CONTENTdm July 2017 Release Notes

Release date: July 13, 2017

Overview

This release brings support for a completely custom homepage, several usability and accessibility improvements, and HTTPS support to CONTENTdm's responsive end-user interface.

The responsive website adapts to any screen size and has significant usability, performance and accessibility improvements. The responsive website is production-ready and is now the default end-user website for more than 30 active CONTENTdm® users.

A note on the new responsive website

The CONTENTdm 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.

- Fully custom homepage option, so you have the tools to create the best first impression
- Metadata and transcript text display enhancements to improve accessibility and usability
- Metadata wrapping improvements so that words are not split across lines
- HTTPS as default protocol to encrypt logins and improve end user privacy and security
- Accessibility improvements and bug fixes

Fully custom homepage option, so you have the tools to create the best first impression

The responsive Website Configuration Tool has a new option to replace the default homepage with a fully custom HTML homepage. You will find it on the Global Settings tab on the Page Types > Home Page section listed as “HTML preferences for this site’s home page”.

This feature works much like the fully custom page feature. You create and upload an HTML page, and the responsive website will load that as your homepage in place of the default page. The custom homepage supports YAML syntax so that you have the flexibility to specify:

- whether or not to retain the CONTENTdm header,
- whether or not to retain the CONTENTdm footer, and
- the title of the page (for search engine indexing).

These parameters should be specified in a stanza at the beginning of your HTML file, e.g.,

```yaml
---
header: true
footer: false
title: "University of Example Digital Repository"
---
```

Following that stanza, include standard HTML to render your custom homepage. Your HTML can include `<script>` tags to execute JavaScript and inline CSS. Your HTML can also reference static resources that reside on external servers or that have been uploaded to your site using the file management tools available in the Custom Pages administrative UI in the Website Configuration Tool.
Metadata and transcript text display enhancements to improve accessibility and usability

Based on CONTENTdm user feedback, our UX team reconsidered the transcript “text toggle” UI and decided to remove it. The transcript (Full Text Search field) instead now appears under the digital file viewer as an expandable/collapsible accordion, matching the UI of the Item Description and Object Description sections (the record metadata).

This change greatly improves the accessibility and usability of the record view, because the transcript text can be viewed at the same time as the image, PDF, or video or audio file. The Transcript section is collapsed by default on initial page view. If the end user chooses to expand the section, the expanded state will be preserved as the user views additional records.

The Item Description and Object Description metadata sections have also been standardized with the same expand/collapse “accordion” UI. As part of this change, we also removed the “See All Metadata” button from the Item Description and Object Description sections. The interaction of that extra button with the expand/collapse accordion was redundant and cluttered the display. Removal of the “See All Metadata” button was prompted by CONTENTdm user feedback. The consensus view was that having one extra click to see the complete metadata record was unnecessary and undesirable.

For all three of the text accordion sections (Transcript, Item Description, Object Description), once the end user has chosen to expand or collapse a particular section that state will be preserved as the user views additional records. The preservation of the state greatly improves user workflows when scrutinizing a large queue of results, since it will no longer be necessary to keep expanding the metadata section to see more detail.

These changes improve the consistency of the metadata display on the record pages, reduce visual clutter, and improve CONTENTdm’s adherence to WCAG 2.0 accessibility standards.

Metadata wrapping improvements so that words are not split across lines

This is a relatively minor change, but it was very noticeable and was reported by many current CONTENTdm users. Metadata display in the Item Description, Object Description, and Transcript accordion sections will no longer split individual words across lines. This behavior was a regression introduced when we tried to fix some display issues for languages that do not rely on the space character to separate words. All metadata display will now wrap lines only along word boundaries and will not split single words across two lines.

HTTPS as default protocol to encrypt logins and improve end user privacy and security

If your public CONTENTdm URL uses the *.contentdm.oclc.org domain, it will now be redirected to HTTPS automatically. All references to HTTP will continue to resolve and work correctly, so there is no immediate need to change or update those URL links. If you are using a custom domain at your own institution, we cannot currently redirect your site to HTTPS. There are SSL certificate issues around domains not owned by OCLC that prevent us from making that change.
Note that this change means that you can now include CONTENTdm-based resources in external HTTPS pages without throwing security warnings in browsers. For example, if you are making use of the IIIF Image API, those image references can be loaded as HTTPS links, which means they can be pulled in directly to external HTTPS pages. This significantly improves the interoperability of CONTENTdm with other websites and content viewers.

If you are using a custom URL at your institution’s domain (e.g., digitalcollections.someplacepubliclibrary.org), you will need to continue to use HTTP to access your site. However, if you are also referencing CONTENTdm content in non-OCLC websites (such as your main library website), you could choose to use the https://cdm####.contentdm.oclc.org version of your URL so that you can gain the benefits of HTTPS for those links.

**Accessibility improvements and bug fixes**

- XSS vulnerability eliminated in CONTENTdm Administration UI
- Miscellaneous accessibility improvements (button/icon labels, search field placement) to improve WCAG 2.0 compliance

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**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 OCLC 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 August 2017.

- Changes to Website Configuration Tool to make advanced customizations easier
- Support for the IIIF Presentation API
- 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 August 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 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 OCLC Community Center is a good place to bring in feedback from different sites that may have the same needs as you.

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