

EQUELLA®

Theming Guide

Version 6.0

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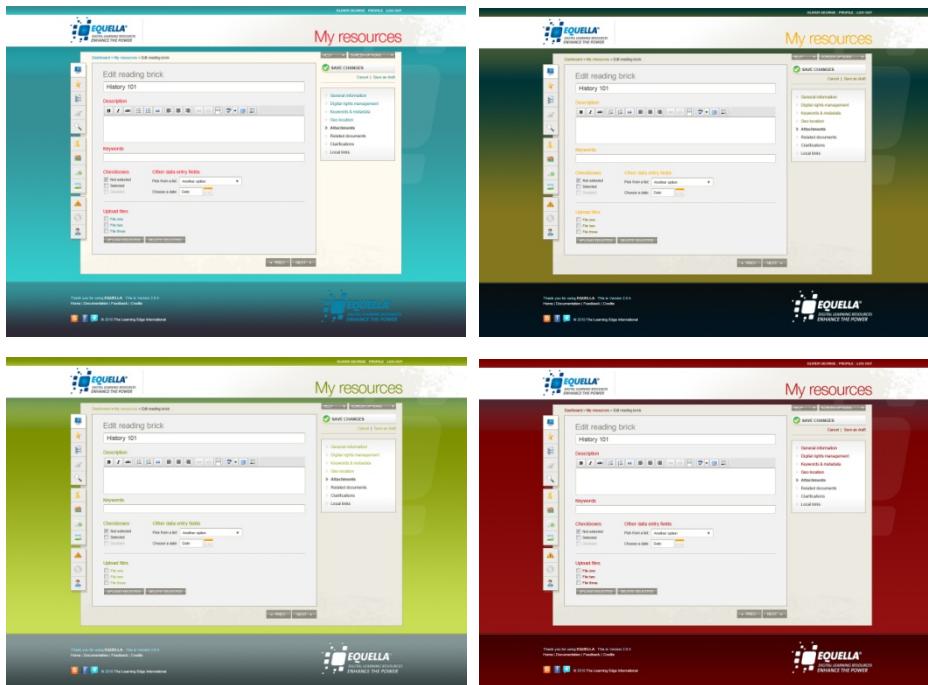
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Let us do it for you

If you would prefer that our in-house graphical user interface (GUI) specialists assist with customising the theme of your website, please contact our support team at support@equella.com to discuss your requirements.

Here are some sample themes that we have already produced:



If you would prefer to personalise the theme of your website yourself, this guide will assist.

Theming overview

EQUELLA makes it easy to create and upload custom themes allowing you to tailor the look and feel of your site.

The purpose of this guide is to demonstrate to users how to identify web page elements and alter them to create a customised EQUELLA. Users will learn how to make use of some freely available tools to identify the code behind the web page display; make temporary and permanent changes to that code; change and replace images; and bundle it all up into an importable theme.

Web development tools

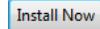
The following tools are invaluable for inspecting the mark-up of a webpage, the way the elements are aligned and for viewing and modifying the style rules on-the-fly.

Firebug is an add-on for the Mozilla Firefox browser, providing a host of web development tools and features. Primarily facilitating the editing, debugging and monitoring of Hypertext Markup Language (HTML), Cascading Stylesheets (CSS) and Javascript.

Development Tools for Google Chrome provides a similar set of functions and features, built into Google's Chrome browser. Firefox, Firebug and Google Chrome are all freely available for download from the internet.

Firebug (Firefox)

To add the Firebug add-on to your Mozilla Firefox browser

1. Visit <http://getfirebug.com> and click on the **Install Firebug** button.
2. Select the name of the most recent version of Firebug for your version of Firefox. In this case **Firebug 1.9.0 for Firefox 9**.
3. Select the relevant version name, then click 
4. Firefox displays a security dialog warning you to only install add-ons from authors whom you trust. Firebug is reliable so click .
5. Firefox requires restarting and, once that is complete, Firebug should be installed. You can confirm by right-clicking on an element on a web page. The option **Inspect Element with Firebug** should be present. Alternatively, press **F12** on your keyboard while the Firefox window is active. If installed correctly, this will bring up the Firebug element inspector.

To use the Firebug add-on

1. Right-click on an element on the web page and select **Inspect Element with Firebug**. An example is shown in Figure 1.

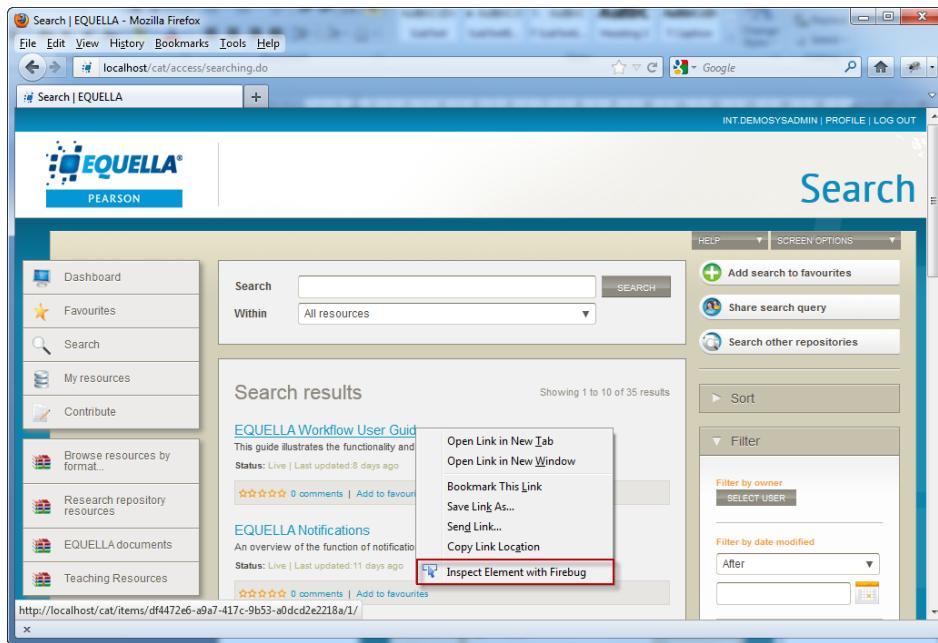


Figure 1 Inspect Element in Firefox

2. This will open Firebug in a new pane in your browser in HTML view (as seen in Figure 2), with the HTML expanded to the selected element in the left pane, and the relevant CSS rules listed in the right pane.

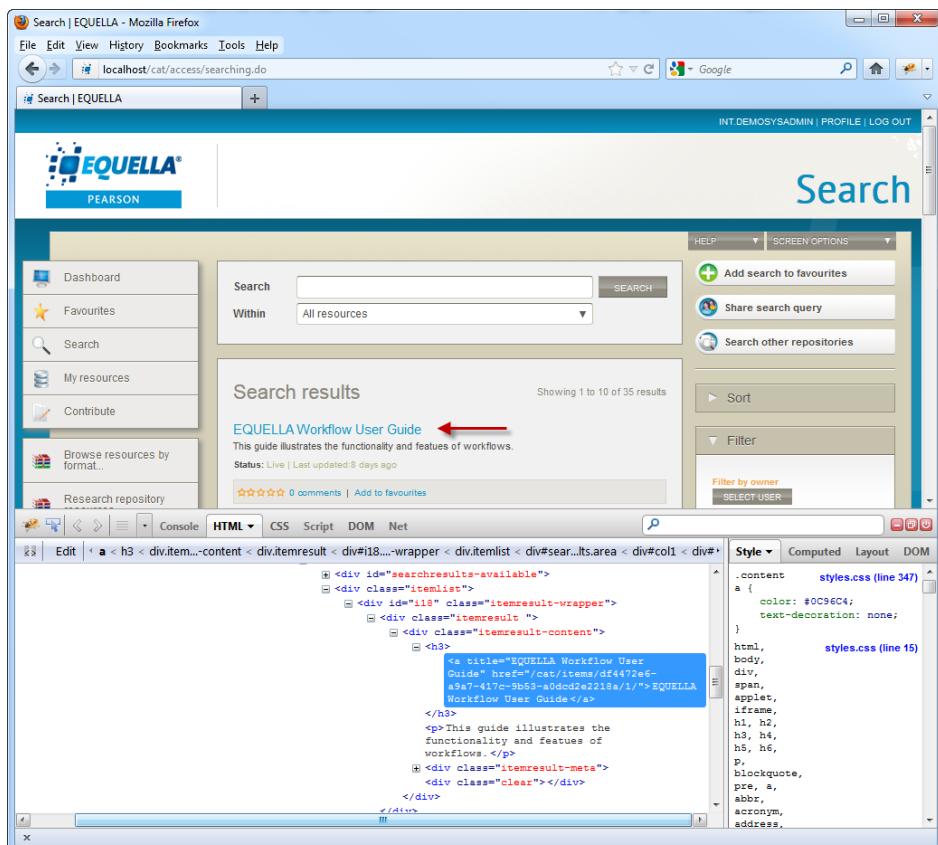


Figure 2 Firebug in action

Any HTML element can be selected and the corresponding style code in the right pane will update accordingly.

