Archiving the UK Web

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6th April 2013…

Legal Deposit Libraries (Non-Print Works) Regulations 2013

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PhHpRMsoq64

Regulations cover

- *Collecting the material*

  1. Harvesting the open web (Legal Deposit UK web archive)

  2. Publisher deposit of online works (e.g. e-journals/e-books…) by mutual agreement

  3. Harvesting behind pay walls and password barriers

  4. Publisher deposit of offline works (on CD-ROM…) by obligation

  - Micro-businesses excluded from 3 & 4 until April 2014
  - Print **or** non-print version, not both

- *Using the material*
- Access only on Libraries' premises
- One concurrent user per work
- No digital copying
- Restricted printing
- "Perpetual copyright"?

Other issues

- Post-implementation review
- Dispute resolution procedure

UK Legal Deposit libraries

The British Library

Bodleian Libraries of the University of Oxford

Cambridge University Library

The National Library of Scotland

The Library of Trinity College, Dublin

The National Library of Wales

UK Web Archive

- ***Open UK Web Archive***
- Since 2004
- Based on websites owners' permissions
- Over 14,000 selected UK websites & 60,000 instances, 18.8TB

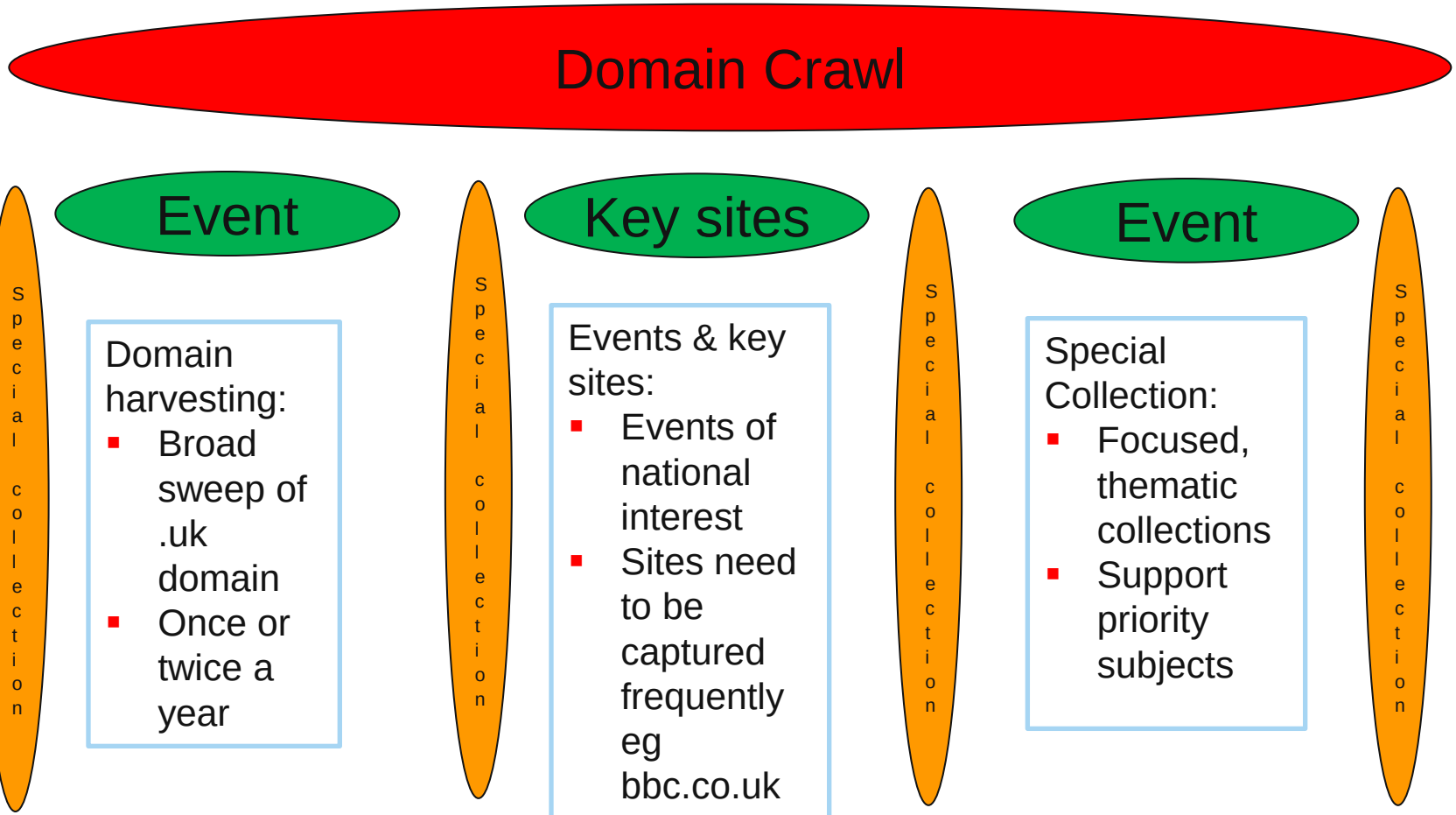
- ***Legal Deposit UK Web Archive***
- Since April 2013
- Legal deposit content, all UK websites
- Only accessible on Legal Deposit Libraries' premises

