum Archive database. This server could run on any Windows machine and serve pages over the internet (if you provide an accessible IP address and port) or over a local area network. Check back for more details on my progress.

If you have a Museum Archive software success story that you would like to share, please let me know. Spread the word about the package, and link to the web site if you can. Thanks!

Tags: [Museum Archive software-status](#)

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Museum Archive software premium edition 1.4

June 4th, 2010 · [No Comments](#) · [Museum software](#)

When I first designed the Museum Archive software, I thought I might provide a method to play audio or video files from within the program. After playing with the idea, I realized that there were too many variables (codecs and so on) for me to spend time on, so I shelved the idea. Recently, some users have asked for the ability to link to PDF files, and that prompted me to take another approach to my original idea.

Version 1.4 (premium edition) gives you the ability to link to other file types from within an Object, and to open the referenced file from within the Museum Archive software. I simply pass the file name to Windows and let the operating system open the file (the same way it does when you double-click on the file name). If Windows can open the file, you can now open it from within the software.

The image section already opens the associated image file and displays it. Version 1.4 adds that capability to Audio Tracks, Oral History Tracks, and Video files. Each of these Object Detail forms now has a Play button. Don't forget, Windows is doing the work, so you have to set up the operating system to use the appropriate software to open that type of file (that is, you have to associate the software with the file type).

I've extended this capability to any type of file - DOC, PDF, XLS, whatever. I've also added the ability to associate an external file to every Object Note. You simply place the associated file name in square brackets at the beginning of your note text, and the software will pass that name on to Windows to open it up. The Note form also has a file look-up button which will place the file name in square brackets for you. As one user commented, this is like having an email attachment for every Note - easy to keep track of and view.

Thanks to Charles Browne and Jeremy Robson for the very helpful feedback. The upgrade is available at the site (www.musarch.com).

Tags: [Museum software](#) · [premium edition](#) · [update](#)

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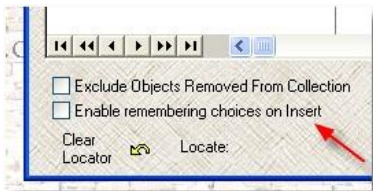
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Version 1.3 released

May 30th, 2010 · [No Comments](#) · [Museum software](#)

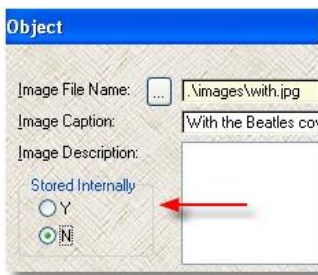
Version 1.3 of the Museum Archive software project is now available at the site (www.musarch.com). This release takes care of a few minor cosmetic items, but it also introduces two new features.

First, it seems that many users are entering similar items into the database, and it gets to be a pain to fill in the same values in the Object table time after time. For example, a group of objects might all have the same General Category, Category, Collection, Source Category, Status, and so on. Users have requested a way to automate the process a little by filling in those fields during subsequent Insert operations. I've added a check box on the main Object browse:



If you check this box, the software will remember your entries and try to use them on subsequent inserts during the current work session. It forgets these "default" entries as soon as you exit the software, and it only remembers some of the settings on the Object header form - fields that are likely to have the same value from object to object. You can turn it on and off at will. I think this will help to speed up those repetitive entries.

Another feature that people seem to really want is the ability to store the images associated with objects in the database. Prior to version 1.3, the database recorded a link to the image. Now, you have the choice of using a link pointing to a separate image file or telling the software to copy the image into the database. You can mix and match this option - use some links and some internally stored images - it is up to you. The path to the image file is still stored in the database if you choose to store the image internally, but that is more of a reminder. Once the image is stored internally, the software no longer uses the link.



As images are stored, the database size will grow accordingly, so keep this in mind.

These two new features are available in the premium edition of the software.

The installation (setup) files for both editions now include a copy of the import/export utility and a copy of the read-only viewer. The premium upgrade installation file is password protected; registered users can obtain a password by writing to support@musarch.com.

