CONTENTdm April 2017 Release Notes

Overview

This release continues the refinement of the newly redesigned end-user interface for CONTENTdm. The responsive website adapts to any screen size and has significant usability, performance and accessibility improvements. The responsive website is production-ready.

This release includes a new feature to create custom pages using HTML and JavaScript. It also includes many improvements and bug fixes.

This release is available to users hosted in an OCLC data center.

A note on the new responsive website:

The responsive website exists alongside the 6.x CONTENTdm website. Your public CONTENTdm URL will default to your version 6.x website until you request to make the switch. Nothing in 6.x is changing in this release. When you are ready for your end users to start using the new responsive website, contact OCLC Support to schedule the upgrade.

OCLC is continuing to improve the responsive website over the next several months. You decide when you and your end users are ready to start using it. Please see the document *Upgrading to the CONTENTdm Responsive Website* for more details about what to consider before requesting your upgrade.

Features and enhancements

This release continues to add and improve features in the new CONTENTdm responsive website. These improvements are described below.

- Support for custom pages
- Navigation links added to the page footer
- Multilingual editing in the Website Configuration Tool
- Search engine optimizations
- Several minor bug fixes

After you have configured your responsive website in the Website Configuration Tool and are ready to make the switch, contact OCLC Support and request that the responsive website be set as your default CONTENTdm homepage. There are several factors to consider before making the switch. Please see the document *Upgrading to the CONTENTdm Responsive Website* for details.

Support for custom pages, so you can shape CONTENTdm into the best resource for your collections

The responsive Website Configuration Tool now supports creation of fully custom pages at a discrete URL path, so you can create pages for your CONTENTdm interface that align with your institution's branding and presents the collections in the best way for your users. The custom page function also allows for the upload of resource files (like images or other binary files) to support the rendering of the custom page.

This feature works differently than it does in CONTENTdm version 6.x. With the new functionality, you upload an HTML file to render your custom page. This HTML file can contain embedded JavaScript and inline styles. You can also upload associated files, which can be referenced from the main HTML file. The name of the HTML file used to render the custom page will also determine the URL to access the custom page.

For example, if you upload the file *collectionlist.html* at the Global level in the Website Configuration Tool, the URL to access the page will be *http://{your.contentdm.url}/digital/custom/collectionlist.*

You can create multiple custom pages at the Global level and the Collection level in the Website Configuration Tool.

Note that there are no automatic redirects from custom pages in the 6.x website to the new responsive website. If you are planning to transfer your custom pages from the old to the new website, you will need to create redirects manually from the old custom pages to the new ones. This can be done with a simple PHP redirect in the 6.x Website Configuration Tool.

Navigation links added to the page footer to improve accessibility

Several users asked for the responsive site to show the navigation menu links in the page footer. There were also some accessibility problems with having the navigation links only in the top-level "hamburger" menu. All of the navigation links configured in the Website Configuration Tool will now also show in the page footer just above the language options (if enabled). The footer links cannot be specified separately from the main navigation links (Global > Navigation > Menu in the responsive Website Configuration Tool).

Multilingual editing in the Website Configuration Tool for a more effective workflow

If you change your default language in the responsive Website Configuration Tool, the interface will now store those changes in the appropriate language in the underlying TMX files. This allows non-English sites to make their text changes directly in the Website Configuration Tool UI rather than needing to download and edit the TMX files.

It is also possible to use this feature to make all of your text edits in multiple languages directly in the Website Configuration Tool, giving you a more effective workflow for language edits. By switching your default language, you can force the Website Configtool to load the text for that language, make your changes, and then Save and Publish those changes. Then switch to another language and repeat. This workflow might not be appropriate for making large-scale changes in a production site since those changes are happening in real-time, but it can be a convenient way to avoid modifying the XML in the TMX files.

Usability improvements in the compound object viewer

The compound object viewer is a complicated user interface and we are continuing to make improvements to it. With this release we have made several changes:

- **Search within tallies should now be correct.** There were counting problems in the initial implementation and the code has been refactored and simplified to address this.
- **Next and Previous buttons show the correct enabled/disabled state.** There were several cases where the Next and Previous buttons in the UI were disabled when they shouldn't have been and vice versa. These issues have been corrected.
- **Browser 'Back' behavior improved.** The way that the compound object viewer page was handling the browser 'Back' button was confusing and the search state was not being properly preserved. The compound object viewer now stores multiple search states and will show those states as users 'Back' through them in the browser. This makes it possible to return to a previous search and is more aligned with end user expectations.

Metadata hyperlinking for all terms in controlled vocabulary fields

When metadata hyperlinking was first designed for the responsive website, the hyperlink was applied only to terms in controlled vocabulary fields that complied with the specified vocabulary. It turns out this approach created problems for several current users. The occurrence of noncompliant metadata in CV fields is not uncommon in CONTENTdm. This feature has been changed to hyperlink any term in a CV field, whether it complies with the vocabulary or not.

Improved search engine optimizations

CONTENTdm pages are now more discoverable by search engines and should see improved ranking due to the addition of a canonical URL reference. This will provide better outcomes for researchers to find your resources from internet searches. Canonical link tags are recommended by the major search engines. The tags give search engines a way to combine pages that may have multiple URLs and make sure the proper links are presented to end users in search results. The new canonical URLs will match the URL references that are generated in CONTENTdm's sitemaps.

Minor bug fixes corrected in this release

- Certain valid characters in URLs break hyperlinks (e.g., colons, terminal slashes)
- Several accessibility improvements to increase the WCAG 2.0 AA compliance level; these changes will be reflected in the updated VPAT document available soon
- Print function for PDFs does not work on all device and browser types (e.g., Android Chrome)
- Some PDF previews not loading correctly
- Search results queue sometimes gets confused about the total number of results
- Pagination counter sometimes shows extra ellipsis characters and splits across two lines
- Some thumbnails spill outside the boundaries of the collection cards and results cards
- Long text strings spill outside the boundaries of the text view panel
- CONTENTdm API dmGetImageInfo call does not return valid JSON response
- Results totals missing thousands separator
- Custom Scripts option shouldn't show at the collection level in the Website Configuration Tool
- Date search is missing the "On" option
- Comments, rating and tags stopped showing up for some sites
- Catcher web service sometimes corrupts UTF-8 characters during record creation

Looking ahead

We are considering several improvements for the next release of CONTENTdm, coming in May 2017. We will select a few from the list below for this release:

- Support for embedded Maps on collection landing pages, custom pages or the home page; this feature will depend on the presence of latitude and longitude values in the metadata
- Elimination of the "See All Metadata" button or setting it to be expanded by default
- Improvements to header image scaling
- A link from item pages to go directly back to search results
- An option to show more than 10 collection cards on the home page and/or more than 10 search results per page

We are always looking to you to help us determine the priority of new features, improvements and bug fixes. If one of the above issues is urgent for your site or if another issue entirely is even more important, please contact OCLC Support with that information. You are also invited to post your ideas to the CONTENTdm Community as a discussion thread or an enhancement suggestion. The Community site is a good place to bring in feedback from other sites that may have the same needs.

Notices