The Pedagogical and Scholarly Prospects of Web Archiving

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Introduction

- Who, what, how of web archiving
- Uses and pedagogical considerations
- Collaboration
- Challenges and Considerations
Web Archiving: What is it?

Preserving web-based data

- Capture: Web crawlers
  - Both open source, and proprietary tools exist
  - Heritrix, HTTrack, Wget
  - Internet Archive: Heritrix, Umbra, Brozzler
- Storage: Web Archive File (WARC)
  - Best practice is redundant storage
- Playback: Mechanism is necessary
  - Wayback
- Search
  - NutchWax, Elastic Search
- Metadata
  - Solr
Web Archiving: Curation

- Create a thematic/topical web archive on a specific subject or event
  - Capture web-based primary sources
  - Document current events
  - Document different perspectives, social commentaries, online communities
  - Supplement traditional collecting activity

- Fulfill a mandate to capture/preserve evolving web history
  - Support an electronic records system to meet records retention requirements
  - Collect publications/documents that are no longer in print form
  - Construct a historical record of an institution or individual’s web/social media presence
  - Fulfill FOIA requests
Pedagogy: Library Reference and Instruction

- Reference Desk: just in time use of Wayback Plugin
- Research Consultations: Archive-It searching
- Library Instruction Sessions
  - Wayback Machine permalink tutorial
  - Historicizing digital primary sources
- LibGuides Content Backup
Scaling Up Web-Archiving Pedagogy

- Instructional Designers: best practices for course readers and course shells
- Faculty Development Workshops
  - Link-rot-proofing course materials
  - Webliography assignments
  - Course research focus: top ten seeds
- Writing Center Collaboration
- University Writing Requirements
Pedagogy: In the Classroom

- **Persistent resources**
  - Web-based readings in a curriculum
  - Loss of context (and often “look and feel”) if you just save a web page as a PDF
  - Is it just the text that you need? Or the information as it lives as a web document? What do you want the student to take away from the web resource?
  - Journal article VS. General audience article (typically not as a PDF) VS. “Digital” journal VS. News sites VS. Anything with dynamic/interactive/audio-visual content

- **A Tool to facilitate critical thinking**
  - Is it really “out there forever?”
  - But it’s not a “scholarly article!”
  - Two examples
    - Tufts University environmental justice project
    - Middlebury College Web Archives
Scholarly Collaboration within Universities

- University Websites to Prioritize
  - Web-based student work and faculty scholarship
  - Student newspapers/media
  - University Policies
  - Course catalogs (web and PDFs)
  - Special projects (initiatives, renovations)
  - Student life
Scholarly Collaboration across Institutions

- Cobweb
- Professional Organizations
  - International Internet Preservation Consortium
  - OCUL/COPPUL
- Research projects
  - WASAPI
  - Archives Unleashed
- National web archives
- Local (university, regional, etc)
  - KAIC
  - NYARC
  - Stanford
  - Ivy Plus
Scaling Up Web-Archiving Scholarly Collaboration

- **Instructional and Graphic Design Talent Needed!**
  - Web archiving model LibGuide and content blocks
  - Instructional video/tutorial on creating and embedding permalinks with Wayback Machine

- **Repository and Discovery Systems Integration**
  - IR and Discovery integrations of locally curated Archive-It
  - IR and Discovery integrations of ALL Archive-It

- **CARL/ACRL Resolutions and/or Recommendations to Consider**
  - Creating and citing permalinks as a core InfoLit competency
  - Permanent, public URL requirements for (Future) Manuals of Style
  - WB permalink as standard web reference in Wikipedia
  - Automated permalink checking in Citation Management Software
Challenges and Considerations

- Allocation of Time and Division of Labor
  - Who does the work and how do we prepare them for it?
    - Faculty participation
  - Scalability
- Messaging
  - How should we present these collections to the public?
- Discoverability
  - Cataloging? Finding Aids?
- Privacy Concerns
  - Student content
Thank you!