Mediathread

Mediathread Starting Guide

Revision: Draft

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Revision History

Revision	Date	Author	Organisation	Description
Draft	2014-07-21	A. Höller	AIT	Draft
Version01	2014-07-28	A. Höller	AIT	Example course and composition
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1 Introduction

MediaThread is an innovative, open-source platform for exploration, analysis, and organization of web-based multimedia content. The MediaThread environment connects to a variety of image and video archives (such as YouTube, Flickr, library databases, and university course collections), enabling users to lift items out of these sources and into an analysis environment using a simple browser-installed bookmarklet. Once in MediaThread, items can be clipped, annotated, organized, and embedded into essays and other written analysis, requiring users to formalize thinking, clarify interpretations, and improve arguments with evidence.

MediaThread especially supports collaboration. Work in MediaThread can be shared with classmates, collaborators or larger audiences. Groups of users can build essays and other types of projects together, incorporating items that they have collected independently. A customized home page and collaborative tagging help users discover common themes and interests, as well as track work being done by others on shared items and projects -- even allowing them to incorporate annotations made by others into their compositions. Since MediaThread is compatible with image as well as video objects, it liberates analysis from the constraints of any one collection or format.[1]

2 Using Mediathread

The Mediathread platform is opened by typing http://mtp.ait.co.at in the browser.

2.1 Logging-in

First a log-in window appears (see Figure 1). When the username and password have been entered click *"Log in"*.

Figure 1 Logging into Mediathread

If Mediathread is opened the first time a little tour with three steps is offered (see Figure 2, Figure 3 and Figure 4). The tour can be closed by clicking on the *"x"* in the corner.

[1] http://lizday.com/13792/284488/portfolio/mediathread 21st July, 2014

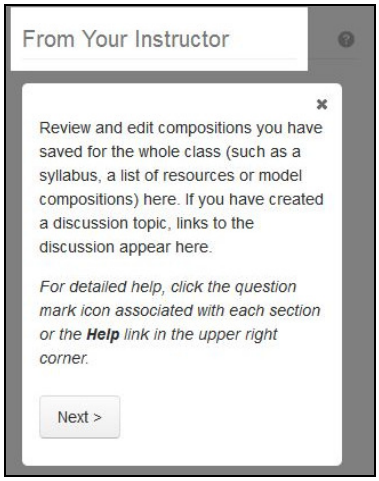

Figure 2 Tour step 1

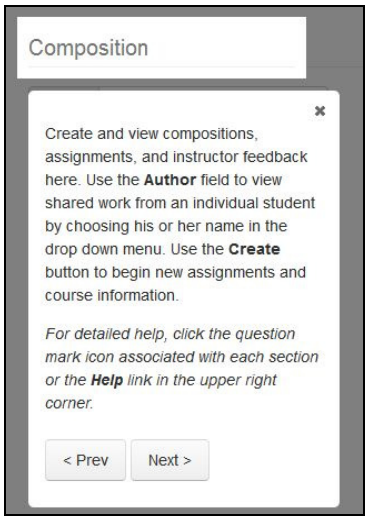

Figure 3 Tour step 2

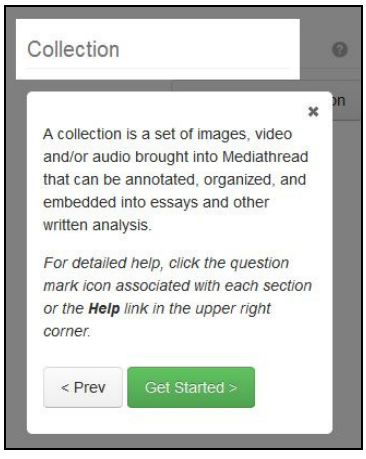

Figure 4 Tour step 3

When the tour is finished click *"Get Started"* and the *"Home"* screen can be seen (see Figure 5). We are starting by creating a new course.

Figure 5 Home screen

2.2 Creating a new course

When clicking on *"Create new course"* the following mask can be seen (see Figure 6). Filled in are:

1) Group
2) Title
3) Faculty Group
4) Users

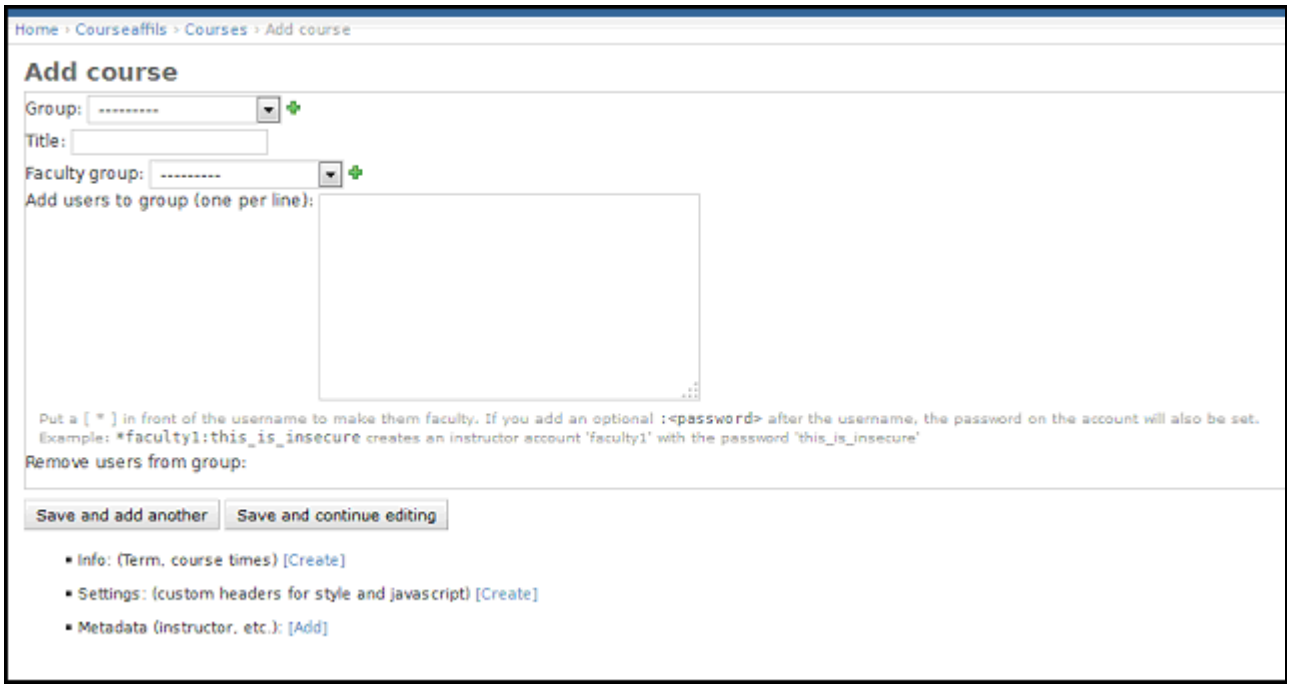

Figure 6 Adding a new course

When no group has been created yet you need to click on the green plus sign at the right. A window opens to add a new group (see Figure 7).

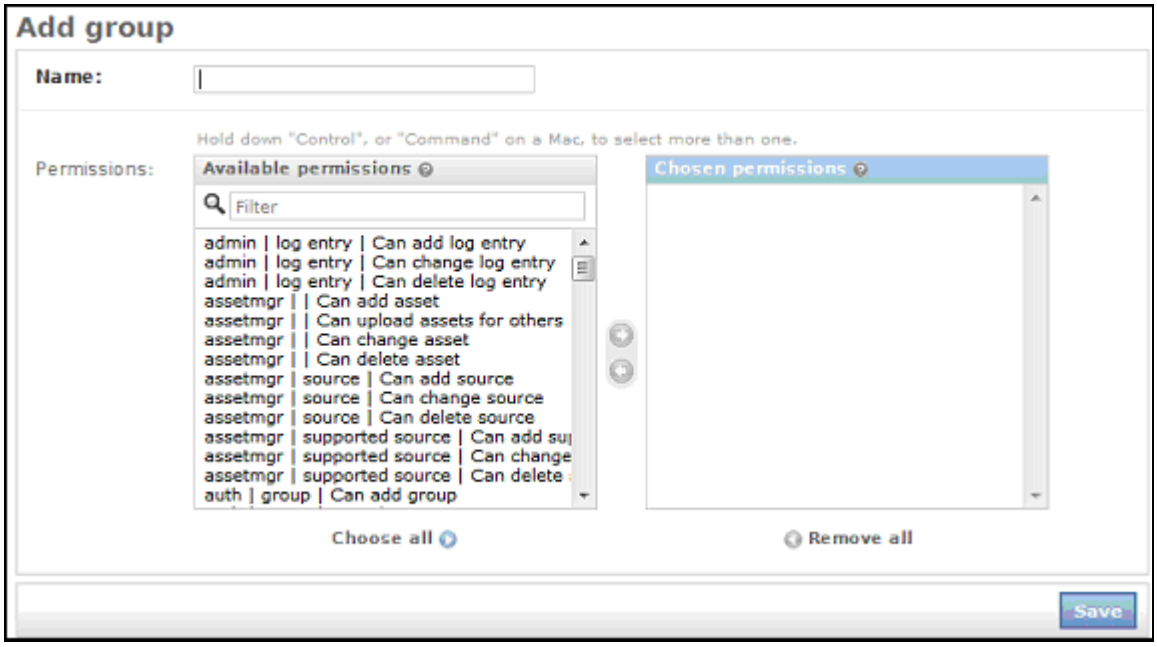

Figure 7 Adding a new group

After entering the *"Name"* of the new group its *"Permissions"* need to be defined. They are listed in the *"Available permissions"* table. When pointing at the question mark a short explanation can be seen (see Figure 8).

