

Problems documented from the custom Plowshares ContentDM interface.

I have tried to order these problems by the most to least problematic. The first four are the most important, and they directly negatively impact the ability to search and retrieve results in the collection

1- Search results do not display as compound objects, but instead display as the single pages. Compound objects no longer display as compound objects in the search results screen. Instead they display all single pages. Because of the large number of individual pages, this makes most search results nearly useless.

Currently the default PALNI collection returns the search results correctly, as objects, not individual pages.

For a demonstration of the differences, try searching the PALNI interface for “Indian natives”, and you’ll get 23 objects for the results. If the same search is tried in the Plowshares interface you get 275 pages. An even more dramatic demonstration could be made with the search “Messenger of Peace”, which returns 40 objects with the term in the PALNI interface, and 7,227 individual pages in the Plowshares interface.

This issue is a **huge** issue for us. In all of our collections the majority of the documents are compound objects, some of which can be hundreds or thousands of pages long. Previously when searching we could get results of only the handful of items that are appropriate. Now we are getting thousands of pages in the results, of which the first several hundred are all from the same object. We really need this fixed in order for the collection to be usable.

2 PHP errors:

On various pages throughout the site there are PHP errors that are repeatable on multiple computers and on multiple browsers. I have tried to document all that I’ve discovered. Some of the keyword search errors only occur with certain terms, and the keyword search works with other terms.

From the Goshen college pages, keyword search for the term “Quaker”. Was expecting few results from this search combination, so thought perhaps the error was caused by the search trying to return a “no results” page. But tried searching from the same page for “frog”, and was able to successfully get a “no results” page.

On the Manchester College page, search by Category, for “Labor Issues”.

By Faith-Quakers, Keyword

Some terms work, (Earlham), while others return a php error, (Relief, labor, war). There are objects in the collection with those combinations of terms.

By Faith-Church of the Brethren, Keyword.

Terms “war”, “Manchester”, “Earlham”, and “Mennonite” all work. But “labor” and “Quaker” return the PHP error.

On the Category Page, search by “Death Penalty”, “Historic Peace Churches Efforts”, “Labor Issues” all produce error.

3 Syntax errors in Category searches

For the Ajax drop-down and Category page Category searches, there is an error in the syntax for all terms which have an “and” in them, such as “Draft and Resistance” and “War and Response”. Each word is being search for separately instead of as a phrase. The “and” is being searched for, but it is a stop word, so it is causing the results to be null.

Here is an example of the incorrect search syntax:

http://replica.palni.edu/cdm4/plowshares/results.php?CISOBOX1=War+and+Response&CISOOP1=all&CISOFIELD1=CISOSEARCHALL&CISORESTMP=%2Fresults.php&CISOVIEWTMP=%2Fitem_viewer.php&CISOMODE=grid&CISOGRID=thumbnail%2CA%2C1%3Btitle%2CA%2C1%3Bsubjec%2CA%2C0%3Bdescri%2C200%2C0%3Bnone%2CA%2C0%3B20%3Btitle%2Cnone%2Cnone%2Cnone%2Cnone&CISOBIB=title%2CA%2C1%2CN%3Bsubjec%2CA%2C0%2CN%3Bdescri%2C200%2C0%2CN%3Bnone%2CA%2C0%2CN%3Bnone%2CA%2C0%2CN%3B20%3Btitle%2Cnone%2Cnone%2Cnone%2Cnone&CISOTHUMB=20+%284x5%29%3Btitle%2Cnone%2Cnone%2Cnone%2Cnone&CISOTITLE=20%3Btitle%2Cnone%2Cnone%2Cnone%2Cnone&CISOHIERA=20%3Bsubjec%2Ctitle%2Cnone%2Cnone%2Cnone&CISOROOT=%2Fgopplow%2C%2Fecplow%2C%2Fmapplow&CISOSUPPRESS=1

Here is a search string that shows the correct structure for searching for the phrase “War and Response”, although this particular search will only retrieve results from one collection, not all three.

<http://replica.palni.edu/cdm4/plowshares/results.php?CISOOP1=exact&CISOFIELD1=CISOSEARCHALL&CISOROOT=all&CISOBOX1=War%20and%20Response>

Also, the category searches are not being limited to just searching the Plowshares Category field.

