

DSpace 7.6 Community Q&A Session
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Recording:

<https://lyrasis.aviaryplatform.com/r/cz3222sm7b?access=nfTIAIWZ0W5ogC9XTZCcDA==>

SLIDES: [DSpace 7.6 Q&A Webinar](#)

Question and Answer List:

1. I have an urgent question, please. I logged in with my admin account on dspace 7.5 as usual and noticed that the "add item" option is gone, I found that the three options "add community, collection and process" can someone please help me where is the problem? despite that I did nothing except that I added communities and collections?
 - a. ANSWER: I'm not aware of any bug in this area, but it does sound like either a caching issue or maybe an underlying error is occurring. First, check if simply logging out and logging in again fixes the issue. If not, you may want to use the [Troubleshooting Guide](#) to look for underlying error messages. It's possible an error is blocking the correct behavior. You also should verify that your Solr schema definition for the "search" schema is updated... if you recently upgraded to 7.5 it's possible that a recent update to that schema is missing. See step 9 of the "[Upgrading the Backend](#)" docs. (You could also try reindexing as noted in that step, to see if that fixes this issue)
2. How can I adjust the DOI registration so that the DOI is automatically entered in the metadata field dc.identifier.doi instead of the field dc.identifier.uri? As far as I know, this was also possible in older versions.
 - a. ANSWER: It appears this is an issue that also existed in DSpace 6 (and possibly earlier). It is described here & verified to still exist in 7.x: <https://github.com/DSpace/DSpace/issues/7055#issuecomment-1415819951>
The usage of "dc.identifier.uri" is currently hardcoded in the codebase, and probably should either be configurable or updated to "dc.identifier.doi". That comment I linked to shows where it's hardcoded, so it would be possible to add a small customization to change this value to dc.identifier.doi for your local install.
3. Knowing that the new version introduces a lot of changes, will it be possible to easily export a list of the documents by author from a certain community? And to export a list of the number of downloads and consults by document or by documents in a collection?
 - a. ANSWER: If you login to DSpace 7 and perform a search for the list of documents by author, then an "Export to CSV" button will appear in the search results. You can use this to export the document metadata to CSV. As for the second question regarding exporting statistics, we don't yet have a feature to support exporting statistics to CSV. However there is a ticket for that feature which is waiting on a volunteer: <https://github.com/DSpace/DSpace/issues/8573>

4. I have a suspicion that the translation via the i18n json files does not work properly for the status fields "Validation" and "Waiting for Controller" in the MyDspace area. Other text fields can be adjusted without any problems. However, these two remain in English. Is this a known issue/bug or am I trying to translate these fields in the wrong place? I have tested this in the German, Spanish and Suomi translation files.
 - a. ANSWER: This appears to be answered in the comment from Mirko Scherf. It sounds like a bug though, so I would very much appreciate it if someone could create a Pull Request to fix this (by adding the missing fields to en.json5) if anyone gets the chance. I (Tim) was not aware of this issue.
5. I want to know if we can work in production with containers and what would be the best practices to do it.
 - a. ANSWER: See the slide on using Docker in the presentation from today. Some sites already use Docker in production and you are welcome to reuse/repurpose the Docker scripts we have in our codebase. However, we don't currently have Production-ready Docker scripts or instructions on how to deploy via Docker. Those with Docker knowledge should be able to deploy DSpace 7 on Docker with just minor updates to the scripts we provide... but we don't have instructions at this time.
6. How do you create author links on item pages with authority records turned on?
 - a. ANSWER: I'm not sure I understand this question. In DSpace 7.6 though you should see Author links on the Item page created automatically. By default, for normal Items the link will go to the "Browse by Author" entry for that Author. (If you have Entities enabled, the Author link will go to the Person Entity for that author.)
7. Is it possible to perform a massive relation of entities, for example, by using the API?
 - a. ANSWER: The DSpace 7 REST API provides every feature available in DSpace. Everything you can do in the User Interface is possible via the REST API. In fact, if you use your browser's DevTools "Network" tab you can see every REST API call made by the User Interface. This is a great way to determine which REST API calls are needed to perform specific tasks in the User Interface. To answer the question, yes it's possible to write your own scripts against the REST API to do whatever you want. Some actions obviously require authentication with the REST API (like what you propose). But, yes, you could write a script which creates many relationships between Entities.
8. What is the best way to customize the interface?
 - a. ANSWER: We have a basic guide for customizations in the documentation section for "[User Interface Customization](#)". That said, this doesn't document every possible way to customize the UI...it's just the basics to get you started. If you have other questions feel free to ask on the [Support](#) channels.
9. How can I customize the RDF OAI to get BIBFRAME records from Dspace? is this possible?
 - a. ANSWER: DSpace doesn't have a BIBFRAME provider at this time for the OAI-PMH interface (I'm assuming that's what you are talking about? I don't know what you mean by "RDF OAI".) That said, the OAI-PMH interface is configurable

