# Iniciativas de preservación de la Web: una visión actual

#### Michael Day

Digital Curation Centre, UKOLN, University of Bath, UK m.day@ukoln.ac.uk

Archivo de la Internet española: Webs y archivos personales, Madrid, Spain, 12 December 2005





http://www.dcc.ac.uk/



**UKOLN** is supported by







A centre of expertise in digital information management

#### Presentation overview

- Reasons for collecting and preserving the Web
- Main approaches to collection:
  - Whole-domain harvesting
  - Selective capture or deposit
  - Combined approaches
  - International Internet Preservation Consortium (IIPC)
- Issues:
  - Conceptual, legal, technical (size and dynamic nature), preservation and curation









#### The World Wide Web (1)

- Origins in scientific community
  - CERN (early 1990s)
  - Now part of the common 'cyberinfrastructure' of science and scholarship
  - Scientists 'increasingly reliant' on Web for supporting research activities (James Hendler, 2003)
  - Helps to promotes 'open access' principles (peer-reviewed publications, data resulting from publicly-funded research)
  - Other educational roles e.g., e-learning









#### The World Wide Web (2)

- Scholarly concern with the longevity of Internet references
  - Link rot problem
  - A study of three leading peer-reviewed journals showed that 13 percent of links were inactive after 3 years (Dellavalle, et al., 2003)
  - Same trends demonstrated in biomedicine, computer science, information science, ...
  - Wallace Koehler's longitudinal studies show that after seven years, just 33.8 percent of a sample of Web pages persisted at their original URL









#### The World Wide Web (3)

- The Web now widely used across many different communities:
  - Commerce, marketing, publishing
  - Government information (e-government)
  - Personal communication
    - e.g., 44 percent of US Internet users in a 2003 survey had contributed some kind of content to the Internet
  - The information source of first resort for millions of readers" - Peter Lyman (2002)









#### Why preserve the Web? (1)

- Cultural importance
  - National Library of Australia noted its responsibility to develop collections of library materials, <u>regardless of format</u>
  - Many national libraries have now developed operational or pilot Web archives, e.g.
    - Australia, Austria, China, Czech Republic,
      Denmark, Finland, France, Iceland, Japan, New Zealand, Norway, Slovenia, UK, USA, etc.
  - Some have made changes to legal deposit laws to accommodate Web content







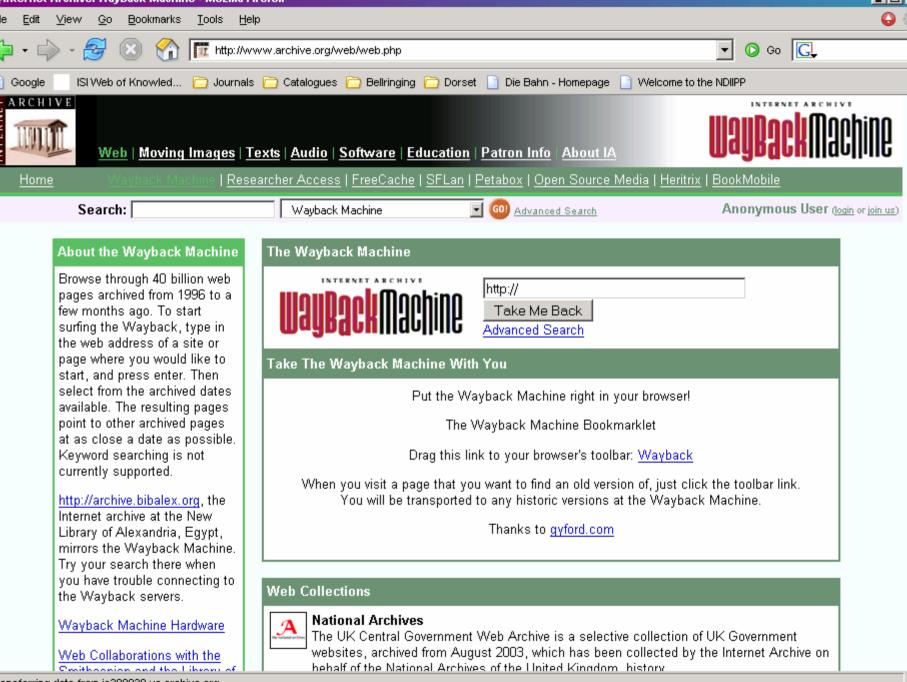
## Why preserve the Web (2)

- Cultural importance
  - Internet Archive
    - not-for-profit organisation, based in San Fransciso
    - Acquired Web content from Alexa Internet and its own Web crawls, provides access through the Wayback Machine (http://www.archive.org/)
    - Co-operates with memory institutions on developing special collections, e.g. Library of Congress, The National Archives (UK)
    - Part of International Internet Preservation Coalition
    - Mirror of Wayback Machine at Bibliotheca Alexandrina (Egypt)









