

11-2023

## Will Our Future Selves Thank Us? An Examination of Born-digital Curation Practices at the University of Kentucky Libraries

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# Will our future selves thank us?

An examination of born-digital curation practices at UKL



Digital Library Federation Forum  
November 2023



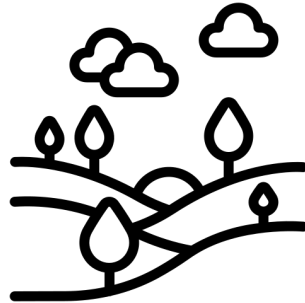
# Speakers

- Sarah Dorpinghaus, Director of Digital Strategies and Technology
- Megan Mummey, Director of Manuscript Collections
- Ruth E. Bryan, CA, University Archivist
- Emily B. Collier, Wildcat Histories Technology Consultant



# UKL Digital Preservation Infrastructure

A changing landscape, 2021-2023

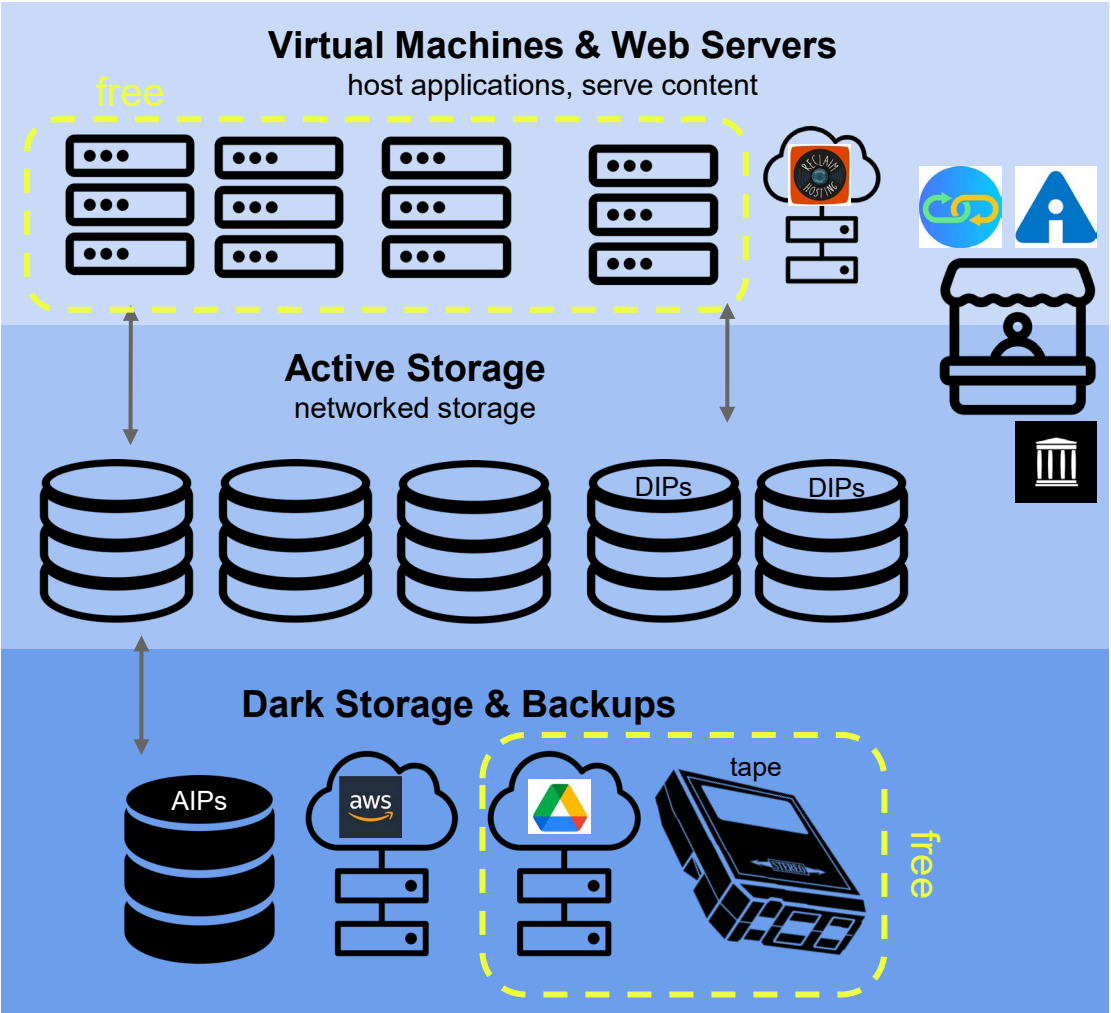


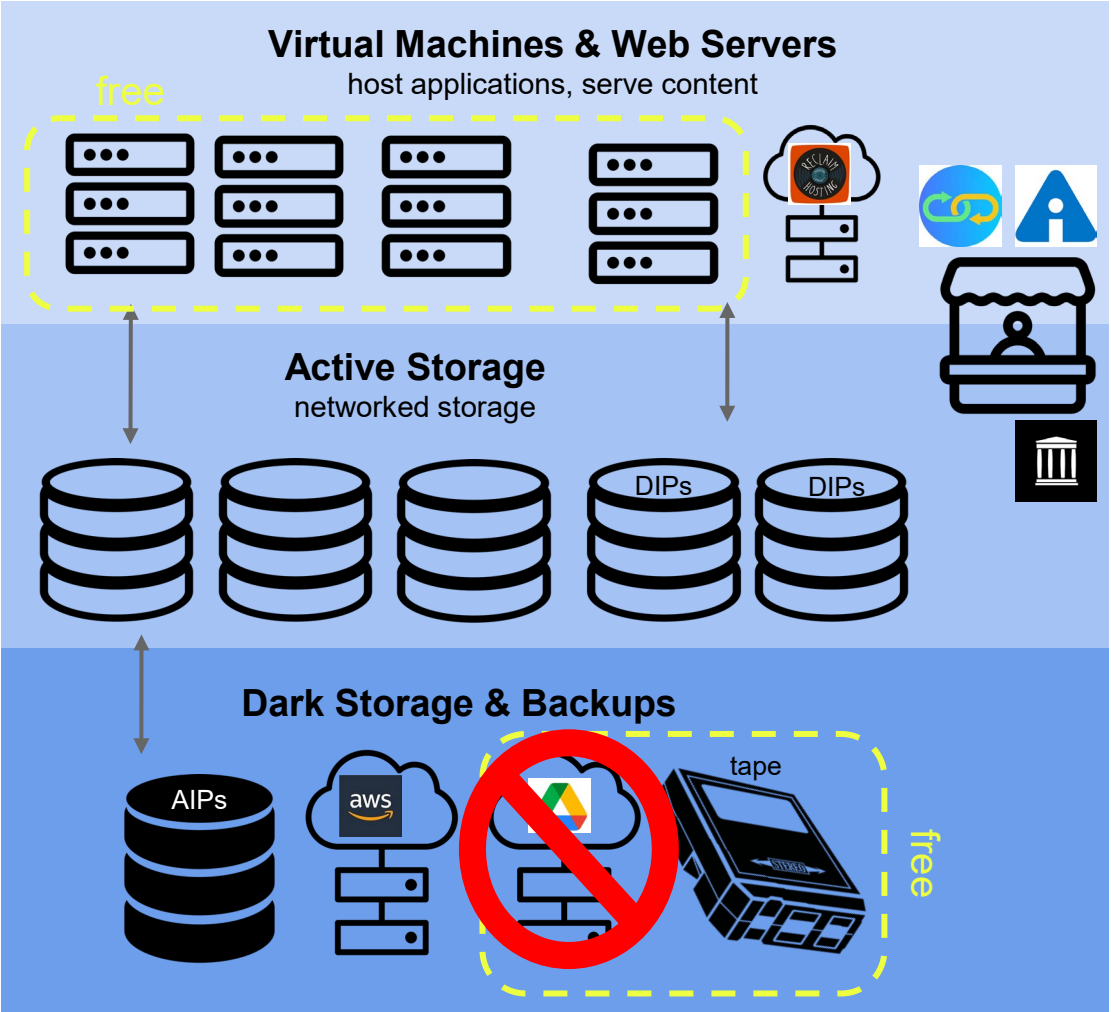
# University of Kentucky Libraries

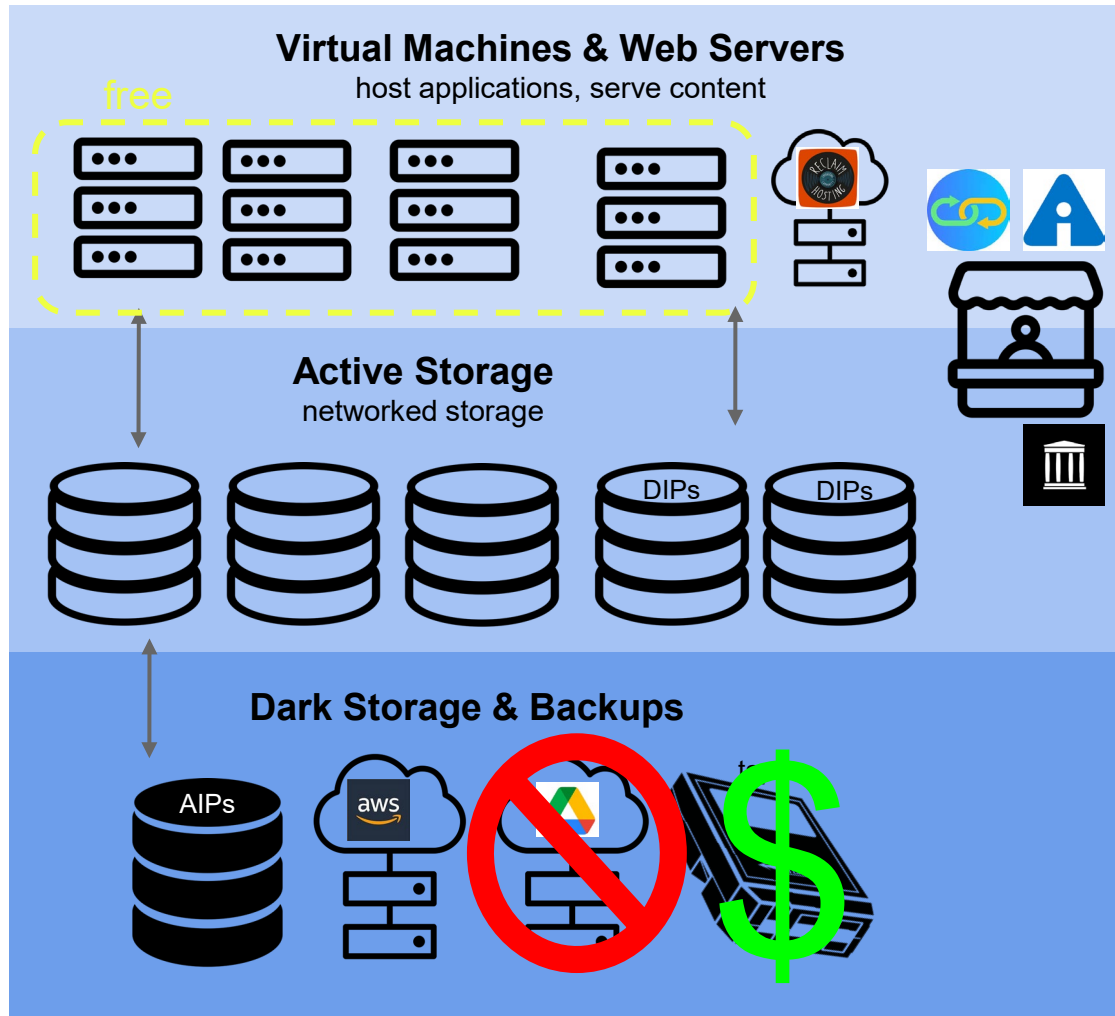
- R1, land grant institution
- Home-grown digital preservation repository and digital libraries
- UK Libraries has engaged in born-digital archival work since 2015 and web archiving since 2018
- 1 FTE (100%) working with born-digital archives, 8 FTE partial (5-15%), and on average 0-3 student employees