http://www.webarchive.org.uk

Same job, just bigger, more complex

- Over 10 million .uk registered domains
  - 4th TLD after .com, .de and .net
  - UK organisations also use non .uk domain names (eg .com or .org) – scale unknown
- Legal change: implementing non-print Legal Deposit, no need to request / administer permissions
- Organisational change: collaborative effort of six Legal Deposit Libraries (LDLs), new ways of working together
- New workflows, new tools
- Access and use – how to manage user expectations related to restricted access
- Ongoing capability of archiving the evolving web

Collecting strategy



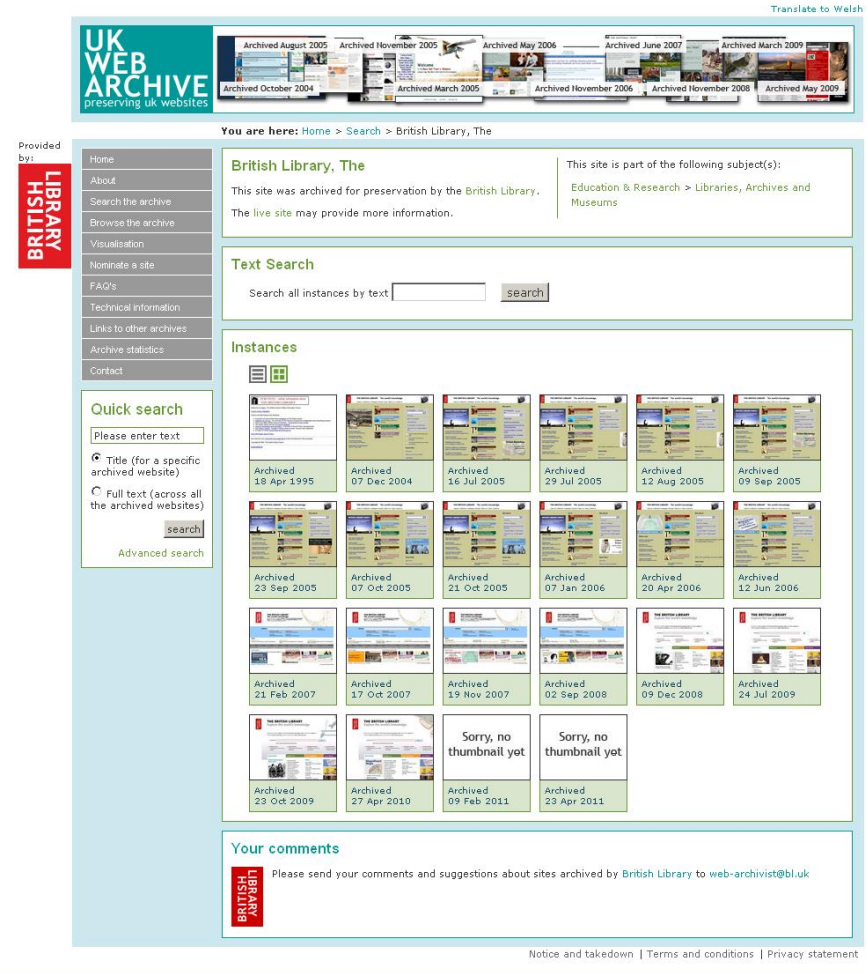
Progress

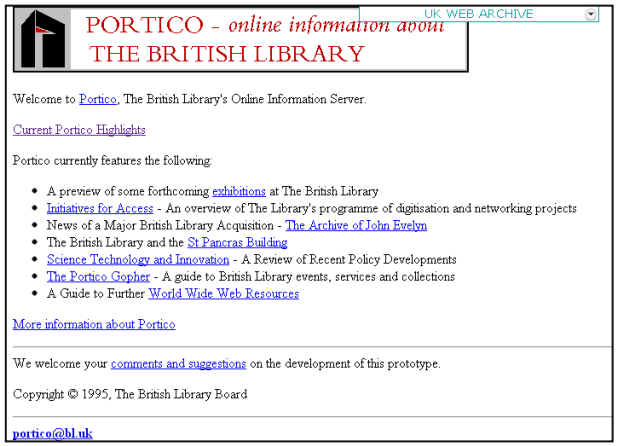
Description	Duration of crawl	#of seeds	# of URLs collected	Size