## Why preserve the Web? (3)

- Web content are records of evidence
  - National archives guidance for Web managers
  - Some collection of Web sites has started
    - The National Archives UK Government Web Archive, joint project with Internet Archive
    - US National Archives and Records Administration collected snapshot of federal agency Web sites at end of the Clinton Administration
- Scholarly interest
  - Politics (Archipol), social history (Occasio), Chinese studies (DACHS)









# Why preserve the Web? (4)

- Joint approaches
  - The UK Web Archiving Consortium
    - Led by the British Library
    - Partners include The National Archives, the national libraries of Wales and Scotland, the Joint Information Systems Committee, and the Wellcome Trust
    - Sharing costs, risks and experiences
    - Each partner focuses on sites relevant to their own interests







#### Approaches (1)

- Automatic harvesting
  - Web crawler programs
  - National libraries tend to focus on national Web domains, e.g. Kulturarw<sup>3</sup> (Sweden)
  - Harvester fed set of links, pages fetched, analysed, etc., etc.
  - Internet Archive uses same approach for whole Web, since 1996 has generated >1 petabyte
    - Problems with functionality and country representation (but still a very valuable resource)
  - Development of Heritrix crawler program









## Approaches (2)

- Selective capture or deposit
  - Pioneered by National Library of Australia (PANDORA)
  - Development of selection guidelines, selection of sites, negotiation with site owners, capture using gathering or mirroring tools
  - Used by UK Web Archiving Consortium
  - Sites can also be captured and deposited by Web site owners
    - e.g., NARA 2001









## Approaches (3)

- Combined approaches
  - Some selective capture, periodic whole domain harvesting
  - Reflects relative strengths of the two approaches
    - Harvesting approach much cheaper per terabyte, enables large collections to be built up
    - More detailed attention can be paid to complex sites, e.g. database driven (deep Web) sites
  - Approach pioneered by Bibliothèque nationale de France (BnF)

Archivo de la Internet española, Madrid, 12 December 2005

Recent Australian whole domain harvest







#### Approaches (4)

- International Internet Preservation Consortium (IIPC)
  - Group of national libraries and the Internet Archive, led by BnF
  - Co-operation on coverage and access a global distributed collection
  - Development of tools
    - Harvesting Heritrix, DeepArc
    - Storage ARC, BAT
    - Search and navigation NutchWAX, WERA, Zinq
    - Web Archiving Metadata Set









#### Issues (1)

- What is the Web?
  - A conceptual problem
  - Components of the Web easier to understand than the whole
  - What is is that we want to preserve?
    - Content? easy for HTML pages, more difficult for databases
    - Interfaces?
  - Personalisation features







#### Issues (2)

- Legal problems
  - Legal environment in many countries does not take Web archives into account (Charlesworth, 2003)
  - Problems with:
    - Copyright
    - Archives could be deemed to be the "publishers" of defamatory or otherwise illegal content, or held responsible for breaches of data protection legislation
  - Remedies = select content or restrict access







#### Issues (3)

#### Scale

- Web is large (and growing)
- Regular snapshots grow even bigger
- Internet Archive: >1 petabyte, growing at >20 terabytes a month
- Differences in Web archive size depending on domain:
  - Finland (2002) 500 gigabytes
  - Portugal (2003) 78 gigabytes
  - Australia (2005) 6.69 terabytes









#### Issues (4)

- Dynamic nature of the Web
  - Pages, sites, domains, constantly changing
    - e.g. new top level domains
    - Web content disappearing (link rot)
  - Some ad hoc focus on the ephemeral
    - Political elections, sports events, 9/11, Hurricanes
      Katrina and Rita
  - Changes in Web technologies
    - Personalised delivery of content
    - Increased interactivity, Web 2.0, etc.







#### Issues (5)

- Access
  - Problem of linking content stored in multiple, distributed archives
  - Need for co-operation
  - Role for IIPC?
- Digital preservation and curation
  - What this might mean for the Web has not been explored in detail
  - Web archives need to fit into the wider landscape of digital preservation and curation