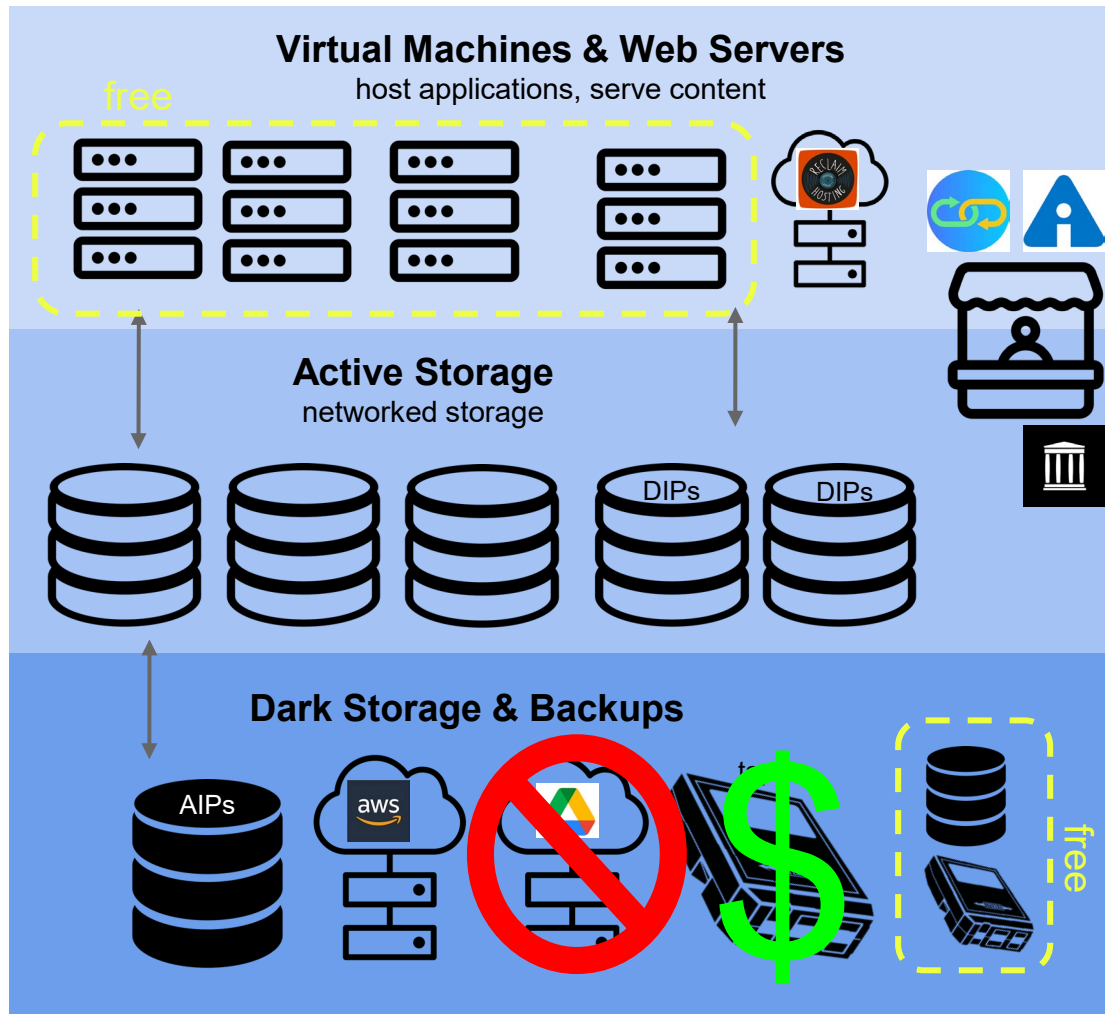
Margaret I. King Library













## Virtual Machines & Web Servers

host applications, serve content



## Active Storage

networked storage



## Dark Storage & Backups





# Impact on Digital Curation and Preservation

	MINIMAL	INTERMEDIATE	FULL
<b>TRANSFER</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>☑ Virus scan as needed/batch</li> <li>☑ <a href="#">Robocopy</a> when appropriate</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>☑ Virus scan, as needed</li> <li>☑ <a href="#">Robocopy</a>, VLC, Windows Media Player, or Handbrake</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>☑ Virus scan</li> <li>☑ Disk image-Guymager</li> <li>☑ File extraction-BitCurator Disk Image Access</li> </ul>
<b>STORE</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>☑ Bagit standard</li> <li>☑ Multiple backups</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>☑ Bagit standard</li> <li>☑ Multiple backups</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>☑ Bagit standard</li> <li>☑ Multiple backups</li> </ul>
<b>DOCUMENT</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>☑ Update accession record and/or resource record</li> <li>☑ Collection-level data in "born digital" spreadsheet (??)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>☑ Collection-level data in "born digital" spreadsheet</li> <li>☑ Item-level media log**</li> <li>☑ File Info Exporter 3000 documentation file</li> <li>☑ Update accession record and/or resource record</li> <li>☑ If PM is especially visual or informative, capture information/artwork</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>☑ Collection-level data in "born digital" spreadsheet</li> <li>☑ Item-level media log Reports Bulk</li> <li>☑ Extractor Viewer and BitCurator Reporting Tool</li> <li>☑ Update accession record</li> <li>☑ Capture/digitize PM with descriptive or visual info</li> </ul>
<b>REVIEW</b>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>☑ Review files for challenging formats</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>☑ Review files for challenging formats and no extension/formats</li> </ul>

## Digital Preservation Policy

University of Kentucky Libraries, Version 1.0 (2021)

### Introduction

The University of Kentucky Libraries has been acquiring and creating digital resources since the 1950s. The long-term curation, preservation, and access to digital content continues to be central to UK Libraries' core commitments of supporting excellence in research, education, and cultural enrichment programs. This policy formalizes that continuing commitment.

### Contextual Policies

UK Libraries' Digital Preservation Policy should be approached in the context of other existing university, library, and repository policies and strategies. These include the Libraries and the University strategic plans as well as related guidelines that may be developed in the future.

### Responsibilities & Mandates

UK Libraries' mandate for the preservation of digital resources is predicated on missions and commitments at both the Libraries and the university level:

- **Scholarship:** As a land-grant R1 institution of higher education, UK is obligated to support scholarship, teaching, and learning. As more resources and services associated with these areas transition to digital and online environments, UK Libraries' digital preservation workflows must evolve in tandem to effectively support the identification, stewardship, and preservation of dispersed digital content.
- **Institutional records:** UK Libraries is responsible for maintaining university archives by collecting and preserving permanent university records, including those in electronic formats. This is informed by the records retention schedule established by the State Libraries, Archives, and Records Commission of Kentucky.
- **Strategic priorities:** UK Libraries' Strategic Directions includes enhancing and improving access to research collections and supporting scholars throughout the research lifecycle. These will be strengthened by digital preservation practices that support the long-term discovery of distinctive collections and university scholarship.
- **Contractual obligations:** UK Libraries has contractual obligations to preserve and maintain access to certain digital resources. Some obligations derived from federal and state laws require the Libraries to maintain files for access indefinitely. This includes UK

Decision tree

+

Digital preservation policy



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Decision tree

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Digital preservation policy

## Dark Storage & Backups





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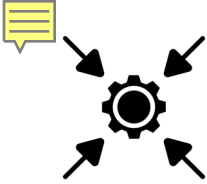
Decision tree

+

Digital preservation policy

## Dark Storage & Backups





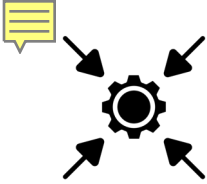
# Impact on Digital Curation and Preservation

Digital preservation cost estimate

1 TB = approx \$200 / year

(up from \$152 / year)





# Impact on Digital Curation and Preservation

Funding challenges

How does this impact appraisal?