Focused crawls of websites related to NHS Reform	7 weeks	1,100	180 million	1.8TB
UK Domain Crawl 2013	10 weeks	3.8 million	1.4 billion	31.5TB
Plus:				
Margaret Thatcher and Nelson Mandela collection				
Ongoing crawls of 250+ selected websites & 500+ news sites				

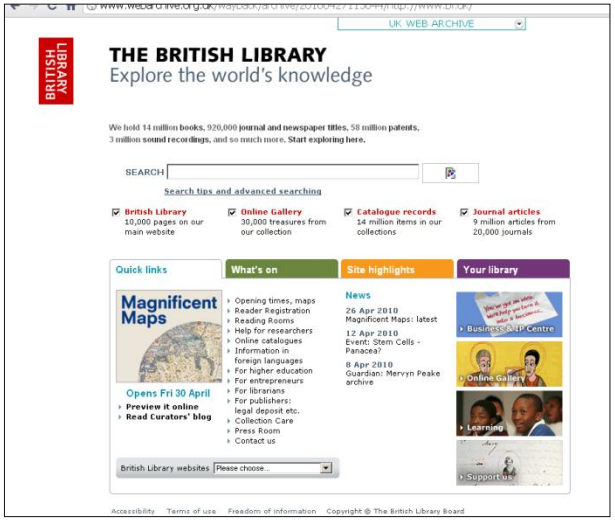
Access strategy

- Legal Deposit content cannot be accessed outside libraries' reading rooms.
- Online access to metadata and selected content to showcase the Legal Deposit web archive of the UK
  - Bibliographic metadata
  - Analysis and visualisation of *aggregated* content
  - Statistical and contextual data
  - Copy of deposited content with direct permission
- For sites from outside the UK, permissions both for harvesting and for public access will be required

