6.9 - Digital Commons Release Notes

Version: September, 2010
Available at: http://digitalcommons.bepress.com/reference/29
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Introduction

These notes introduce the features released with version 6.9 of Digital Commons. All features are automatically available at no additional cost after October 15, 2010.

Highlights of the release include enhanced support for books and new stamped cover pages. Additional features include improvements to OAI, reports, administrator tools, and SelectedWorks.

New & Enhanced Features

Enhanced Support for Books

In response to requests for better ways of showcasing books and monographs in Digital Commons, we've created a new publication type designed just for the purpose. The new “Book Galleries” include the following features:

- Upload cover images for each book or let Digital Commons automatically use the first page of the PDF
- Browse titles by book cover image
- Upload books as single files or as collections of related files
- Display all download links near the top of the page
- Track readership for related files
- Link out to e-commerce sites like Lulu where you sell your books online
- Create virtual book galleries with auto-collect

Support for books is included with standard Digital Commons licenses - contact Client Services to get started.

New Stamped Cover Pages

Stamped cover pages are your institution’s “stamp of approval” for posted content - an indication that the digital assets result from, or are affiliated with, your institution. For visitors who discover repository content directly from Google or other search engines, the stamped cover pages are the primary vehicle by which readers can learn about your institution’s repository.

To improve the effectiveness of the stamped cover pages, we’ve created a simple and elegant design that conveys your institution’s brand and lets interested readers learn about the repository. New features include support for multiple logos, links back to the repository, and support for greater customization. Client Services will contact all subscribers ahead of the release to discuss cover page implementation.
OAI-PMH Support for Qualified Dublin Core

With the 6.9 release, Digital Commons subscribers can take advantage of a new OAI-PMH format that exposes metadata as qualified Dublin Core. The new format also supports customization to facilitate local harvesting efforts that require non-standard labels.

The new format is offered in addition to existing metadata formats and will have no effect on current harvesting efforts. The new format is available via the metadata prefix “dcq” post-release on October 15, 2010.

Custom Sorting for SelectedWorks

With the 6.9 release, SelectedWorks authors can custom sort their subject headings and document types. This allows authors to highlight the work that is most important to them. After the release date, authors can visit the “Categorize My Writings” screen from the “Edit My Site” screen where they can organize their subject headings and document types using up and down arrows.

Search Engine Optimization

We’re improving the way Digital Commons repositories present content to search engines like Google, Google Scholar, Yahoo and Bing. Specific improvements include sitemap XML files and automatic notifications to help Google more quickly discover new content, as well as changes to metatags that make it as easy as possible for search engines to accurately index and display Digital Commons content in search results.

Reporting Enhancements

Enhancements to Digital Commons reports include the following:

A new report, “Full-text and Additional files,” is available via the “Usage Reports” tab. This report includes downloads for both full-text objects and additional files. Download counts for additional files only apply to downloads registered after the release date, October 15, 2010.

The monthly download reports emailed to all Digital Commons authors now include downloads for additional files. Records are now sorted by date and the report links to a new page with useful SEO strategies for authors.

A new column in the editor report, commonly used by journal editors, displays total downloads for all published content.

Additional Enhancements

New tool for tracking metadata changes - After updating submission metadata, editors or administrators can visit the “History” screen where new links - either “Show changes from initial submission” or “Show changes from last revision” - will lead to a screen that shows previous and new values for any metadata fields that have been edited.

Note, you may not see the links on the “History” screen right away. Because we are starting to track metadata changes on October 15, 2010, these links will only appear after making at least two revisions
to a submission. After making the second revision, the new links will appear and Digital Commons can display both previous and new values.

**New tool for uploading additional files** - We’ve completely revised the additional file tool on the submit form. The tool looks better and is easier to use. It also allows for the sorting of additional files. Now files can be uploaded in any order and then sorted before the submission is posted. The sorting feature can be used to sort both new and existing collections of additional files.

**Auto-collect enhancement** - Publications using auto-collect will now automatically update whenever newly collected content appears. At the end of each day, Digital Commons checks all auto-collect filters to update a site’s virtual collections and then updates these publications so newly collected content appears on the live site.

**Improvement to search** - Digital Commons now indexes the full-text of PDF additional files. The full-text of additional files has always been available to Google and the major search engines. Now searches on Digital Commons sites can return results for matches in PDF additional files.

**Jump-list for SelectedWorks galleries** - The SelectedWorks gallery page on Digital Commons repositories now includes a jump-list that makes it easier to get to an author’s SelectedWorks site.

**New Disciplines** - Additions to the controlled-discipline taxonomy include: Art and Design; Modern Literature; Agribusiness; Home Economics; Bioresource and Agricultural Engineering; Industrial Technology; Foreign Law; Organismal Biological Physiology; Agricultural Science; Fruit Science; Hematology; Hepatology; Influenza Humans; Influenza Virus Vaccines; Geomorphology; Hydrology; Water Resource Management; Graphic Communications; Energy Policy; Infrastructure; Recreation, Parks and Tourism Administration; Transportation; Educational Sociology.

**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.