June 2017

What's new with CONTENTdm?

The latest CONTENTdm release was on June 1. This release continued the launch of a completely redesigned end-user interface for CONTENTdm. The responsive website adapts to any screen size and has significant usability, performance and accessibility improvements, and it is production-ready. The new interface offers better image viewing, video and audio viewers tuned to the needs of mobile devices, and a framework built using APIs from the International Image Interoperability Framework (IIIF) community so you can share and combine images across collections. Web Content Accessibility Guidelines (WCAG) compliance is an inherent part of our design process, so your collections can be used by everyone. With the latest CONTENTdm enhancements, you can add custom pages and benefit from improved search engine optimizations.

The June 2017 release contained many requested enhancements and new features including:

- Map-based browse: a mobile-friendly discovery widget
- Embedded streaming video: showcasing third-party content
- More intuitive display of metadata fields
- Improved support for banner images in the page header
- Accessibility improvements to increase CONTENTdm’s adherence to WCAG 2.0

For more details about this release, see the release notes and the June 2017 release webinar recording that are posted on the CONTENTdm Support and Training site.
The responsive website exists alongside your current 6.x CONTENTdm website. Your public URL still defaults to your 6.x website. Nothing in 6.x is changing. When you are ready for your end users to start using the new responsive website, you will need to contact OCLC Support to schedule the upgrade.

See what one CONTENTdm user has to say about the new interface:

"We upgraded our CONTENTdm instance on March 29. The staff who have reviewed the new interface, including me, were very impressed with the display and functionality, both on a desktop computer and on smartphones and tablets. I know that increased usability with smaller devices was a goal of the new interface, and you've succeeded very nicely."

Robert Gessner, Systems Librarian
Susquehanna University

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**Upcoming Events**

📅 22–27 June 2017

Join OCLC at ALA Annual 2017

Our sessions include a linked data roundtable and an OCLC Research update. Also, join us in OCLC Booth #1824 for a series of 15-minute Spotlight sessions, hosted by OCLC product experts.

Register now

📅 20 July 2017

**CONTENTdm Best Practices webinar: Maps feature**

This webinar will show you how to use the new CONTENTdm feature, map-based browse, which is a mobile-friendly discovery widget. The responsive Website Configuration Tool now supports creation and display of maps with location pins corresponding to records in your collections, so you can give geographic context to your data and present your collections in a visually appealing way.
27–28 September 2017

The Northeast Regional Digital Collections Conference and the CONTENTdm Users Group meeting

Join your colleagues and the CONTENTdm team in New York this fall. The CONTENTdm User Group Meeting will be held jointly with the Northeast Regional Digital Collections Conference (NRDCC) at the Best Western Inn and Conference Center in historic Kingston, New York, on September 27–28, 2017. The NRDCC conference on Sept. 27 will provide opportunities for digital collections creators and curators in the region and beyond to network, share best practices, participate in workshops and learn from leaders in digital cultural heritage.

The CONTENTdm Users Group Meeting, sponsored by OCLC, will take place Thursday, September 28, 2017. Highlights will include two presentations from the CONTENTdm team.

Enhancing research use of CONTENTdm with IIIF viewers (Shane Huddleston)
Your CONTENTdm site is among thousands of CONTENTdm sites now enabled with the IIIF APIs. These APIs open a new window to your collections that you can provide to your community. Using open source viewers, Shane will demonstrate the capabilities you can unleash to enhance research within your CONTENTdm collections such as side-by-side viewing using Mirador. From Shane you’ll learn about the range of existing open source viewers available, and learn to navigate the IIIF API to make the images in your CONTENTdm site sing!

Optimizing the new CONTENTdm for your user’s phones and tablets with customizations (Erik Mayer)
The new CONTENTdm has a customization framework you can use to carry your brand, augment the contextualization of collections and embed specialized features for your user community. Erik will demonstrate examples of customizations that are possible with the new CONTENTdm and show a developer’s view of how to make these happen. You’ll learn about specific customizations, such as embedding video streams, and learn how to navigate the tutorials and developer documentation to innovate to your own drummer.

