

How to manually fix sort orders in WCM

The following describes how to update content sort order in WCM.

First, identify the site area of the content that is not in the “correct” order. We will use this page as an example:

WCM: http://129.33.82.145/mde/programs_offices/prof_certification/certlaw_rule_policy

VGN: http://www.michigan.gov/mde/0,1607,7-140-6530_5683_14796---,00.html

On this page we can see that the content is not in the same order:

<p>Certification Public Acts</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Teacher Certification Code• Certificate Nullification PDF• Teacher Testing Act PDF• School Psychologist Certification PDF• Teacher Foreign Exchange PDF• State Aid Act Certification Penalty PDF	vs	<p>Certification Public Acts</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Teacher Certification Code• Certificate Nullification PDF• Teacher Testing Act PDF• State Aid Act Certification Penalty PDF• Teacher Foreign Exchange PDF• School Psychologist Certification PDF
WCM		VGN

We can see that the bottom three are in different orders. So let's check to see how it is being sorted in WCM.

We do this by going to the page's default content. Use the path in the URL to determine the subdirectory, or site area, that contains the content that is being displayed.

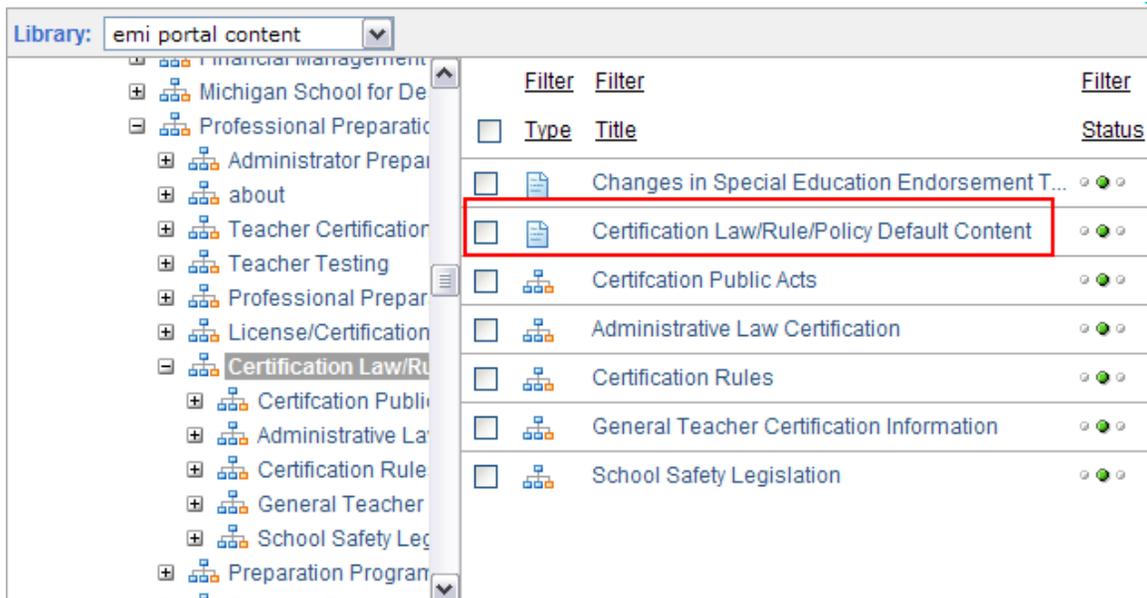
In this case it is MDE - PROGRAMS_OFFICES - PROF_CERTIFICATION - CERTLAW_RULE_POLICY

In most cases, you can visually see the path on the left nav:

Michigan.gov Home
State Board of Education
Offices
Administrative Law & Federal Relations
Administrative Services
Assessment & Accountability
Audits
Career & Technical Education
Early Childhood & Family Services
Grants Coordination and School Support
Financial Management
Michigan School for Deaf
Professional Preparation
Administrator Preparation
Teacher Certification
Teacher Testing
Professional Preparation & Development
License/Certification Application Forms
Certification Law/Rule /Policy
Preparation Programs - Standards/Approval Process
Michigan Online Educator Certification System
Recognition Programs

Again, this shows that it is in the “Offices” site area, and then “Professional Preparation”, and finally we are on the “Certification Law/Rule/Policy” page. This is the same as the path mentioned above (derived from the URL).

