

Scholarly Use of Web Archives

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British Library

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Web Archiving initiatives worldwide





How much of the web is archived?

- Survey of web archiving initiatives (Daniel Gomes et al 2010)
 - 42 web archiving initiatives across 26 countries since 1996
 - 11 (26%) carry out broad domain crawls
 - 6.6PB of archived web resources
- How much of the Web is Archived (Scott Ainsworth et al, 2012)
 - Regards search engines as one category of archives
 - Some parts of the web better preserved than other; some lost

Percentage archived	# of copies in public archive
35% -90%	At least one
17-49%	2-5
1%-8%	6-10
8%-63%	>10



How often are web archives used?

- Focus on data collection, not usage
- 19 of 29 IIPC members' archives (listed on website) have full or partial online access, often permission-based
- Large scale national web archives have restricted access dark archives
 - eg Danish National Web Archive, over 280TB
 - online access for researchers with PhD or higher level
 - 20 users since 2005
- No agreed way of calculating / benchmarking access statistics
- Little evidence of scholarly use of web archives, making it difficult to understand requirements



The UK Web Archive

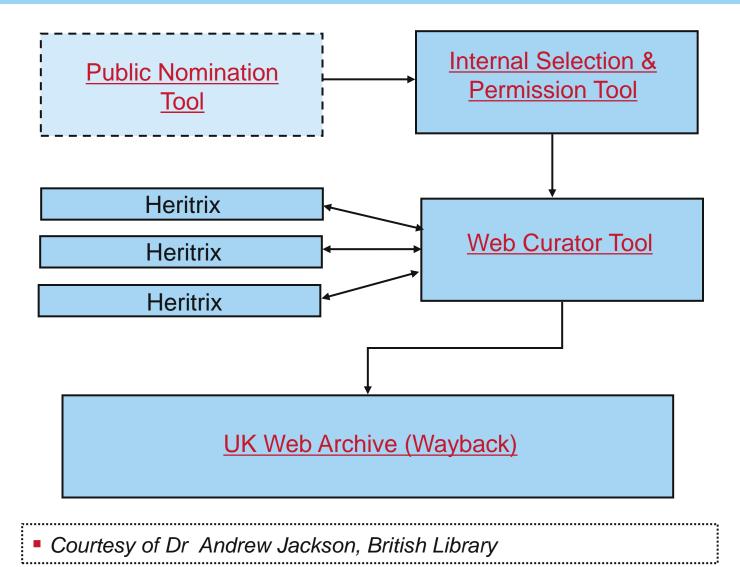
- Websites archived by British Library and partners since 2004
- Permission-based selective archive with 30% success rate
- 131,164 websites, 54,604 instances, ~14TB WARCs