to support additional metadata formats, so you might be able to write your own that supports BIBFRAME (I don't know much about BIBFRAME though). You'd have to add a custom format XSL and list it in the "xoai.xml" as noted here: <https://wiki.lyrasis.org/display/DSDOC7x/OAI+2.0+Server#OAI2.0Server-AdvancedConfiguration>

10. How can I limit the length and the choice of special characters of the title of the pdf files in the upload section?
 - a. ANSWER: If I understand correctly, you should be able to add a "regex" setting to the field you are using in the Submission form configs (submission-forms.xml). See docs at <https://wiki.lyrasis.org/display/DSDOC7x/Submission+User+Interface#SubmissionUserInterface-CompositionofaField> If I'm misunderstanding the question though, or you've found a bug in the upload section, please do let us know.
11. How to make upload optional for some entities but mandatory for publications?
 - a. ANSWER: **I realized I answered this incorrectly in today's session.** I *thought* it was possible to configure this in the Submission forms per each Entity Type (since each Entity Types [require separate submission forms](#)). But, it appears this is only possible to update via the "webui.submit.upload.required" configuration in your local.cfg. This means it's a global configuration at this time. So, I'd recommend adding an issue ticket to describe this need & I can see if I can find a volunteer to help make this configurable *in each submission form* (instead of just globally) -> DONE -> <https://github.com/DSpace/DSpace/issues/8965>
12. Is there documentation for redeploying updates to the Dspace 7 backend?
 - a. ANSWER: The best docs we have on redeployment are in the upgrade guide for [upgrading the backend](#). Obviously, you can skip any steps related to changing configs, running database migrations, etc, but the basic redeployment steps are the same. Build with Maven, deploy with Ant, restart Tomcat. There definitely is an opportunity to provide a simple redeploy guide, and I'd welcome help in doing so.
13. How do we customize default 7.6 theme, I am editing HTML files form the /src/themes/dspace/app/home-page/home-news but still the home page is same
 - a. ANSWER: Check the suggestions in the comment on this question. We also have a basic guide for customizations in the documentation section for "[User Interface Customization](#)". Keep in mind that we recommend doing initial customization in development mode (that way changes auto-rebuild and redeploy). If you are making changes while running in production mode, you may need to rebuild the UI and restart it before those changes will be shown. If you need more help, ask on our [Support](#) channels
14. How to add more metadata fields in Metadata form?
 - a. ANSWER: I'm assuming you are asking about the submission forms. They are completely configurable and are documented at <https://wiki.lyrasis.org/display/DSDOC7x/Submission+User+Interface> See the

section called “Custom Metadata-entry Steps for Submission” on that page for details on adding/changing metadata fields in the submission form.

15. Has there been any movement on this github issue: <https://github.com/DSpace/dspace-angular/issues/2346> which is impacting sites with multiple themes?
- ANSWER: As promised in the webinar, I mentioned this ticket in today’s (July 20) developer meeting. It is currently still waiting on a volunteer (as you can see from the ticket status it hasn’t been assigned and has a “help wanted” label). I have ranked it as “high priority” so I’m hopeful we’ll find a volunteer soon. If anyone reading this is interested in volunteering, please add a comment to the ticket above.
 - UPDATED ANSWER:** This now has a possible fix in <https://github.com/DSpace/dspace-angular/pull/2395> This PR is under review, but additional testers are welcome!
16. I think it would be helpful if a system diagram for the new Angular frontend would be made available. I have a number of heavily customized instances that are due to be updated to 7 and currently it is not clear how all the components communicate how data is bound between them. Is this something that has been considered or could be requested?
- ANSWER: Good suggestion. I’ll have to see if I can find time to create such a diagram (or find a volunteer). A very general high-level diagram was presented in the “[Upgrading to DSpace 7.4](#)” webinar last year (slide 13). It may not be detailed enough for what you are asking about. Generally speaking though, the frontend is an Angular application made up of a large number of components. It’d be very complex to document the interactions between all components, but we might be able to provide a general overview. There’s no way to general a component-by-component view of an Angular app (that I’m aware of), so it’d have to be manually created/updated.
17. I have been trying to change the default sorting for browsing but the details for doing so in the documentation do not seem to be correct. I wish to change the default sort field for search results and browse by to be date accessioned but adding a default sort field to the search sort configuration and reindexing does not appear to change how these results are sorted. I am missing something in how the default sort field is configured?
- To elaborate, the documentation states it should be possible to change the default sort ordering by adding a “defaultSortField” property to a “searchSortConfiguration” ([https://wiki.lyrasis.org/display/DSDOC7x/Discovery#Discovery-Browsesettings\(config/dspace.cfg\)](https://wiki.lyrasis.org/display/DSDOC7x/Discovery#Discovery-Browsesettings(config/dspace.cfg))). But when adding this property to the default config settings for discovery I do not see any changes to the returned results for search or browse by.
 - For example, trying to set the defaultSortField to “title” does nothing to the returned results which are still sorted by relevance. My config is below:

```
<property name="searchSortConfiguration">
```

```

    <bean
class="org.dspace.discovery.configuration.DiscoverySortConfiguration">
    <property name="defaultSortField" ref="sortTitle" />
    <property name="sortFields">
    <list>
    <ref bean="sortScore" />
    <ref bean="sortTitle" />
    <ref bean="sortDateIssued" />
    <ref bean="sortDateAccessioned"/>
    </list>
    </property>
    </bean>
</property>