“Earlham College” is retrieving everything that was posted in the Earlham Collection, and not limiting to those things that we have labeled as being about “Earlham College” with the Plowshares controlled vocabulary. (18,000+ pages vs. 4 compound objects)

“Women’s Rights” is searching for the term “women” across multiple fields, and therefore returning many false hits. (2450 pages, vs. 4 compound objects)

4 Glitches in graphics and layout of Advanced Search pages

There are intertwined aesthetic and functional concerns with these pages. Overlapping boxes, which look graphically wrong, are also preventing users from being able to use the advanced search features. Some command buttons and search term boxes are being obscured by the overlapping elements, making them un-useable. We have noted our broad design preferences, but obviously it is important to fix the functional issues first.

Across all Fields Page:

The “find results with” Salmon colored box and the “select specific collections” Yellow box are different sizes. We would prefer that both boxes be the same size.

For browsers with default font set to medium or small size, the “Search” and “Clear All” buttons in the top “find results with” box become hidden and unusable behind the “select specific collections” box.

“Selected Field” Page:

When you switch to this view the salmon colored box turns white. The box stay salmon in the “by proximity” view. We have no preference whether it is white or salmon, but we do prefer that it is the same across all three views.

The “search” and “clear all” buttons are completely obscured by the yellow collection box unless the font size is greatly increased.

The upper and lower boxes are different sizes.

“By proximity” Page:

The upper box for entering the search terms is completely obscured by the collection selection box. There is no way to input search terms. When changing the browser font size, the box stays located behind the collection box. There is a large white gap in the upper portion of the page where the search term box should be.

The upper and lower boxes are different sizes.

5 Help links

“Help” on home page bottom bar and site wide green navigation top bar does not go anywhere.

Currently on the Plowshares home page and in the navigation bar that continues across the top of the collection there is a place holder for a “Help” link.

A link to <http://replica.palni.edu/cdm4/plowshares/help.php?/gopplow./ecplow./mapplow> needs to be added to the placeholder at the bottom of the home page. On the help page there is broken image link.

The green navigation bar sometimes shows the link available. It can be found in the search results from keyword searching and the Faith pages. But on other views, such as the College pages, and browsing collections, the Help is not linked and is greyed out.

6. The Plowshares grid views vary by type of searches.

The search result grid view should stay consistent no matter which type of search is conducted. Please note that while technically the searches are working, which automatically makes this a lower concern compared to other issues, that it is important to us to have the

When searching by the path:

Plowshares Home -- Search by {Any} College—Browse

The results display as:

Image Title Description

The keyword searching for the college pages displays different grid views.

From the Earlham College, Goshen College, and Manchester College pages, the results are:

Image Title Plowshares Category

The grid results are simply Image and Title from the:

Archive Home Page keyword search box,

Advanced Search pages,

Faith Pages keyword, category, and browse searches

Search by Category, both from front page and from Category page.

The preferred grid layout for all types of searches is:

Image Title Description Plowshares Category Date of Content

For the documentation, it is important to note that Jason Boley discovered that there are differences in the mapping codes between Goshen and the other two collections. It is believed that Earlham and Manchester have identical mappings. This causes a problem when trying to add the Date of Content field to the grid views, because the search code to pull the correct data from Earlham and Manchester is pulling different data from Goshen. This will need to be remapped before the Date of Content field will work correctly across all three collections.

Also, just to document, some of us have noticed that the grid view column width changes depending upon which items on screen have information. In the Manchester view the Title field wraps, and the description field is lengthy. For Earlham and Goshen the title is very lengthy and the description field is very short. The display appears to be fluid, varying in length depending upon which items are on screen. If there is a way to lock down the grid layout so that it stays consistent from screen to screen, that may be preferable. Fixed column width is a much, much lower priority than some of our

functional concerns and also a lower priority than having consistent grid results across all searches.

7 Differences in design between “Search Colleges” pages and “Search Faith” & “Category” pages

The Category page and the Search Faith pages have a dark green background image. It causes the top navigation bar to be bumped from the top and left edges of the page by several pixels. The faith page yellow box with the search options floats outside of the white text box and over the green box. Changing the pages to look like the Search College pages would help with the box/ top menu placement issues, and create a more cohesive look across all the pages.

These pages currently work correctly, so this is a much lower priority than the advance search page design issues that cause some searches to not be functional.

8 Future upgrade:

Restore access to “preferences” and “my favorites” to the top navigation bar. This is a lower priority, after other functional problems are fixed.