

Archiving Websites

Introduction to the
issues

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What is the problem?

- Problems with “us”
- Problems with “them”

Problems with us

- Convincing people that websites **are** records and deserve to be archived
- Focus on short-term
- New skills and knowledge needed
- Lack of electronic records management

Problems with them

- Machine dependent
- Variety of file formats used
- “Dynamic” sites
- The sheer size of it all
- How do we ensure accountability?

Basically...

Same problems as electronic and digital records...

...only more so!

Archiving – what?

- What are the boundaries
- Keep only “born digital”?
- Keep everything – or be selective?

Archiving – when?

- When in its “lifecycle” should it be archived?
- How often do we need to archive it?

Archiving – how?

- Print to paper?!
- A “snapshot”
- Other options?

How important is capturing the ‘experience’ of using the website?

Long-term preservation

- Media used to store is fragile
- Refreshing
- Migration
- Emulation

Conclusion

- The “one perfect solution” does not exist
- Importance of flexibility – different solutions for different websites