Collections

Learn how to use the collections section of the CONTENTdm Server Administration to add, move, configure, or delete collections.

Collections are the basic components of a CONTENTdm site. A collection consists of the digital files and their associated metadata that have been uploaded to the server and approved. Before they can be viewed by end users, the collections must also be indexed.

A collection must be added in the server administration. When you create a new project in the Project Client to upload files or edit metadata, you need to associate this project with a particular collection.

Note: For information about configuring a collection, please see Access and edit collection configuration.

Add a new collection

When a new collection is added, CONTENTdm creates a data structure that allows digital items to be imported, metadata to be stored, and an index to be created.

We recommend that you don't go beyond 500 collections to ensure performance, but we do not have an upper limit for collection count.

To add a new collection

1. Open CONTENTdm Administration and select the server tab.

2. Click collections.
Existing collections are listed in the order of creation unless they have been re-ordered.

3. Click **add collection**.

Add collection

Collection is the basic component of your CONTENTdm site. It contains your digital files and accompanying metadata.

After adding a collection, you can manipulate its field properties and modify its access permissions, PDF conversion settings, and display image settings. Use the Website Configuration Tool to configure appearance and behavior of the collection for your CONTENTdm site.

* Fields marked with an asterisk are required.

4. From the drop-down menu for **Create a new collection using**, choose the collection template you want to use (for example, Simple Dublin Core).
5. Enter Collection name.

   Note: The maximum number of characters allowed in a collection name is 80. The collection name cannot include any of the following characters: \ / : * ? " < > |

6. The **Collection alias** field is pre-filled with a system-generated alias. Leave it be or pick your own custom alias. If you choose to use a custom alias, pay attention to the on-screen instructions:
   - Collection alias is used in the URL as a unique collection identifier. For example, 'oclcsample' is the alias for this collection: https://cdmdemo.contentdm.oclc.org/digital/collection/oclcsample.
   - The collection alias cannot be modified once the collection has been created.
   - The collection alias can only contain alphanumeric characters (a-z and 0-9) and the '-' (hyphen) and '_' (underscore) characters.
   - The collection alias must start with a letter (a-z).
   - The collection alias must not exceed 13 characters in length.
   - The collection alias can contain lowercase and uppercase characters and it is case-sensitive. For example, you can use 'VanGogh' as a collection alias but be aware that requests for 'https://yoursitedomain/digital/collection/vangogh' will then result in an error because the letter case does not match.

   Note: Please read Change collection aliases retroactively before contacting OCLC Support about changing an existing collection alias.

7. Click **add**.

   The new collection will appear in the Collections list.

### Delete a Collection

Deleting a collection cannot be undone. If you deleted a collection by mistake, contact OCLC Support to see if the collection can be recovered.

**To delete a collection**

1. Open CONTENTdm Administration and select the **server** tab.
2. Click **collections**.
3. Find the row that contains the collection that you wish to delete and click **delete**. A confirmation message appears.
4. Click **OK**.

The collection will be removed from the collections list.
Collection display order

The collections are listed in order of creation unless they have been rearranged.

The display order of the collections are reflected on the following pages:

- Home page: Collection List
- Search & Browse page: Collection list in the left navigation pane

To reorder a collection

1. Open CONTENTdm Administration and select the server tab.
2. Click collections.
3. Use the move to drop-down list beside each collection to select the new position.

The list immediately changes to reflect the new positioning.