Pointing the mouse over an HTML tag will display a shaded blue box over the corresponding element in the browser viewing pane for identification purposes. In Figure 3, the mouse cursor has been hovered over the `<a>` tag at step 1, to highlight the link at step 2. This highlighting is only for identification purposes and does not remain after the mouse cursor has been removed from over the tag.

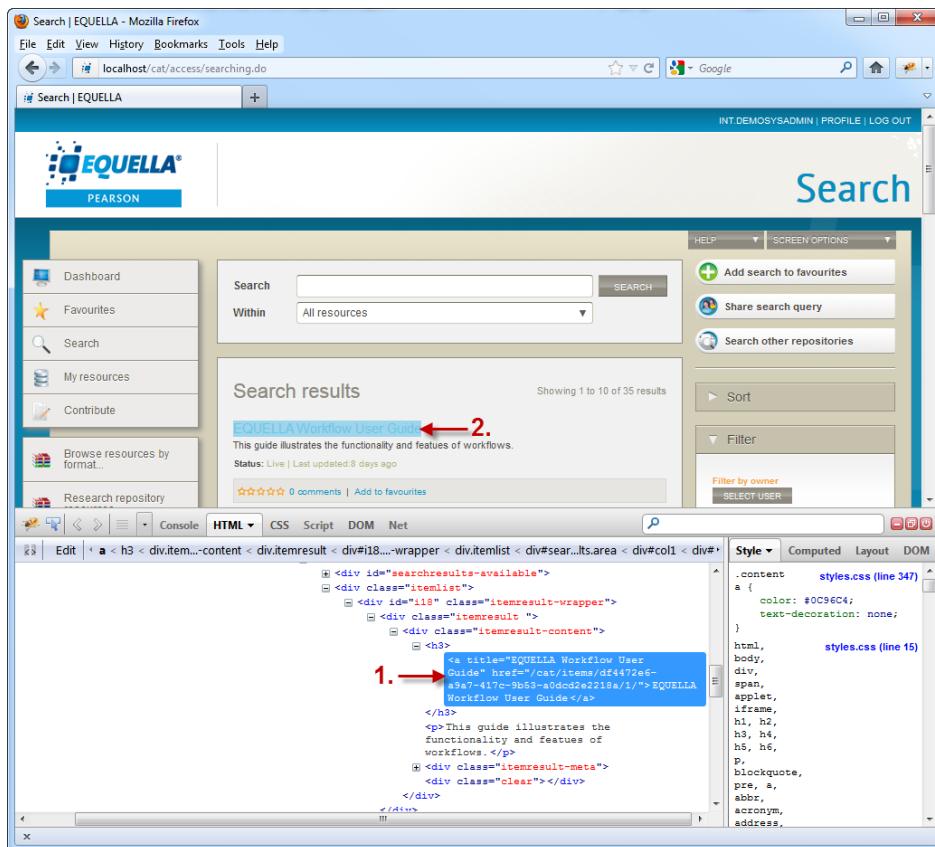


Figure 3 Element highlighting

CSS on any element can be edited to view the effects. Specific examples of this will be explored in the [Make temporary, on-the-fly CSS changes](#) section on page 8.

Development Tools (Chrome)

Google's Chrome browser has a Firebug-like web development tool built right into the browser. This removes the need to install an extension. Called Developer Tools, this feature operates essentially the same way as Firebug, for our requirements.

Access to the Developer Tools browser is achieved the same way as Firebug—by clicking on a page element with the right mouse button and selecting **Inspect Element**. This will open Chrome Developer Tools in a new window. An example is shown in Figure 4.

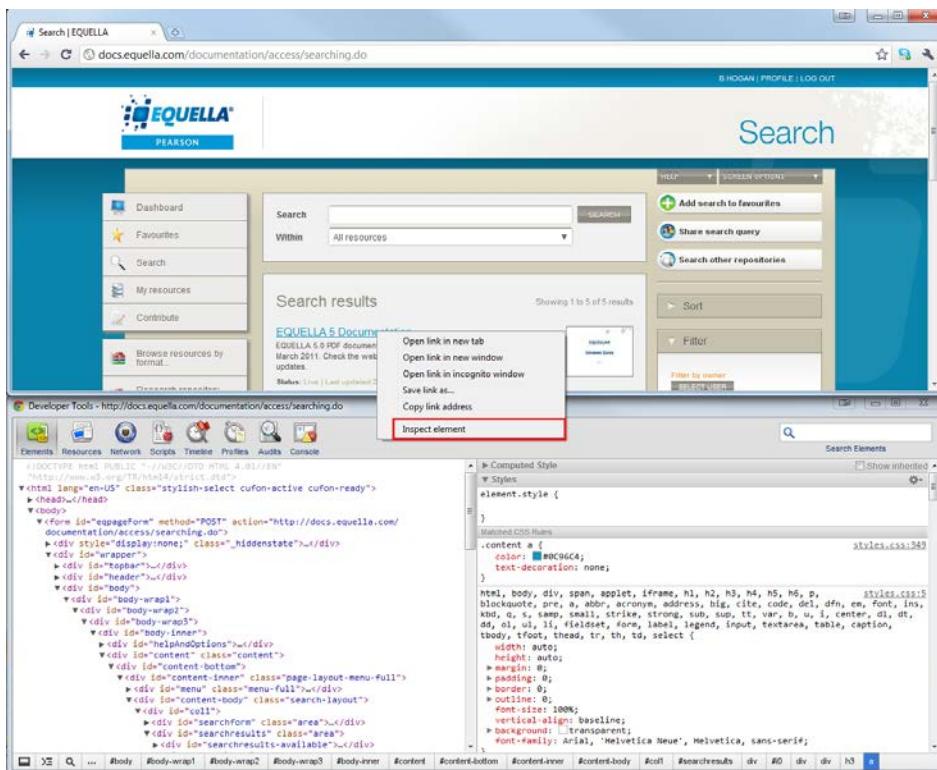


Figure 4 Google Chrome Developer Tools

Make temporary, on-the-fly CSS changes

Imagine you wanted to see what this text would look like in a different colour. With these web developer tools, this can be achieved without needing to edit the CSS files and reload the page. The following example has been completed using Firebug.

1. Select the element you wish to alter, ensuring the CSS correctly arrives in the right pane, as above. The page element and its corresponding HTML and CSS code for this example have been condensed for illustration purposes in Figure 5.

The screenshot shows the Firebug developer tools interface. The main window displays a search results page for 'EQUELLA 5 Documentation'. A red arrow points to the link titled 'EQUELLA 5 Documentation'. The 'HTML' tab shows the selected element's code: `EQUELLA 5 Documentation`. The 'CSS' tab shows the applied CSS rule: `.content a { color: #0C96C4; text-decoration: none; }`. The 'Styles' tab shows the computed styles for the element, including the color #0C96C4.

Figure 5 Page element and code; pre-alteration

2. In the CSS pane, click the value after the **color** identifier (see Figure 6) to enable editing.

```
.content a { styles.css (line 349)  
  color: #0C96C4; ←  
  text-decoration: none;  
}
```

Figure 6 Color rule

3. Enter any colour that will make the link distinguishable, e.g. *green*. Press **Enter** or click off the edited field to save and apply the changes.

The effect can be witnessed immediately in the browser pane, as shown in Figure 7.

The screenshot shows the Firebug interface with two panels. The left panel displays the page structure with an expanded item result. A red arrow points to the link text "EQUELLA 5 Documentation". The right panel shows the CSS rules for ".content a" with a red arrow pointing to the "color: green;" line. The CSS rule is highlighted with a blue box.

```
.content a { styles.css (line 349)  
  color: green; ←  
  text-decoration: none;  
}
```

Figure 7 Page element and code; post-alteration

This method can be applied to temporarily alter any of the CSS rules on the site. Refreshing the page will restore the CSS values from file, overwriting any changes made in Firebug.

Permanent changes to CSS

Custom CSS code should be created in the customer.css file, to be imported with a theme. This is the only file where CSS should be permanently altered. It is the last stylesheet to be loaded, so any rules set in this file will overwrite matching rules from other stylesheets.

