

University of
Nevada

Reno

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CONTENTdm Questions & Answers



Geri Ingram
OCLC Digital Collection Services
User Services Manager

Questions asked include



Server functionality

Project client functionality

USC help files, tutorials, onsite and online training

Integration and extension

Performance, defects, enhancements

contentdmsupport@oclc.org

Future directions

1. Web Harvester—want to remove directories from the harvest—was this function lost?

User is Hosted, using Web Harvester and wants to exclude “extraneous directories/pages” after harvest. Did this feature exist previously? If not, will it be introduced?

A. This perhaps was a function found in a previous incarnation, but was not in CONTENTdm’s version. I will check with Judy Cobb to see if it’s on the enhancement list.

2. Is there an easy way to split a collection into multiple collections?

“We have about 800 images in one big collection...need to divide into 40 distinct ones.” “e.g., clone...”

If

- You can search on metadata *unique* to each sub-collection, and if

- You have the source images to re-load,

then this is not difficult to do with built-in functions.

3. How is the Ref URL constructed? Will moving an item break it? (reloading, moving collections or servers—yes.

A: formula is

serverURL/u?/collection alias/pointer to item

<http://train12000.contentdm.oclc.org/u?/p12000coll24,0>

u? is the query being run by the server.

- 4. Is it possible to have non-published items in CONTENTdm?
... 'sandbox' for working in private.
- A. Yes, since 4.0 in July, 2005, you've been able to restrict items at both the collection and the item level.

1. Maintaining permissions on a compound object

A: [can't repro—what version?]

2. Breadth and depth of technical metadata discoverable from .pdf

A: Elements discoverable by the PDF metadata template along with the other standard elements, include:

- Number of pages
- PDF Application
- PDF Author
- PDF Date Created
- PDF Date Modified
- PDF Keywords
- PDF Page Suze
- PDF Producer
- PDF Subject
- PDF Title
- PDF Version

3. Export settings doesn't work?

A. It works BETWEEN clients—not within

1. Facet item count inaccurate

[? Not in known issues or bugs reported] Please report.

2. Tab-d load of comp obj loses filename?

“Why does the filename not transfer from a tab-delimited file on compound objects to the project client?”

A. Service Request pending

3. PowerPoint plug-in for 5.1?

A. We haven't released it yet; it's still in test; you're welcome to join the beta—contact Claire Cocco

(coccoc@oclc.org)

4. Searching by page in compound objects—cannot search across whole document.
 - A. Service Request is pending—I cannot repro.

- 5. Page-level data loss upon editing?
 - A. A compound object related editing bug was patched in 5.0.3; and rolled forward to 5.1. Today I know of a few issues that sound similar—but none have been verified.
 - B. Several service requests pending.

1. Downloading MARC to ILS

“Is there any way to get MARC records back into our local OPAC after they’ve been added to WC through WC Sync?”

A. Connexion can be used to download the MARC record

- 2. Digital Collection Gateway—must I be an OCLC member?
 - A. NO! The WorldCat Sync and the DCG are open to NON-OCLC members

3. DCG: Can WorldCat sync be set for specific collections?
 - A. Yes, you register to use the service when you decide, then you decide which collections for which you are ready to create collection-level profiles. You decide when to start and re-harvest, and you decide whether to “replace all” the existing MARC records or to “add new only”.

4. Sharing metadata—setting standards for the OCLC community

“Any plans for OCLC to help forward and coordinate standards development for sharable metadata?”

A. YES! Please email ingramg@oclc.org to be added to our list of volunteers working on “DC application profiles” or “community crosswalks”.

1. Timeframe for 5.2
2. A. Not yet determined—need to finalize feature set. Hope to preview in early 2010. More info at ALA!

2. Timeframe for USC re-launch

A. Fall 2009

3. Support for 64-bit Project Client?

A. Yes, we will support 64-bit OSes for the PC in the future.

4. Extend “Replace” to finding aids? (consistent ref-URL)

“Any plans for finding a way to assign persistent URL or digital object identifier for objects... EAD finding aids need to be updated but there is no way ..to “replace” them...have to delete and re-import..”

A. We’re looking for feedback—this is a likely enhancement

5. Should we suspend viewer development for 5.2?
 - A. Because we haven't published either the specification for the overhauled viewers, nor the schedule for 5.2, I would not recommend automatic suspension of these efforts, but would weigh your priorities in terms of the opportunity cost to you of attending to this (instead of other projects that may be waiting on your resources).

6. Will 5.2 bring easier customization?

A. That is a major goal of the overhaul of the web templating system.

7. When will PC run on Mac?

A. There is no plan for this.

- 8.** Any plans to increase field capacity beyond 128,000 chars?
- A.** Is this from the EAD users who are on 4.3? If so, then is the problem those huge description fields because they contain huge contents lists? (5.1 Maybe gets around that with separate description fields as it's treated like a compound object). Try it.
- B.** PDFs are always a workaround available.

- 9. Migrating from 4.3 to 5.1—difficulty?
 - A. Depends upon whether you are hosted or direct, whether heavily customized, whether you have extenuating circumstances. Several hundred downloads have occurred, though we have only “optional” registration, so we can’t know how many successful or easy ones we’ve had.
 - B. We strive to help you, suspend the EULA, step through conversion with the developers, etc.

10. Enhancement needed: edit page-level metadata before approving. (function now lost as spreadsheet function, but still exists in C.O. editor in item tab.)

A. Find in Collection allows page-level editing before approval—but not in the “spreadsheet” bulk-mode. Though we gained functionality in the Find in Collection function, there still is a need to be able to edit page-level in bulk. (Workaround is still to delete only the wrapper, then edit or replace page-images in the Project and then reassemble.) I have requested that function be returned.

Process of site analysis for new viewers

“who are the “top 25%” CONTENTdm sites” (that were studied by the CONTENTdm User Experience analyst)?

A. I should have said that we compiled a broad and diverse list of user sites - not the “top 25%”. We interviewed designers, extension-creators, users and admins. We analyzed their choices for plug-ins, and the technologies that they used.

We congratulate the creators of these sites, and we aim to redesign our templates and viewers so that they advantage the vast majority of our users.

Thank you!

Geri Ingram
ingramg@oclc.org