**Virtual Machines & Web Servers**  
host applications, serve content

The diagram illustrates the cost of virtual machines and web servers. It features four stacks of server racks, each with a large green dollar sign overlaid, indicating high costs. To the right is a cloud icon labeled 'RECYCLING HOSTING' with a server rack icon below it, representing a more sustainable or recycled hosting option.



## Takeaways

Be flexible and nimble.





## Takeaways

Be flexible and nimble.

Build and maintain relationships with IT.



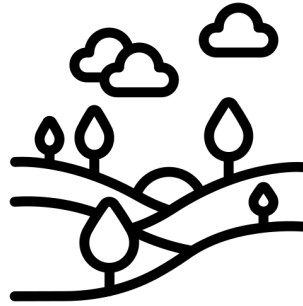
## Takeaways

Be flexible and nimble.

Build and maintain relationships with IT.

Storage costs increase over time.

All icons from the Noun Project <https://thenounproject.com/>





# Not everything is worth saving

Digital appraisal and environmental  
impact

Megan Mummey  
Director of Manuscript Collections

Andrew McDonnell  
Digital Archivist

Image from The Kentucky Quilt Project, inc. "Why  
Quilts Matter: History, Art, and Politics" documentary  
records



# Environmental Impact of Digital Preservation

“When [the challenges of digital preservation] are confronted in an environment where staff time is scarcer than digital storage, it can be tempting to appraise digital content in a cursory manner.”

Pendergrass, Keith L., Walker Sampson, Tim Walsh, and Laura Alagna. “Toward Environmentally Sustainable Digital Preservation.” *The American Archivist* 82, no. 1 (2019): 165–206.

<https://www.jstor.org/stable/48659833>.



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# Episodes

*Why Quilts Matter: History, Art & Politics* is an exciting and thought-provoking nine-part documentary series that will change the way you think about quilts. Uncover the unsuspected size and depth of quilt culture. Delve into the inner workings of the art world, explore behind the scenes in the quilt marketplace, and journey into the complicated, kaleidoscopic world of quilts. Explore two centuries of history, watch as women gain power from their handiwork, and consider the nature of art itself.



For an inside look at a highlight from each of the nine fascinating episodes of the documentary *Why Quilts Matter: History, Art & Politics*, please click on the episode listings below.



Episode 1: Quilts 101 – Antique and Contemporary



Episode 2: Quilts Bring History Alive



Episode 3: The Quilt Marketplace



Episode 4: What is Art?



Episode 5: Gee's Bend: "The Most Famous Quilts"



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The Kentucky Quilt Project, Inc.  
presents

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## Episodes

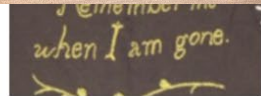
Why Quilts Matter: How quilts. Uncover the unique marketplace, and join the handiwork, and conservation



For an inside click on the



Episode 1: Quilts 101 – Antique and Contemporary



Episode 2: Quilts Bring History Alive



Episode 3: The Quilt Marketplace



Episode 4: What is Art?



Episode 5: Gee's Bend: "The Most Famous Quilts"



# Appraisal questions to ask

- What is the collection's archival value?
- Which records can we provide access to and approve the use of?
- Which records are essential to documenting this work/subject/person?
- Realistically – which records will patrons use?
- Do these files contain proprietary formats?
- Do we need to keep drafts of the documentaries?
- What at the bare minimum (given our capacity) should we preserve?





Hard Drives/filetransfers	Size	No. files	Contents	Decision
HDD3 (seadisk)	58.5 GB	15,815	Image archive and image working files	Don't keep image archive except for photographs clearly provided by Shelly
HDD4 (new volume)	58.5 GB	15,816	Image archive and image working files	Don't keep image archive except for photographs clearly provided by Shelly
HDD2 (edit 12 backup)	1.76 TB	4,071	Image archive, final cut pro files	final cut pro files can't use - non destructive footage - proprietary can't use - old final cut pro only useful if you have old final cut
HDD1 (edit 13 backup)	1.59 TB	12,872	Cache files, DVD encodes, and "george" footage	Keep b-roll footage if any can be found mostly photographs - don't need cache files
file transfer	1.49 GB	4,448	Shelly's working files, website files, along with image archive	Don't need to keep website files
HDD5 (Seagate)	119 GB	83,149	Image archive	Don't keep image archive except for photographs clearly provided by Shelly
HDD6 (Seagate)	367 GB	55	Episodes 1-9 WQM, transferred from HDCAM Videotape masters, mp4 and MOV files	Keep - highest quality versions
<b>Received 6 Harddrives and 1 file transfer</b>	<b>3.5 TB</b>	<b>136,226</b>		



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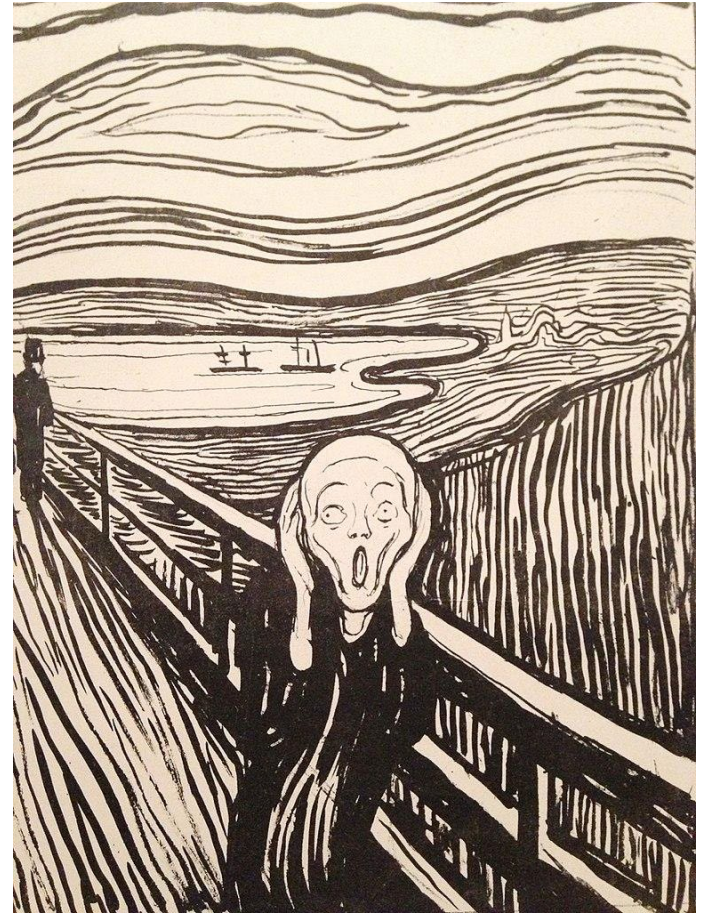
# Deduplication: TreeSize automated + manual

- ~60,000 duplicate files deleted (some recurred more than 10 times across multiple directories)
- Many duplicates were tiny, but in those quantities take up significant space and processing power
- Duplicate video files: multiple formats for DVD, broadcast, web, and other outlets
  - Manually discovered, fewer files but large file sizes!