This file can be created from scratch, copied from one of the pre-configured themes, or downloaded from your EQUELLA site using one of the previously described tools.

Creating a theme

Two completed themes, Grape and Red, are available for download from the EQUELLA Support site in the *Customisation* folder. These can be used as a reference, if required. It is also possible to download a custom theme from the **Theme settings** page (see Figure 15), although the Default theme cannot be downloaded.

A valid EQUELLA theme can be made up of images and/or a customer.css file, arranged in a suitable folder structure and added to an archive (**.zip**) file.

Folders must be arranged in such a way that EQUELLA knows where to find the appropriate files. Absolute links to the images can be found by exploring the resources using a web development tool, although there is an important distinction between what the addresses are on the site and the way the folders need to be arranged. Where the relative image URL reads:

/p/r/29303/com.tle.web.sections.equella/images/theimage.png

The folder structure would ignore the 5-digit build number (29303), to read:

/p/r/com.tle.web.sections.equella/images/theimage.png

The folder structure of the sample themes gives a good idea of how to setup your own:

- css/customer.css
- images/
- p/r/com.tle.web.sections.equella/images/
- p/r/com.tle.web.sections.standard/images/ajax/
- p/r/com.tle.web.viewitem.largeimageviewer/images/

With the files and folders in place, your theme now needs to be archived.

How to archive your theme

1. With a compression utility installed, such as Winrar or 7-Zip, the workload required to archive your theme will be greatly reduced. While it is possible to achieve the same results using default Windows programs, these utilities are freely available on the internet and they make the process easier.
2. You will presumably have the previously mentioned theme folders in a location similar to 'C:\My Documents\EQUELLA\themes\green'. An example is shown in Figure 8.

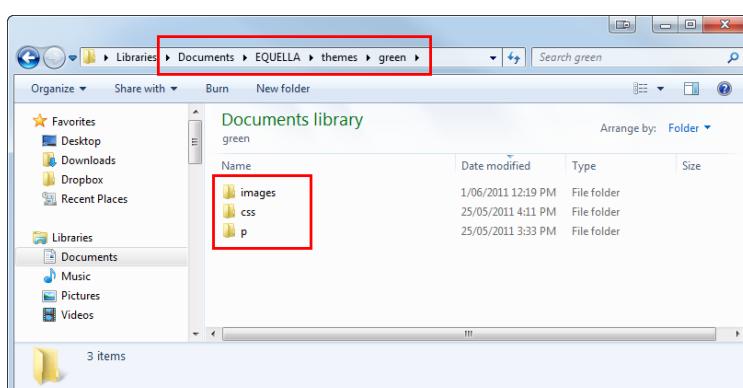


Figure 8 Theme folder structure for archiving

3. Select the contents of this folder, and right-click on the selection.
4. With either of these compression utilities installed, specific contexts exist within the right-click menu to create archives. Examples of which are shown in Figure 9 (Winrar) and Figure 11 (7-Zip).

Create a Winrar archive

1. Select the Winrar option to **Add to archive....** An example is shown in Figure 9.

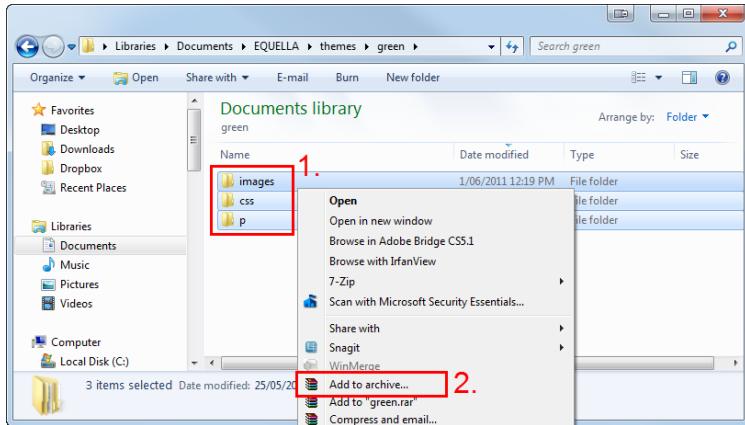


Figure 9 Selecting files to add to Winrar archive

2. On the resulting page, give the archive a name and use the **ZIP** archive format. An example is shown in Figure 10.

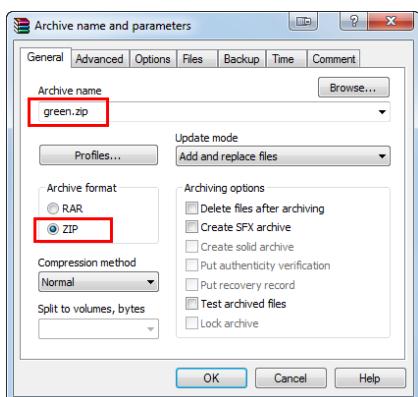


Figure 10 Creating the archive in Winrar

3. Click **OK** to save the archive. You now have a completed theme archive.

Create a 7-Zip archive

1. Expand the **7-Zip** menu, and select **Add to archive....** An example is shown in Figure 11.

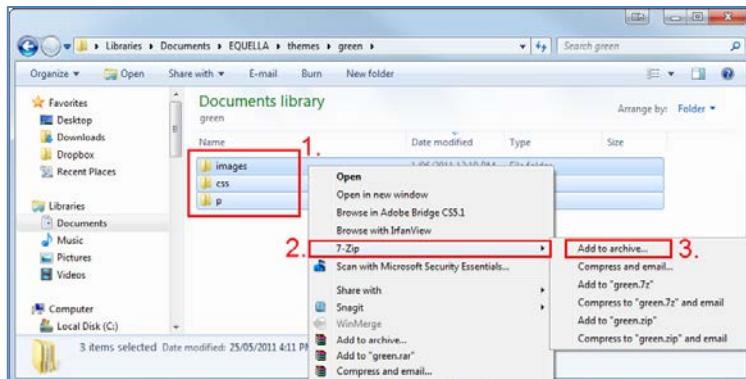


Figure 11 Selecting files to add to 7-Zip archive

2. On the resulting page, give the archive a name and assign it the *Archive format: zip*.

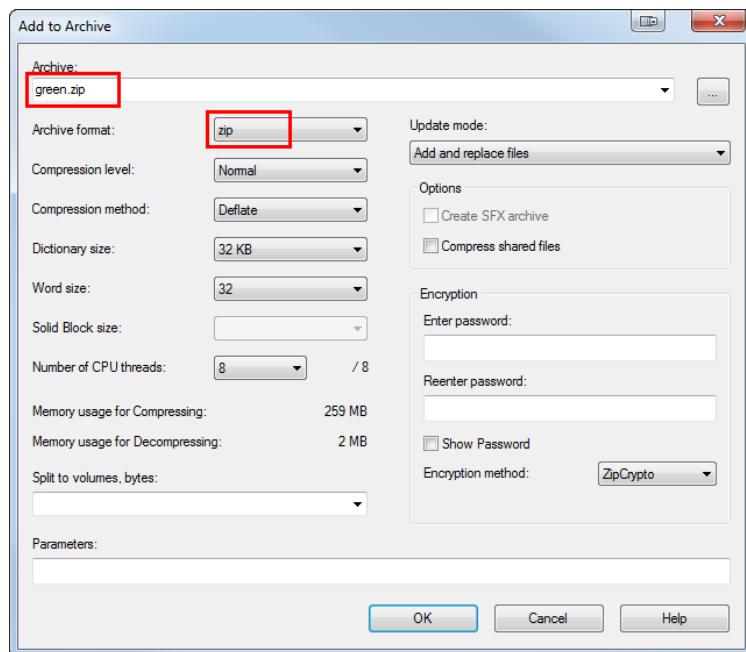


Figure 12 Creating an archive in 7-Zip

3. Click **OK** to save the archive. You now have a completed theme archive.

Confirm the folder structure

1. Open the file to ensure the folder structure is correct. If your archive looks similar to that in Figure 13, then the folder structure should be valid. (*NOTE: You should not see the parent folder of the theme files in the archive, i.e. \green\.*)

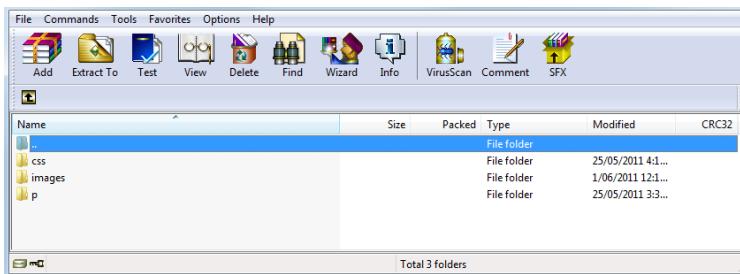


Figure 13 Completed archive folder structure

How to import a theme

1. Login to EQUELLA.
2. Select **Settings** from the left-hand navigation menu, then select **Themes** from the list of options (see Figure 14).