http://www.webarchive.org.uk

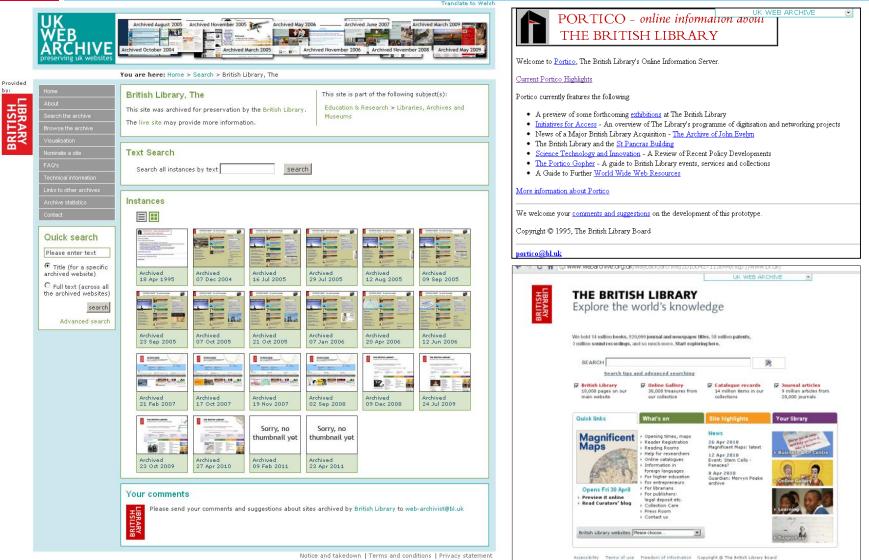


Selective Web Archiving Workflow





Web archive as historical document



UK Web Archive: search interface

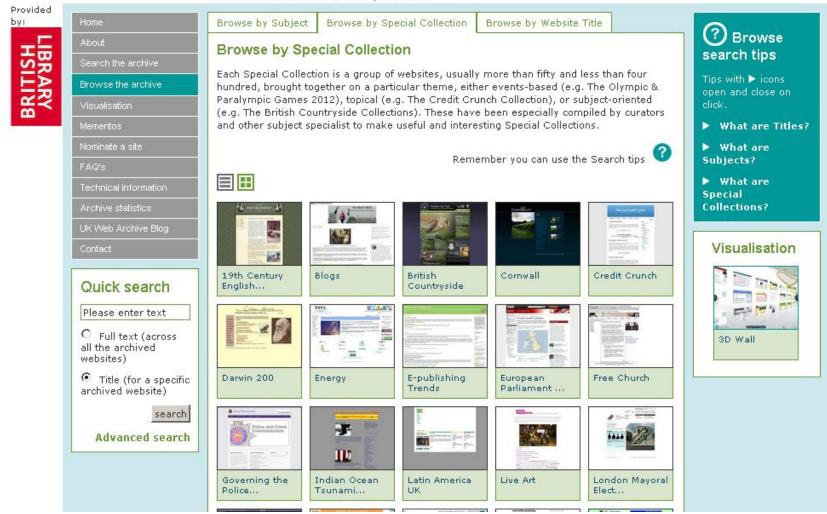
You are here: Home > Search

by: HSILING

Home	Advanced Search	⑦ Search tips
About Search the archive Browse the archive Visualisation Mementos Nominate a site FAQ's	Full Text Search Please enter text Restrict by date Format: yyyy-mm-dd	Tips with ► icons open and close on click. ► Search by full text ► Search by title and / or URL ► Refine search to
Technical information Archive statistics UK Web Archive Blog Contact	To: Restrict search to a Subject Restrict search to a Special Collection Restrict by Archiving Organisation Group Results by Domain C None C	Subjects Refine search to Special Collections If you don't find what you are looking for
	Title Search Please enter text O website Title O website URL O website Title and URL Restrict search to a Subject Select a Subject Restrict search to a Special Collection Select a Special Collection search	

UK Web Archive: browse interface

You are here: Home > Browse by Collection





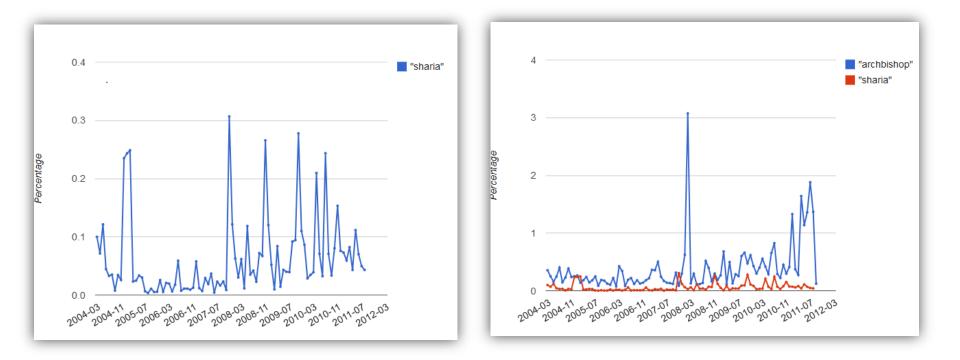
Access methods (an overview)

- IIPC members' archives has 29 entries
- URL search is the standard, universal access method requires users to know the exact URLs of the websites they are looking for
- For many archives, full-text search is the next challenge on the roadmap

URL search	Keyword	Full-text	Thematic	Subject	Alphabetical
	search	search	Collections	Browsing	browsing
26	15	11	11	9	14



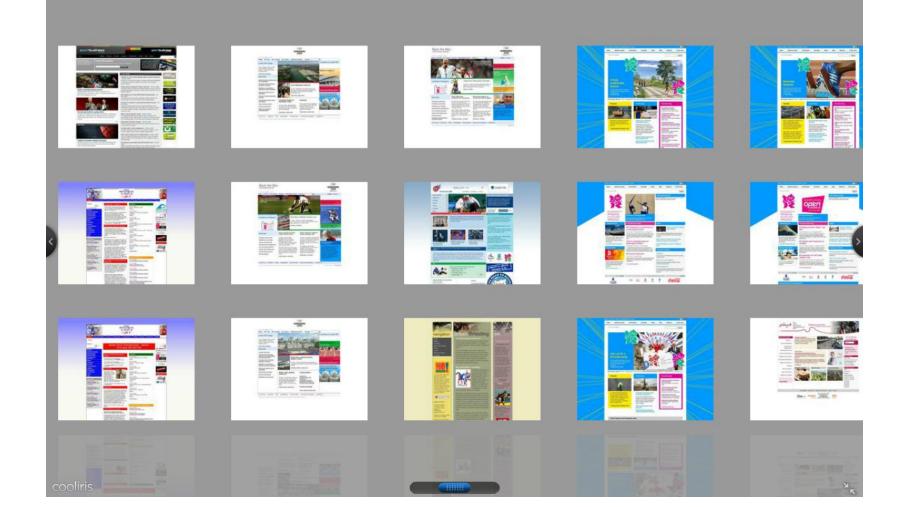
Using N-gram for scholarly research



Courtesy of Dr Peter Webster, Institute of Historical Research, University of London



UK Web Archive: visual browsing



RSS feed of latest instances

UK Web Archive Latest Instances

You are viewing a feed that contains frequently updated content. When you subscribe to a feed, it is added to the Common Feed List. Updated information from the feed is automatically downloaded to your computer and can be viewed in Internet Explorer and other programs. Learn more about feeds.