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This new version makes a small modification to the database structure, so be sure to backup your TPS files prior to installing the new release.

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← [Museum Archive project Import-Export utility Version 1.3 released](#) →

Next up for the Museum Archive software project

May 15th, 2010 · [No Comments](#) · [Museum software](#)

I sent out a short poll to registered users of the premium edition, and the majority of respondents want the capability to store images in the database, as opposed to the current method of storing just the link (path and file name) to the image. That is the feature I am going to work on next, followed by the ability to create web pages (html) directly from the database. Check back here for more news about the project...

Tags: [Museum software](#) · [new features](#)

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Museum Archive project Import-Export utility

May 2nd, 2010 · [No Comments](#) · [Museum software](#)

A new utility is available on the web site (<http://www.musarch.com>) that allows you to export the entire database to xml for any purpose. It also has the ability to read the generated xml file to import your database into another installed copy of the Museum Archive software. This ability was requested by several users. In one case, a group of church parishes wants to use the software to manage their individual collections (one per parish), but at some point combine all of the parishes' data into a single, diocese-wide database. This utility makes that easy.

To combine individual collections, copy one of the collections to a new folder. For every other collection you want to add, run the utility to produce (export) the xml file. Copy the xml file to the new folder and import it using the utility. When you are done, all of the original installations are untouched, but you have a new installation with all of the data from the other places.

There are a few things to watch out for - this is version 1.0, after all. See the download page for details. Feedback is appreciated. A few tips are listed on the download page. As always, backup your data. This works with either edition of the software.

By the way, you can view the xml file either in your browser or with any text editor. Don't edit it if you intend to import it.

Thanks to Connie Marks for the valuable feedback.

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Musarch - New version of the Premium edition

April 19th, 2010 · [No Comments](#) · [Museum software](#)

I just released version 1.2 of the Premium edition of the Museum Archive software. As always, backup your data before installing any new version. This version cleans up a few minor issues and it places an image on the detailed report. If an object has more than one image associated with it, only the first image will appear on the report. For most users, it seems that most (if not all) objects have a single image, so this is just what they need. The image that prints may not be full size - that isn't possible given the paper size and the unlimited possibilities for image sizes, but each image should be large enough to be useful as a part of the report. Feedback is appreciated.

Go to the [web site \(www.musarch.com\)](http://www.musarch.com) and download the installation file.

Tags: [Museum software](#) · [update](#)

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Basic Edition update - Museum Archive software

April 3rd, 2010 · [No Comments](#) · [Museum software](#)

I have released version 1.1 of the free basic Museum Archive software. This release fixes the same issues repaired in the most recent Premium edition release (see <http://www.jhalpin.com/devblog/museum-archive-premium-version-update-11/>). New users automatically get version 1.1 with the free download, but anyone who got started with the software before April 2010 should download the update. Go to www.musarch.com to obtain the files. If you aren't sure which version you are running, use the *About* menu choice to see. As always, backup your files before installing any new version.

Tags: [free basic version](#) · [Museum software](#)

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← [Murray Dropkin's blog Basic Edition update - Museum Archive software](#) →

Museum Archive Premium edition version update 1.1

April 1st, 2010 · [No Comments](#) · [Museum software](#)

I've just released a minor update to the Premium edition of the software. A similar update to the basic edition will be available soon. Version 1.1 includes a few minor bug fixes:

- All dates are now displayed in a format specified by your Windows short date setting - the original software used the typical American format of mm/dd/yy. Now users around the world can use the date format of their choosing.
- Some of the Query fields in the detailed report had the same names; I added the table name to the field name to enable you to distinguish which is which.
- If no image is associated with an Object, the software would display an image from another Object if you clicked on the Refresh Image button. This is now fixed.

The update is available on the web site (www.musarch.com/download2.html). Please back up your files before installing the update. Feedback is welcome.

The next update to the Premium edition will have additional reports. I'm still working on the import/export utility, and I also have plans to make a better version of the read-only viewer.

Special thanks to Andrew Willett of Australia for his valuable feedback.