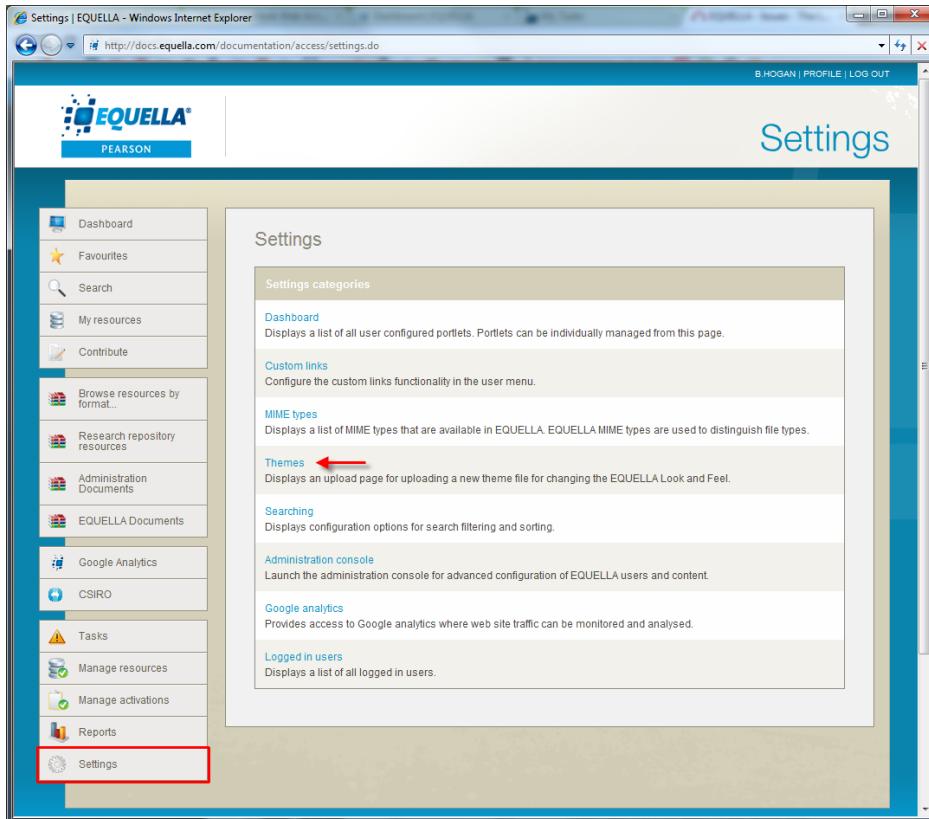


Figure 14 Access to the Themes page

3. If there is already a theme loaded, click **Remove custom theme** (see Figure 15).

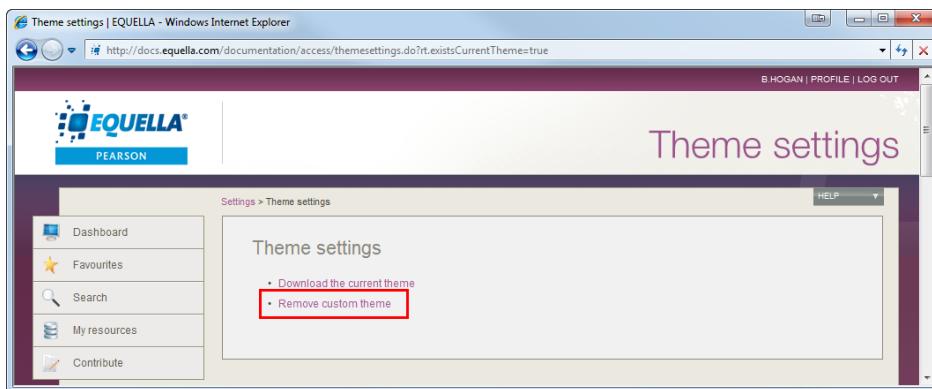


Figure 15 Remove custom theme

4. If there is no theme loaded, click **BROWSE** (see Figure 16).

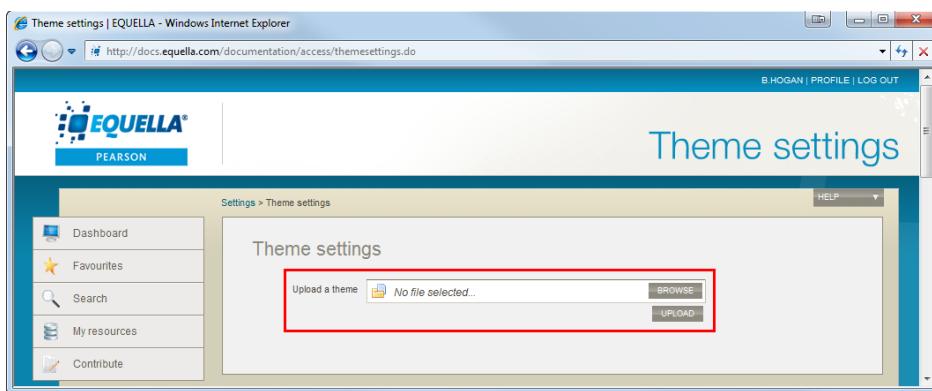


Figure 16 Upload new theme

5. Browse to your theme archive and select it.
6. Once the filename is loaded in the file uploader, click **UPLOAD**.
7. Force a browser cache refresh by pressing **Ctrl+F5**. This will load the theme changes.

Theme creation examples

Changing the header image

1. Navigate to EQUILLA in your browser of choice. (Google Chrome has been chosen for this example.)
2. Right-click on the header image and select **Inspect Element** (see Figure 17).

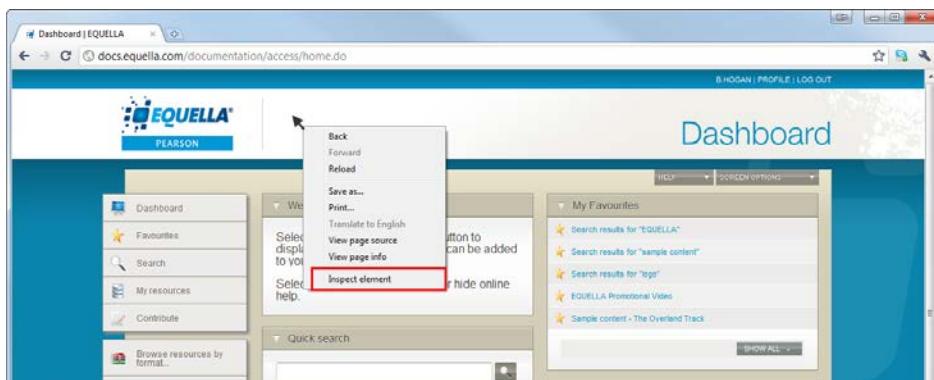


Figure 17 Inspect header image element

- This opens the **Elements** view, where the element you clicked on is selected and the applicable styles displayed in the right-hand pane. If the `<div id='header'>` element didn't select automatically, click on it.

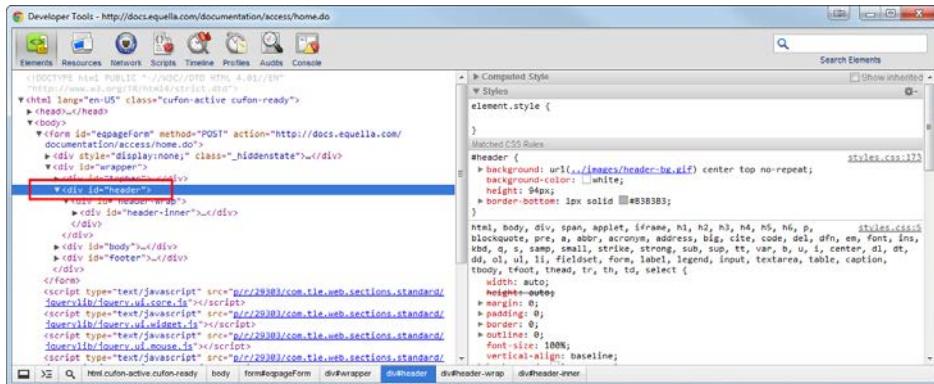


Figure 18 Chrome Developer Tools—Header image Elements view

- In the **Styles** pane, view the **Matched CSS Rules**. Find the CSS for `#header`. Note how a background image is defined for this div.