🖨 Subscribe to this feed

CCM - Christ Church Manchester

22 February 2013, 09:02:29 🔶

Notts and Derby Quakers

22 February 2013, 03:02:30 🔶

Transition Bro Gwaun a Community Initiative

22 February 2013, 01:02:48 🔶

Catholic Church in England and Wales

21 February 2013, 10:02:52 🔶

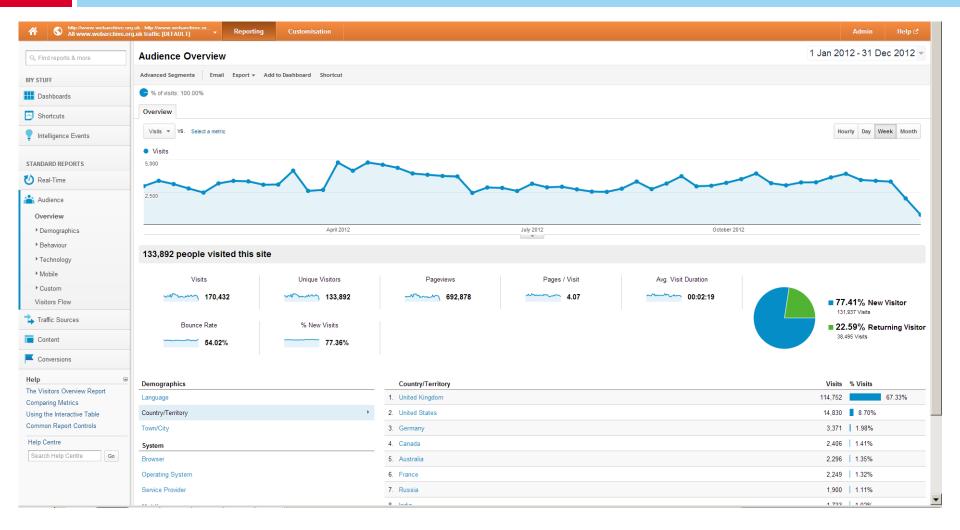
Luddite Link, The

21 February 2013, 10:02:17 🔶

Replacing original search function on site

Home	One & Other	This site is part of the following Special Collection(s):
About	This site was archived for preservation by the British Library.	Oral History in the UK*
Search the archive		This site is part of the following subject(s):
Browse the archive	The live site may provide more information.	Arts & Humanities
Visualisation	The Wellcome Trust commissioned a series of interviews with the participants who took part in the One & Other project. For	Arts & Humanities
Mementos	further information please see the catalogue record on the	
Nominate a site	Wellcome Library's website.	
FAQ's		
Technical information	Text Search	
Archive statistics	Search all instances by text search	
UK Web Archive Blog		
Contact		
	Instances	
Quick search		
Please enter text	You are viewing an archival version of the website. All messa	age boards and discussion for ups have been disabled.
O Full text (across	External links, forms and search boxes do not function.	
all the archived websites)		
• Title (for a specific		
archived website)		
search	Archived	
Advanced search	23 Feb 2010	

Access statistic 1st Jan 2012 – 31 December 2012



Access statistic 1st Jan 2012 – 31 December 2012

Visits	Pages / Visit	Avg. Visit Dura			% New Visits		ince Rate
170,432 % of Total: 100.00% (170,432)	4.07 Site Avg: 4.07 (0.00%)	00:02:19 Site Avg: 00:02:19			77.36% Site Avg: 77.36% (0.00%)	54.02% Site Avg: 54.02% (0.00%)	
Primary Dimension: Source/Medium Source Medium Other *							
Plot Rows Secondary dimension						A advanced	■ O E % % m
Source/Medium		Visits 🗸	Pages / Visit		Avg. Visit Duration 9	% New Visits	Bounce Rate
□ 1. google / organic		62,386		4.04	00:02:01	78.85%	53.14%
2. (direct) / (none)		39,022		4.10	00:02:39	72.88%	56.20%
3. bl.uk / referral		5,300		5.61	00:02:52	79.49%	48.45%
4. en.wikipedia.org / referral		4,734		3.21	00:01:54	89.75%	57.67%
5. walkinginshropshire.co.uk / referral		3,079		2.07	00:02:57	79.90%	54.66%
6. northwestlondon.nhs.uk / referral		2,790		4.16	00:02:22	79.57%	40.72%
□ 7. t.co / referral		2,301		2.79	00:01:49	67.71%	71.27%
8. ladygod1va.wordpress.com / referral		1,762		1.82	00:02:01	80.48%	72.64%
9. bing / organic		1,724		5.40	00:02:17	67.92%	40.78%
10. naturistholiday.info / referral		1,591		2.80	00:01:37	92.77%	48.02%