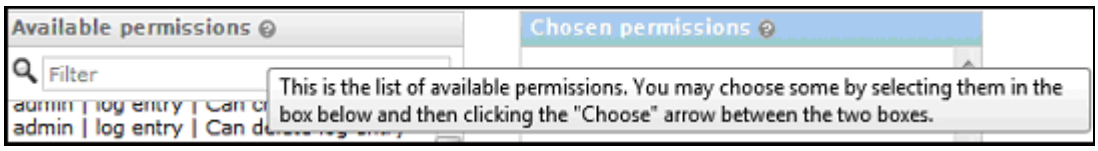

Figure 8 Help text for choosing permissions

The permissions can be chosen by double-clicking or by selecting them and then clicking the *"Choose"* arrow between the two boxes. By holding the control key more than one permission can be chosen. It is also possible to click the *"Choose all"* button so that every permission is chosen (see Figure 9). This step can be cancelled by clicking on the *"Remove all"* button. When everything has been filled in click *"Save".*

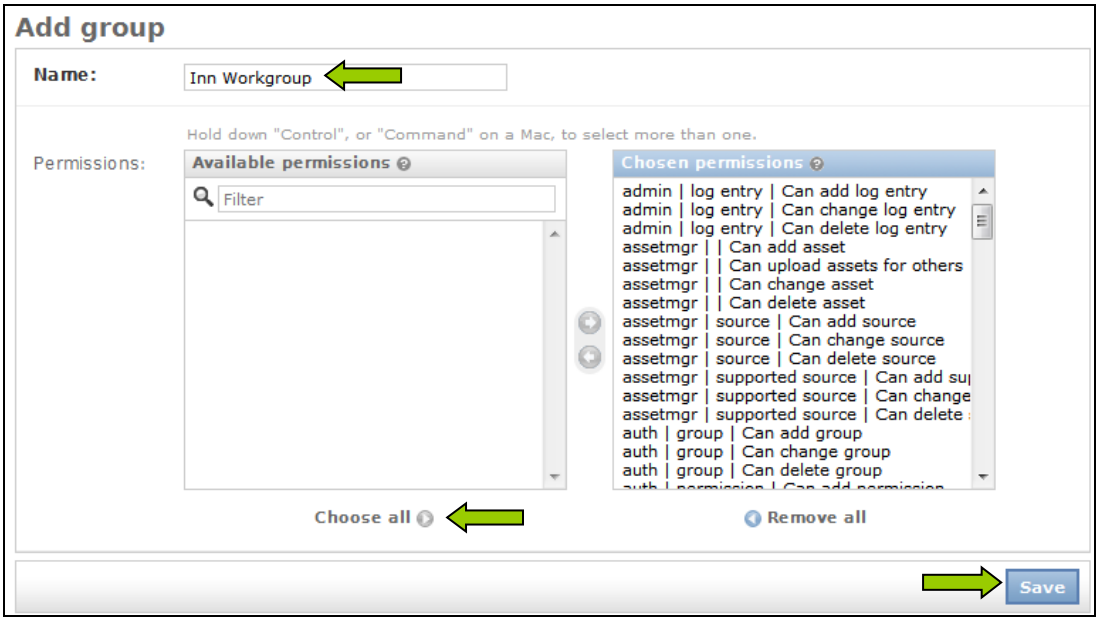

Figure 9 Choosing all permissions

The name of the group now appears in the *"Add course"* interface and the title has been filled in (see Figure 10).

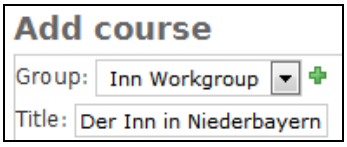

Figure 10 New group added

Now a *"Faculty group"* can be selected with the drop-down menu. If there had not been created any faculty groups yet click on the green plus sign at the right.

A similar window as before opens where again the *"Name"* and the *"Permissions"* need to be filled in (see Figure 11). When finished click *"Save"*.

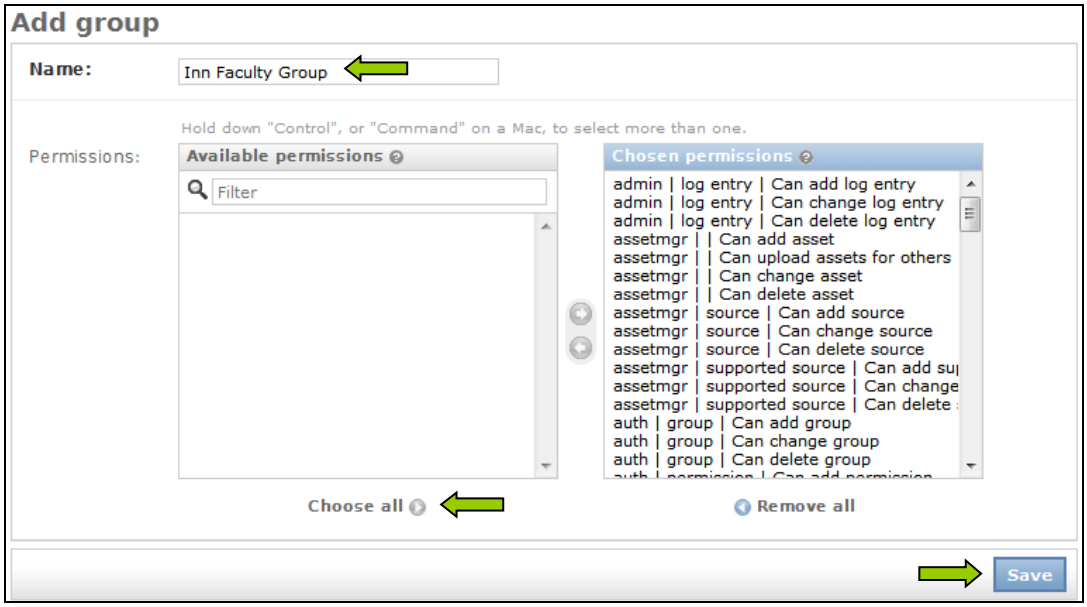

Figure 11 Adding the "Inn Faculty Group"

Now the *"Faculty group"* has been filled in and only the users are missing (see Figure 12).

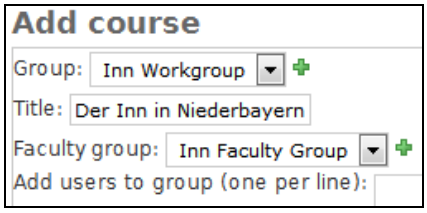

Figure 12 Filled in "Faculty group"

The users are added to the group by typing their names one per line in the box. Put a [*] in front of the username to make them faculty. If you add an optional :<password> after the username, the password on the account will also be set (see Figure 13).

In this example the three users *"student1", "student2"* and *"student3"* with their identical passwords have been created together with the faculty user *"prof"* and his password *"mediathread".* When this is finished click *"Save and continue editing".* Now the users can be removed at the bottom by ticking the checkboxes and select *"Delete"* (see Figure 14). Because the user *"prof"* belongs to the faculty *"(instructor)"* stands beside his name.

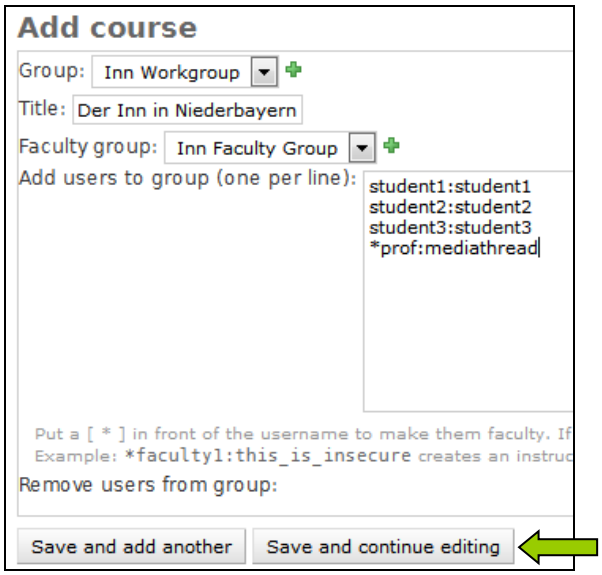

Figure 13 Adding the users to the group "Test Group"

Figure 14 Removing users from the group

At the bottom three more course features can be defined: *"Info", "Settings"* and *"Metadata"* (see Figure 15).

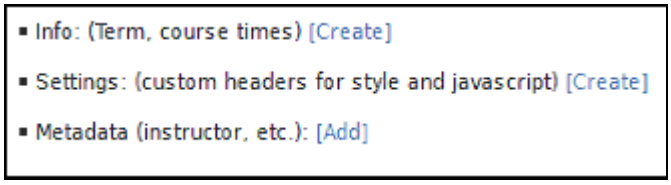

Figure 15 Editing course information

When clicking on *"Create"* after *"Info"* course times can be defined (see Figure 16). When finished click *"Save".*

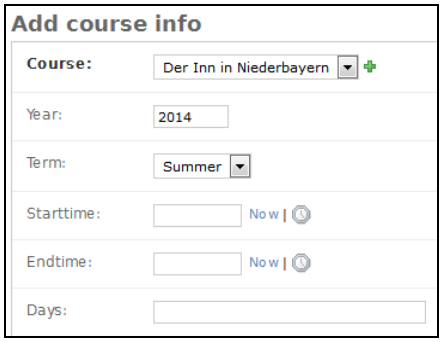

Figure 16 Defining course times

In the *"Settings"* section the *main.css* link in the header can be replaced. You need to add this as full HTML (<link rel="stylesheet" href="...." />) or add custom javascript (see Figure 17). When finished click *"Save".*

Figure 17 Adding course settings

When clicking on *"Add"* after *"Metadata"* course details can be added. The *"Name"* defines the type of data, the *"Value"* the name's value for the course (see Figure 18). When finished click *"Save".*

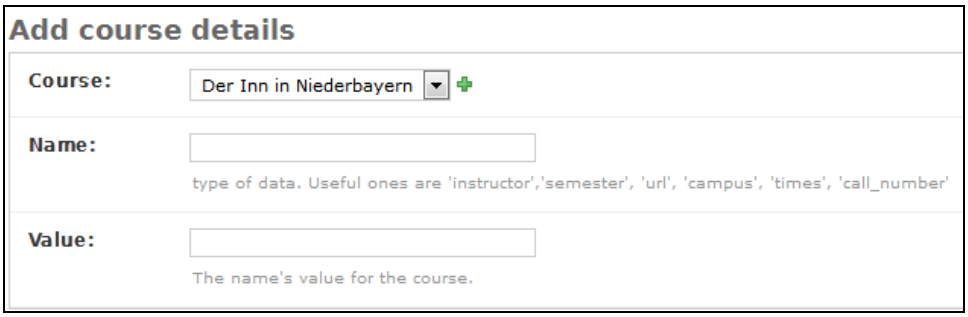

Figure 18 Adding course details

When everything has been filled in correctly click on *"Save"* and a course has been created (see Figure 19).