## PII and Tree-size analysis

Deleted folders and files of material irrelevant to the Kentucky Quilt Project, including personal vacation photos, medical files, legal files, real estate contracts, and other materials containing significant PII.





# The Real Savings: Scratch Disk: 2.89 TB, 8,500 files

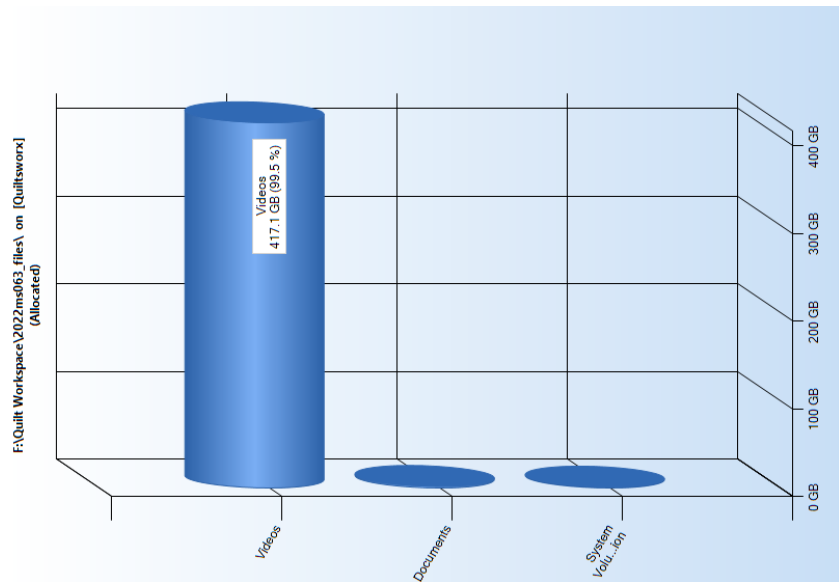


360 MB: 1:11 silent clip from a dark room



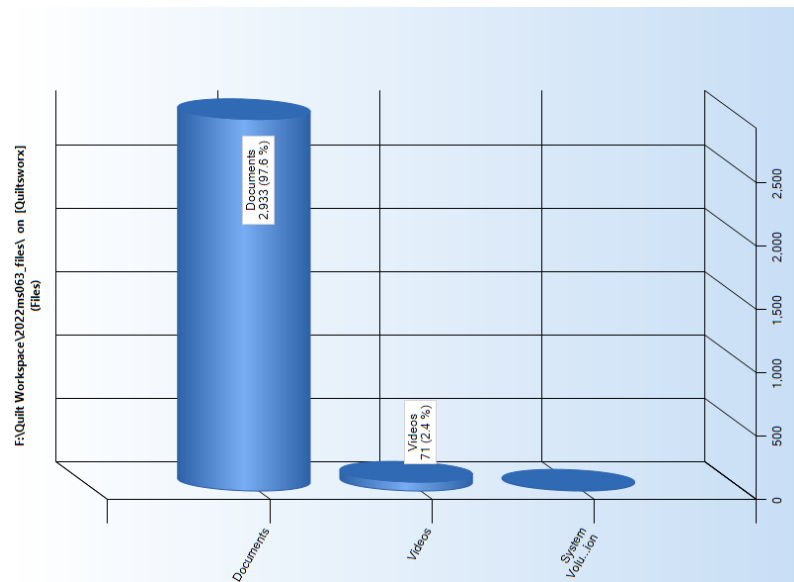
# Final Tally

- We started with: 146,664 files; 3.86 TB
- We conclude with: 3,006 files; 418.6 GB



Allocated space by file type

- Cost for digital preservation: Original size= \$772/year; After Cleanup=\$83.60/year

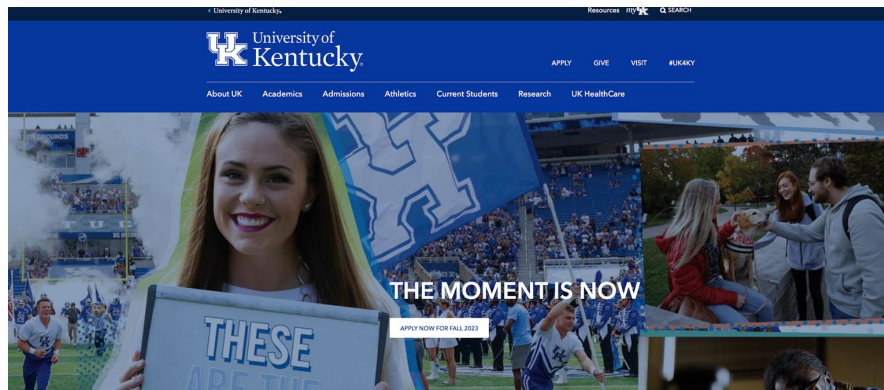


Number of Files



# Takeaways

- Added in a more rigorous appraisal section to our documentation.
- Saving everything is a trap. Do not do it! It's bad for archives and it's bad for the environment.
- Reappraise your born digital collections.



# Suddenly, Everything's Online!

# W h a t D o W e D o N o w ?

Ruth E. Bryan, CA  
University Archivist

University of Kentucky Libraries  
Special Collections Research Center





# SUDDENLY! (The Realization)



=

2018

## Situation:

- Archive-It subscription
- Started crawling UK seeds
- Including yearly crawl of [www.uky.edu](http://www.uky.edu)
- Successful capture threshold = 75%



# SUDDENLY! (The Realization)



=

2019

## Situation:

- Key records and papers
- Are distributed online only
- Not transferred to Archives
- Likely to be lost
- Web archiving is more central than before
- Preservation is complex
- Is thus resource-heavy
- Do we need to re-align effort?