170,432 people visited this site



173 Visits

Search Traffic		Keyword	Visits	% Visits
Keyword	•	I. (not provided)	15,817	23.62%
Matched Search Query		2. web archive	4,045	6.04%
Source	:	3. one and other	1,726	2.58%
Referral Traffic	4	4. uk web archive	1,601	2.39%
Source	1	5. welsh language board	1,426	2.13%
Direct Traffic		3. webarchive	1,319	1.97%
Landing Page		7. bwrdd yr iaith	864	1.29%
		3. website archive	747	1.12%
	1	 mudeford 	705	1.05%
		10. bwrdd yr iaith gymraeg	609	0.91%

Access statistic 1st Jan 2012 – 31 December 2012

Primary Dimension: Page Page Title Other -

Plot R		Landing Page 🛞		Presidence	Univer Description	Aux Time on Dava	Q advanced	Bounce		Pag
Page				Pageviews 🗸	Unique Pageviews	Avg. Time on Page	Entrances	Rate	% Exit	Valu
1.	/ukwa/	/ukwa/	E	57,601	43,037	00:00:55	42,982	44.30%	44.58%	\$
2.	/ukwa/target/32145446	/ukwa/target/32145446	æ	22,349	16,288	00:01:05	16,287	69.91%	63.52%	S
3.	/ukwa/advancedsearch	ط [®] /ukwa/	æ	14,762	7,524	00:00:26	0	0.00%	6.92%	5
4.	/ukwa/target/100770/source/search	/ukwa/target/100770/source/search	æ	9,141	6,235	00:00:50	6,189	48.73%	45.44%	5
5.	1	<i>ه</i> /	æ	6,411	4,125	00:01:03	4,125	66.98%	64.34%	s
6.	/ukwa/browse	Iukwa/	æ	5,193	3,480	00:00:13	0	0.00%	4.64%	9
7.	/webarchive/	/webarchive/	æ	3,272	2,825	00:02:13	2,825	83.15%	79.55%	5
8.	/wayback/archive/20100114165728/http://oncomarchive.com/	/wayback/archive/20100114165728/http://oncomarchive.com/	æ	3,060	2,412	00:03:59	2,398	75.52%	71.18%	ę
9.	/wayback/archive/20120330000303/http://www.byig-wlb.org.uk/Pag es/Hafan.aspx	/wayback/archive/20120330000303/http://www.byig-wlb.org.uk/Pas/Hafan.aspx	age 🖉	2,874	2,259	00:00:39	2,259	34.31%	37.79%	5
10.	/wayback/archive/20100223123427/http://www.oneandother.co.uk/p articipants/Lady-Godiva	/wayback/archive/20100223123427/http://www.oneandother.co.ul rticipants/Lady-Godiva	k/pa ඖ	2,699	1,955	00:03:53	1,955	72.28%	66.21%	ę
11.	/ukwa/info/about	/ukwa/	-F	2,485	1,862	00:01:27	0	0.00%	25.07%	1
12.	/ukwa/info/nominate	/ukwa/info/nominate	æ	2,457	2,061	00:02:37	2,061	69.14%	64.27%	
13.	/wayback/archive/20100223121732/http://www.oneandother.co.uk/	/ukwa/target/32145446	æ	2,145	1,408	00:00:41	0	0.00%	22.38%	
14.	/ukwa/alpha/	🖉 /ukwa/	æ	2,077	1,226	00:00:09	0	0.00%	2.50%	
15.	/ukwa/visualisation	♂/ukwa/	æ	1,810	1,135	00:00:26	0	0.00%	9.01%	
16.	/ukwa/target/15237169/source/search	/ukwa/target/15237169/source/search	æ	1,704	1,279	00:00:55	1,279	63.02%	59.21%	:
17.	/ukwa/target/66158932/source/search	/ukwa/target/66158932/source/search	æ	1,606	957	00:00:46	957	57.47%	48.32%	:
18.	/ukwa/advancedsearch	Ukwa/advancedsearch	æ	1,596	970	00:01:29	970	50.31%	37.91%	
19.	/ukwa/target/129913/source/alpha	/ukwa/target/129913/source/alpha	Ð	1,451	769	00:00:41	769	24.97%	19.85%	;
20.	/ukwa/subject/64/page/1	ළ /ukwa/	æ	1,441	932	00:00:16	0	0.00%	2.57%	
21.	/wayback/archive/20120330000846/http://www.byig-wlb.org.uk/Engl sh/Pages/index.aspx	il //wayback/archive/20120330000303/http://www.byig-wlb.org.uk/Pas/Hafan.aspx	age 🗇	1,436	1,019	00:00:44	0	0.00%	12.67%	:
22.	/ukwa/info/nominate	₽ /ukwa/	æ	1,414	1,086	00:02:37	0	0.00%	29.14%	:
23.	/ukwa/ngram/	/ukwa/ngram/	Ð	1,301	479	00:00:56	478	39.54%	29.36%	:
24.	/ukwa/collection/26312782/page/1	/ukwa/collection/26312782/page/1	Ð	1,138	721	00:01:38	721	38.42%	34.45%	
	/wavhack/archive/20110630152930/http://www.harrowpet.nhs.uk/inr	Ir® _/wavback/archive/20110630152930/http://www.barroword.phs.uk/	inder@							