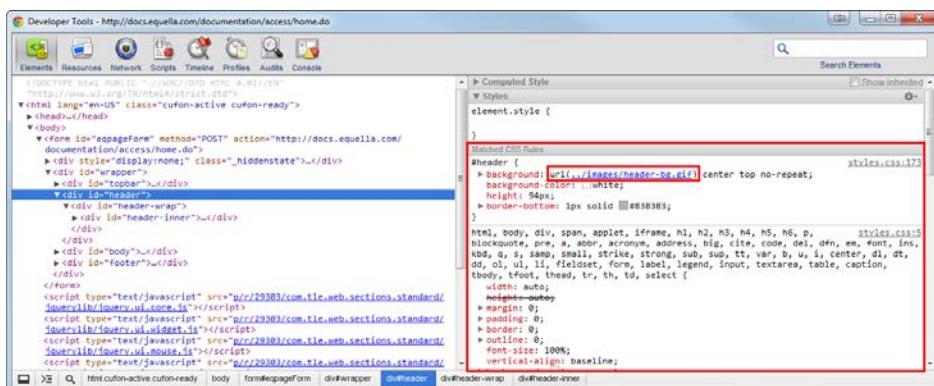


Figure 19 Header style composition

- Click this link to view the image and its details in the **Resources** view. This section exists for all resources associated with the website and can be handy when needing to replace other images.

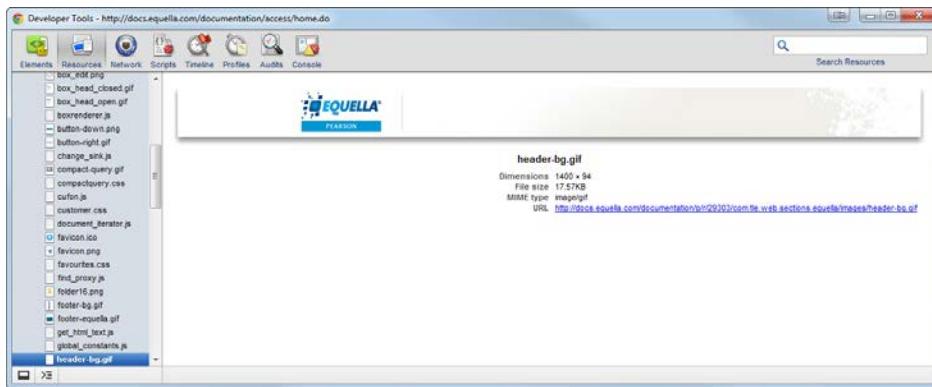


Figure 20 Header background image—Resources view

6. Note the dimensions (1400 x 94), and the URL.

(NOTE: When recreating the folder structure in the theme archive, it is important to use /p/r/com.tle.web... and not to include the build number, e.g.

/p/r/29303/com.tle.web... – INCORRECT.

/p/r/com.tle.web... – CORRECT.)

7. Create a new header image, or save and modify the existing one, as desired. Ensure the dimensions remain the same as the original.
8. Save the image by right-clicking the URL and selecting **Save link as...**, or right-clicking the image and selecting **Save image as...**, with the same name as the original. In this case **header-bg.ltr.gif**, and place it in the /p/r/com.tle.web.sections.equella/images directory of your theme.
9. Even at this early stage, the theme can be uploaded to EQUILLA. Simply zip the folder(s) and upload.

Changing the background colour

Determining the relevant elements

1. By observing the element inspector you can see how the background is constructed.
2. By hovering the mouse cursor over the different divs in Firebug, you can see which div applies to which area. The div with the id="body" covers the area between the header and the footer that you are interested in. This controls the predominantly blue background that you wish to alter (see Figure 21).

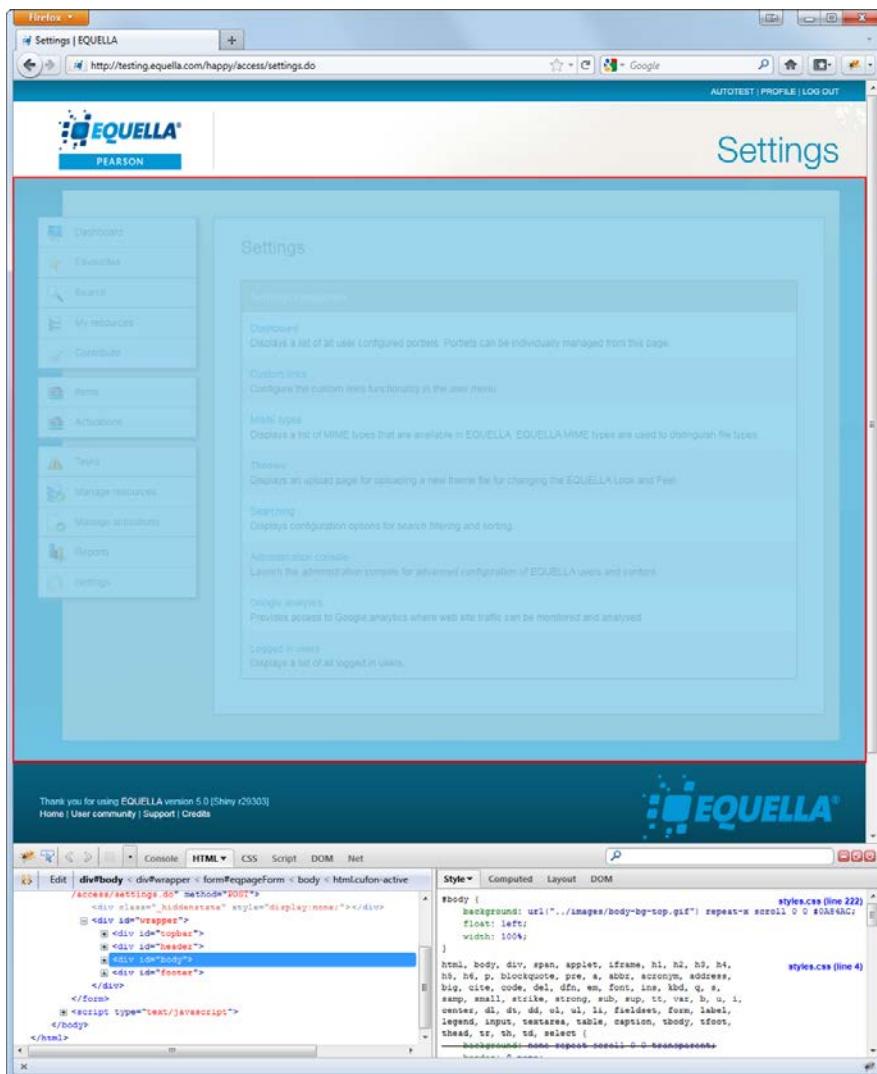


Figure 21 Firebug highlighting area covered by `<div id="body">`

3. Follow the subsequent steps, as illustrated in Figure 22, to turn off the background setting in this div and view the result.
 - a. Click on the HTML element `<div id="body">`
 - b. In the style pane, click on the icon alongside the **background** rule to disable the CSS. By doing this, it becomes apparent where in the document this div appears.
 - c. Notice the area no longer covered by the defined image. Any changes to the background rule of the body div will appear here.

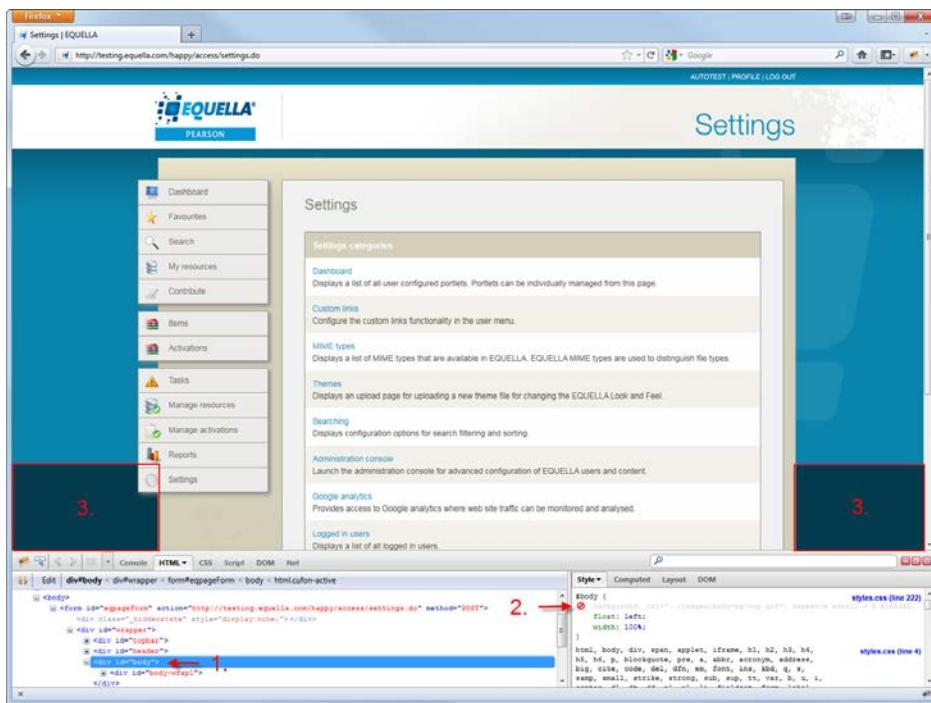


Figure 22 Temporarily disabling background image in <div id="body">

4. The next nested div is that with id="body-wrap1". This handles the lower section of the body background.
5. Turn the background off as described in Step 3. The result should look similar to that of Figure 23.