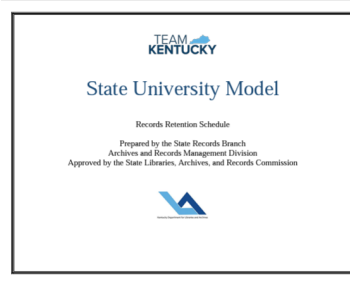


Every-  
thing!



=

**Appraisal  
criteria:**



**Key permanent  
university records:**

- Publications
- Regulations and policies
- Meeting minutes
- News
- Photographs and AV



Every-  
thing!



University of  
Kentucky

=

Appraisal  
criteria:

Cultural  
significance

**Documents of cultural  
and historical  
importance:**

--University records and  
personal papers

- Correspondence
- Diaries
- Flyers and broadsides
- Invitations



Created by UIcons

# Is Online!

- Many are in PDF
- Some PDFs on proprietary platforms with no download
- Websites/blogs
  - Embedded video not always captured.
  - Some webpages not captured at all (URL changes)
- Web 2.0 functions are difficult to capture
- Online ≠ Archived/preserved



W h a  
t  
N o w ?



- ✓ Acknowledge the challenge and opportunity
- ✓ Rethink appraisal criteria/resources
- ✓ Re-allocate/seek available resources and partnerships
- ✓ Test/research
- ✓ Advocate

**Narrow Your Results**

Sites for this collection are listed below. Narrow your results at left, or enter a search query below to find a site, specific URL or to search the text of archived webpages.

Subject Sort By: Count | (A-Z)

Hispanic American college students -- Kentucky -- Lexington -- Societies, etc. (4)  
 Student organizations -- Kentucky -- Lexington (4)  
 Social media (3)  
 Hispanic American college students--Kentucky--Lexington--Societies, etc. (1)  
 Student organizations--Kentucky--Lexington (1)

Creator Sort By: Count | (A-Z)

Latino Student Union (University of Kentucky) (4)

Type Sort By: Count | (A-Z)

Online Social Network (3)  
 Educational website (2)

Format Sort By: Count | (A-Z)

Social Media (3)  
 Website (2)

Coverage Sort By: Count | (A-Z)

Kentucky (5)  
 Lexington, Ky. (5)

Collector Sort By: Count | (A-Z)

University of Kentucky Libraries (5)  
 Special Collections Research Center (4)  
 University of Kentucky Libraries Special Collections Research Center (1)

Identifier Sort By: Count | (A-Z)

2019ua043 (5)

Enter search terms here

Group: Latino Student Union

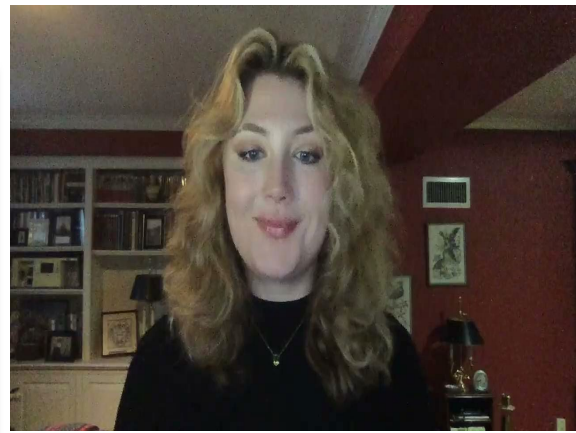
Sites

Page 1 of 1 (5 Total Results)

Sort By: Title (A-Z) | Title (Z-A) | URL (A-Z) | URL (Z-A)

**Title:** Twitter. Latino Student Union (University of Kentucky) @lsu\_uky social media account  
**URL:** [https://twitter.com/lsu\\_uk/](https://twitter.com/lsu_uk/)  
 Captured 27 times between September 21, 2019 and May 20, 2023  
 Videos: 14 Videos Captured  
 Subject: Student organizations -- Kentucky -- Lexington, Social media, Hispanic American college students -- Kentucky -- Lexington -- Societies, etc.  
 Group: Latino Student Union  
 Creator: Latino Student Union (University of Kentucky)  
 Coverage: Lexington, Ky., Kentucky  
 Format: Social Media  
 Type: Online Social Network  
 Identifier: 2019ua043  
 Related Materials: Forms part of the Latino Student Union (University of Kentucky) records, accession number 2019ua043, located in the Special Collections Research Center, University of Kentucky Libraries.  
 Collector: University of Kentucky Libraries, Special Collections Research Center

**Title:** Wixsite. Latino Student Union (University of Kentucky)  
**URL:** <https://uklatinosu.wixsite.com/lsuuky/>  
 Captured 11 times between September 21, 2019 and May 20, 2023  
 Subject: Hispanic American college students -- Kentucky -- Lexington -- Societies, etc., Student organizations -- Kentucky -- Lexington  
 Group: Latino Student Union  
 Creator: Latino Student Union (University of Kentucky)  
 Coverage: Lexington, Ky., Kentucky  
 Format: website  
 Type: Educational website  
 Identifier: 2019ua043  
 Related Materials: Forms part of the Latino Student Union (University of Kentucky) records, accession number 2019ua043, located in the Special Collections Research Center, University of Kentucky Libraries.  
 Collector: Special Collections Research Center, University of Kentucky Libraries



# Wildcat Histories: Preserving Activist UK Student Organization's Legacies

Emily Collier  
 Web Archiving Technology Consultant  
 Special Collections Research Center  
 University of Kentucky

Seeds belonging to the Latino Student Union  
 on UK Libraries' public Archive-It page





## The page cannot be found

The page you are looking for might have been removed, had its name changed, or is temporarily unavailable.

---

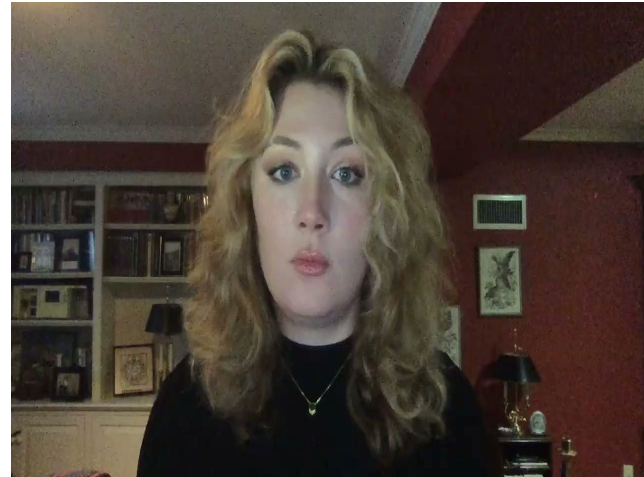
Please try the following:

- If you typed the page address in the Address bar, make sure that it is spelled correctly.
- Click the  [Back](#) button to try another link.
- Click  [Search](#) to look for information on the Internet.