Tags: [museum software:update:premium version](#)

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New Viewer software

March 24th, 2010 · [No Comments](#) · [Museum software](#)

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I have had a number of requests for a read-only version of the Museum Archive software. A read-only viewer would allow organizations to distribute a copy of their data to the public without fear that the data will be altered. I've completed the first version of the viewer, and it is available for download at the web site:

www.musarch.com/downloads.

To test the viewer, drop the EXE into your installation folder and run it. This is a stand-alone EXE; the only files it requires are the data files (all TPS files) from the regular package, along with the images referenced by the database.

To distribute the viewer, copy the EXE and your TPS files on to a CD or into a zip file. You should include your images if you want them displayed (and if you don't mind distributing copies to the public).

I'd appreciate feedback about this software. I plan on creating a version 2 which will package up your data and images into a single file - this will further protect your data and images from use by anything other than the viewer software. By including a copy of the images in the single file, problems with the path to the image are eliminated. This second version will be a more labor-intensive undertaking, so I'd like to know if there is a real need for it before I spend any more time.

Tags: [museum software](#); [read-only viewer](#)

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← [Changes to the Museum Archive software](#) [New Viewer software](#) →

Distributable read-only version

March 17th, 2010 · [No Comments](#) · [Museum software](#)

I'm working on a version of the Museum Archive software that organizations can use to place their collection details in the hands of the general public. This read-only version should be available in the next two weeks, and all users of the software can freely distribute it (along with a copy of their data files).

A few minor fixes to the software will be released at the same time, including a date format change which will allow international users to work with the date format of their choice (instead of the mm/dd/yy format originally in the software). Actually, the software will use the Windows setting (located in the Control Panel).

After this release is in the books, I'll be working on an import/export utility. Some users are working on the data in non-networked environments, and they need a way to combine their entries in a single database.

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← [A first look at putting the Museum database online](#) [Distributable read-only version](#) →

Changes to the Museum Archive software

February 26th, 2010 · [No Comments](#) · [Museum software](#)

I've had a number of requests for an import function. The difficulty with letting users import data is that the database has so many relationships among the tables, and it is hard to set up a CSV to get them all correct. All the same, it would make the package more useful, so this has moved to the top of my list of proposed changes.

Another useful feature would be to supply a copy of the software that cannot edit the database - a read-only or view-only version. AdChoices ▶
That's easy to do, and I will start working on it.

Users from outside of the US have requested a method of changing the date format. Right now the program uses mm/dd/yy. This is on my list.

Tags: [Museum software](#) · [proposed changes](#)

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A first look at putting the Museum database online

February 23rd, 2010 · [No Comments](#) · [Museum software](#)

I am experimenting with the idea of creating methods of publishing (and editing) the museum project's database. One of the options I am currently looking at would be great for remote access by authorized individuals. It involves creating two pieces of software: a single-purpose web server and a remote client application. The web server would directly read and write the same database used by the desktop version, but it would be more secure than most web apps because it will only respond to requests that originate from the remote client application. Any attempts to access the data from a browser or ftp client would fail.

AdChoices 

Smaller organizations could use their broadband connection to allow staff members to work remotely by making the single-purpose server listen on a port other than the usual port 80 (which is probably blocked by their ISP) and hooking up with a dynamic DNS service.

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I should have some preliminary results available soon. I am also looking at some more traditional ways to allow users to publish the database online - these will be in addition to the client/server idea.

Check it out at <http://www.musarch.com>

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Museum Archive Software Project

February 5th, 2010 · [No Comments](#) · [Museum software](#)

The Museum Archive Software Project (located at www.musarch.com) is off to a pretty good start. The accompanying book is available on [Amazon](#), and there has been some positive feedback from various types of organizations - including schools, small community museums, and private individuals.

I am looking at creating some additional modules to go along with the premium version of the software. Candidates include:

- Import functionality
- Export functionality beyond that provided by the *Send-To* feature
- Stand-alone web server for the database
- Creation of static web pages from database entries

Check back here to see what happens next...

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