Archived website as historical document





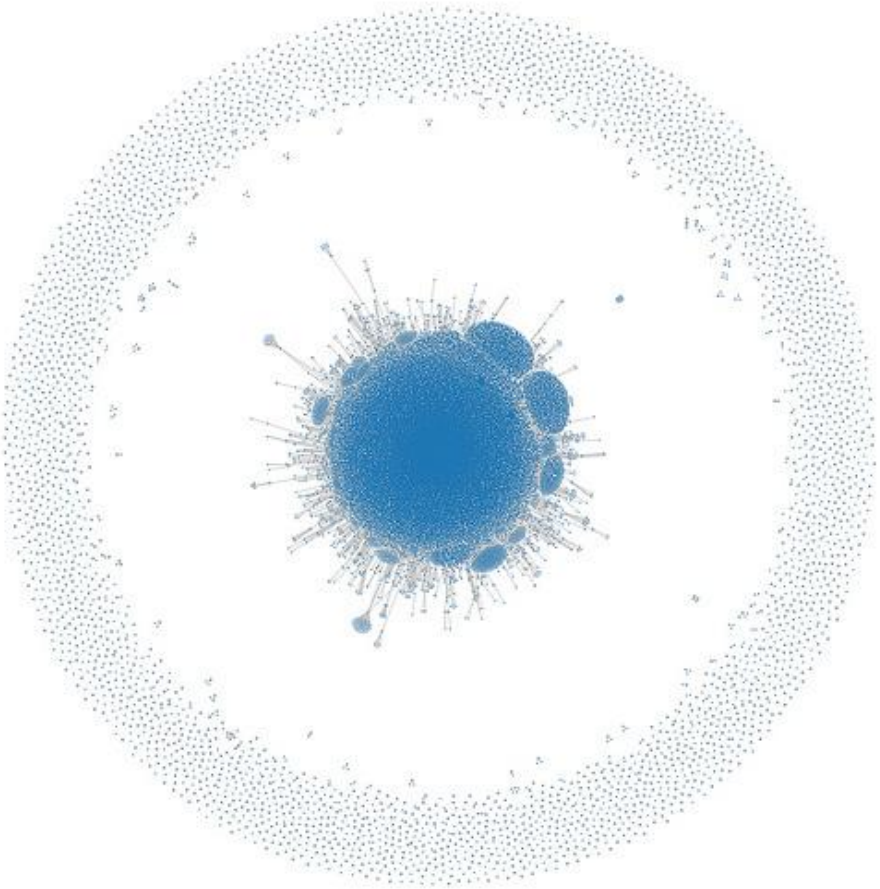


Analytics and visualisation

- Shift of focus from the level of single webpages or websites to the entire web archive collection.
- Use web archives as datasets, access to metadata and knowledge about websites
- Support survey, annotation, contextualisation and visualisation
- Allows discovery of patterns, trends and relationships in inter-linked web pages

Visit UK Web Archive to see our work

How was the UK web linked in 1996?



- By Rainer Simon using UK Host-Level Link Graph (1996-2010) dataset.
- Based on the 1996 portion: 58,842 hosts (nodes); 184,433 host-to-host links (edges)
- UK web as part of the global web
- Scalability issues with large dataset over time

My Job

"…a hybrid of tasks including technical, legal, managerial, communication and curatorial activities."

FINANCIAL TIMES

ft.com/management

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January 13, 2013 2:25 pm

Web archivist

As told to Nicholas Spencer

I don't think many people are able to imagine what exactly I do – it's a hybrid of tasks including technical, legal, managerial, communication and curatorial activities. The purpose is to make sure that the British Library and my team keep a record, as much as possible, of the web for the benefit of future researchers. If we don't, when a website goes offline it disappears and you can't get it back. The site for Antony Gormley's One and Other project, about the fourth plinth in Trafalgar Square, would have died if he hadn't asked us to archive it.

We've been doing web archiving for 10 years. We have collected, as much as possible, a small snapshot of key websites from within the .uk domain and put them online. So far we've been collecting selectively in four broad areas: websites of research interest or value; events of national importance; reflecting diversity of UK life; and web innovation.

We have to ask people's permission to archive their websites but pending legislation should mean we won't have to ask any more. So we'll be collecting much more – we are looking at archiving 4-5m websites, doing at least one crawl [browse and copy] of each, per year.

Our vision is for the British Library to be the provider of a way to "go back in time" – when a [UK] website is no longer on the live web our archive will be the place to go.