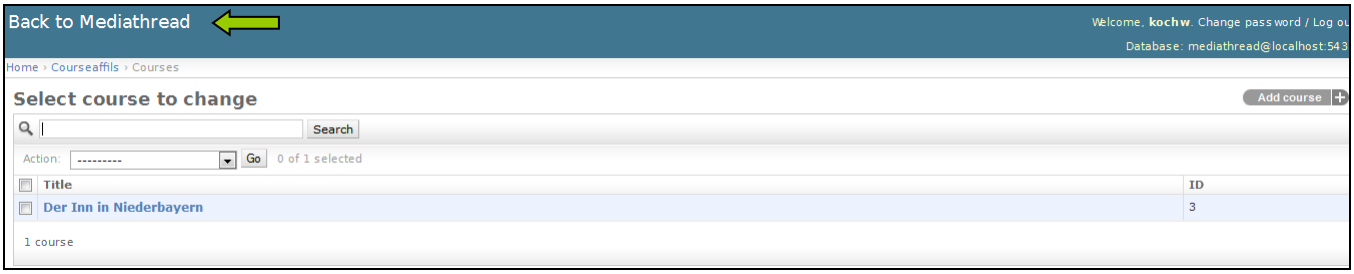

Figure 19 Created courses

When clicking on *"Back to Mediathread"* (see Figure 19) an overview of the created course *"Der Inn in Niederbayern"* can be seen (see Figure 20).

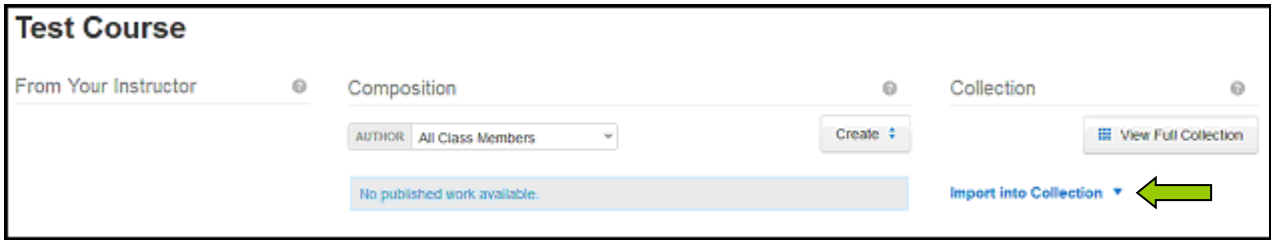

Figure 20 Overview page of "Der Inn in Niederbayern"

Now media assets can be imported by clicking on *"Import into Collection"* (see Figure 20).

2.2.1 Adding users to group

To be able to add and edit content of a course it is necessary that the user is part of the course group. To add a user to a group select username and *"Admin"* (see Figure 21).

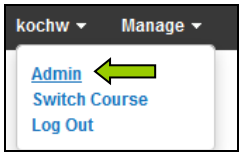

Figure 21 Click on "Admin"

The *"Site administration"* opens. Click on *"Users"* (see Figure 22).

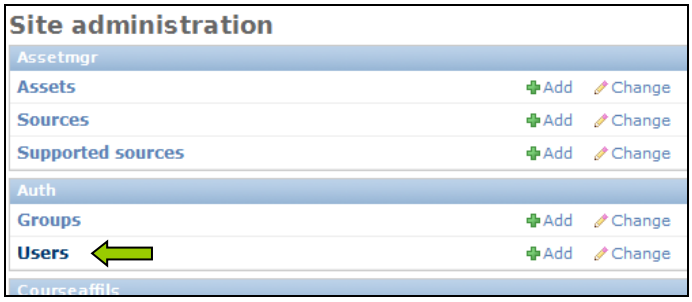

Figure 22 Click on "Users"

Now select the user that needs to be changed (see Figure 23). When clicking on one user an overview page with all user properties opens. When scrolling down the groups can be seen (see Figure 24). Make sure the groups of the needed course are selected. When this is done click *"Save"*.

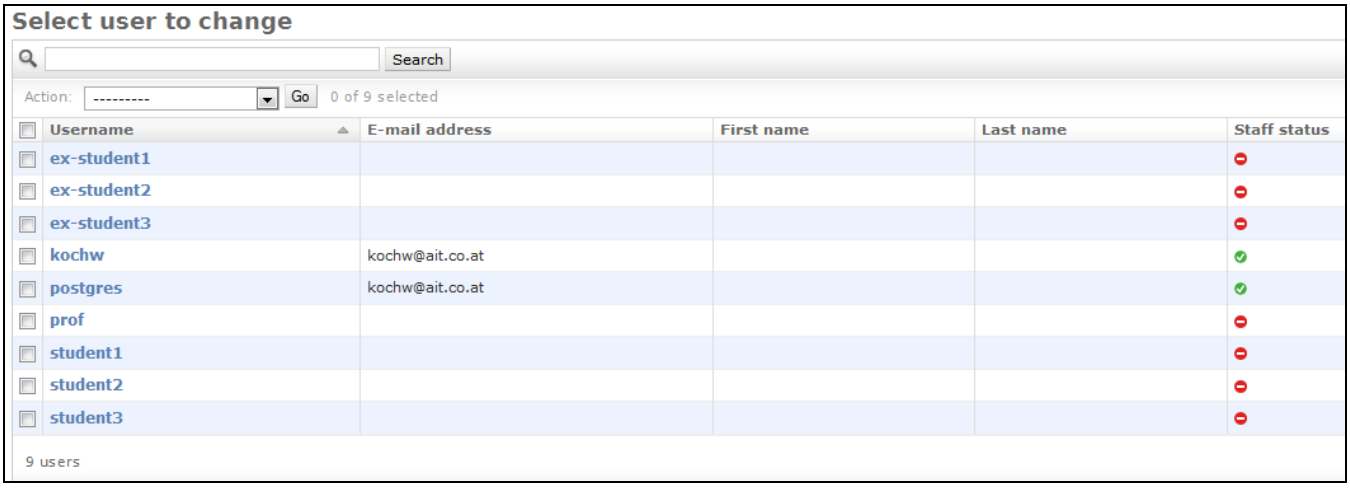

Figure 23 Select the user to change

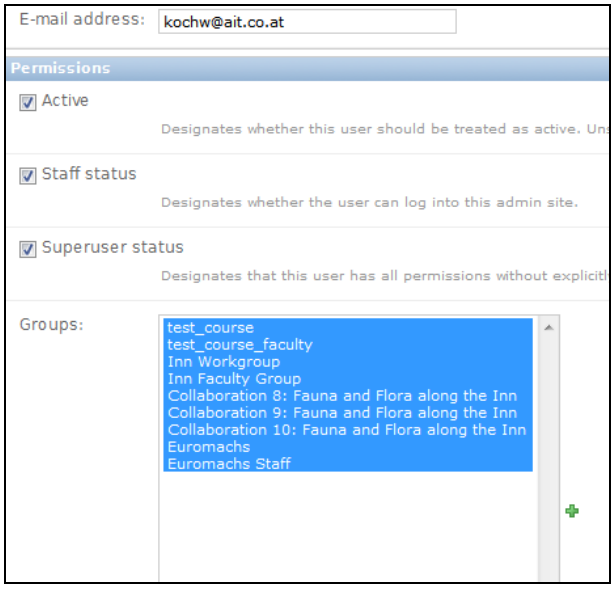

Figure 24 Groups of one user

2.2.2 Adding course vocabulary

First go to *"Manage"* and *"Vocabulary"* (see Figure 25).

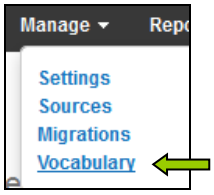

Figure 25 Clicking on "Vocabulary"

An overview of already created vocabularies opens (see Figure 26). To add a new vocabulary click on *"Create Concept".*

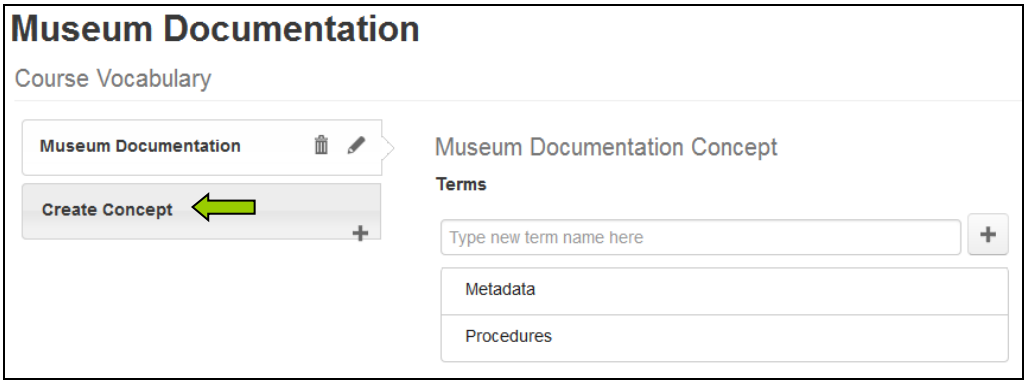

Figure 26 Created Vocabularies

Now enter the title of the vocabulary and click on the check mark (see Figure 27).