```

- c. ANSWER: It's unclear to me which version of DSpace you are working with. This question sounds very similar to this bug ticket which was fixed in 7.6: <https://github.com/DSpace/DSpace/issues/8837> Maybe you just need to upgrade to 7.6, or reindex? Or it's possible I'm misunderstanding.
18. Is the issue in submission form with displaying entities taken solved in 7.6? What happens in our 7.5 is that when we search for an project and select one and close the selection window, we don't see what was selected in the submission form. However, it is in the metadata after posting the record.
- a. ANSWER: I believe the issue you are talking about is this one: <https://github.com/DSpace/dspace-angular/issues/1671> It was fixed in 7.6
19. Are there any plans in the future to fix the CC licence integration? We rely a lot on the display of our CC licences on our item pages!
- a. ANSWER: I do know that we've had recent fixes to CC License integration in the submission forms in 7.4 and 7.5 and 7.6: <https://github.com/DSpace/dspace-angular/pull/1835> and <https://github.com/DSpace/dspace-angular/pull/1930> and <https://github.com/DSpace/DSpace/pull/8903> So, I believe it should now work in the submission forms overall. At this time though, I do not believe the selected CC license is displayed on the Item page. That seems like a feature that a volunteer could easily add though, so I'd recommend creating a ticket for that. I can then look to find a volunteer for the work.
- b. I also just noticed this recent thread on dspace-community: <https://groups.google.com/g/dspace-community/c/9uWw2iUNmeo/> No responses yet, but I do think there would be interest in displaying the CC license by default on item pages. It just isn't there yet.
20. Is bulk access management automatically enabled?
- a. ANSWER: Yes. It's a feature of 7.6 (or later) and is always enabled. See the [Release Notes](#) for more information.
21. We would need to set up the files rights on restricted on specific group of users (in our case to library employees). Is that something that is part of 7.6?

- a. *To be more precise*: How scalable are access rights to bitstreams/files in 7.6? In our old repository, we divide access only to the public and restricted to a specific group of users. The group of users are library employees in our case. The option set the bitstream access on the level of the collection doesn't work for our use case, there it is a matter of each record. We struggled with that in 7.5 because there we didn't find an easy way how to put a user group permission to a specific bitstream. In other words, we didn't succeed in adding to the bitstream access condition type (open access/embargo/lease/administrator) an option for a specific group. Therefore, we wonder if this is somehow solved in 7.6.
 - b. ANSWER: The "bitstream access condition type" should solve this issue in the submission forms. It is configurable, and you can create your own conditions (or remove existing ones). There's also a "groupName" option which lets you create a condition type to limit access to a specific group. See the [documentation](#) in the Submission docs for this feature. As an example, you can look at how the "administrator" condition type is configured to use the "Administrator" Group in DSpace here:
<https://github.com/DSpace/DSpace/blob/main/dspace/config/spring/api/access-conditions.xml#L42> You can create a similar configuration to map to a different Group. Keep in mind, updating this "access-conditions.xml" does require rebuilding/restarting Tomcat. If you run into issues, feel free to ask on our [Support](#) channels
22. What is the easiest way to migrate the information from dspace 6 to 7
- a. ANSWER: See our migration guide:
<https://wiki.lyrasis.org/display/DSDOC7x/Migrating+DSpace+to+a+new+server>
(This same guide can be used whether migrating data from 6 to 7 on different servers or on the same server. The concept is the same.)
23. We keep seeing a White Label error whenever we try to export Batch Zip files in DSpace? Is this a bug? How can we fix this?
- a. ANSWER: Whenever you encounter an issue in DSpace 7, it's very important to locate the underlying error message (as the underlying error is never shown in the User Interface). Use our Troubleshooting Guide for tips on finding underlying errors:
[https://wiki.lyrasis.org/display/DSPACE/Troubleshoot+an+error#Troubleshootanerror-DSpace7.x\(orabove\)](https://wiki.lyrasis.org/display/DSPACE/Troubleshoot+an+error#Troubleshootanerror-DSpace7.x(orabove)) Without that underlying error, it's not possible to say for certain what the cause of the issues are. It could be that the data you are exporting is problematic, it could be a configuration/setup error. It could even be some sort of bug. I can verify though that this feature works for basic tests. It is always possible you've found a bug that is only encountered in some scenarios. In any case, please find the underlying error... and if it doesn't make sense, share it (along with how you reproduced it) on one of our [Support](#) channels
24. Is there a way to create a set for OAI-PMH that isn't based in a collection? Asking because we have our theses harvested by another repository, and they require the set of theses for harvest to all be nonembargoed, so we've had to keep two theses collections