Scholarly feedback

- User Survey in 2012 to identify scholarly value of the UK Web Archive, as perceived by researchers
 - To obtain feedback on the access mechanisms currently offered by archive
 - To identify gaps in terms of content coverage
 - To obtain insight into reason why researchers may or may not use the web archive



Methodology

- By IRN Research between May and June 2012
- 94 telephone interviews with previous and non-users of the UK Web Archive – 74% are non-users
- A small group was asked to undertake a second phase, running search and detailing each stage – documented as case studies

Subject	Non-users	Users
Arts and Humanities	33	10
Social Sciences	27	11
Science Technology Medicine	4	3
Total	64	24
Unclassified	6	-

Scholarly value

Non users	Users
Appreciate potential value but for many no relevant content	All understand the value as snapshot of selective sites at specific times
More special collections would increase value	Value would increase with more scientific and technical content

Access Mechanisms

Non users	Users
Search tool easy to use but complicated for minority	Majority satisfied with presentation of results and ease of use of site
Most search / browse by special collections	More interest in visualisation tools
Search results unstructured and random	Need for improved data mining tools
More explanation about functions and features needed	
Limited interest in visualisation tools	

Additional functions and features

Non users	Users
Improvements to search results pages	6-monthly updates
Interactive features	Interactive features
Facility to suggest special collections	
Too much text on home page	

Content coverage

Non users	Users
More relevant special collections	More images, illustrations, rich media
More images, blogs	Politics, contemporary British history
	Too much missed from specific websites

Reason for using or not using UKWA

Non users	Users
Current content not relevant	Majority "very likely" to use again as there is content of interest
More information regarding selection policy	Another 39% "quite likely"
Less than a quarter "very likely" to use again	



Why do researcher use / not use a web archive

Relevance of content determines whether researchers use it

- Selective web archives please some but disappoint others
- Still a significant target group within the research community yet to be reached

Collections Content facility features home images improvements increase interactive interest majority page potential relevant results **Search** selection site **Special** specific suggest text tools value visualisation



Scholarship is changing

- Blurred boundaries between scholarly sources and popular sources, even more so in the context of the web
- Any source used for scholarly purposes can be defined as scholarly source
- Scholarship is evolving: computational engaged research gaining momentum eg digital humanities
 - Redrawing disciplinary boundaries
 - Less text-based, multi-media driven
 - Web playing an important role will archives of the web too?

Scholarly use (of digital sources): key characteristics

- Availability or accessibility
- Text and paratext, defined by Gérard Genette as "accompaniment" that "surround or prolong the text". Niels Brugger (2010) applied "paratexs" to websites as objects of study: different in form and function, and play a crucial role in the textual coherence of a website
- Or context, in the usual sense of the word, eg out and in-links
- Citation backbone of research requires persistence identification of sources, ideally retrievable
- Sources relevant and specific to research question, without any arbitrarily imposed (national, geographical or format related) boundaries
- Quality non-inferiority, conformance
- Flexibility /ability to apply digital methods for analytics and discovery of new knowledge

Requirements for web archives

Characteristics of Scholarly use	Requirements for web archives
Availability	No access restriction, available online
Paratext or context	Access to collection policy and scope, crawl configuration, craw log and any contextual information
Persistence and citability	 Longevity of web archives Persistent identifiers Standards of citing archived websites Integration with bibliographical management tools (eg Zotero)
Collect / organise research corpus	 Archiving of research corpora on demand Means to mix and match and reassemble corpora based on research questions
Quality	 Archival version represents as much as possible the live website in completeness, intellectual content, behaviour and look and feel Curation
Applying Digital methods	 Multiple access methods including data analytics and visualisations Access to web archives as "big data"
Boundary & format- independent	 Interlinked web archives integration with other digital and printed holdings eg books, ejournals

Unique Selling Points (USPs)

- The live web as an fast evolving, interactive, multi-dimensional, open and participatory and interlinked collective system
- Web archives as static, flat, exclusive, individual systems with boundaries and limitations
- We cannot compete with the live web (not should we); Law change and archiving technology improvement take time
- Focus on USPs things that differentiate web archives from the live web
 - Some web resources have vanished and web archives hold the only copies of these
 - Periodic snapshots showing evolution and change of websites
 - Web archives as comprehensive historical datasets lends itself to opportunities for analytical access

Analytical access –discovering value of the haystack

Shift of focus from the level of single webpages or websites to the entire web archive collection or multiple archives

- Support survey, annotation, contextualisation and visualisation
- Allows discovery of patterns, trends and relationships
- The "big data" approach to analysing and using web archives
 - Added dimension: time

Helps addresses a number of challenging issues for web archiving: scalability, components missed by crawlers

Issues

- Scepticism/suspicion about 'hidden' algorithms
- Biases in the data
- Managing expectation: analytical tools finished products or first steps?
- Ethical /privacy issues



Showing the big picture



22462 x 9348 (210 megapixels)