Once we navigate to that path, we can find the default content:



Inside the default content, we can check to see what it is using to sort:

Context 1
External URL
Type a URL:
None

Style 1
Component:
Choose one the available styles for the component
[eMI Portal Components/Component AliqnlImageRight](#)

Component 1
Component:
Choose the component that will display the content
[eMI Portal Components/Display List All Items Bullet List By Priority](#)

Generally you can derive the sort order by the name of the content, although this particular one is a bit misleading because a **Display List** sorts two different ways - first, it sorts the site areas and second, it sorts the content within those site areas.

For “Display Lists By Priority”, they sort the site areas by Priority and then the content by Release Date. So the name “By Priority” only refers to how it is sorting the site areas - you have to look inside to see how it is sorting the content:

[-]  **Component Reference Element**

Component:

[eMI Portal Design/CustomNavOpenAllBulletListByRelease.JSP](#)

And we see that it is sorting by Release, as all “Display Lists by Priority” do.

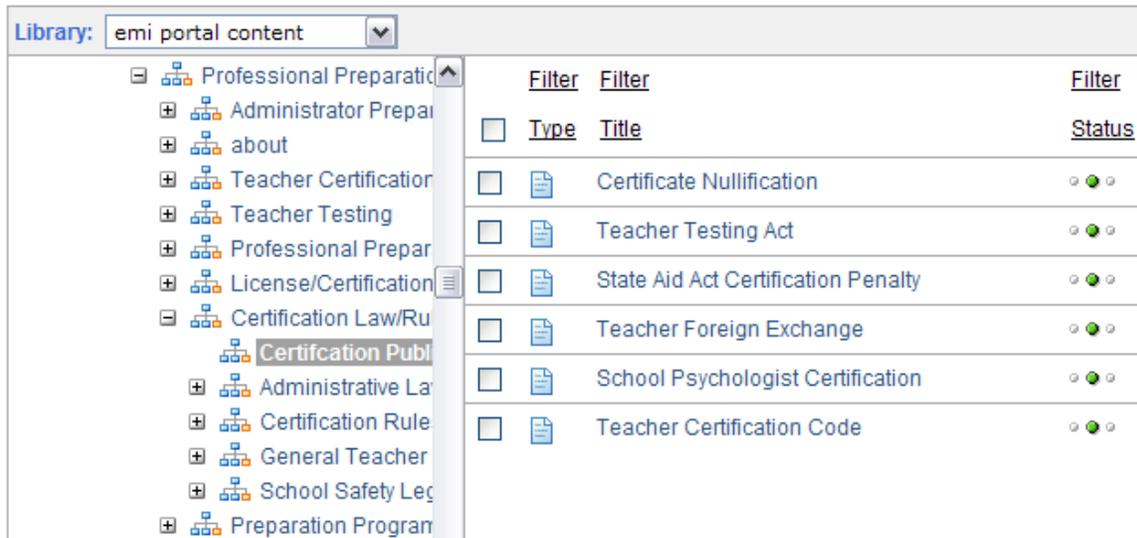
So Certification Public Acts is the first site area on the page because it has the lowest priority value (defined in the “Description” field - site areas do not have a “Priority” field so they use “Description” to sort by priority) and priority sorts ascending (lowest number first):

<p>[-]  Identification</p> <p>Name: CERT_PA</p> <p>Display title: Certification Public Acts</p> <p>Description: 10</p>	vs	<p>[-]  Identification</p> <p>Name: CERT_RULES</p> <p>Display title: Certification Rules</p> <p>Description: 100</p>	vs	<p>[-]  Identification</p> <p>Name: GENERAL_INFO</p> <p>Display title: General Teacher Certification Information</p> <p>Description: 100</p>	vs	<p>[-]  Identification</p> <p>Name: SCHOOL_SAFETY_LAW</p> <p>Display title: School Safety Legislation</p> <p>Description: 100</p>
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As we can see on the page, Certification Public Acts comes first, and then since all others are the same, they just appear in the order they are listed in WCM. If, say, Certification Rules was changed from 100 to 200, it would become the 4th item on the page rather than the 2nd.

*Note: The site area Administrative Law Certification is not displayed because it has no content, so I did not include it.

But we are changing content right now, so let’s look at that:

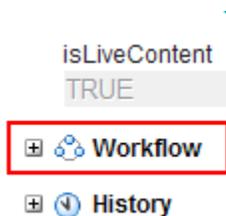


Alright, so here we find all six content items that are being displayed on the page.

