

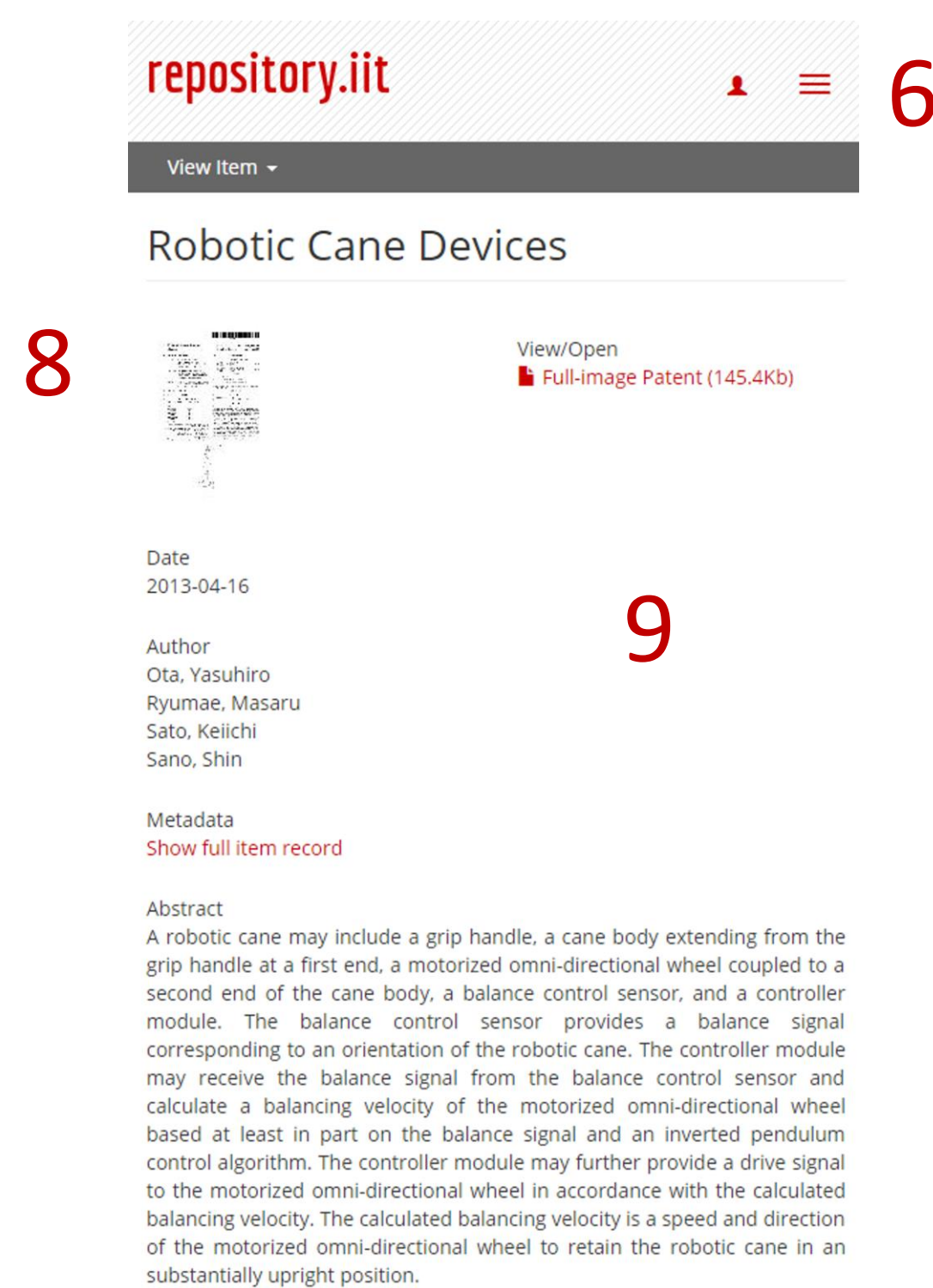
# Repository Refresh: A new theme for repository.iit