HTTP 404 - File not found  
Internet Explorer

## Key Problems:

- Link rot
- Archiving tool failures
- Website upgrades
- Enterprise interception

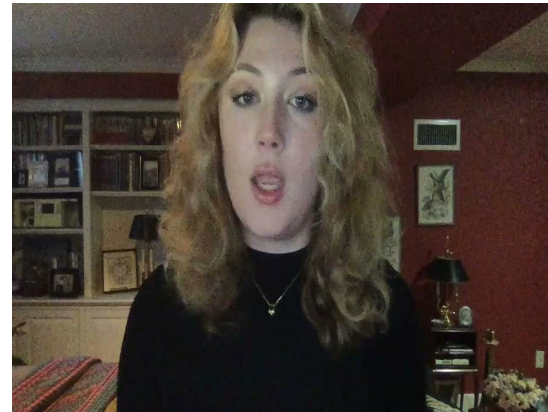
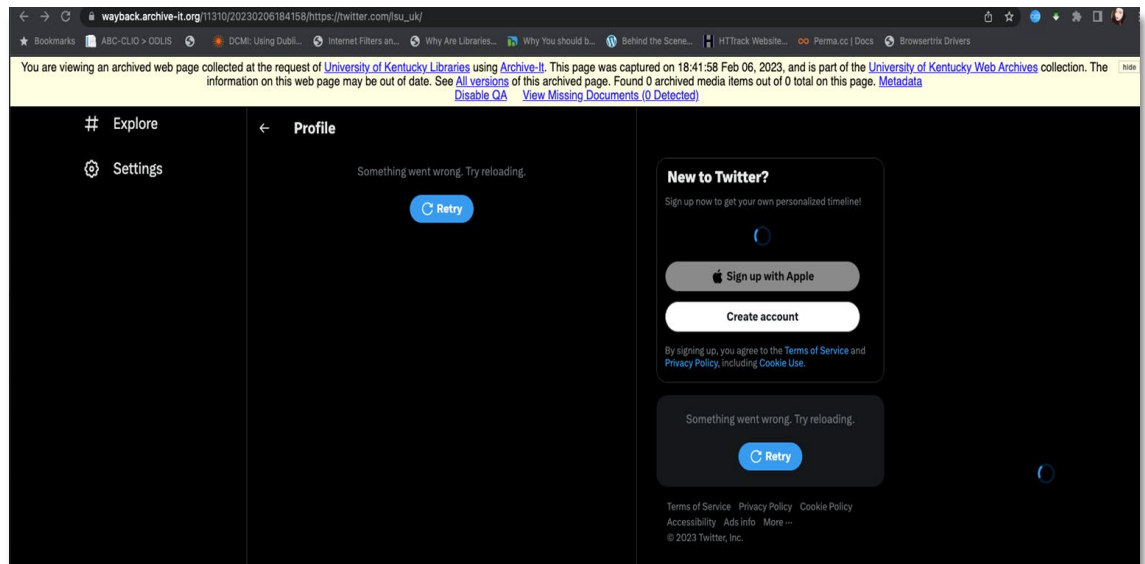




# Social Media: Our Notorious Evader

## WHY?

- Complex, interactive scripts
- Crawler traps/infinite links
- Near-constant updates create an arms race with preservation technology
- Crawler blockers and permissions obstacles

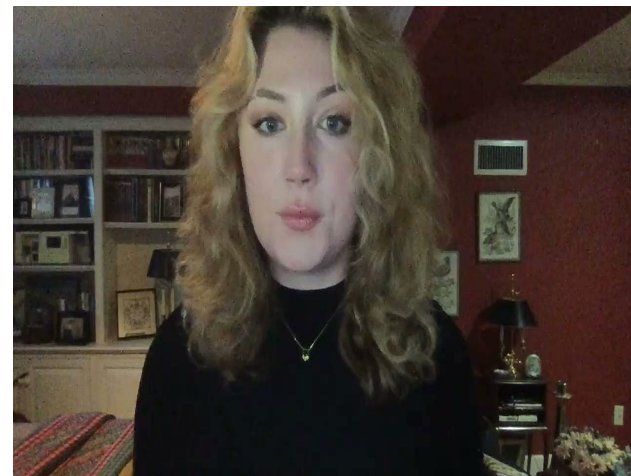


A failed Twitter  
crawl with  
Archive-It



## Wildcat Histories: A Flagship

- A Project STAND (**ST**udent **A**ctivism **N**ow **D**ocumented) mini-grant
- IMLS and Mellon Foundation funding
- April 2022-Aug 2023
- Partnered with the Latino Student Union
- Use the partnership as a pilot for building procedures on archiving student organizations' online content, specifically social media





# Social Media Goals

## Theoretical Goals



### Preserving Memory

Appraising platforms that appropriately capture communities' memories



### Social Interactions

Ensuring that the social interactions, ie comment sections, are preserved



### Online Culture

Preserve the unique qualities of online culture

## Practical Goals



### Testing

Test available tools and methods for best capture and preservation practices



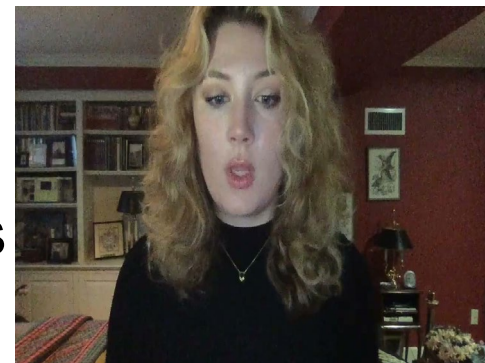
### Documentation

Document tests and outcomes in order to keep a record of chosen methods and rational



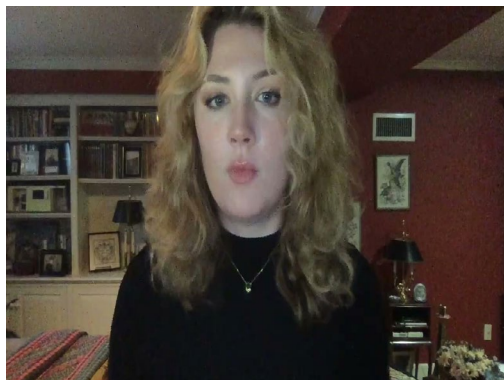
### Standardization

Use these rationals to create a standardization of procedures and application of metadata



# Student Archiving Goals

- Empowerment: Return control to student organizations
- Community: Build positive and productive relationships between students and Special Collections
- Sustainability: Create solutions to integrate archiving into student organization policy



**WHO?**

**WILDCAT HISTORIES**

Organizations for members identifying as BIPOC, LGBTQ+, international, not Christian, and/or women in male-dominated disciplines.