(embargo/non-embargo) and manually move resources between the two collections as the embargo expires on these.

- a. **ANSWER:** You can create sets based on filters. A filter can be implemented in `dspace-oai/src/main/java/org/dspace/xoai/filter/MyEmbargoFilter.java` if necessary and missing. Sets can be configured in `dspace/config/crosswalks/oai/xoai.xml` like this:

```
<Configuration ...>
  <Contexts>
    <Context baseurl="request" name="Default Context">
      ...
      <!-- Define this set in <Sets> -->
      <Set ref="myEmbargoSetID"/>
      ...
    </Context>
  </Contexts>

  <Sets>
    ...
    <Set id="myEmbargoSetID">
      <Spec>myEmbargoSpecName</Spec>
      <Name>myEmbargoName</Name>
      <!-- Define this filter in <Filters> -->
      <Filter ref="myEmbargoFilterID"/>
    </Set>
    ...
  </Sets>

  <Filters>
    ...
    <Filter id="myEmbargoFilterID">
      <Definition>
        <!-- Define this filter with your <CustomCondition> -->
        <Custom ref="myEmbargoCondition"/>
      </Definition>
    </Filter>
    ...
    <CustomCondition id="myEmbargoCondition">
      <!-- Implement your Embargo Condition in
dspace-oai/src/main/java/org/dspace/xoai/filter/MyEmbargoFilter.java -->
      <Class>org.dspace.xoai.filter.MyEmbargoFilter</Class>
      <Configuration>
        <!-- Maybe some configuration parameters for
MyEmbargoFilter Class -->
        <string name="field"></string>
        <string name="operator"></string>
        <string name="value"></string>
      </Configuration>
    </CustomCondition>
    ...
  </Filters>
</Configuration>
```

25. How long do you support DSpace 7.6.x? Is 7.6 a LTS release?
- ANSWER: DSpace has a [Software Support Policy](#) which defines that the last 3 major releases are always under support (unless an exception has to be made like with 5.x and 6.x). So, 7.6 will be under support until 10.0 is released (as at that time 8.x, 9.x and 10.x will be the last three major versions). This is anticipated to be 3 years from now (2026), as we've returned to a release plan of one major release per year (8.0 in 2024, 9.0 in 2025, 10.0 in 2026). So, this essentially means that every major release is "LTS" – supported for 3 years.
26. Did I hear correctly that there is not currently a way to bulk transform anything into a configurable entity? Does that include at the point of migration from 6 to 7? There's not a way to change authors to configured persons?
- ANSWER: Yes, that is correct. Entities are still an "advanced" feature, and there is no bulk migration script from older objects to Entities. That said, it *is* technically possible to migrate older Item objects to Entities by simply adding the "dspace.entity.type" metadata field to the Item. This single metadata field is all that is needed to "transform" an Item into an Entity (see [Configurable Entity](#) docs), however you'd then need to manually create any relationships to other Entities. So, because an Item and Entity differ based on a single metadata field, it technically is plausible to use the [Batch Metadata Editing](#) tool to transform Items to Entities in a bulk fashion. However, this tool cannot add Entity relationships, and it also cannot transform other objects (like old Communities/Collections which represented a Journal Hierarchy) into Entities.
27. ~~Are there any plans in the future to fix the CC licence integration? We rely a lot on the display of our CC licences on our item pages! Thank you :-)~~ (DUPLICATE of Question 19 above)
28. Just want to verify that in 7.6, you will be shown the DOI when you start the deposit so that users can know the DOI before the deposit completes.
- ANSWER: As of 7.5, there's a new "Show Identifiers" submission step which can be optionally enabled. When enabled (and configured) it will pre-register either the DOI or Handle (depending on configuration) and display it to the user on the submission page. This "Show Identifiers" step is disabled by default. But, if you enable it, then *yes* your users can know the DOI before the deposit completes. For more information on this feature see [Configuring the Identifiers step](#) and [Configuring pre-registration of Identifiers](#)
29. regarding the files access rights, the question is if there can be different rights for bitstreams in one collection
- ANSWER: If I understand correctly, yes, this is possible. If you edit a Collection, on the "Assign Roles" tab, there's a section to let you define "Default bitstream read access". This lets you define the default rights that are applied to every bitstream of a *new* Item added to that Collection. Instead, if you wanted to *change* the permissions of every bitstream already in that Collection, you can use the new bulk access management tool added in 7.6. See the [Release Notes](#)
30. Hello! Request-a-copy emails are encoded to prevent XSS attacks, is there a way to work-around this for properly displaying the email in other languages