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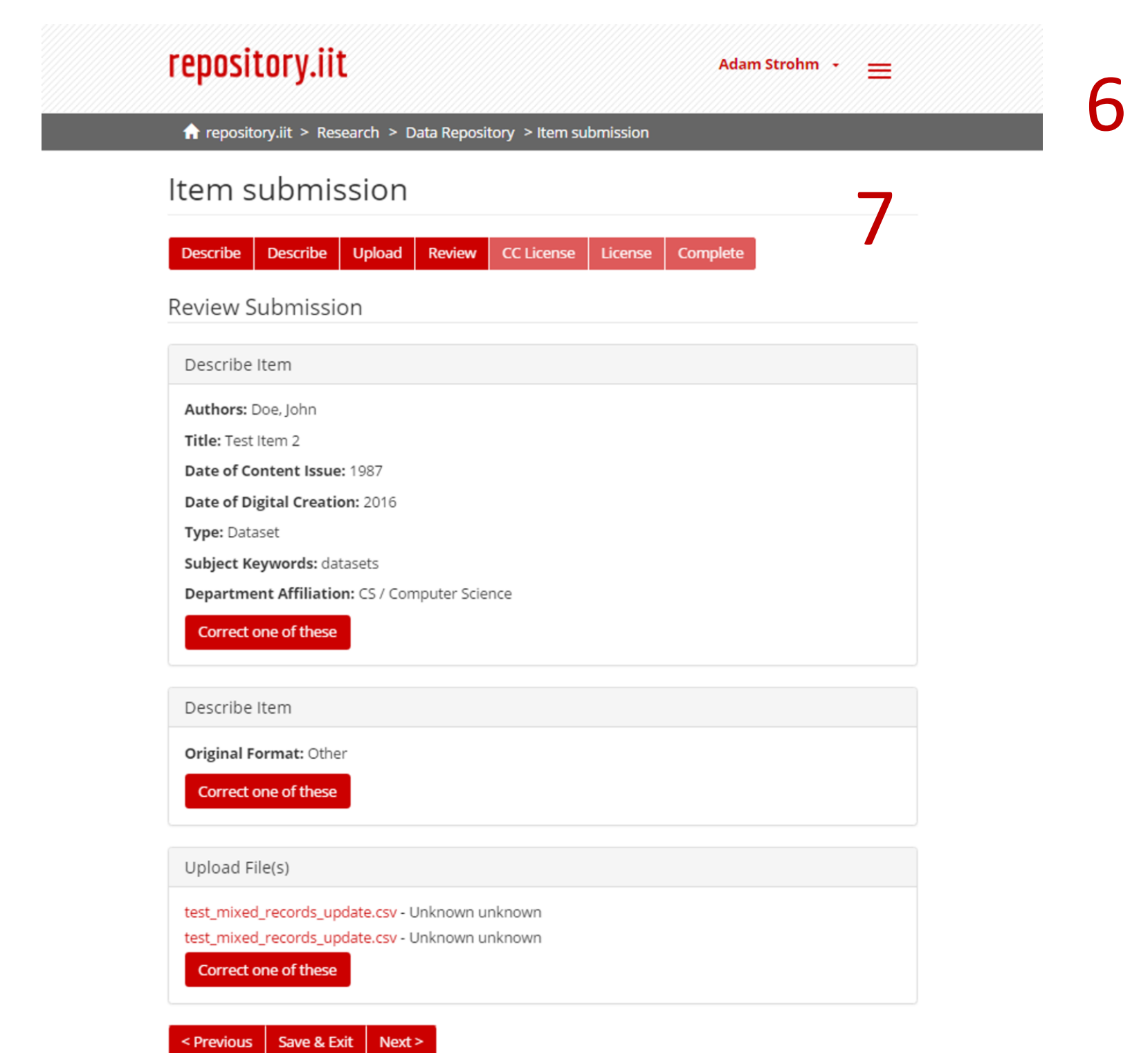
This year, repository.iit, Illinois Tech's institutional repository, was given its first significant visual redesign since its launch in 2012. The new theme is based on the Mirage2 theme developed by Atmire, and it offers substantial, though sometimes subtle, visual and functional upgrades for users of the repository. Some of the new features and advantages of Mirage2, as well as some of the challenges it presented, are detailed below.



1. Mirage2 allowed us to more faithfully match the look and feel of the new Galvin web site and the university's site
2. The visual style of the entire repository has been modernized to be more in line with contemporary web design practices -- the original Mirage theme already looked dated when it was released in 2010
3. Mirage2's use of Compass and Bootstrap makes site-wide theming more streamlined and means that changing a single variable can alter elements across the site (theme colors, fonts, etc.)
4. Collapsible collection and community hierarchies make the organization of repository.iit clearer to users, and allow more fluid browsing between different levels of the repository structure
5. In modernizing the display of the user/administrative menus, Mirage2 made their structure less coherent; one of the main challenges of the redesign work was finding a way to counteract this as much as possible



6. Mirage2 is a responsive theme, meaning that for the first time, the layout of repository.iit adjusts based on the size of the viewer's screen for ease of use on mobile devices
7. Navigating between the steps of the item submission workflow is now easier, as is the review and replacement processes within the submission workflow
8. A subtle change in the item view layout gives more prominence to the item thumbnail and decreases the textual density of the page, which will come in handy as we deposit more image content in the coming year
9. The new item view in Mirage2 is one of the theme's only big weaknesses to me, but a redesign of the item pages and better use of page space would have been too time-intensive and delayed the launch of the new theme



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