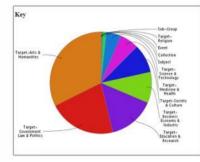
Report abuse View origin

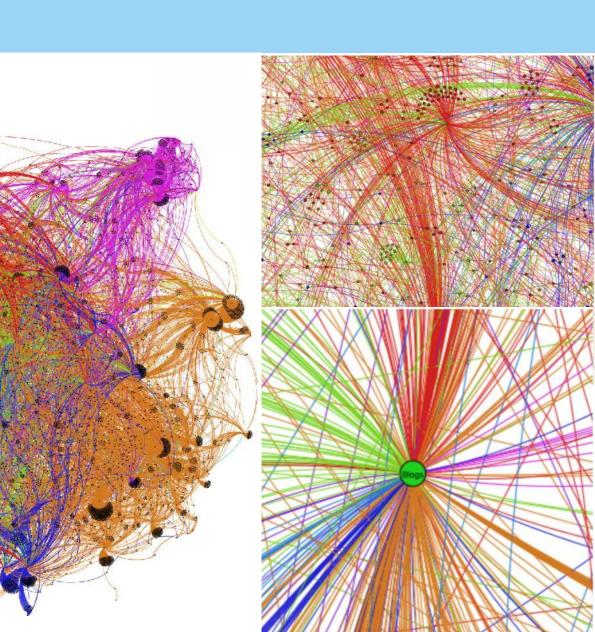
http://seadragon.com/view/wky



Clustering content

UK Web Archive Subject Hierarchy Visualisation

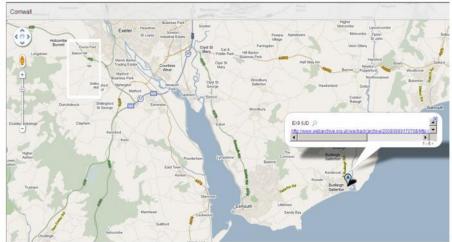






Postcode-based access





UK WEB ARCHIVE (*) South West Coast Path HOME SEARCH GO THINGS TO DISCOVER WALKS FOR EVERYONE USEFUL INFORMATION SHORT WALKS (up to one day) 🚺 🔼 🛃 WALK NAME: Salcombe to Bolt Head START LOCATION: South Sands, Salcombe FINISH LOCATION: South Sands, Salcombe DISTANCE: 3 miles (4km) GRADE: Moderate TERRAIN: Coastal footpath uneven and rocky in places; surfaced road; field footpath. CIRCULAR WALK: Yes FREE FROM OBSTACLES & STEEP GRADIENTS: No RECOMMENDED BY: South Devon AONB Service WALK DESCRIPTION: Passing through an enchanted landscape of rocky spires and jumbled pinnacles, with inspiring views in all directions, this is a coastal walk guaranteed to lift the spirits. Salcombe Estuary The South Devon AONB Service have produced a leaflet for this walk giving directions, along with information on the wildlife, geology and history of the area. It can be viewed and printed by clicking on the 'Printer friendly page' button on the right hand side, near the bottom of the page. To find out more about the South Devon Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty and download other walks visit their website http://www.southdevonaonb.org.uk PUBLIC TRANSPORT INFORMATION: There are bus services to Salcombe. 606 from Kingsbridge; 92 from Plymouth and Kingsbridge. From bus stop follow the pedestrian signs to town centre and Whitestrand Pontoon. For details visit Traveline or phone 0870 6082608 NEAREST TOILETS: Public toilets at South Sands and at Whitestrand, Salcombe. NEAREST CAR PARKS: Shadycombe Car Park, Salcombe (Postcode for Sat N 1:TO8 9ND CLICK MAP TO ENLARGE for ferry to South Sands from Whitestrand Pontoon. Pa Tides Reach car park, South Sands. oduced from Ordnance Survey material with the mission of Ordnance Survey on behalf of the Controller of He jesty's Stationery Office @ Crown copyright, Unauthorised NEAREST REFRESHMENTS: reproduction infinities: Drown copyright and may lead to prosecution or civil proceedings. Natural England Usence Number: 100949223. The Orchance Suney mapping is included purely to provide a contextual backdrop for the malk and cannot be used for any other purpose. Several pubs, cafes and restaurants in Salcombe. Tides Reach Hotel, South Sands serves refreshments and cream teas. FURTHER INFORMATION: Salcombe Tourist Information Centre or phone 01548 843927870