- a. ANSWER: I think I'd need more information on the behavior you are seeing. It's possible this encoding is in DSpace, but it's also possible it's something inherent in Angular itself. So, it's difficult for me to answer this or suggest a workaround without understanding what is occurring and what you are attempting to achieve (the use case you are trying to meet). Please feel free to create either a [bug ticket](#) or provide more details on our [Support](#) channels
31. Think configurable entities will shift from advanced to basic in ds 8? with attention given to bulk author, etc. entity assignment?
- a. ANSWER: As noted in my 7.6 Q&A talk, [Configurable Entities](#) are still an "advanced" feature in DSpace 7. Currently, they are not enabled by default, and even when enabled...they are not required (you can use Items and Configurable Entities at the same time). That said, I believe Configurable Entities will be the future of DSpace, and they definitely will move from "advanced" to a "basic" feature **at some point**. At this time, I cannot say for certain whether that transition would occur with DSpace v8, or if it will slowly occur over several major releases (in time for v9 or v10). Once it occurs though, it's likely that Entities will be turned on by default and possibly even required (but at that point, we'd also have migration scripts to allow everyone to more easily migrate everything to Entities). If I were to guess, as of today, I doubt this transition will happen all at once in v8... it's more likely to occur over several releases. But, we'll let the community know well in advance of any such decision and provide migration scripts as always.
32. Would you consider adding bulk access control for bundles, not just bitstreams and metadata?
- a. ANSWER: Yes it could be considered if use cases were provided. Currently though, as you noted, the Bulk Access Control feature in 7.6 only works for Items (metadata) and Bitstreams. Bundles are not supported simply because they are almost "invisible" in the User Interface (except to Admin users). So, it's unclear what use cases would require bulk changes to permissions on bundles. But, you are welcome to [submit a ticket](#) to describe these use cases, and (assuming others agree), I can then look for a volunteer to help implement that concept.
33. dspace entities vs dspace Cris?
- a. ANSWER: DSpace-CRIS is (of course) a separate product from DSpace, but it is based on DSpace. DSpace-CRIS is built/maintained by 4Science, while DSpace itself is a community-supported project. That said, you may see questions about both on DSpace mailing lists, as the systems are somewhat similar. My understanding is that DSpace-CRIS *uses* DSpace entities. But, it is worth being aware that we (Lyris & myself - Tim) can only support DSpace. We have no feedback into/control over what code is added to DSpace-CRIS (that is a decision of 4Science and their collaborators). Obviously, 4Science is a trusted partner of ours on DSpace and they were one of the major providers involved in DSpace 7 (along with Atmire). Long term, DSpace Steering has had discussions with 4Science about bringing DSpace & DSpace-CRIS closer together...this has happened little by little in recent releases as the 4Science team (and others)

have helped port DSpace-CRIS features back to DSpace (e.g. ORCID integration, and others are called out in our [Release Notes](#)). Overall, the decision on which system to use is up to you.

34. Can users be put in an epersonsgroup based on the users' IP address?

a. ANSWER: Yes, this is called "IP Authentication" and is documented here:

<https://wiki.lyrasis.org/display/DSDOC7x/Authentication+Plugins#AuthenticationPlugins-IPAuthentication>