MINES CONTENT MANAGEMENT SYSTEM

'ROTATING' BANNER IMAGES

To add impact to departmental web pages, a feature has been added to the inside.mines.edu Content Management System: The ability to "rotate" (change) the banner image on a departmental landing page automatically. When activated, one banner image will fade gracefully into the next image every few seconds. This is a brief guide to working with rotating banner images.

A “rotating” banner image in transition

INTRODUCTION

The Content Management System (CMS) now allows webpage administrators to change departmental home page banner images automatically. This feature is accessible to most departments and institutes within the inside.mines.edu CMS. To maximize the feature’s graphical impact, we strongly recommend that it be used on only one top-level page per department.

Here are some things to know about the rotate-photos option:

- Departments may add and remove images at will, order them as desired, add a description of the image, and take images on and offline at will.

- All departments using this feature must use the same rotation effect (currently a gradual and elegant fade from one photo to another).
• All departments using this feature must have their photos rotate at the same rate (currently set to 8 seconds between changes).

• For best results, all rotating photos should be scaled and cropped to exactly 1061 x 320 pixels. Images formatted to other dimensions will display less well: Images wider than 1061 pixels will be rendered off-center, shifted to the right. Images taller than 320 pixels will be cropped at the bottom. Images narrower than 1061 pixels or shorter than 320 pixels will show a white band at the right or bottom of the image, respectively.

USING THE ROTATING-IMAGE INTERFACE

Login to the inside.mines.edu Content Management System (CMS) as usual (as described in the CMS Basics document in this series) and, using the left-hand menu tree, navigate to the top directory in your departmental area. For instance, a Library web maintainer would go here:

Academic Departments & Programs > Departments > Arthur Lakes Library

Click the “Edit Folder Properties” link beneath the departmental label. Here you are able to add and delete rotating banner photos, change the order of their rotation, and add an internal description of a particular photo. Here’s how you add an image to your banner rotation:

In the Additional Options (Icon) section of that page, first select “Upper Banner Image (1061 x 320)” from the right-hand pull-down menu. For best results, the rotating images should all be exactly 1061 x 320 pixels in size. Slightly larger images are acceptable, however all rotating images should be the same size. Oddly sized images will disturb the transition effect.

The additional-options interface

To upload a new icon, click the “Choose File” button and navigate to the proper graphic file on your computer or the network. Select it. Then click the “Upload” button to the right. Repeat to add as many photos as desired. Obviously, for the rotation effect to function, at least two banner images must be uploaded and configured and three or more would be better.

These freshly uploaded photos are not yet part of your rotating banner image. To activate them, three more steps are required. The image-modification interface to the right of each newly uploaded image allows you to (1) specify that the image should be part of your rotation, (2) reorder your images within the rotation, and (3) add an internal description of the image.
To make an image part of your rotation, use the pull-down menu (located to the right of each image) to specify “Upper Banner Image.” This must be done for each image to be used in the rotation. Note that the departmental logo image should not be included in this rotation; leave it as it is, with a label of “Department Logo.”

Click the “Update Icons” button (found below the last image) to save the image labels as specified. *If this is not done, the new configuration will be lost.*

To reorder your images, insert an integer into the number field to the right of the image. Number your images 1, 2, 3, and so on. Note that fractional numbers – 1.1, 2.5, etc. – may be used to add an image between two existing ones without completely renumbering all images.

Click the “Update Icons” button (found below the last image) to save and sort the images as specified. *If this is not done, the new configuration will be lost.*

The final order of the images on this page will correspond to the order in which they appear on the rotating departmental banner image. Note that, for convenience, other images may be reordered as well. For instance, the departmental logo can be set to number 1 to raise it to the top of the images section on that page. As long as it is not labeled an “Upper Banner Image” it will not be part of the banner-image rotation.

Finally, please insert a short description of the image (something like, “Image: Arthur Lakes Library facade”). To do so, click the “Edit Description” link to the right of the image. Insert text and click the “Submit” button. This will add a hidden label to the image (in the form of an “ALT” tag), which is useful for partially sighted or blind individuals with screen readers. This step gives the departmental home page maximum compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act.

**OTHER FEATURES**

If you would like to make an image go away only for awhile (for instance, if you’d like to put a particular image on hiatus while making other images active temporarily), use the pull-down menu to the right of that image and choose the option “N/A.” Then click the “Update Icons” button. That image will remain available to you within the interface, but it will disappear from the banner rotation until it is restored. To restore, set the right-side pull-down menu again to “Upper Banner Image” and click the “Update Icons” button.
To delete an image entirely, click the “Delete Icon” link to the right of the image. That link immediately deletes the image without confirmation. Use it carefully. Currently the “Make Default” and “Edit Link URL” fields to the right of the image are *non-functional* and may be ignored.

Problems with rotating images may be reported to the CCIT Web Team through Mines Help Center: [http://helpdesk.mines.edu](http://helpdesk.mines.edu).

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