Collaborative Exploration of the Newest DSpace:
Updates from the TDL DSpace 7 Task Force

2023 Texas Conference on Digital Libraries
DSpace 7 Task Force Members

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Background on DSpace 7

DSpace 7.0, released in August 2021, was the largest release in the history of DSpace and required multiple years of development.

<table>
<thead>
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<th>2015-16</th>
<th>2019</th>
<th>2020-21</th>
<th>August 2021</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>UI Prototypes</strong></td>
<td><strong>Preview release</strong></td>
<td><strong>Beta releases</strong></td>
<td><strong>DSpace 7.0 Release</strong></td>
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<td>Community competition for different UI prototypes. Nine were reviewed / analyzed for inclusion as the single, future DSpace UI. Angular was selected as the development language for the new UI.</td>
<td>Preview release, including Entity demonstrator and associated data set.</td>
<td>DSpace Community established a new Staged Beta Release Process for 7.0, spacing out major features over a series of smaller Beta releases &amp; delaying some low priority features for later 7.x releases. Paid/funded development began.</td>
<td>7.0 release included most, but not all, features available in version 6. Subsequent point releases have added greater feature parity with v6.</td>
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Major Accomplishments of DSpace 7 Development

- A new User Interface based on Angular
- A refactored/enhanced REST API
- Redesigned submissions and workflows
- A new Configurable Entities object model, which allows for the creation of new "typed" Items, and storing relationships between Items.
- Improved compliance with web accessibility guidelines

See https://wiki.lyrasis.org/display/DSPACE/DSpace+Release+7.0+Status for more.
Group Charge and Activities

**Charge:** Work with TDL staff to test DSpace 7 in the TDL hosting environment, and to educate the TDL user community about differences with DSpace 6 in preparation for upgrades.

**Duration:** October 2022-February 2023 (extended through TCDL 2023)

**Deliverables:**
- Webinar/presentation for the DSpace User Group outlining key differences and new functionality in DSpace 7
- List of documentation and policy creation needs prior to DSpace 7 upgrades

**Resources:**
- [DSpace 7 Upgrades Task Force](Google Drive)
- [DSpace 7.x Documentation](DSpace 7.x Documentation)
- [Learning DSpace 7](Lyris DSpace 7.x Documentation)
DSpace 7 Takeaways

● Some new features are cool!
  ○ Improved user experience for repository administrators
  ○ Drag and drop in submission interface
  ○ IIIF support
  ○ Some UI processes that used to be command line only
● It takes some time to adjust to a brand new interface.
● Configurable Entities are complex and will take time to mature.

Come to the DSpace User Group Meeting on Thursday, May 18 at 3:30 PM to learn more!
https://tcdl2023.sched.com/event/1LmCT/3l-dspace-user-group-meeting

tdl.org
Challenges of doing the work

- We don’t know what we don’t know.
- Lack of solid community documentation for repository managers.
- Learning a new thing while maintaining current repositories. Focus on fixing D6, or keep looking forward to D7?
  - E.g. documentation, adding new collections, OAI-PMH issues in DSpace 6
- Goldilocks of testing: too much, too little, or just right?
- Time constraints -- life happens
Benefits

- “Hive Mind”
- Accountability
- Backups/Mutual Support/Redundancy
- Early learning opportunity
- Dedicated staff time from Digital Librarian Resident and Helpdesk GRA
- Contributions back to global community
- Closer relationships / networking
Lessons learned

- Deadlines are important – but so is flexibility
- Benefits of working with the group
- There is more work to be done
- Communication!
  - Documentation should involve front end and back end people
- Building mutual respect between IT staff and librarians
Deliverables

TDL’s DSpace 7 User Documentation
DSpace 6 and 7 compare/contrast document
TDL DSpace 7 Demo Site
Q&A

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