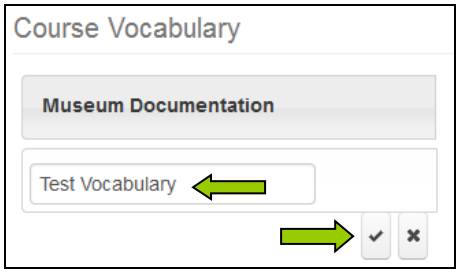

Figure 27 Adding "Test Vocabulary"

The *"Test Vocabulary"* can now be seen in the overview. On the right new terms can be added by typing in the term and clicking on the *"plus"* sign (see Figure 28). So one term after another can be added.

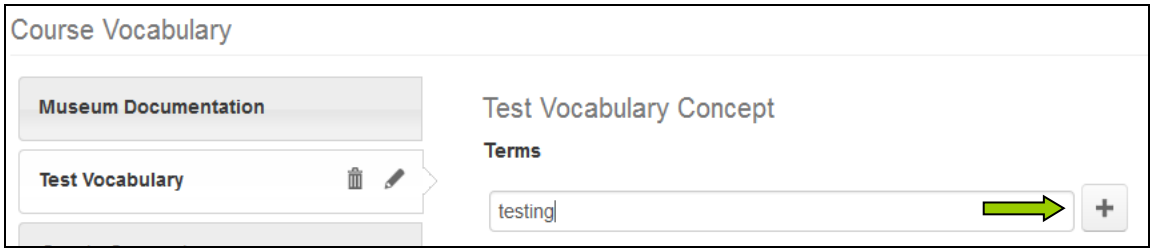

Figure 28 Adding Terms

When going to the *"admin"* area (compare Figure 21) there is a section called *"Taxonomy"* (see Figure 29). Here vocabularies can be added too. Furthermore *"Terms"* and *"Term relationships"* can be added.

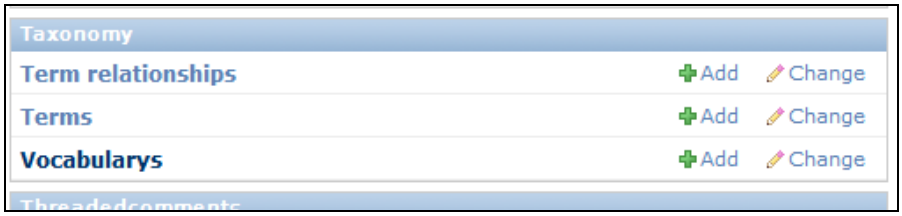

Figure 29 Taxonomy administration

2.3 *Importing into collection*

On the overview page of the course (compare Figure 20) you can click on the question mark besides *"Collection"* to open a help text (see Figure 30).

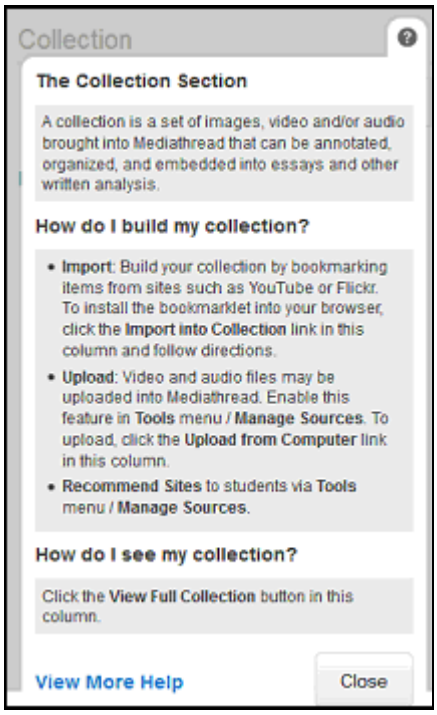

Figure 30 Help text for collections

When clicking on *"Import into Collection"* an info box opens (see Figure 31). A so-called "Mediathread Bookmarklet" is used to import images and videos from any web page containing Mediathread-friendly items.

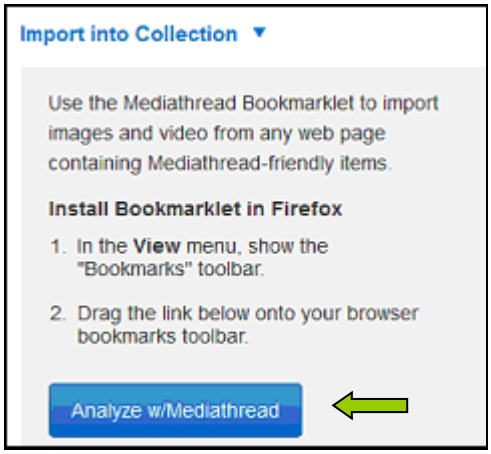

Figure 31 Import into Collection info box

To install the Bookmarklet in Firefox the *"Bookmarks"* toolbar needs to be shown (see Figure 32).

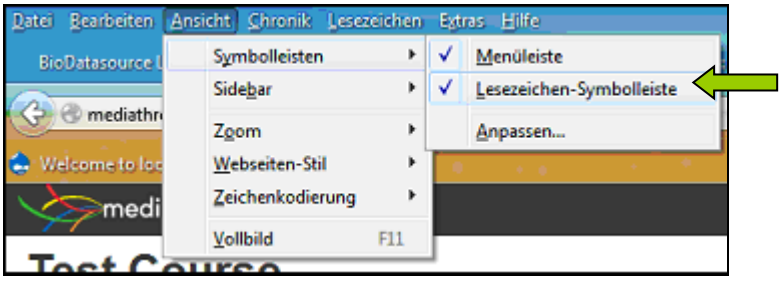

Figure 32 Showing the "Bookmarks" toolbar in Firefox

Then the *"Analyze w/Mediathread"* link of the info box is dragged onto the *"Bookmarks"* toolbar (see Figure 33).

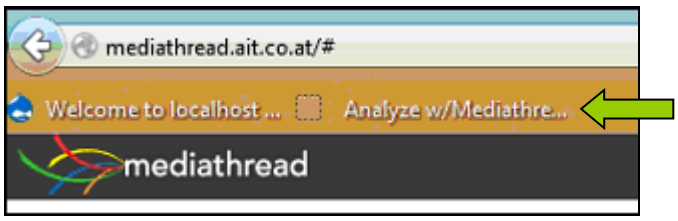

Figure 33 Dragging the "Analyze w/Mediathread" link onto the "Bookmarks" toolbar

Now you can go to any web site. In this example the homepage of the Science Magazine is chosen.[2] When now clicking on the link in the *"Bookmarks"* toolbar the images are selected (see Figure 34).

Click on *"Collect"* to save the items in Mediathread (see Figure 35). When clicking on "Save" a message appears (see Figure 36).

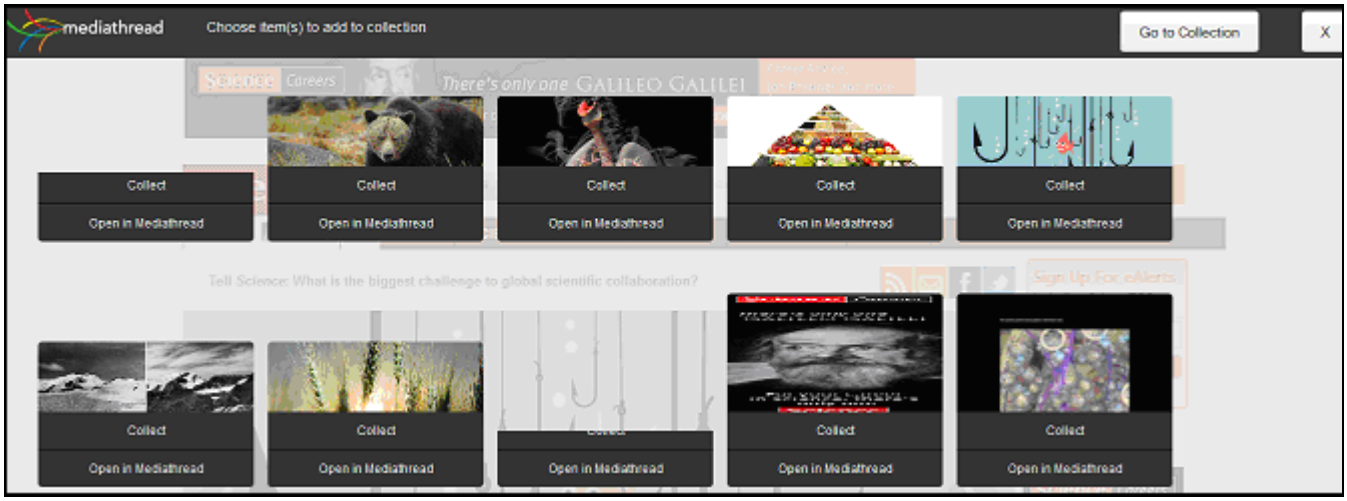

Figure 34 Choosing the items to add to the collection

[2] http://www.sciencemag.org/ 22nd July, 2014

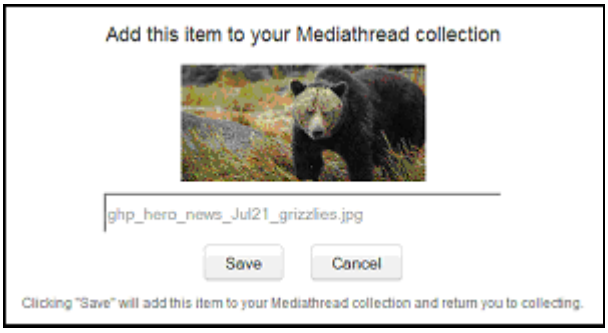

Figure 35 Adding an item to the Mediathread collection

Figure 36 Successfully saving the item

When clicking on *"Open in Mediathread"* the item is opened in Mediathread and can be edited (see Figure 37). On the right side a short help text is shown. Click on *"Dismiss Help"* to close the box.

Figure 37 Opening the item in Mediathread

When clicking on *"Create a selection"* (see Figure 38) part of the image can be cut out with the *"Cut"* symbol (see Figure 39). The item can also be zoomed by using the mouse wheel.