More

ON THIS STORY

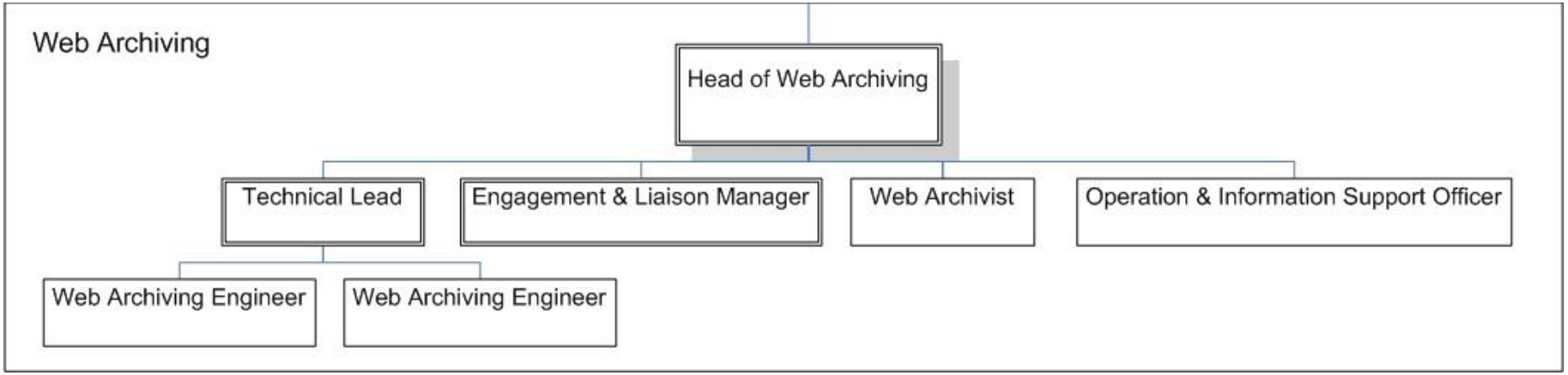
The Job Posthumous repatriation agent

The job Work and political psychologist

The Job Falconer

The Job Aqister

My Team



Skills profile: cross-disciplinary expertise

- IT
- Collection management, digital curation
- Management
- Communications
- Web Archiving

My week (20-24 January)

Meetings (9 hours)

- Team meeting, one to one meetings with team members, with line manager and team leaders of wider business unit; with line manager and Advisory Group chair – all regular meetings
- Library-wide Digital Content Development Group
- Project board / project meetings
- New project: document harvesting
- IT restructuring / funding cuts

Emails!

Tasks

- DPC student conference
- International Internet Preservation Consortium (IIPC): planning for General Assembly in May
- Contribute to UK Web Archive / IIPC Twitter accounts
- Compile reports and read papers for meetings, complete actions required
- Project management: Open Wayback
- HR tasks: recruitment
- Planning: roadmap, resource planning, hardware
- Policy: open access strategy for web archives, notice and takedown

Some reflections

- Our jobs do not just cover a single field. Require general understanding of multiple areas but still helpful to specialise in one area
- Implementing NDLP: policy, technology, people
- Continuous learning / training / professional development
  - Linux Admin, Django, Git, IT service management
  - Digital research, methodology, practice and requirements
  - Publications / knowledge of the field
- Think and plan ahead
  - mobile web
  - development of key software

Some “advice”

- Employability: "the capability of getting and keeping satisfactory work".
- Employability skills: “a set of achievements, understandings and personal attributes that make individuals more likely to gain employment and to be successful in their chosen occupations". - Peter Knight & Mantz Yorke
- A degree is not enough, it unlocks doors
- Communication skills are the most important – eg self-presentation (on application and interviews)
- Need to be open-minded and flexible to deal with changes

Join us

- Web Archiving Engagement and Liaison Officer
  - Closing date 4 February
  - Interviews on 11 February 2014.
- Twitter: @ukwebarchive