

K-12 Web Archiving Program Teacher Guidelines

Program Description

There is a growing awareness among libraries, archives, and other cultural institutions of the importance and urgency of preserving the often transitory digital cultural artifacts distributed over the Web. But so far, most decisions about what Web sites will live into the future have been made by adults, and reflect adults' sensibilities about which records are historically significant. In order to broaden this perspective, the Internet Archive and the Library of Congress launched the K-12 Web Archiving Program.

The K-12 Web Archiving Program has two primary objectives:

1. Archive the Web from the perspective of students to ensure that at risk digital content that is important to them is captured and preserved forever.
2. Stimulate students to think about history and actively participate in selecting the primary sources of today for historical research tomorrow.

The program explores archiving the Web from students' perspectives. Participants use the Archive-It service from the Internet Archive (see Appendix 1) to create "time capsules" of born digital content available via the Web chosen by students to represent their world. Visit <http://archive-it.org/k12/> to see comments and collections from previous participants.

By allowing students to identify sites that will be preserved, the program gives K-12 students a chance to document their cultural history and the world that's important to them. Unlike time capsules of tangible objects, which usually remain hidden for decades or centuries, the resulting Web collections will be immediately visible and publicly accessible, with full text search for study and analysis. Stimulating young people to think about history in the context of their own lives will enrich their study of history, provide an opportunity to actively engage in selecting the matter of history in the future, and help students begin to grasp the tremendous challenges presented by a world in which information can be both generated and removed with a key stroke.

Participants

- Students from schools across the country (5th grade to 12th grade)
- The group of students at each school may represent a class, student club, or other selected group.
- Each group will be coordinated by a teacher and a student leader.

Selection Criteria

- Teachers and students should be comfortable using the Web and Web-based tools.
- Teachers and students should be able to dedicate several hours per month to the project (see timeline below). Time commitments may be most significant in September, October, and November.
- Teachers and students must have an interest in history, culture, and technology.

- Teachers and students must have a strong understanding of primary sources and the role they play in documenting cultural heritage.
- Teachers and students must demonstrate a strong commitment to see the project through to completion

Timeline

- **May 14:** Applications available
- **New partners only:** Attend one of these informational webinars *as part of the application process* to learn more about the Archive-It service. (All sessions are 2:30 PM to 3:30 PM ET/11:30 AM-12:30 PM PT)
 - May 18
 - June 8
 - June 15
 - June 22
 - July 6
- **July 2:** deadline for submissions
- **July 19:** schools are selected and notified. Teachers sign up for primary sources webinars and trial training on using Archive-It
- Attend one primary sources webinar for teachers (45 minutes). Includes viewing and discussing archived collections from previous years.
 - July 30, 3 PM ET
 - August 5, 9AM ET
 - August 11, 11 AM ET
 - August 24, 10 AM ET
- **August 2 – September 3:** Trial trainings for teachers on using Archive-It and follow up questions (1 hour, time to be spread out. Scheduled with teachers after selection process is complete.
- **September:** Teachers assemble students and review the program. There will be a program guide to help the teachers instruct students on the program (its history, objectives, the importance of what they are doing, etc.)
- **October 4-October 22:** Training on Archive-It web application for students and teachers. (1-2 hours total, time to be spread out). Primary sources information available to support teacher.
- **September/ October:** Schools define collections, gather Web sites, draft descriptions (4-9 hours total, time to be spread out over the month)
- **Tuesday October 19:** kick off meeting (via web conference) (1 hour). Please bring with you (at least) one collection title with descriptive text and a list of URLs the students might be archiving.
- **November/December:** Schools start test crawls and begin crawling
- **Early January:** First check in with schools. Schools provide examples and reviews of archived collections.
- **January through April:** Schools continue to crawl web content, manage collections, discuss access and usage. (Anywhere from 30 minutes to 1 hour per week)
- **Early 2011:** School collections available on public Web site (work in progress) at <http://www.archive-it.org/k12/>

- **End of April 2011:** Crawling completed
- **April 2011:** Evaluation process and completion with online survey (1 hour)
- **Beginning of May 2011:** Final meeting via web or teleconference (1 hour)
- **May 2011:** School collections Web site complete

Collection Parameters

- Collections of Web sites that are primary sources reflecting the students' lives and interests. (See examples in Appendix 2)
- Selection criteria are purposely left broad, although several popular and very large websites need to be excluded (details to be provided during training sessions)
- Each school will be responsible for selecting and curating at least one collection.
- Up to 300 Web sites (seeds) can be chosen for inclusion in each school's collection(s).