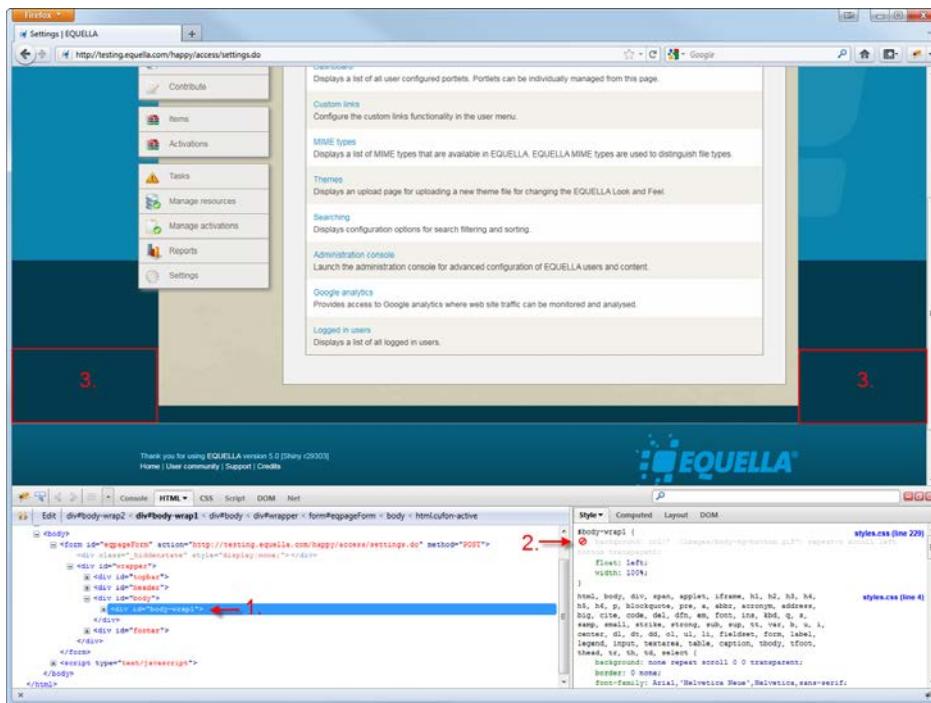


Figure 23 Temporarily disabling background image in <div id="body-wrap1">

6. Expand the "body-wrap2" div in the Firebug browser. This handles the main section of the body background.
7. Turn the background off as described in Step 3. The result should look similar to that of Figure 24.

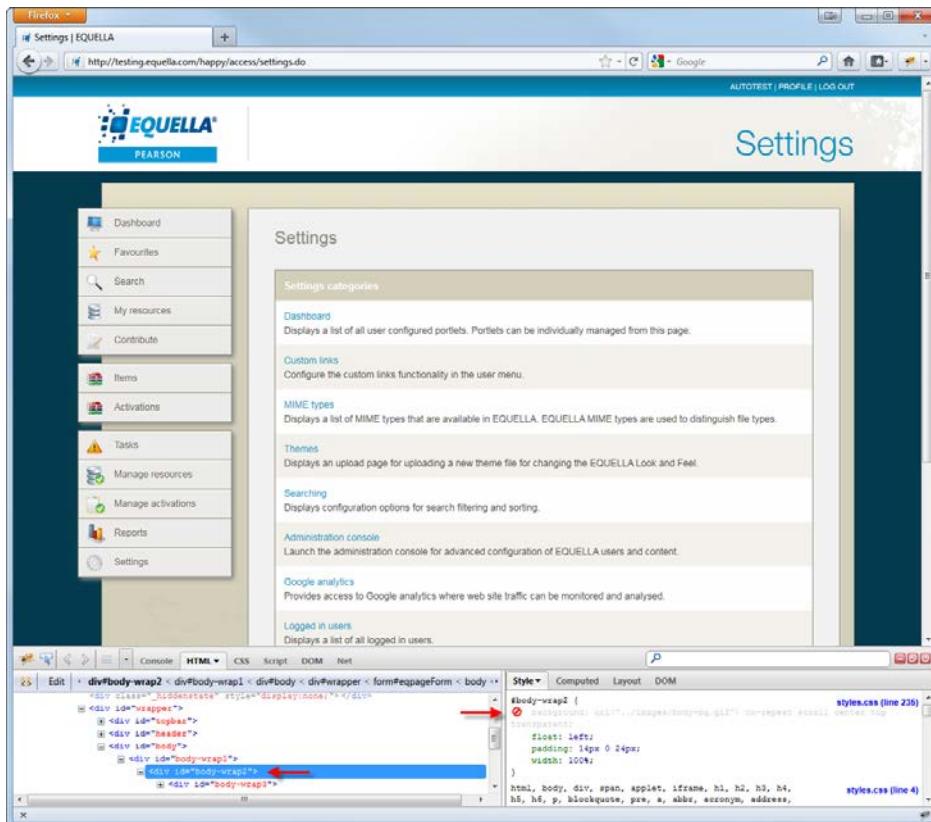


Figure 24 Temporarily disabling background image in <div id="body-wrap2">

Now that you know that these elements control the body background, you can set about making changes.

At this point, changes can be made in one of two ways. Given what you know about the composition of the background, and that it is made up of three images, you can decide to either make changes to these images, or ignore them completely.

In the following example, ignore them completely, overwriting the previously set CSS rules for the body background with a flat colour.

Making changes using customer.css

1. Create a new folder, entitled 'css', and within that folder create a new text file, entitled 'customer.css'.
2. Create new *background* rules for the body, body-wrap1 and body-wrap2 divs, and assign orange as the colour.

```
E.g.    #body { background: orange; }
        #body-wrap1 { background: orange; }
        #body-wrap2 { background: orange; }
```

As the customer.css file is included after the other styles sheets, its rules will overwrite that of the other styles.

3. Save the file within the 'css' folder.
4. Create a theme file and import it as described in the *Creating a theme* section on page 9.
5. View the changes in the browser. You should see something similar to Figure 25.



Figure 25 Uploaded theme with orange background

This approach creates a flat, single-colour background that might not appeal. To create a more interesting feel, custom images can be uploaded, or the existing ones can be modified to suit your preferred colour scheme.

In the following example you will edit the existing images to create a green background.

Edit existing images

1. As this is a parallel example to that of the previous 'orange' background, any changes made to the body, body-wrap1 or body-wrap2 divs should be reverted to the original. This way the appropriate images are being loaded by default.
2. Using Firebug, you can determine that the divs contain the following images which will need to be edited:
 - a. body: /images/body-bg-top.gif (1 x 120)
 - b. body-wrap1: /images/body-bg-bottom.gif (1 x 87)
 - c. body-wrap2: /images/body-bg.gif (1364 x 471)The body-bg-top.gif and body-bg-bottom.gif are 1 pixel-wide images designed to repeat over the width of the page. The body-bg.gif is a large image designed to sit alone in the background.

3. Save these images. This can be easily achieved using Chrome Developer Tools.
 - a. Inspect an element of an EQUELLA page.
 - b. In the subsequent window, click on **Resources**, as seen in Figure 26.

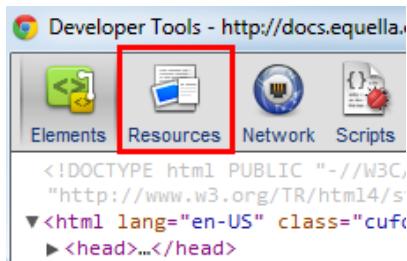


Figure 26 Chrome Developer Tools—Resources view

- c. Locate the images in the left-hand menu.