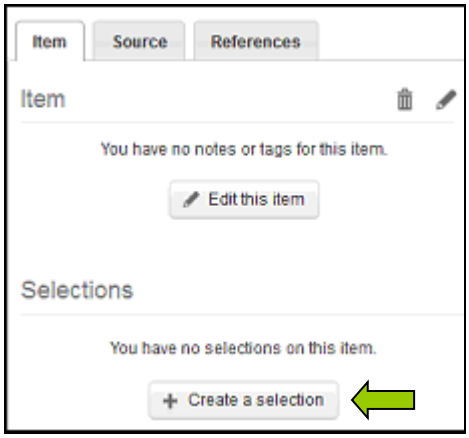

Figure 38 Creating a selection

Furthermore information on the item can be filled in at the right side, like *"Title"*, *"Tags"* or *"Notes"*.

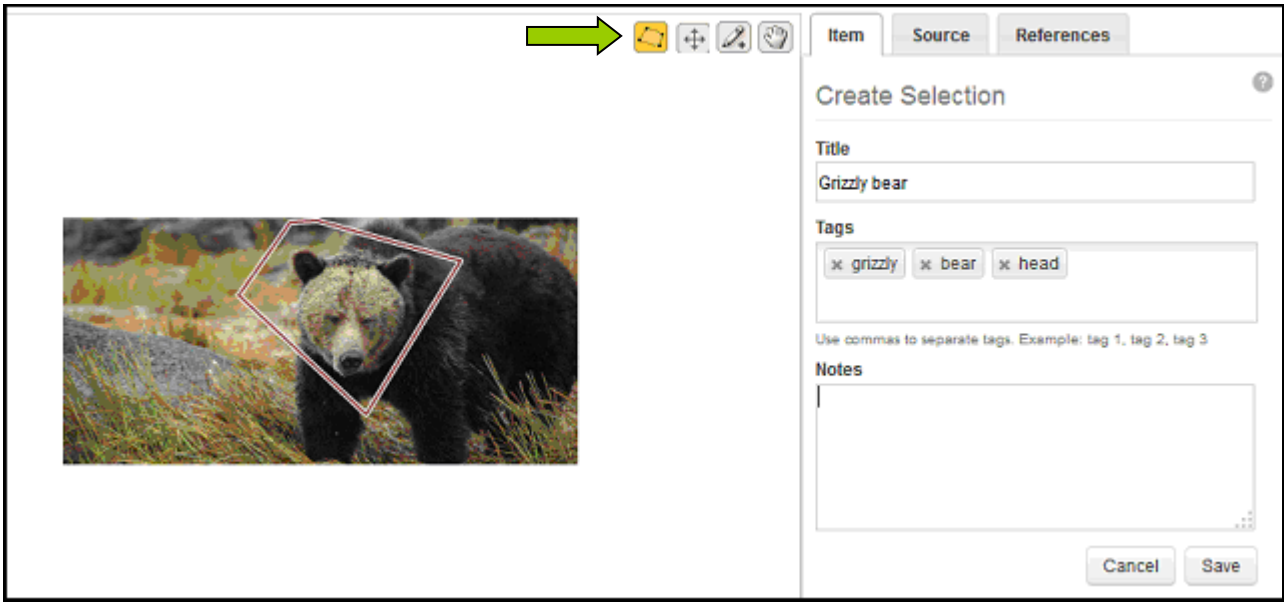

Figure 39 Cutting out part of the image

In the *"Source"* tab the original source of the image is given (see Figure 40).

Figure 40 Source of the image

When finished click *"Save"* at the bottom of the *"Item"* tab. The selections are now shown at the right (see Figure 41).

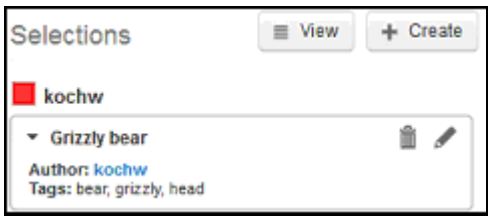

Figure 41 Finished Selections

2.3.1 Migrating materials from one Mediathread course to another[3]

By clicking on *"Manage"* and *"Migration"* compositions, assignments, discussions, items and selections can be migrated from one Mediathread course to another (see Figure 42). Using *"Migrations"* requires at least two courses.

[3] http://support.ccnmtl.columbia.edu/knowledgebase/articles/157242-migrating-materials-from-one-mediathread-course-to 28th July, 2014

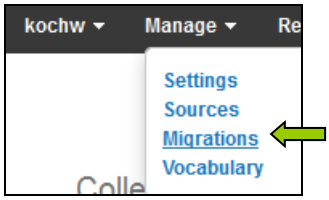

Figure 42 Selecting "Migrations"

As can be seen in Figure 43 only faculty staff can migrate course materials. In this example the user *"prof"* is selected. To migrate all materials including all compositions and assignments that have been created and all items that have been imported or annotated in a course, choose *"Select Everything"*.

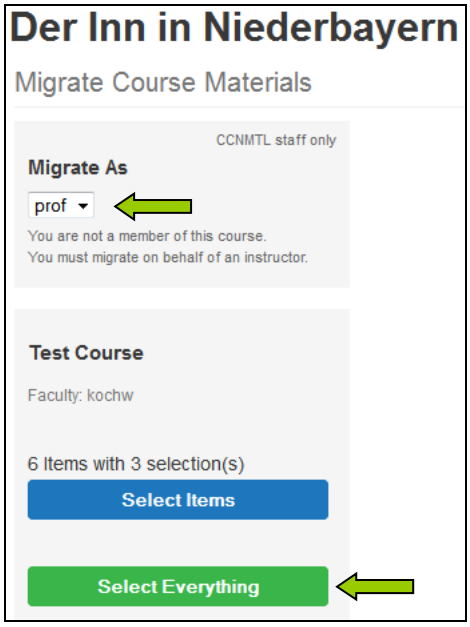

Figure 43 Migrating course materials

When clicking on *"Select Everything"* an info box shows which items, selections etc. are imported from which course (see Figure 44). To confirm the selection click on *"Select"*.

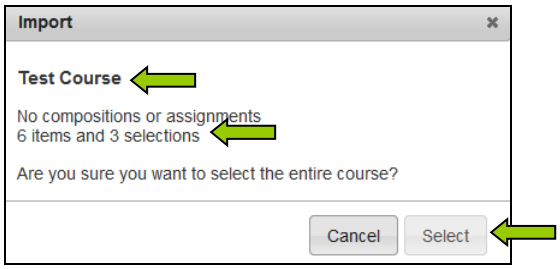

Figure 44 Importing everything from "Test Course"

A list with all items appears (see Figure 45). To remove items click on the *"x"* beside each item. When finished click *"Migrate Selected"*.

Figure 45 Migrate all selected items

A success message is shown with the number of items migrated (see Figure 46). Click *"OK"*.

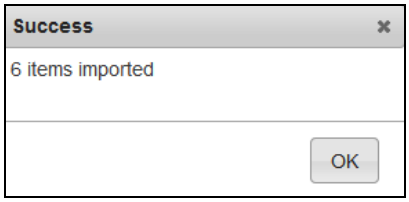

Figure 46 Items have been imported

When clicking on *"Select Items"* the items that need to be migrated can be selected by ticking the checkbox (see Figure 47). When finished click *"Select"*. At the top *"Select All"* can be chosen for selecting every item on the list. When clicking *"Clear All"* the selection is cancelled.

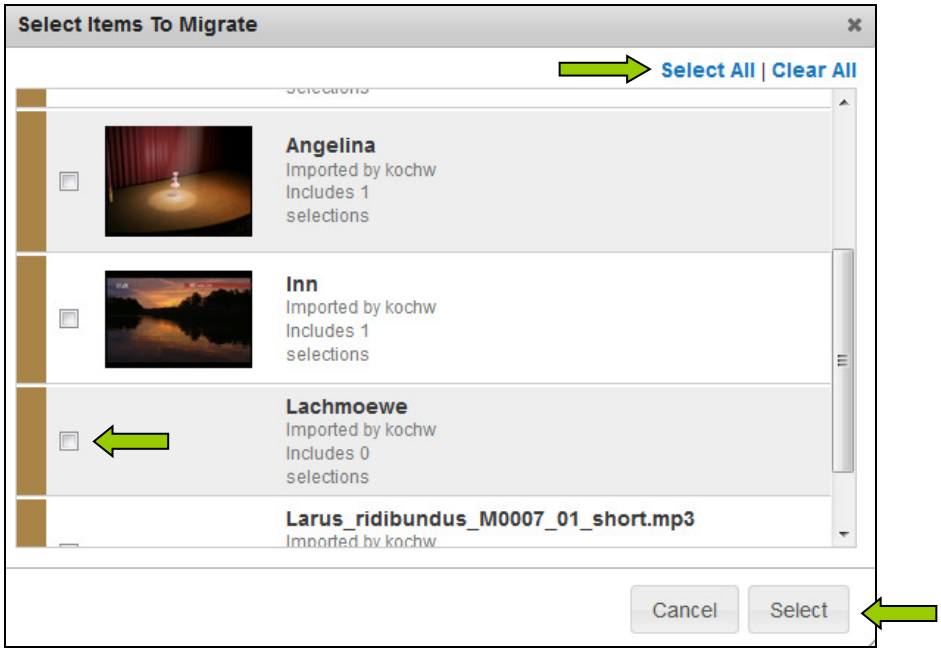

Figure 47 Selecting items to migrate

2.4 Composition

When clicking on *"Back to Mediathread"* a *"Composition"* section can be seen. By clicking on *"Create"* *"Assignments", "Compositions"* or *"Discussions"* can be created (see Figure 48).

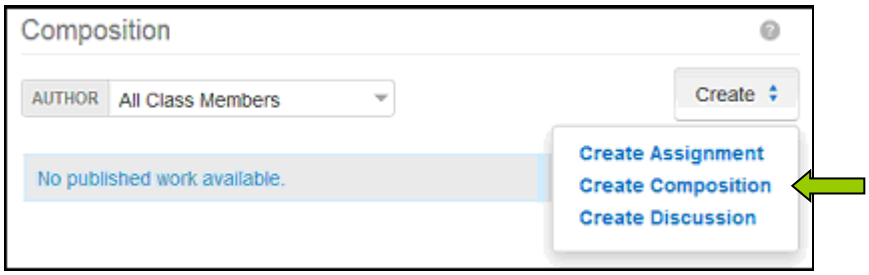

Figure 48 Choosing a composition

2.4.1 Creating a Composition

Click on *"Create Composition"* (compare Figure 48). The window shown in Figure 49 opens. First a title is filled in. Then some text can be added. Figure 50 shows the composition with title and assignment of tasks.