Analysing web scale data

Internet Archive UK Domain Dataset

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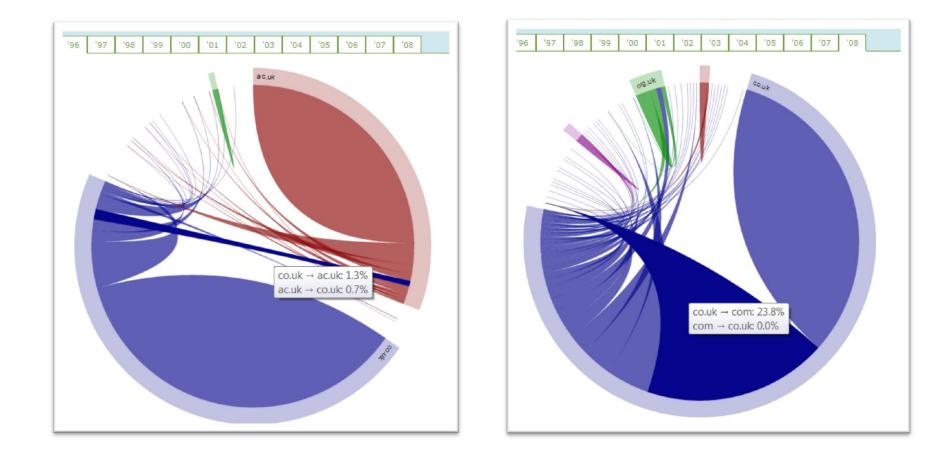
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NTE

- **1996-2010**
- Millions of websites
- 2.5 billion resources
- > 35TB



Linkage Analysis



http://www.webarchive.org.uk/ukwa/visualisation/ukwa.ds.2/linkage



HTML Version Analysis

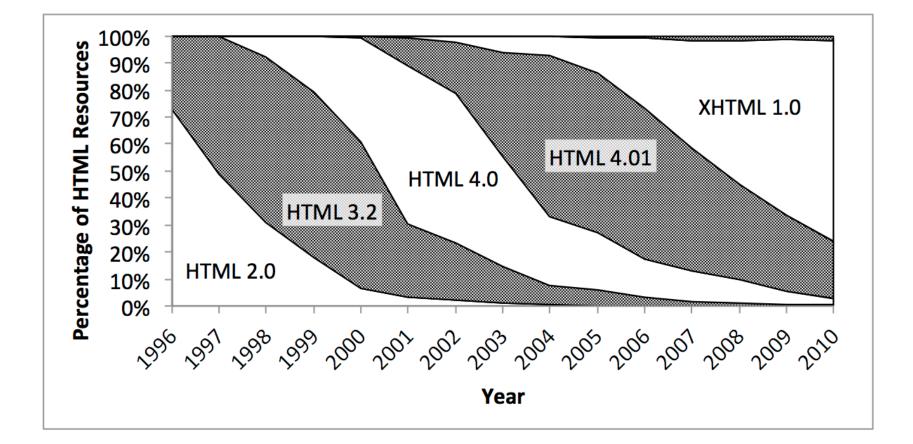
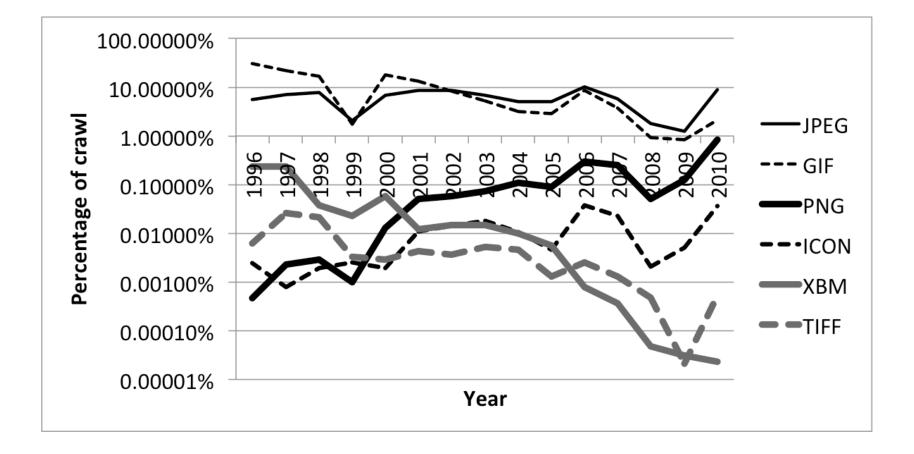




Image Format Analysis

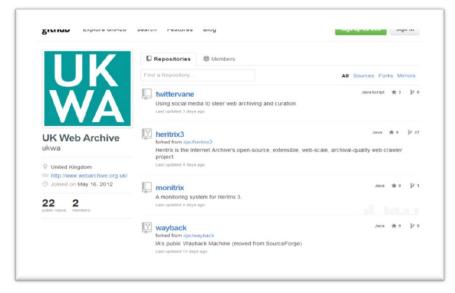




Open datasets and API

- Wayback API exposing content of the UK Web Archive: <u>http://www.webarchive.org.uk/wayback/archive/xmlquery.jsp?url=http://www.bl.uk/</u>
- Open datasets (based on JISC UK domain dataset)
 - Geo Index
 - Format profile
 - Currently generating <u>WAT</u> (Web Archive Transformation) files