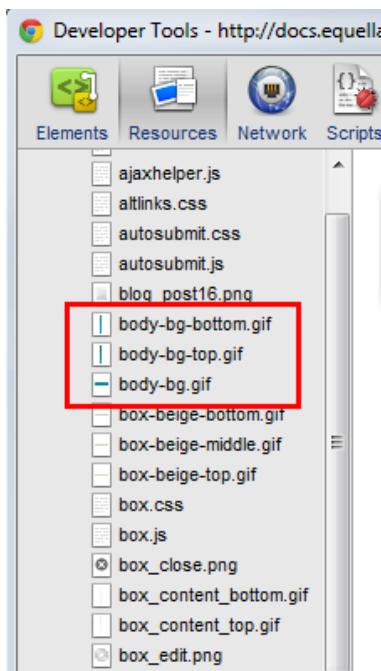


Figure 27 Relevant background images

- d. Click through each one, right-clicking the image URL and saving as... as described in [Changing the header image](#) step 9 on page 16.
4. Open the images in your preferred image or photo editor, and make the appropriate adjustments to overlay a new colour onto them.
5. Save the images with the same names as the originals. This is crucial for the correct application of this theme.
6. Arrange them in the correct directory structure. For example, where the *body-bg.gif* image has the following relative URL:
/p/r/29303/com.tle.web.sections.equella/images/body-bg.gif
the directory structure and filename in the archive must be:
/p/r/com.tle.web.sections.equella/images/body-bg.gif

7. Create the theme archive and import it into EQUELLA as per the *Creating a theme* section on page 9.
8. View the changes in your browser. The result should look similar to that in Figure 28.



Figure 28 Uploaded theme with altered images

9. Obviously, this result is not ideal. While fine for pages that are small enough to not need filling, once the page extends beyond the scope of the images, it starts to look patchy. Some changes to the CSS are needed.
10. Using Chrome's Developer Tools, you can see that on the body div, there is a background-color rule, setting the background to that blue colour. You need to change this to match that of your new theme.

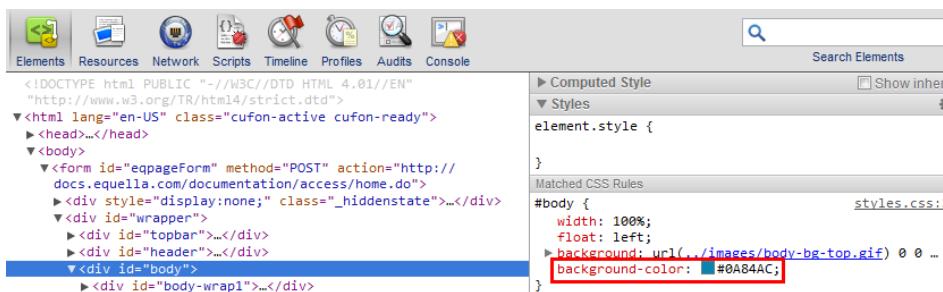


Figure 29 Style rules on <div id="body">

11. Open or create the customer.css file.
12. Add a background-color rule on the body div to overwrite the default. For example, `#body { background-color: #10ac0a; }`.
13. Put the customer.css file inside the css directory and save the theme archive.
14. Import the file into EQUELLA as per previous instructions, and view the results.
15. The result should now look similar to Figure 30.

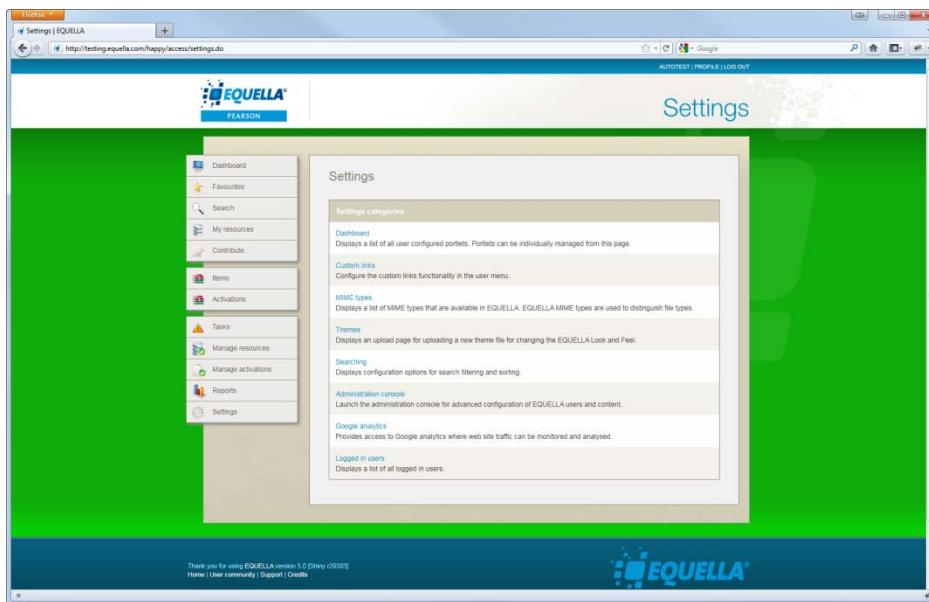


Figure 30 Uploaded theme with altered images and custom CSS

To complete the full theme background transformation, there are four other images that will need editing. These have been highlighted in Figure 31:

- topbar-bg.gif
- header-bg.ltr.gif
- footer-bg.gif
- footer-equella.gif.

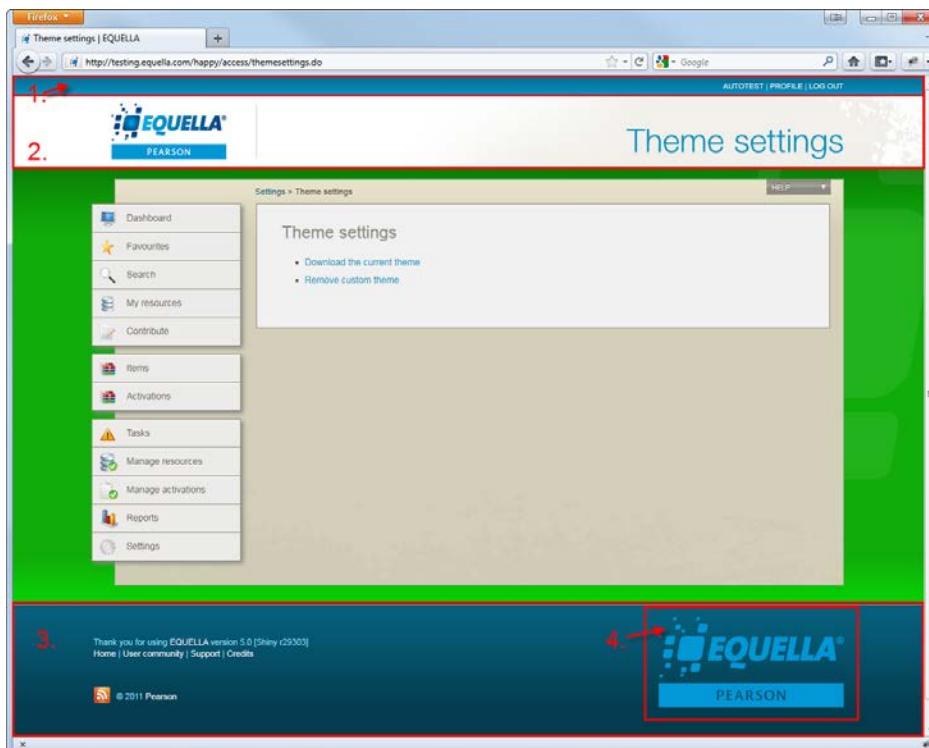


Figure 31 Background header and footer images

16. Download these images from your EQUELLA website for editing.

Both images, 2 (header-bg.ltr.gif) and 4 (footer-equella.gif), are branded images. These can be altered to reflect the branding of your institution. It is important to create custom images at the same dimensions as the originals to avoid layout problems. The dimensions can be found by loading the images into an image editor, or on the specific resource page in Chrome's Developer Tools.