To add collaborators to the composition click *"+/- Author"*. A window opens where the authors can be transferred to the right box by clicking on the arrow button (see Figure 51). When finished click on *"Update"*.

When this is done the authors are listed on top of the composition (see Figure 52).

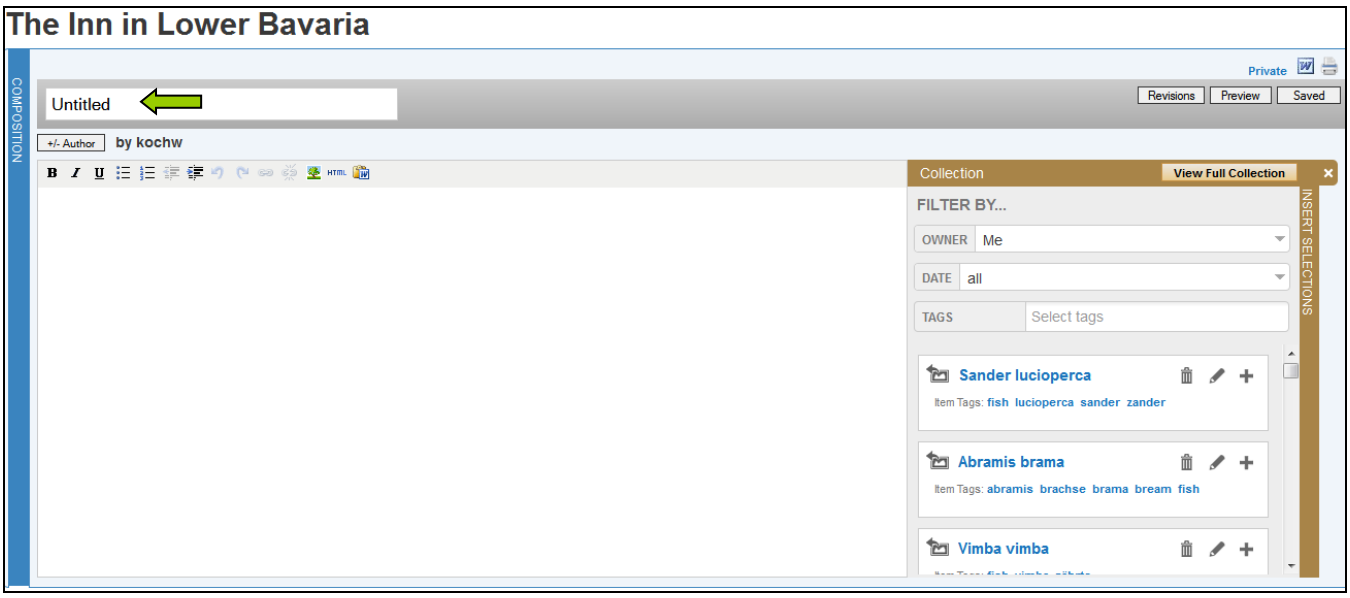

Figure 49 Creating a composition

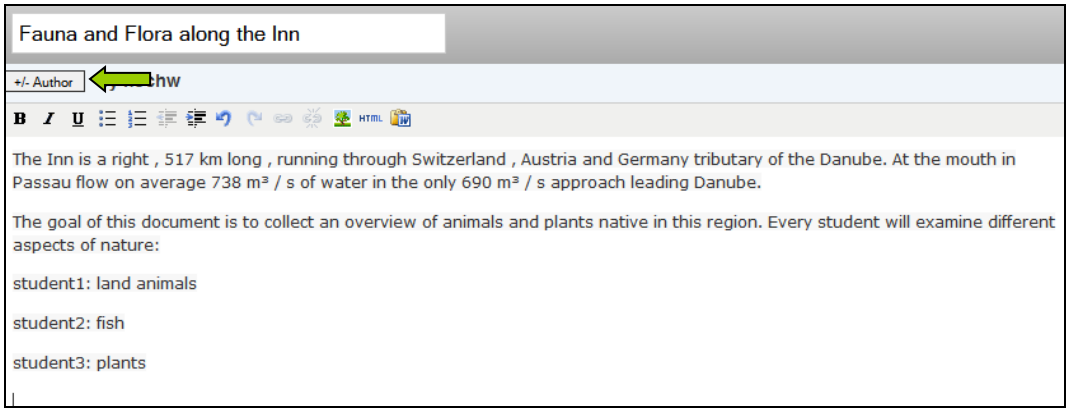

Figure 50 Creating the composition "Fauna and Flora along the Inn"

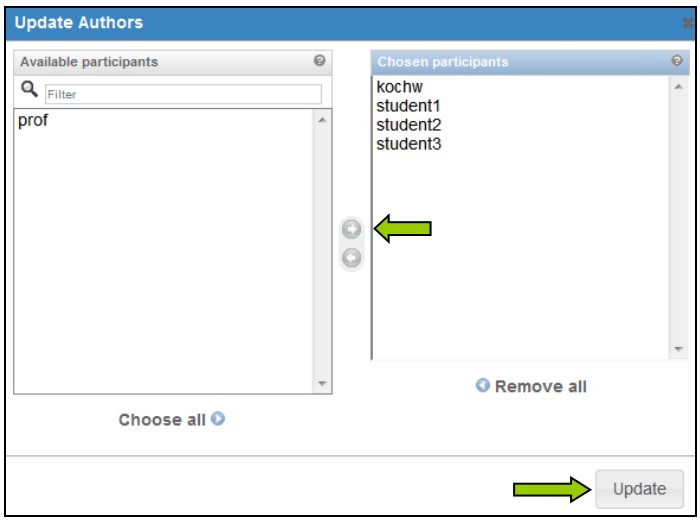

Figure 51 Adding authors to compositon

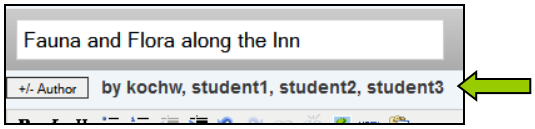

Figure 52 Authors added to composition

On the right side the collection can be seen (see Figure 53). By clicking on the arrow symbol on the left the item is added to the composition (see Figure 54). To edit the item click on the pencil symbol. To create a new selection click on the plus sign (compare Figure 39).

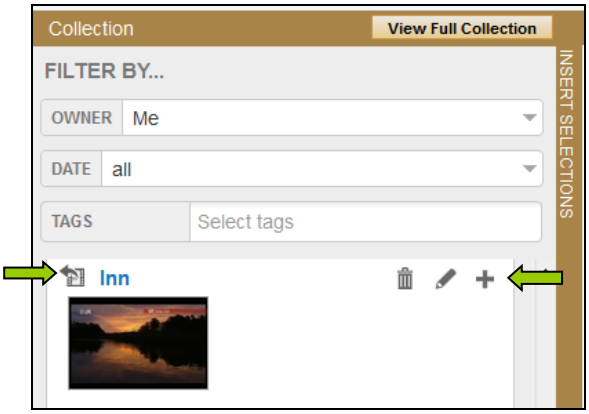

Figure 53 Adding items or selection

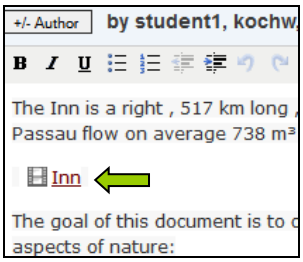

Figure 54 Adding the item "Inn" to the composition

When finished click on *"Save"*. Now the author can choose between different levels of visibility (see Figure 55). Anything saved on the *"Whole Class"* level is visible to all students in the class and appears in the *"From Your Instructor"* pane on the home page under the heading *"INFORMATION"* (used in this example, see Figure 56). Anything saved as an *"Assignment"* is also visible to all students in the class and appears in the *"From Your Instructor"* pane on the home page under the heading *"ASSIGNMENTS"*.

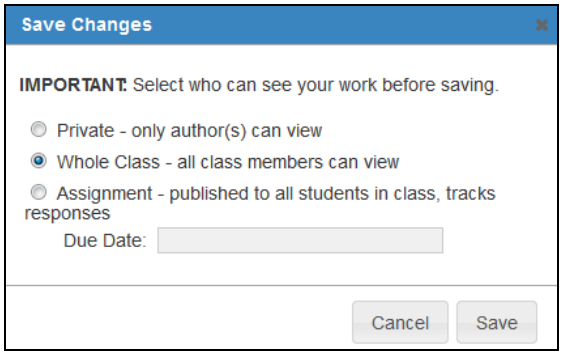

Figure 55 Choosing the level of visibility when saving

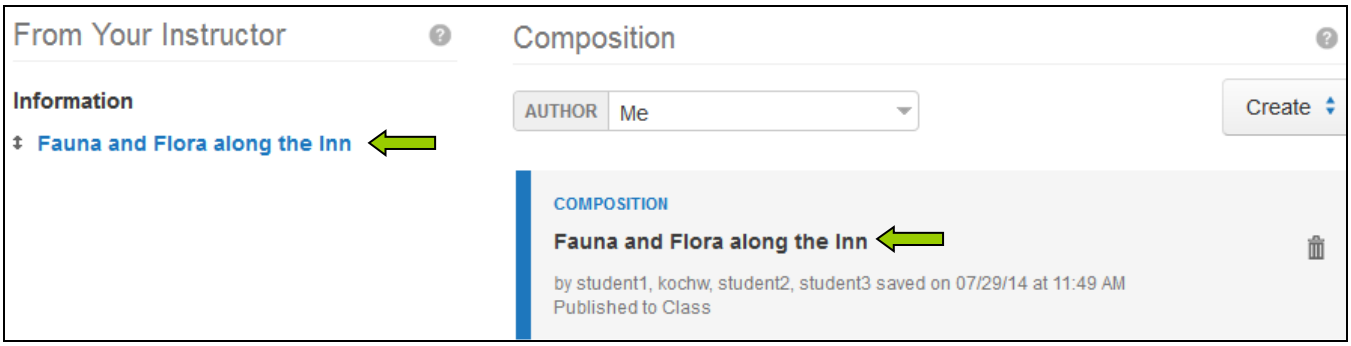

Figure 56 Overview page with created composition

2.4.2 Creating an Assignment

When clicking on *"Create Assignment"* the following screen can be seen (see Figure 57).