Again, it is showing up like this:



Now, remember, the component being used is sorting by **Release Date**, so let's check that. We can do so by expanding the "Workflow" option and viewing the "Published Date":



isLiveContent
TRUE

Workflow

Document Status:
PUBLISHED

Current Workflow:
[eMI Portal Design/MDE PROGRAMS OFFICES 2 Stage Approval Non Preview Workflow](#)

Current Workflow Stage:
[eMI Portal Design/MDE PROGRAMS OFFICES Publish](#)

Next Workflow Stage:
[eMI Portal Design/MDE PROGRAMS OFFICES Expire](#)

Joint Approval:
false

Publish Date:
Enter the date that you want the content item to be published.
May 11, 2008 12:00:00 AM ET

Expiry Date:
Enter the date that you want the content item to expire.
None

General Date One:
Dec 31, 2009 10:20:00 PM ET

Additional Viewers When Published:
None

ACTIONS:
Publish Live: COMPLETE
PreviewLiveSet: COMPLETE - The isLiveContent component was set to TRUE, since the content has just been Published
Version: COMPLETE
Move on Expiration: INACTIVE

History

Here are the values we find for each item:

Certification Public Acts

- [Teacher Certification Code](#) - May 11, 2008
- [Certificate Nullification](#) PDF - Jul 21, 2005
- [Teacher Testing Act](#) PDF - May 2, 2002
- [School Psychologist Certification](#) PDF - April 1, 2002
- [Teacher Foreign Exchange](#) PDF - April 1, 2002
- [State Aid Act Certification Penalty](#) PDF - April 1, 2002

May 11, 2008
Jul 21, 2005
May 2, 2002
April 1, 2002
April 1, 2002
April 1, 2002

The component is sorting them correctly, but the last three all have the same value, so it doesn't know what order they are suppose to be in. The "tiebreaker" for release date is priority values, another field which all of the content items have:

Priority
100

However, in this case, all of the content items have the same priority (100). So WCM says "okay, they have the same date... they have the same priority... apparently it doesn't matter what order they go in" and it just puts them on the page in a random order.

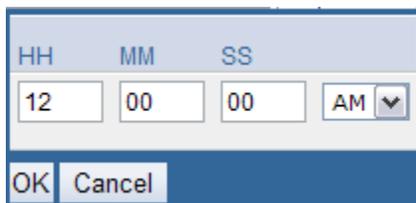
If we want to make sure that it goes in a specific order, we need to ensure that each piece of content has a unique value that can be used to sort it. In this case, we have several options.

First, we could alter the publish dates. In WCM, dates can be set to the exact second, although the default is 12:00:00 AM. So we can leave all of them as "April 1, 2002" and still give them unique values by changing the time.

To do this, we can go into edit mode and then click on the "clock" symbol next to the time:

Publish Date:
Enter the date that you want the content item to be published.
4/1/2002  12:00:00 AM  Clear

This will bring up a small popup where you can change the time of the publish date:



A small popup window for selecting a time. It has three input fields for hours (HH), minutes (MM), and seconds (SS). The HH field contains '12', MM contains '00', and SS contains '00'. To the right of the SS field is a dropdown menu currently set to 'AM'. At the bottom of the popup are two buttons: 'OK' and 'Cancel'.

You make adjustments here to give each item a unique value so that it will be sorted in your desired order (remember, the most recent date comes first on the list, so 12:00:01 will come before 12:00:00, etc.)

Or, if you don't want to mess with the release date (or if you are using a different component that sorts by priority first), you can change the priority values instead. Priorities must be an **integer** (a whole number - no decimals), but otherwise can be whatever you want. You could set it to 1,2,3 or 10,20,30, or 45,67,89... whatever you like. The lowest number will always be displayed first.

For this particular example, we are going to adjust the priority values.

Only the bottom three items need to be changed, so we are going to set the “State Aid Act Certification Penalty” content item to the lowest priority - we’ll mark it at 50. Then “Teacher Foreign Exchange” needs to be 5th, so we will leave that at 100. Finally, we want “School Psychologist Certification” to be last, so we will give that a priority of 150.

So here are the new values that it is using to sort (release date in red, priority in blue):

Certification Public Acts

• Teacher Certification Code	- May 11, 2008	100
• Certificate Nullification PDF	- Jul 21, 2005	100
• Teacher Testing Act PDF	- May 2, 2002	100
• State Aid Act Certification Penalty PDF	- April 1, 2002	50
• Teacher Foreign Exchange PDF	- April 1, 2002	100
• School Psychologist Certification PDF	- April 1, 2002	150

Every item now has a unique value that it can be sorted by, and it is now appearing in your desired order.