IIIF API reference

Find information about the International Image Interoperability Framework (IIIF). CONTENTdm repositories have full support for the IIIF Image and Presentation APIs for all image-based records.

The International Image Interoperability Framework (IIIF) is a community effort among the world’s leading research libraries and image repositories to collaboratively produce an interoperable technology and community framework for image delivery.

OCLC and CONTENTdm are part of this community effort and support the APIs defined by IIIF. CONTENTdm repositories have full support for the IIIF Image and Presentation APIs for all image-based records.

IIIF API support summary

Image API: version 2 (level 1)

- Information request:
  - https://sandbox.contentdm.oclc.org/digital/iiif/coll16/357/info.json

- Image request:
  - https://sandbox.contentdm.oclc.org/digital/iiif/coll16/357/full/150,/0/default.jpg

Presentation API: version 2.1.1

- Item manifest:
  - https://sandbox.contentdm.oclc.org/iiif/info/coll16/357/manifest.json

- Collection manifest:
  - https://sandbox.contentdm.oclc.org/iiif/info/coll16/manifest.json

- Collection-of-collections manifest:
  - https://sandbox.contentdm.oclc.org/iiif/info/manifest.json

Working with the IIIF Image API

CONTENTdm utilizes the IIIF Image API to build its default image display. Below is an example record of a CONTENTdm image. Click the double diagonal arrow button on the upper-right corner of the image to see the viewer:

To verify that a CONTENTdm image is supported by the IIIF Image API, a request can be made to return a JSON document providing image information, including width, height, and scaling information. This CONTENTdm image information URL pattern follows the IIIF Image API specification:

- `{CONTENTdm URL}/digital/iiif/{collection alias}/{record ID}/info.json`

For the example record noted above, the "info.json" URL is:

- https://sandbox.contentdm.oclc.org/digital/iiif/coll16/357/info.json

The IIIF Image API is a powerful and flexible service for interaction with digital images. For example, here's a request to generate a JPEG of the entire image at 15% zoom:


And here's another request, showing a selected detail from the full image:

- https://sandbox.contentdm.oclc.org/digital/iiif/coll16/357/1500,1000,1200,1400/pct:15/0/default.jpg

And one more example, showing the image resized for use as a thumbnail image:

- https://sandbox.contentdm.oclc.org/digital/iiif/coll16/357/full/150,/0/default.jpg

For more information on these and other methods for calling the CONTENTdm IIIF Image API service, consult the IIIF Image API specification.

**Working with the IIIF Presentation API**

**Item manifests**

The image example above also supports the IIIF Presentation API response. The IIIF Presentation API call the returns the JSON manifest is:

- https://sandbox.contentdm.oclc.org/iiif/info/coll16/357

CONTENTdm's Presentation API request URL follows the pattern described in the IIIF Presentation API specification:

- `{CONTENTdm URL}/iiif/info/{collection alias}/{record ID}/manifest.json`

**Collection manifests**

For all CONTENTdm collections that contain images, a collection-level collection manifest is automatically created. This collection manifest data structure is part of the IIIF Presentation API specification and is a JSON file that lists each item manifest in the collection. For large collections, this collection manifest will be paginated into multiple files. Collection manifests are useful for any viewer or aggregator that needs to see a complete list of every item in the collection. Universal Viewer directly supports loading and parsing collection manifests.
For the example manifest above, see its parent collection manifest here:

- https://sandbox.contentdm.oclc.org/iiif/info/coll16/manifest.json

These collection-level manifests in CONTENTdm will always follow the pattern described in the IIIF Presentation API specification:

- `{CONTENTdm URL}/iiif/info/{collection alias}/manifest.json`

**Collection-of-collections manifest**

Similar to the collection manifest data structure, CONTENTdm automatically creates a top-level manifest that links to each of the collection manifests. This repository-level JSON file can be considered as equivalent to a Sitemap.xml file, although it currently only includes references to image records in CONTENTdm. For the example item and collection listed above, the sitewide manifest is here:

- https://sandbox.contentdm.oclc.org/iiif/info/manifest.json

The sitewide manifest follows this pattern:

- `{CONTENTdm URL}/iiif/info/manifest.json`

Note: For more information on these and other methods for calling the CONTENTdm IIIF Presentation API service, consult the IIIF Presentation API specification.

**A note about HTTPS**

CONTENTdm's IIIF API functionality supports HTTPS requests. If the URL being requested is at *.oclc.org, both the Image and Presentation API requests will automatically redirect to HTTPS. This allows you to include IIIF calls directly in your other content served over HTTPS.

If your CONTENTdm website uses a custom URL (not *.oclc.org) you will need to work with OCLC Support to install your SSL certificates to enable HTTPS support.