Overview

This release brings several new advanced customization features to further improve the CONTENTdm® responsive website, including fully custom collection landing pages, navigation to external pages, additional slots in main navigation menu, and an API pass-through for use in custom scripts. There are also several more accessibility improvements based on recent usability testing and several bug fixes.

The responsive website adapts to any screen size and has significant usability, performance, and accessibility improvements compared to the 6.x version of CONTENTdm. The responsive website is production-ready and is now the default end-user website for more than 70 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. 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 and is no longer enhancing the 6.x website. You decide when you and your end users are ready to start using your responsive site. 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 HTML collection landing pages to give you flexibility to add context to your collections and to shape them to match your branding
- Option to link to external pages in the site navigation so you can integrate CONTENTdm with your institution’s website
- Additional menu slots in main navigation to support sites that have custom pages and external site references
- CONTENTdm API pass-through access for use in custom scripts to support sophisticated customizations that can pull data from your collections

Fully custom HTML collection landing pages to give you flexibility to add context to your collections and to shape them to match your branding

The CONTENTdm responsive website now supports fully custom HTML landing pages at the collection level. You will find the option on the Collection Settings tab on the Page Types > Landing Page section listed as “HTML preferences for this collection’s landing page”.

This feature works much like the fully custom homepage feature. You create and upload an HTML page, and the responsive website will load that as the collection landing page in place of the default page. Custom landing pages support 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. For example:

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

Following that stanza, include standard HTML to render your custom landing page. Your HTML can include 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.
Option to link to external pages in the site navigation so you can integrate CONTENTdm with your institution’s website

If your library website is the main point of entry for your end users, you may want to host the descriptions of your digital repository and collections on that website instead of on CONTENTdm. This will help you drive traffic to your digital collections. This release includes options for setting your CONTENTdm homepage and individual collection landing pages to point to an external (non-CONTENTdm) URL. These options are available in the Page Types section of the Website Configuration Tool at the Global and Collection levels.

By specifying an external link for the homepage or collection landing pages, the page URL will redirect to that external target. The navigation elements in CONTENTdm will also point to that external URL. For example, the “Home” link in the main hamburger menu and in the breadcrumb will point to your external library page. The same is true for the collection landing pages if you specify an external target. The collection cards on the homepage will point to the external link as will the collection name that is hyperlinked in the breadcrumb on the record pages.

Additional menu slots in main navigation to support sites that have custom pages and external site references

Five more slots have been added to the main navigation settings in the Website Configuration Tool (under Global Settings > Navigation > Menu). Several users have requested additional menu items to support navigation to custom pages in CONTENTdm and to pages on external websites. With these additional menu slots, you can further customize your CONTENTdm pages.

The five new menu slots behave in the same way as the previous menu specifications and can be localized into other languages if you edit the TMX files to provide translations.

CONTENTdm API pass-through access for use in custom scripts to support sophisticated customizations that can pull data from your collections

The responsive website now supports direct access to the CONTENTdm data API. This gives you a way to display content from your repository on your custom landing pages or other custom pages so you can make sophisticated customizations to your collections. The API is accessible via a pass-through so that the API call is not external to your CONTENTdm website. This keeps the context of your JavaScript local to the page.

To take advantage of the API, formulate the query parameters as if you were making the call to the CONTENTdm server, but instead use the base domain of your CONTENTdm website. For example, if you previously wanted to list your CONTENTdm collections in JSON format, you would make a CONTENTdm API call to a server, such as:

With the new pass-through, you can now make this call in this way:


This approach will work for the full range of calls available in the CONTENTdm API as detailed in the CONTENTdm API reference.

### Accessibility improvements

- Screen reader labels added to “seek” and “full screen” buttons in video player
- Screen reader labels added to “open transcript” and “close transcript” sections of Item Description page to make it easier to find the transcript text
- Tab ordering for page elements improved to better correspond to content importance hierarchy
- “Skip to main content” option moved to front of tab order to allow screen readers to skip over non-essential page content

### Other improvements

- “Loading…” alert is delayed until needed to inform user of page state
- Scroll position in results list is now preserved when you go back in the browser, which makes it easier for end users to browse your collections
- Turkish and Vietnamese localization now supported
- Collection-level item download labels now correctly override global values
- CONTENTdm Administration usage reports no longer count image viewer and print dialog clicks as additional page views to improve the accuracy of your statistics
- “Search within” functionality now works even if collection does not have a Full Text Search field
- Compound objects containing multiple videos now properly unload previous video when advancing to the next video
- Video player now properly expands to full screen mode in Chrome

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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

This list is a summary of what is being frequently requested by current CONTENTdm users and is under consideration for upcoming releases of CONTENTdm.

- Support for the direct integration of the Mirador viewer into your CONTENTdm website
- Improvements to support text annotations in the IIIF Presentation API
- Web-based record creation tool for the responsive website
- Option to increase number of collections displayed on homepage
- Option to increase number of records displayed in search results

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.

The next release of CONTENTdm is expected to be in January or February 2018. Not all of the above items will be completed by that next release.