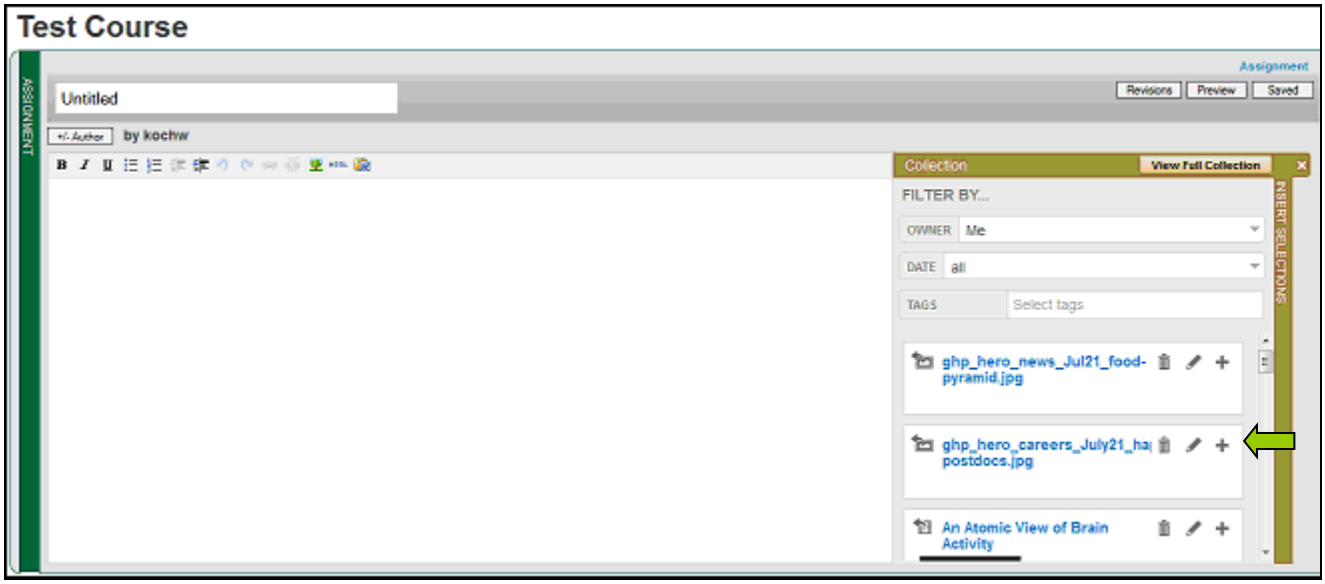

Figure 57 Creating an Assignment

After filling in the title and some text *"Selections"* can be added by clicking on the *"+"* sign of a selection (see Figure 58).

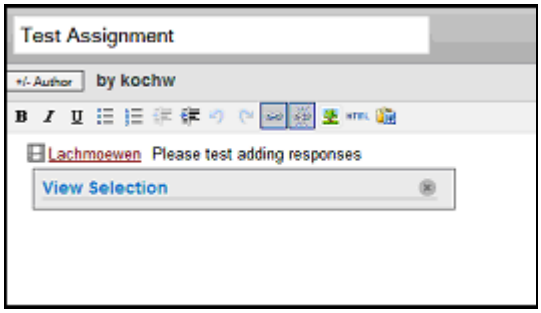

Figure 58 Adding the Selection "Lachmoewen"

When finished click *"Save"*. The newly created *"Assignment"* does now appear on the overview page of the course in the *"Composition"* section (see Figure 59).

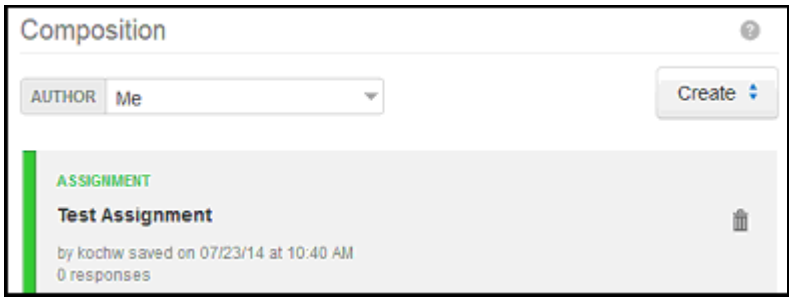

Figure 59 The newly created "Test Assignment"

When now a student logs in **(it needs to be a user without admin rights)** a *"Respond to Assignment"* button can be seen (see Figure 60).

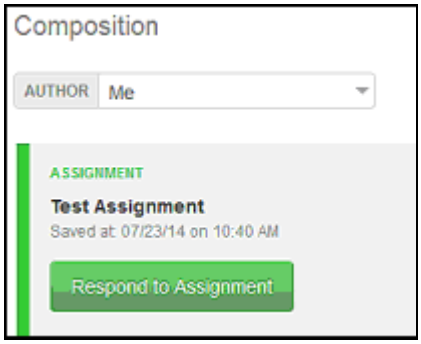

Figure 60 Responding to an Assignment

When clicking on *"Respond to Assignment"* the following window opens (see Figure 61). The left side is the Assignment instructions and the right side is the *"Assignment Response"*.

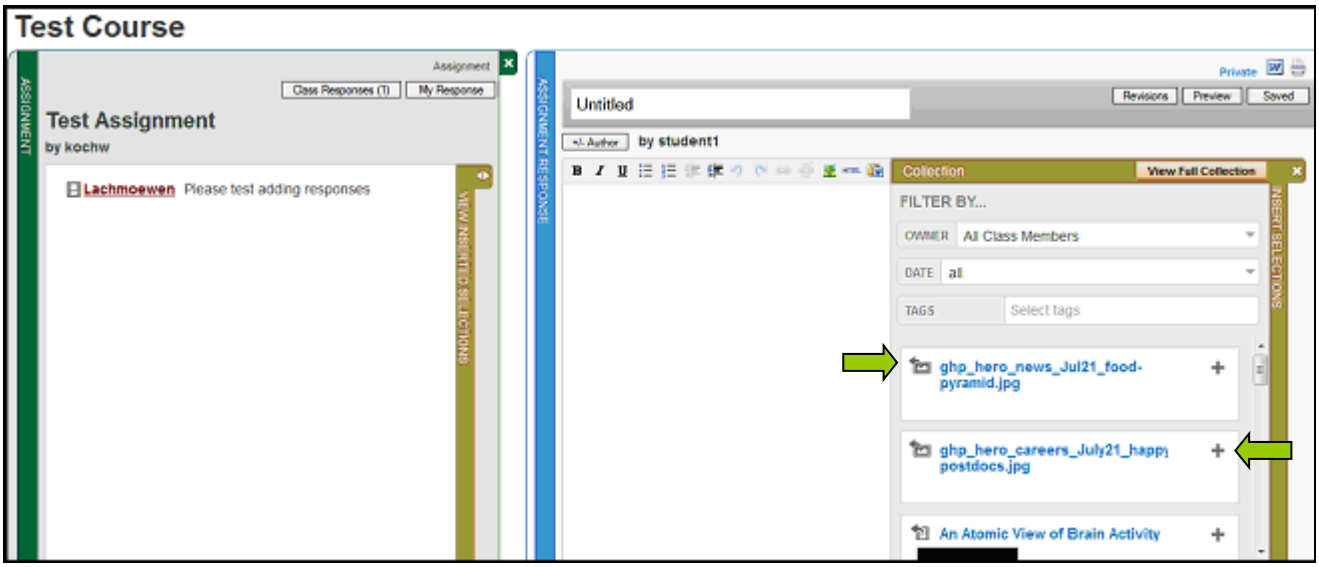

Figure 61 Creating a response to an Assignment

Now a title and a response text need to be filled in. Moreover *"Selections"* can be created by clicking on the *"+"* symbol at the right (see Figure 62).

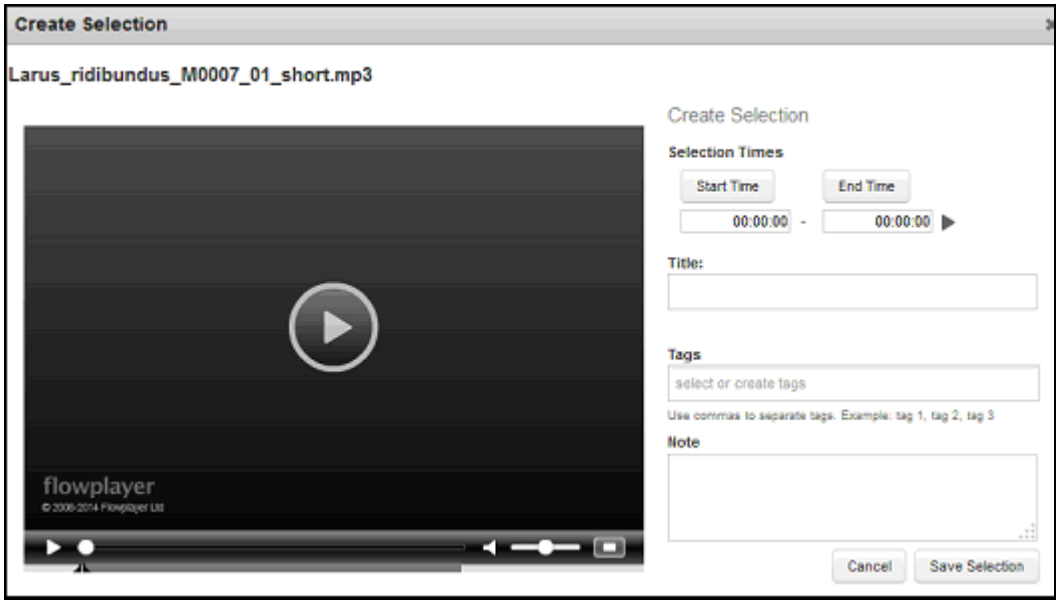

Figure 62 Creating a "Selection"

To add a *"Selection"* click on the symbol in front of the collection item (compare Figure 61). The *"Selection"* is then added to the *"Assignment Response"* (see Figure 63).