17. Make the appropriate changes and save the images.

18. Load them into the theme archive and reload the archive into EQUELLA.

19. Trigger a cache refresh in your browser by pressing **Ctrl+F5**.

20. The result should look similar to Figure 32.

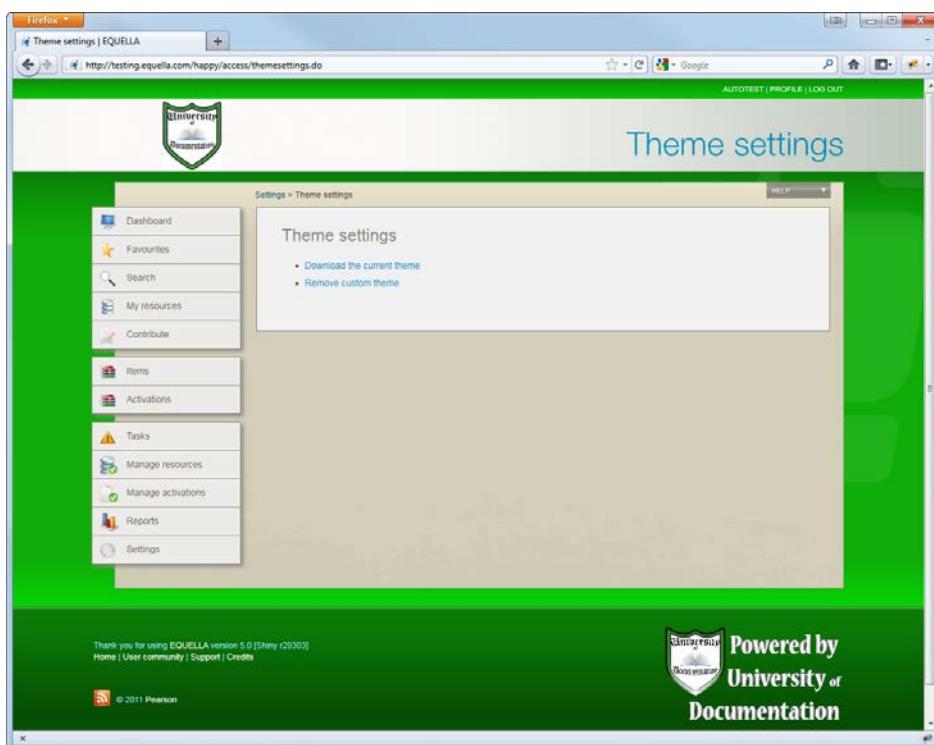


Figure 32 Implemented background theme

Changing buttons

It is also possible to change many of the buttons that exist within EQUELLA. Many of EQUELLA's buttons are loaded from images, which can be edited in the same way as other images, such as those in the [Edit existing images](#) section on page 20.

Buttons such as those highlighted in Figure 33 use a background image with text overlaid dynamically. The background image can be easily changed without affecting the message.

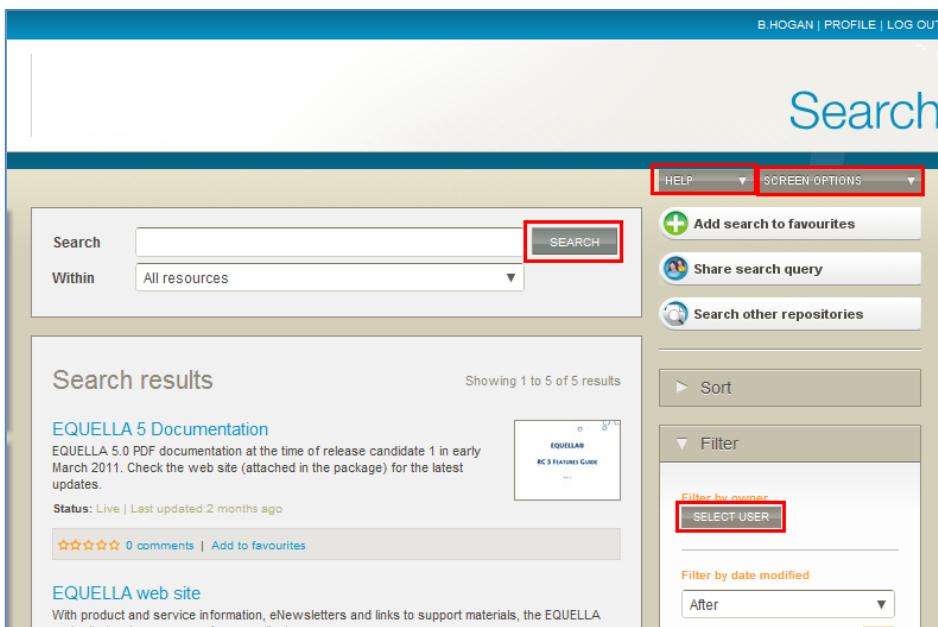


Figure 33 Buttons can be easily altered

The images these buttons are made from look like this:

- **Search**  (button-big.png)
- **Help and Screen Options**  (button-down.png)
- **Select user**  (button.gif)

These button images are made up of one image repeated twice (or three times) vertically. The lower half is given a different colour to the first, which becomes the background for the image when it is hovered over by a user's mouse cursor.

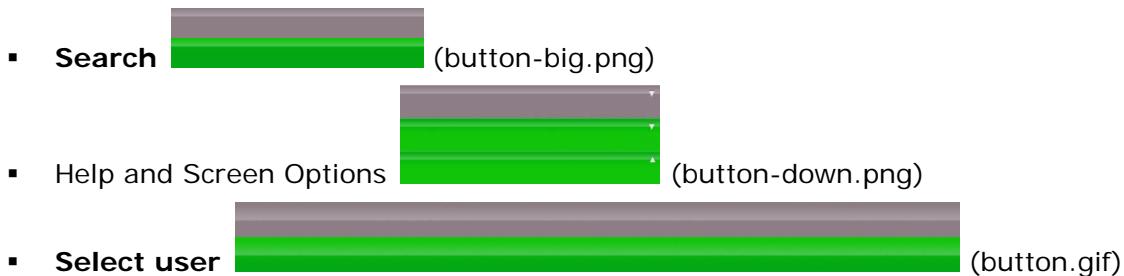
When a button is placed on the page, it is done so with the lower half of the image hidden. An entry is made into the CSS hover sub-class to handle the position of the background image along the y-axis; background-position-y. Setting this value at half the total height of a button image, with a negative operator, has the effect of raising the image up to display the bottom half.

Altering button backgrounds example

Continuing with our colour theme, the hover colour will need to be changed to make it more neutral.

1. Download the following images from your EQUELLA site, using your preferred web tools:
 - button-big.png
 - button-down.png
 - button.gif
2. Open the images in your preferred photo or image editor.

3. Make the changes you need. In this example, the hue has been adjusted to fit in with the existing theme, as below:



4. Save the changes.
5. Move the saved images into your theme archive. In the case of these three images, they should be placed in the `/p/r/com.tle.web.sections.equella/images` directory, with the background images.
6. 'Zip' the archive and import the theme into EQUELLA, following the [How to import a theme](#) guidelines on page 13.
7. The result should look similar to Figure 34. (*NOTE: In the following example, the mouse cursor has been hovered over the SEARCH button to show the customised button background.*)

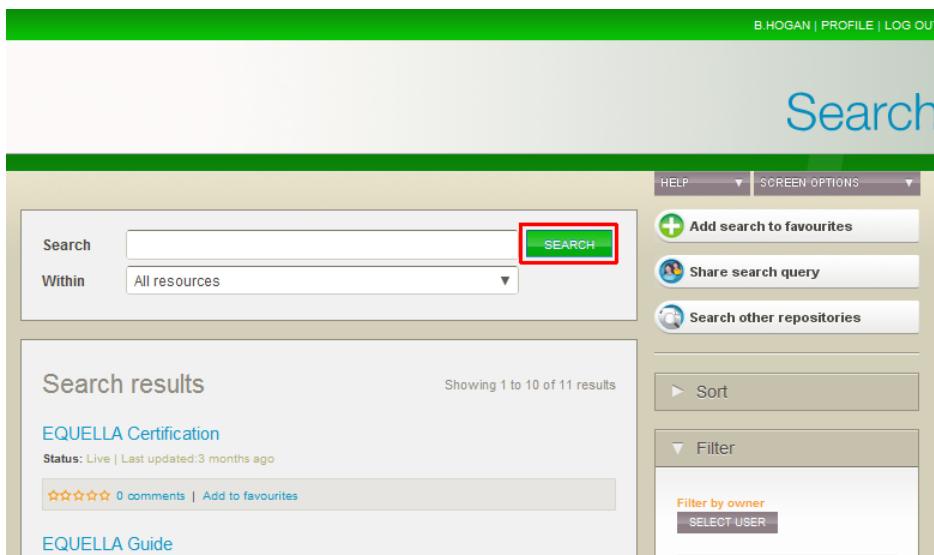


Figure 34 Buttons altered to match the theme

The scope of the editable EQUELLA environment is not limited to the examples and suggestions outlined in this document. Users are welcome to apply the concepts covered in this guide to identify and alter any and all page elements.

Contact Client Support

We are always happy to help.

If your organisation has a support agreement with EQUELLA then help is available at <http://support.equella.com/>.