OSCI Glossary

TERM	DEFINITION
Application Programming Interface (API)	A set of requirements that govern how different software applications talk with one another, making it possible for one program to use information services from another.
Clean Data	Information that is consistently formatted and error-free, with the same structure from object to object.
Collection Management System (CMS)	Computer software that allows museums to capture and use data related to their collections; a commonly used CMS is The Museum System (TMS).
Content Management System	A software application or set of related programs that are used to create and manage digital content, such as websites; this usually includes a front-end interface that allows users with limited expertise to add, modify, and remove content from a website without the intervention of a webmaster.
Controlled Vocabularies	A structured arrangement of words and phrases that organize knowledge for subsequent retrieval; controlled vocabulary schemes mandate the use of predefined, authorized terms that have been preselected by the designers of the schemes, in contrast to natural language vocabularies, which have no such restriction.

Dedicated Search Function	A search field that is set up to return results from a specified, restricted domain.
Digital Asset Management System (DAMS)	Computer software that enables users to upload, annotate, store, retrieve, and distribute digital media files such as photos, video, or audio.
Discoverability	The quality of being easy to find via a search engine, within an application, or on a website.
Drupal	A free, open-source content management system (see above) that is designed to be modular and highly flexible.
Functional Requirements Document	A list of all of the technical specifications that are desired for a given project.
HTML	Or Hyper Text Markup Language, the main programming language used to create content on the World Wide Web.
Information Architecture	The structure for a website, application, or other project, that allows users to understand where they are at any given point, and where other information they might want is in relation to their current location; the task of developing information architecture is generally shared among designers, software developers, and content experts.
Metatags	Snippets of text that describe the content of a Web page; they do not appear on the page itself, but only in the page's source code.

Microsite	An auxiliary website with independent links and addresses that is accessible from a larger, surrounding website.
PURL	Or Permanent Uniform Resource Locator, an address that identifies the location of a file on the Internet.
Responsive Design	A flexible design approach in which the presentation of information changes based on a user's viewing device or web browser.
Search Engine Optimization (SEO)	The process of maximizing the number of visitors to a particular website by ensuring that the site appears high on the list of results returned by a search engine.
Usability Studies	A method of product evaluation in which users are asked to complete tasks, typically while they are being observed by a researcher, to see where they encounter problems and experience confusion.
Version Control	The deliberate management and tracking of changes to documents, publications, computer programs, websites, and other collections of information over time.