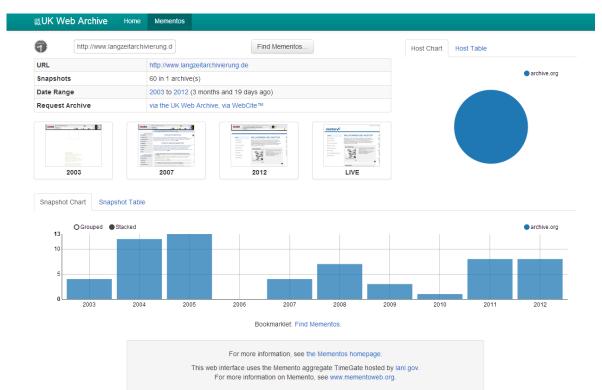






Mementos Service







Improving selection - Twittervane

TwitterVane

Crowd sourcing for Web Archiving

Collections Reports Streamed Tweets

Welcome

Selection of web archive is a manual process that relies upon people to select quality sites and nominate or submit them to web archives for inclusion. Past (national and/or international) efforts to automate selection have either failed to convince staff that automation was identifying quality resources, or have focused on providing an interface for selectors to submit sites rather than carry out the selection per se. Selection has thus remained, for most institutions, an element of the workflow wholly dependent on contributions from externals. The number of selectors providing sites is typically small and their contributions are inevitably subjective. The resulting collections, whilst immensely valuable, are therefore mostly representative of the expertly selected sites and do not fully represent the sites frequently used in a more social setting.

Crowd sourcing is an opportunity to develop a new approach to this problem. It taps into the growth of social networks to outsource tasks typically performed by an employee or contractor, to an undefined, large group of people or community (a "crowd")' (Wikipedia, 2011). It is a particularly attractive option in the current economic climate, where we are all being asked to 'do more with less'. A number of cultural heritage institutions and/or projects have already begun to leverage the power of the crowd for digitised collections, including the National Library of Australia (through Trove), the Transcribe Bentham project at ULCC, and the National Library of Finland (through the DigitalKoot program). No such projects have yet been launched for web archives.

This project will develop an automated approach to selection for web archiving based on the principles of crowd sourcing. It has been awarded partial funding from the International Internet Preservation Consortium and supports the forthcoming web archiving strategy by increasing the number of selections and automating the selection process.

Home

Links

Twitter API UK Web Archive

Home | Abou

Sponsors

IIPC

TwitterVar		Home Ab		
Collections Reports Stre	amed Tweets			
				Links
Collections				Twitter API
Collection	Start End Date Date			UK Web Archive
ews	January Februar 29, 201328, 201	y _{news}	Delete	Sponsors
MyLifeIn5Words	January Februar 29, 20133, 2013	Y #MyLifeIn5Words	Delete	TIPC
aul Scholes	January Februar 29, 20133, 2013	YPaul Scholes	Delete	
IReallyDislike	January Februar 29, 20133, 2013	^y #IReallyDislike	Delete	
LyricsWeAllKnow	January Februar 30, 20133, 2013	^y #LyricsWeAllKnow	Delete	
APhotoWith	January Februar 30, 20133, 2013	^Ƴ #APhotoWith	Delete	
ir Paul Holmes	FebruaryFebruar 1, 2013 4, 2013	Paul Holmes Y Sir Paul Holmes #Paulholmes	Delete	
lovopay	FebruaryFebruar 1, 2013 4, 2013	Novopay #Novopay #Novodump	Delete	
qnz	FebruaryFebruar 10, 20123, 2013	Y	Delete	
evens	FebruaryFebruar	y#sevens #NZ7s	Delete	
owa Senate Race	FebruaryFebruar 1, 2013 5, 2013	^y #iasen	Delete	
ecretary Clinton leaves DoS	FebruaryFebruar 1, 2013 5, 2013		Delete	
esting a really long collection nar o see what happens to layout of ne collections table	RebruaryFebruar 1, 2013 2, 2013		Delete	
il Painting	FebruaryFebruar 4, 2013 5, 2013	yOil Painting techniques	Delete	
rt History	FebruaryFebruar 3, 2013 6, 2013	YArt history history of art	Delete	
etiquette	FebruaryFebruar 8, 2013 10, 201	y#etiquette y#manners 3#advice	Delete	
	FebruaryFebruar	v [#] benedictoxvi		

Recent developments

In the UK Non-print Legal Deposit & copyright law new exceptions

Scholars are already interested in researching the web, and using web archives for research

A new set of projects and initiatives: opening up web archives to ultilise their potential research value

- NetLab
- WebART: Web Archive Retrieval Tools under the Contineous Access to Cultural Heritage (CATCH) programme
- Analytical Access to Dark Domain Archive & Big Data: Demonstrating the Value of the UK Web Domain Dataset for Social Science Research
- Digital Methods Initiative: providing training for next generation scholars & tools for internet research
- Web Science 2013 call for papers includes a strand "Digital humanities, webarchiving techniques and scholarly uses of Web archives"



Conclusion

- The web changes; scholarship practice and methods change too
- Web archives are parts of the live web
- The web is too big for any single organisation to preserve web archives need to join up
- Web archives can be used for references as well as analytics
- Restricted access & technical limitations undermine the value of web archives but there is plenty we can do to bring web archives to the scholars
 - Highlight our USPs
 - Document whats missing
 - Fit in with researchers' workflow how they do research
 - Full potential of web archives are yet to be exploited