CONTENTdm June 2017 Release Notes

Release Date: June 1, 2017

Overview

This release adds more options for advanced customization in CONTENTdm's responsive end-user interface, including a new map-based browse feature and the ability to embed streaming content from third-party services like Vimeo and YouTube. This release also increases the accessibility compliance of the end-user website and includes several usability improvements and bug fixes.

The responsive website adapts to any screen size and has significant usability, performance and accessibility improvements. The responsive website is production-ready.

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 continually improving the responsive website this year. 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 features to the new CONTENTdm responsive website. These are the improvements described in more detail below:

- Map-based browse: a mobile-friendly discovery widget
- Embedded streaming video: showcasing your 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
- Several other enhancements and bug fixes

Map-based browse provides a visual and mobile-friendly way for end users to discover your content

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. These new maps require that records contain latitude and longitude values in two separate metadata fields. The maps can be placed on your home page, on collection landing pages, on your site’s “about page” or on fully custom pages you have created. At this time, each map must contain records from only a single collection. You can create as many maps as you want.

The basic process for creating a map is as follows:

1. Define a set of records using a search query or a browse.
2. Choose the metadata fields for display and with the latitude/longitude data.
3. Copy the HTML snippet and paste it into your Website Configuration Tool.

For a full description of the map creation process, see the tutorial Creating Maps in the CONTENTdm Website.
Embedded streaming video: A customization to showcase your content from third-party services

The new customization features in the responsive CONTENTdm website give you the tools for embedding content from external services like Vimeo or YouTube directly in your CONTENTdm item pages. This allows you to provide the streaming video resources that your users are looking for, right in your CONTENTdm collections.

This screenshot shows a YouTube stream displaying inline in the item view page:
If you have used CONTENTdm’s “URL Item” data type to store links to outside streams, you can embed the stream directly in the page using a relatively simple piece of custom JavaScript code. The external stream will then be playable within CONTENTdm on every device type.

For more information about how to configure this feature on your own site and example code, see the tutorial Embedding External Streams in the CONTENTdm Website.

More intuitive and accessible display of metadata fields provides a more consistent end-user experience

Based on user feedback, the “See All Metadata” button was removed in this release. To continue to allow pages with a lot of metadata to be shortened in the browser window, the expansion accordion button has been added to the Item Description heading on single-item pages and to both the Object Description and Item Description headings on the compound object pages. This results in a more consistent user interface across page types and improves the overall usability. When an end user has expanded or contracted the accordions, the state will be preserved for the life of the browser session as the user navigates to other records. Preserving this setting helps significantly when reviewing the metadata of a large queue of records in sequence.

Improved scaling of header banner images for better viewing on all devices

If you choose to use a banner-style header image in your responsive website (as opposed to the logo + text option), this release has improved how the image is scaled and cropped at different screen sizes. For images intended to fill the entire header, an image height of 150px is strongly recommended. In desktop and tablet mode, the full 150px height will be preserved. In phone mode, the image will be scaled down to 75px to accommodate the search box sliding underneath the header image.

For a banner image, the width of the image file should be enough to fill the entire screen at common screen sizes. We recommend using a width of 1920px since it is the largest commonly available screen width. The responsive website will truncate the image from the right side as the screen size or window size shrinks down, so the right half of the banner image should not contain any critical text or other information. If you create a banner image be sure to test the overlap of the header’s search form box at various screen widths to make sure your logo or institution name are not being covered at certain screen widths.

VPAT and ARR documents updated for recent WCAG 2.0 AA accessibility improvements

There have been several recent changes to the responsive web pages to address specific failures with respect to the WCAG 2.0 AA guidelines. Our Voluntary Product Accessibility Template (VPAT) document for CONTENTdm has been updated to reflect these accessibility improvements. We also now have an Accessibility Remediation Roadmap (ARR) document available that describes the disposition of any remaining compliance issues.
Other enhancements

- Compound object title added to breadcrumb and now displayed above page title
- “Search within” form box does not retain search terms when using browser back button
- Improved font and image support in PDF previews
- Search refinement facet mode changed to Exact Phrase to increase accuracy
- Added direct link back to search results from item pages
- Support for mailto: links in the main hamburger menu

Bugs fixed in this release

- Footer link hover color corrected in Firefox and Internet Explorer
- Video player window aspect ratio now the same as the video stream
- Collection with no Full Text Search field will not show Text view toggle as enabled
- Certain characters in metadata no longer render as XML entities
- PDF view of compound object shows only the current page
- Pageview statistics now being tracked for responsive website
- Catcher web service no longer corrupts certain UTF-8 characters during record creation

Upgrading to the new responsive website

After you have configured your responsive website in the Website Configuration Tool and are ready to publish it as your production website, contact Customer Support and request that the responsive website be set as your default CONTENTdm homepage. Please see the document *Upgrading to the CONTENTdm Responsive Website* for more information about upgrading your site.
Looking ahead

We have many more improvements slated for upcoming releases of CONTENTdm. What follows are some of the things that we are currently considering for the next release in July 2017.

- A new UI design for the display of transcripts to improve accessibility
- Support for the IIIF Presentation API
- Creation of templates and model code for several common advanced customizations
- Customizations for integration of the Project Mirador viewer
- Customizations for integration of the Oral History Metadata Synchronizer
- Option to increase number of search results per page beyond 10
- Support for end-user comments through integration with Disqus service

Not all of these items will be completed by the July release. 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 different sites that may have the same needs as you.

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