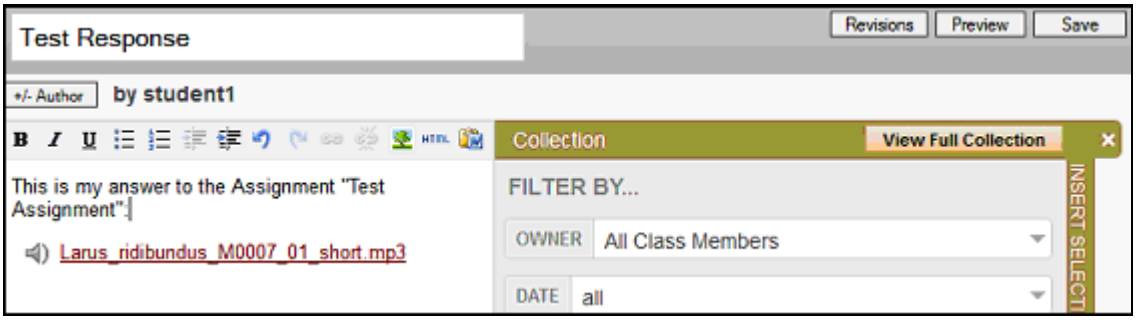

Figure 63 Adding a "Selection" to the "Assignment Response"

When finished click on *"Saved".* Now the status of the response need to be defined (see Figure 64). In this example the *"Instructor"* is selected, so the author(s) and the instructor can view the response. Click on *"Save".*

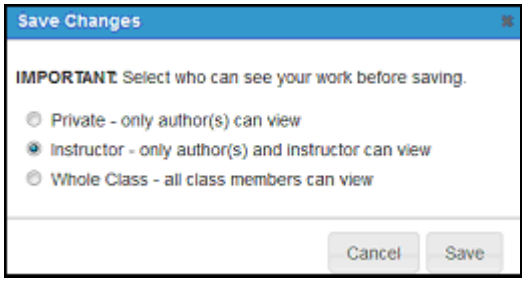

Figure 64 Selecting who can see the work before saving

When going *"Back to Mediathread"* the response can be seen in the overview (see Figure 65).

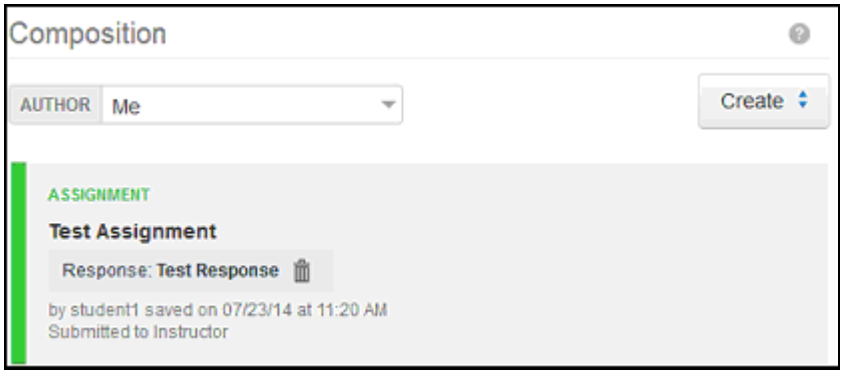

Figure 65 "Composition" overview

The instructor can see the response in his overview too (see Figure 66).

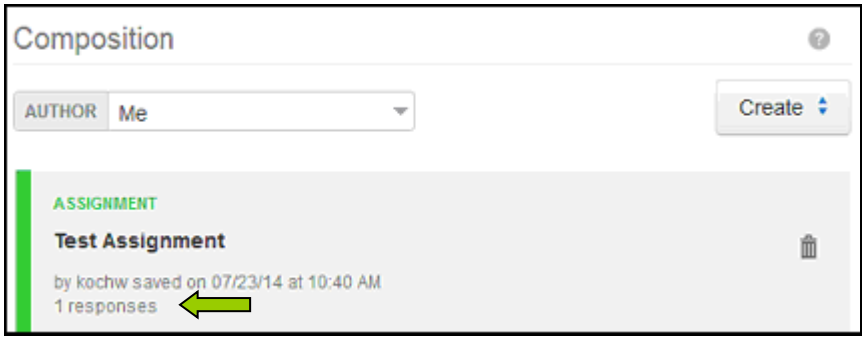

Figure 66 Instructor sees responses

When opening the *"Test Assignment"* the number of the *"Class Responses"* can be seen (see Figure 67). When clicking on it an overview window of the responses with the responsible users opens (see Figure 68). After selecting one response click on *"View Response"* (see Figure 69).

Figure 67 Clicking on "Class Responses"

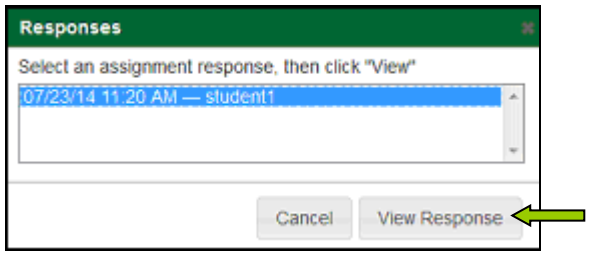

Figure 68 Opening the Response

The response of the student is shown. Now the instructor can give feedback by clicking on *"Create Instructor Feedback"* (see Figure 69).

Figure 69 Showing the response

The instructor can now add feedback before clicking *"Save Comment"* (see Figure 70). Now the comment is saved. It can be edited or responded to (see Figure 71).

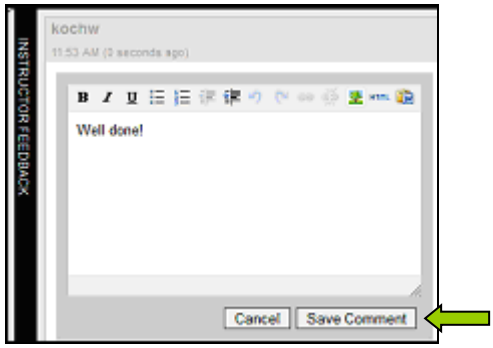

Figure 70 Adding "Instructor Feedback"

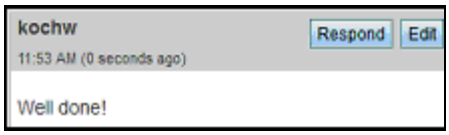

Figure 71 Saved comment

The student can now see the feedback by clicking on *"Read Instructor Feedback"* on the *"Composition"* overview (see Figure 72).

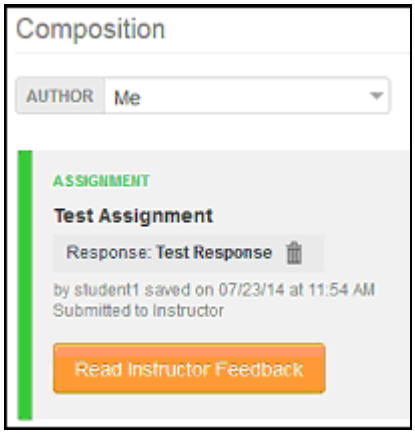

Figure 72 Reading the Instructor Feedback

A window with the feedback, the response and the assignment opens (see Figure 73). The student can answer to the feedback by clicking on "Respond" (see Figure 74).

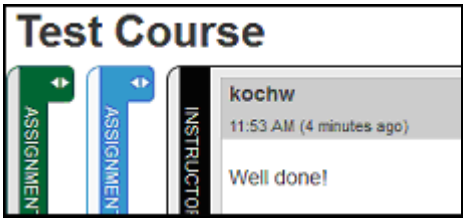

Figure 73 Accessing the feedback

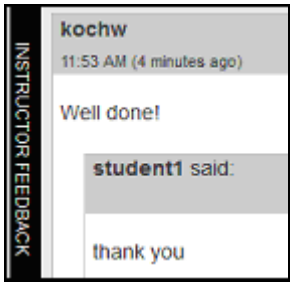

Figure 74 Responding to the instructor feedback

2.4.3 Create Discussion

When clicking on *"Create Discussion"* the following window opens (see Figure 75).

Figure 75 Creating a discussion

After filling in a *"Discussion Title"* and text at the left the discussion can be filtered by *"Owner"*, *"Date"* or *"Tags"* on the right. When everything has been filled in click *"Save Comment"*.

When this is done the comment can be edited or responded to (see Figure 76).

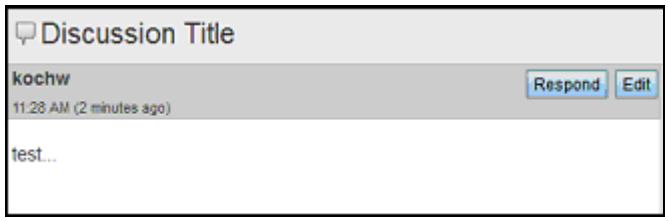

Figure 76 Responding to the comment

When now going *"Back to Mediathread"* the Discussion can be seen in the *"From your Instructor"* section (see Figure 77).

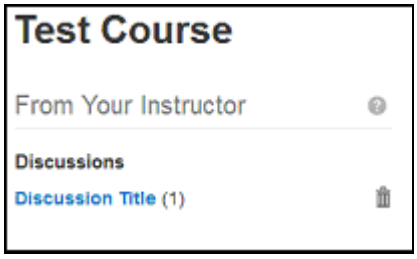

Figure 77 Discussions list on the overview page

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