We are now accepting proposals for NRDCC and the CONTENTdm Users Group meeting. We need your participation to make this a great conference. Consider sharing your experience and expertise by submitting a program proposal for a conference
session or poster session. The planning committee has created a list of potential topics of interest, but proposals on all relevant topics are welcome.

Learn more about these events

CONTENTdm Collections Featured in the News
The Georgia Archives streamlines its digital collection workflows with CONTENTdm hosted by OCLC

*OCLC News Item* (May 2017)

Since 2006, the Georgia Archives has been using CONTENTdm to showcase its digital collections. Archives staff selected CONTENTdm because they wanted a digital collection management system that would provide strong support and was ready to use out of the box. Last year, they moved to having their CONTENTdm software hosted by OCLC. Since their migration, they have added several additional collections, including the Colonial Estate Records and the Colonial Plats and Warrants collection.

Read this OCLC news item

Alabama Department of Archives and History saves time with CONTENTdm hosted by OCLC
The digital collections at the Alabama Department of Archives and History (ADAH) have been managed with CONTENTdm since 2007. ADAH staff selected CONTENTdm because it is a flexible system that allows their users to complete a wide variety of searches as they explore ADAH’s digital collections.

Since ADAH’s staff is small, it was challenging for them to manage CONTENTdm updates. So, in February 2017, they migrated from locally hosting their CONTENTdm instance to having it hosted by OCLC. Now they receive automatic CONTENTdm updates, and they don’t need to do anything to receive them. Since its migration, ADAH has added several new collections and has added many items to existing collections.

Read this OCLC news item

Have you joined the CONTENTdm Community on the OCLC Community Center?
The CONTENTdm Community Center is an active user community that shares best practices, locally developed extensions and product recommendations through user group meetings, virtual community insight webinars, an online discussion group and enhancement requests on the OCLC CONTENTdm Community Center (log-in required). The Community Center also provides information about quarterly releases, updates, news and other events related to CONTENTdm.

To get started with the OCLC Community Center, you will need to request a Service Account. Please use the OCLC symbol for the organization that owns the CONTENTdm license. Within a few days your CONTENTdm Community Center username will be emailed to you, along with instructions for setting your password.

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**CONTENTdm training resources**

Register now for CONTENTdm training webinars in June and August

The fundamentals of using CONTENTdm to manage your digital collections are covered in three upcoming webinars:

1. Getting started with CONTENTdm
2. Working with text in CONTENTdm
3. Maintaining collections in CONTENTdm

[Learn more]

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Meet the CONTENTdm team
Shane Huddleston, OCLC Product Manager
Shane is the product manager for OCLC digital collection services products, and he managed the design and development of the new CONTENTdm responsive website.

One of his goals during the redesign was to ensure that support for the IIIF APIs was built in from the start. Upcoming support for the IIIF Presentation API means that all CONTENTdm sites will be able to take advantage of open source viewers, like Project Mirador's manuscript-focused viewer.

Recently, Shane traveled to the IIIF annual conference in Rome, Italy to present on how CONTENTdm interacts with the IIIF APIs and show some examples of the knowledge gained during this integration. He was excited to be in Rome so that he could finally use his Latin degree for something useful, deciphering inscriptions on monuments. For example, http://gettysburg.contentdm.oclc.org/digital/collection/p16274coll4/id/134/.

Shane Huddleston

Have your CONTENTdm collections featured on the CONTENTdm website

Interested in highlighting your unique CONTENTdm collections and sharing them with your fellow CONTENTdm users and the library community? Send a message to Courtney Myers with the link to your collection to have it considered for inclusion with our featured collections in the coming months. Selected collections will also be highlighted on the OCLC Facebook and Twitter pages.

Submit your collection
Need help with CONTENTdm?

Are you a CONTENTdm user who needs assistance? Contact OCLC Support at support@oclc.org or +1-800-848-5800 (US).