

Creating custom entry forms

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Overview

Custom entry forms allow VIVO to transcend the general-purpose, utilitarian editing scheme of Vitro. Without custom entry forms, VIVO users must edit each RDF triple individually. With a custom entry form, users can edit a complex data structure on a single page.

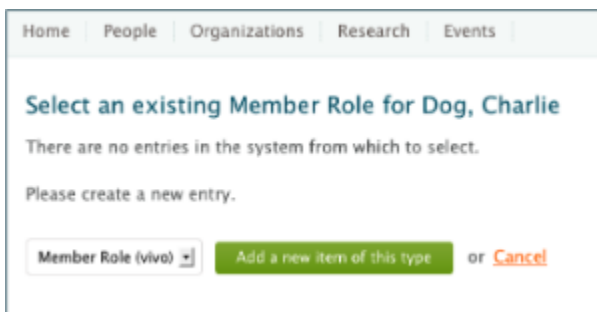
VIVO is distributed with a dozens of custom entry form generators. You may want to modify these form generators, or add more of your own.

An example

Say you wish to establish that a particular person is a member of a particular academic department. This relationship can be expressed as a member role. See [Membership Model](#)

But what if the academic department doesn't exist in VIVO yet? You will want to create that department, and assign a name to it. You may also want to record the member role in that department, when their membership began, and when it ended (if it is not ongoing).

Without a custom entry form, you would need to record each piece of data individually.



Home | People | Organizations | Research | Events

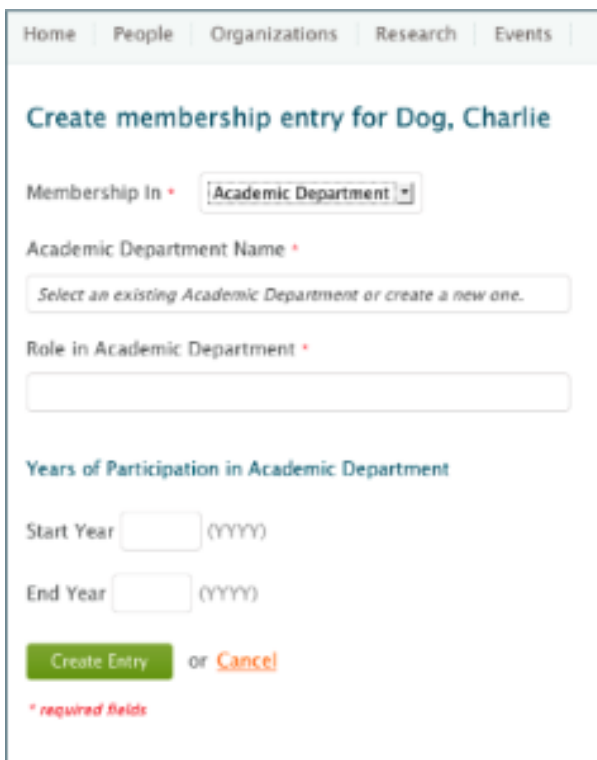
Select an existing Member Role for Dog, Charlie

There are no entries in the system from which to select.

Please create a new entry.

Member Role (vivo) or [Cancel](#)

VIVO includes a custom form generator for this relationship. The custom entry form looks like this:



Home | People | Organizations | Research | Events

Create membership entry for Dog, Charlie

Membership In *

Academic Department Name *

Role in Academic Department *

Years of Participation in Academic Department

Start Year (YYYY)

End Year (YYYY)

or [Cancel](#)

* required fields

How is it created?

The creation of custom entry forms is an arcane and eldritch art, for which little documentation is available.



Each form requires a Java class known as a `EditConfigurationGenerator`. The generator describes the data structure being created, lists the SPARQL queries used, and includes a reference to the Freemarker template that will render the form.

You can start by examining the existing generators in this directory

```
[VIVO]/src/edu/cornell/mannlib/vitro/webapp/edit/n3editing/configuration/generators
```

and the Freemarker templates found here

```
[VIVO]/productMods/templates/freemarker/edit/forms
```

- Note: The directory structure has changed in version 1.9+.
[VIVO]/src/... is now [VIVO]/api/src/main/java/...
[VIVO]/productMods/... is now [VIVO]/webapp/src/main/webapp/...

There is also a short page of technical description called [Implementing custom forms using N3 editing](#).