#### Conclusions

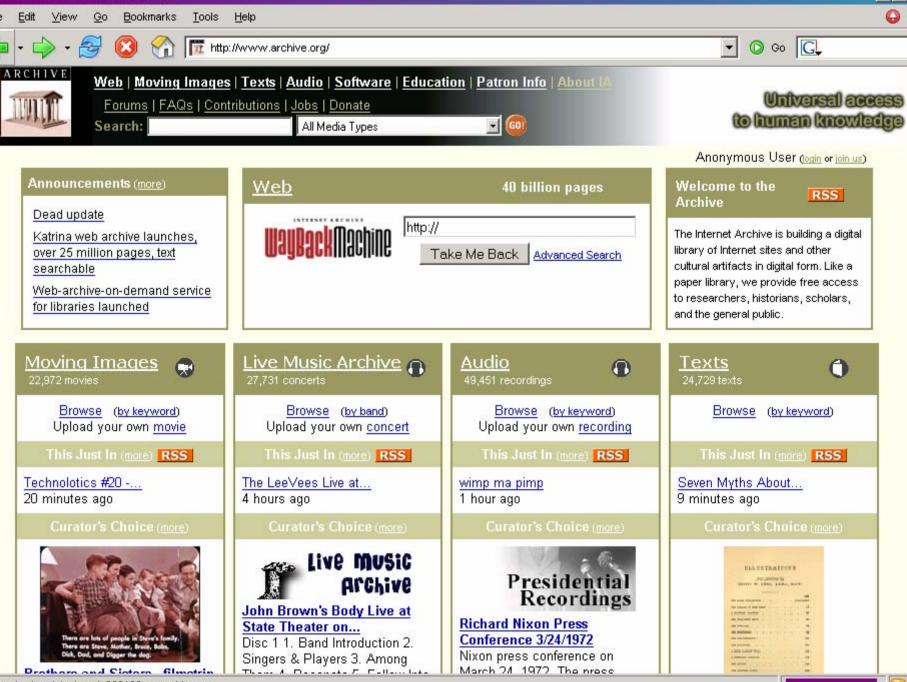
- The Web is culturally important
- To date, Web archiving initiatives have collected a significant amount of content
- Different capture techniques compliment each other
- There has been a major improvement in the tools being used to harvest and manage content, e.g. the IIPC toolkit
- Co-operation the IIPC provides one venue for this. Are others needed?
- Some significant issues remain to be solved













Nov 26, 2001

Nov 27, 2001

Dec 06, 2001 Dec 14, 2001

Dec 16, 2001

Dec 18, 2001

Nov 27, 2003

Dec 08, 2003

Jul 01, 2004

Jul 04, 2004 Jul 20, 2004

Aug 13, 2004

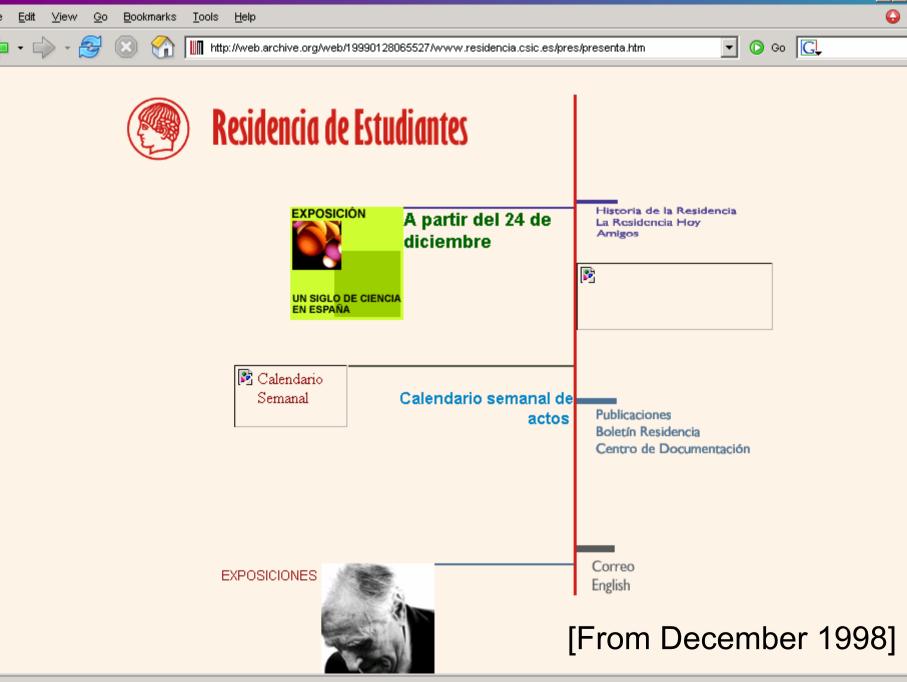
Sep 19, 2004

Oct 27, 2004 Nov 24, 2004 Nov 26, 2004 Nov 28, 2004

Bookmarks

Tools

Help



## Thank you / gracias







#### Acknowledgements

**UKOLN** is funded by the Museums, Libraries and Archives Council, the Joint Information Systems Committee (JISC) of the UK higher and further education funding councils, as well as by project funding from the JISC, the European Union and other sources. UKOLN also receives support from the University of Bath, where it is based: http://www.ukoln.ac.uk/





The Digital Curation Centre is funded by the JISC and the UK e-Science Programme: http://www.dcc.ac.uk/







