

Digital Commons Release Notes: Version 6.8

Version: July 2010

Available at <http://digitalcommons.bepress.com/reference/20/>

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These notes introduce the features released with version 6.8 of Digital Commons. All features are automatically available at no additional cost as of May 28, 2010.

The 6.8 release of Digital Commons consists almost entirely of subscriber requests. Chief among these are support for Unicode characters and preservation via LOCKSS. Additional features include enhancements aimed at administrators and editors.

Support for Unicode Characters

We've noticed, in recent months, that subscribers have been uploading content from an increasingly broad variety of languages. To ensure this content is well-represented within Digital Commons, we've extended our support for non-Latin 1 (ISO 8859-1) characters.

With the 6.8 release, Digital Commons supports Unicode metadata on submission forms, throughout the administrative interface, on visitor-facing HTML pages, and in the search interface. This allows submissions in such non-Western languages as Greek, Chinese, Hebrew, and Arabic. Submission titles, author names, and all non-numeric fields (e.g. date) now support Unicode input.

This support is available immediately upon release and requires no administrative action to implement.

Support for LOCKSS

LOCKSS (Lots Of Copies Keeps Stuff Safe) is an OAIS-compliant preservation strategy that provides tools for libraries to back-up web-published content. The LOCKSS organization provides open source software that libraries can use to back up their content as well as peer content elsewhere - the core of the "Lots Of Copies" approach. In the event that content preserved via LOCKSS becomes unavailable, the LOCKSS software "publishes" preserved content by making it available online.

The 6.8 release allows Digital Commons repositories to generate the page manifests that LOCKSS systems read to determine which content is designated for preservation. The actual preservation efforts will be managed by subscribers.

Information about getting started with LOCKSS is available to DC administrators at <http://digitalcommons.bepress.com/reference/22/>. To learn more about the project see <http://lockss.stanford.edu/lockss/Home>.

Accessibility Updates

Significant accessibility updates are in place on Digital Commons submission forms, author contact forms, user information screens, and the revision history table. Based on feedback from subscriber experience using the service via screen reader, these screens now use screen-reader friendly HTML

markup and provide all page functionality via the keyboard. An updated Voluntary Product Accessibility Template (VPAT) is available at: <http://digitalcommons.bepress.com/reference/21/>.

Visitor-Facing Enhancements

Search - the advanced search interface now allows users to build queries that match "any" or "all" selected parameters. We've also returned the "search by year" feature that allows visitors to search Digital Commons repositories for content published in a specified year without entering start and stop dates.

Favicons - Digital Commons now supports favicons, the small icons that appear to the left of a site's web address in the browser address bar. Contact Client Services if you are interested in adding a favicon to your repository.

Enhancements to the Administrative Interface

Reports - Digital Commons now supports an administrative privilege that allows access to the report interface without requiring access to the Configuration page. This privilege can be granted to deans, funders, or administrators who are interested in usage reports but have no responsibility for managing site content.

Suffix field - the author suffix field is now available on all submission forms. This field can be used to capture suffixes such as Jr., Sr., etc.

Auto-collect - the auto-collect tool now supports arrays - fields from which more than one value can be selected. This enhancement allows submitters, for example, to tag a submission with multiple departments and then auto-collect the submission into the appropriate departmental series. For more information about using the collections feature in Digital Commons, see <http://digitalcommons.bepress.com/reference/16/>.

Submission management - the Manage Submissions screen now includes a new field, "Date of last event," that reflects the last time a record was updated. The "Reminder" field has been removed from the default view, but remains available to administrators or editors who use it.

Disciplines - additions to the controlled-discipline taxonomy include: Counseling Psychology, Marketing Law, Community-based Learning, Community-based Research, and Gifted Education. The current list of disciplines is available at <http://digitalcommons.bepress.com/reference/9/>.

Metadata display - the submission confirmation screen and the administrative interface now display all submitted metadata. Currently selected metadata is displayed on these screens - with this improvement all fields will be available for review.

Peer-review - Digital Commons has increased support for indicating peer-review at the article level. Administrators can request a new field on submission forms to indicate peer-review. Search results indicate "Peer-review: yes" for all peer-reviewed content. This new support allows peer-reviewed and non-peer reviewed content to be posted to the same publication.

New state: Queued - Support for a new state, "Queued," allows editors and administrators to identify submissions that will appear on the live site when the site is updated. Administrators can see queued documents by going to the Manage Submissions tab and changing the "State:" drop-down menu to "Queued."

This new state helps administrators avoid accidentally publishing material during a site update. Before updating a publication, first check whether there are any Queued submissions. Unless the publication is set to hidden, any documents in the Queued state will be published to the site the next time the publication is updated.

Features for Journal Editors

Creative commons - journals published on Digital Commons now support Creative Commons licenses. Submitting authors or editors can select any of the current Creative Commons licenses for their work.

Email handling - editors can now set the maximum number of reminders to late reviewers and the maximum number of reminders to editors notifying them that reviews are due. The PDF-conversion emails sent to editors have been suppressed.

Author approval - we revised the author approval screen to simplify the approval process for submitting authors.

Reporting - we've added doctype to the editor report to help editors filter their reports by doctype.

Author preview screen - Clear download buttons and complete author lists simplify the user interface.

Reviewer notes - We've renamed the "Subject Area" field for reviewers to "Subject Area / Notes" to reflect how the field is most commonly used.

Update on the 6.9 Release

We've already begun work on the fall, 2010 release of Digital Commons. Here are some of the highlights:

- Enhanced support for books
- Redesigned stamped title pages
- New metadata format for OAI: qualified Dublin Core

Next Steps

If you have any questions about the above features or would like to start taking advantage of them, please contact us at support@dc.bepress.com.