Student Responsibilities

- Identify primary source sites for the "time capsule."
- Work with teacher to define a collection(s) and provide an overall description of the "time capsule" or collection.
- For each site chosen, provide a brief description of the site and why the students chose the site to reflect their lives or interests.
- Answer a short online survey at the end of the project.

Teacher Responsibilities

- Attend training and check-in meetings as scheduled, approximately one each month.
- Identify and mentor student leaders for the program.
- Serve as facilitator for the student collection, assisting students in establishing a process for deciding on the sites to be included, and ensuring that the content selected does not include pornography, discriminatory materials, or gratuitous violence.
- Work with students to prepare an overall description of the "time capsule" or collection.
- Enter, or work with student leader to enter, URLs for selected sites into Archive-It.
- Answer a short online survey at the end of the project.

Continuing (after May 2011)

- Teachers are encouraged to have students revisit the sites that they have archived to see which have disappeared, and how the sites have changed over time.
- Teachers may be called upon for input into developing a broader range student-based Web capture program.
- Teachers and students may be called upon for testimonials of their experiences.

About the Partners

It is at the very heart of the missions of the Internet Archive and the Library of Congress to serve as stewards of content that has current and future value to the nation. In addition, both institutions are committed to serving the K-12 community, particularly as it involves the use of

primary source material in the understanding of history. The Internet Archive and the Library of Congress jointly underwrite the \$12,000 per participant cost in order to offer this program. .

Internet Archive

Internet Archive's subscription service, Archive-It, enables institutions to harvest, manage, search and preserve digital web based content. The Web based application features a user friendly interface allowing users to easily set up and catalog collections, monitor crawling and make adjustments post crawl. Collections are hosted at the Internet Archive data center, accessible to the public with full text search.

Archive-It is designed to fit the needs of many types of organizations and individuals, including state archives, libraries, academic institutions, non profits, museums, historians, and independent researchers. The 130+ partners include: state archives, university libraries, federal institutions, state libraries, non-government non-profits, museums, historians, and independent researchers.

For more information regarding the Archive-It service, please visit www.archive-it.org.

Library of Congress

For more than fifteen years, the Library of Congress has helped teachers integrate its unique primary sources into school curricula. The Library's Web site for teachers, loc.gov/teachers, provides ready-to-use classroom materials and professional development opportunities, as well as highlighting some of the most interesting and useful primary sources from the Library's digital collections. Since 2001, the Library has also been involved in archiving Web sites. This program brings together elements of the Library's Teaching with Primary Sources and digital preservation programs.

Contact Information

- Application support: Archive-It
 - Lori Donovan lori@archive.org 415-561-6799 x7
 - Kate Odell kate@archive.org 415 561 6799 x4
- Program support: Library of Congress
 - Cheryl Lederle-Ensign clled@loc.gov 202-707-3550

Appendix 1

Internet Archive's subscription service, Archive-It, enables institutions to harvest, manage, search and preserve born digital web based content.

The Web based application features a user friendly interface allowing subscribers to easily set up and catalog collections, monitor crawling and make adjustments post crawl. Collections are hosted at the Internet Archive data center, accessible to the public with full text search.

Archive-It is designed to fit the needs of many types of organizations and individuals, including state archives, libraries, academic institutions, non profits, museums, historians, and independent researchers. The 130+ partners include: state archives, university libraries, federal institutions, state libraries, non-government non-profits, museums, historians, and independent researchers.

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Appendix 2

Example of the types of site that may be appropriate for this project:

<http://inprogress.typepad.com/kidsforobama/> Blog encouraging young people to voice their thoughts in the 2008 elections

<http://www.ifbf.org/> Iowa Farm Bureau

<http://www.ifad.org/> Enabling poor rural people to overcome poverty

<http://www.insects.org/> Insects on the Web

<http://www.wikisky.org/> Astronomical Photographs and Information

<http://www.promspot.com/> Prom Planning Information

Examples of the types of sites that show an adult perspective on what kids want, or are compilations of sources and are NOT the target for this project:

<http://clerkkids.house.gov/laws/InspectLaw/index.html>

<http://www.ohiomemory.org/>

<http://encarta.msn.com/>