The primary aim of **Wildcat Histories** is to help you document and preserve your own social media. This lets you preserve your legacy and retain important organizational information that would otherwise be lost in the digital realm.

**WHY?**

A way to sustain your organization's legacy, provide continuity, conservation, and organization

Follow the [link](#) to see an example of how your organization can be highlighted by University Archives!

**CONTACT US**

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UK Libraries

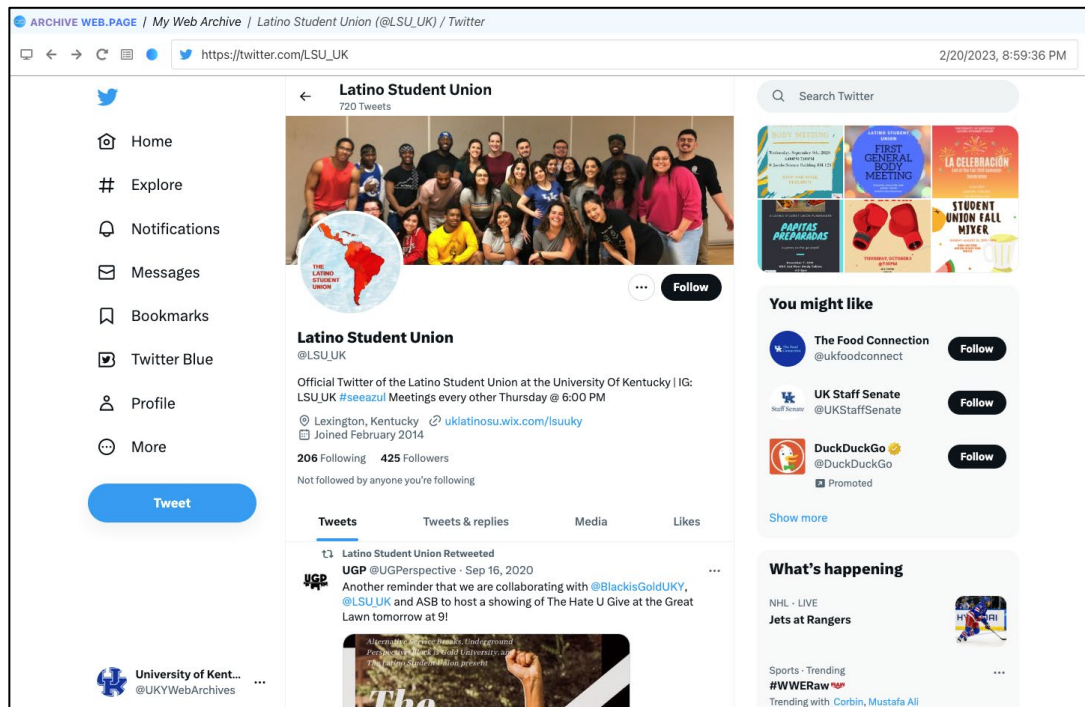
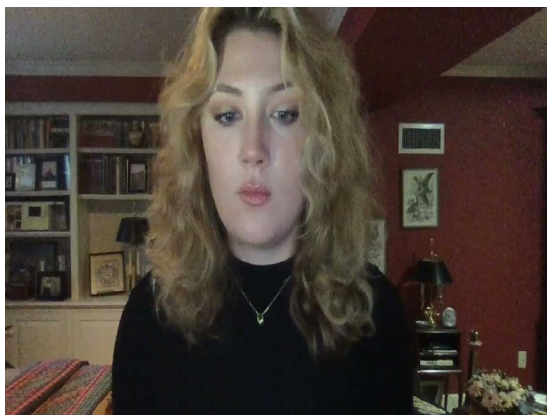
THE LAYNE STUDENT CENTER

Informational flyer created by our Student Organizations Communication Assistant, Claudia Benito

# Building Forward-Thinking Practice Around Anticipating Failures

Gaps can be left in collections when crawling technologies fail.

Anticipating these failures and preparing backup tools or policy can alleviate this burden.



The same Twitter page, successfully captured with Webrecorder



# Redundancy in Research

- New technologies always coming into the field
- Existing technologies typically successful may fail in the future
- Old technologies once dismissed may have upgraded to better tools





## Questions Proposed

# Q

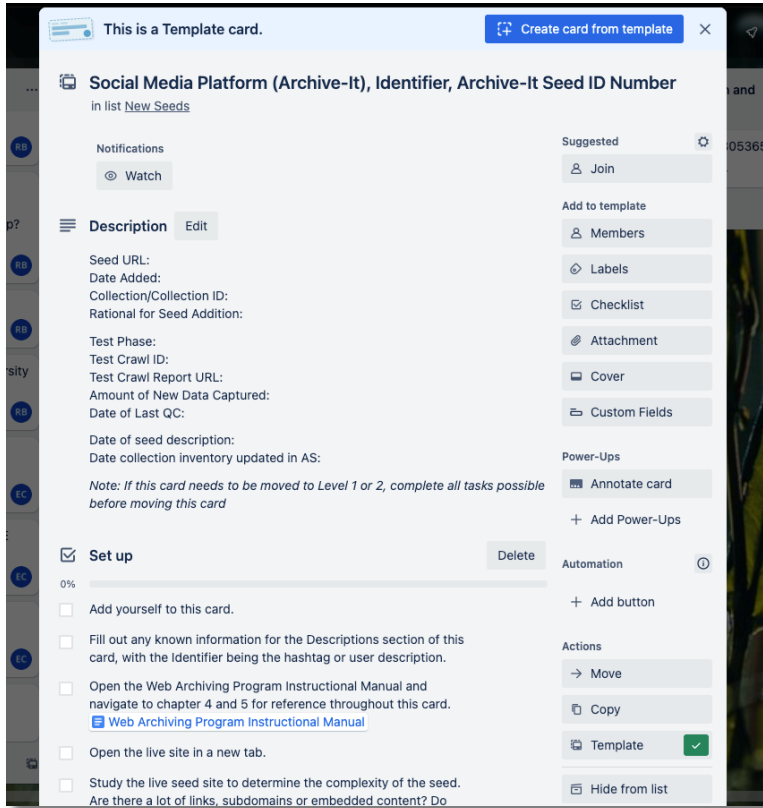
1. What are your tools, how do they work, and what are their products?
2. How is content made accessible to users?
3. How is your program funded/what is your long term management plan?
4. What are your next steps/developments?



# A

## Professional Network

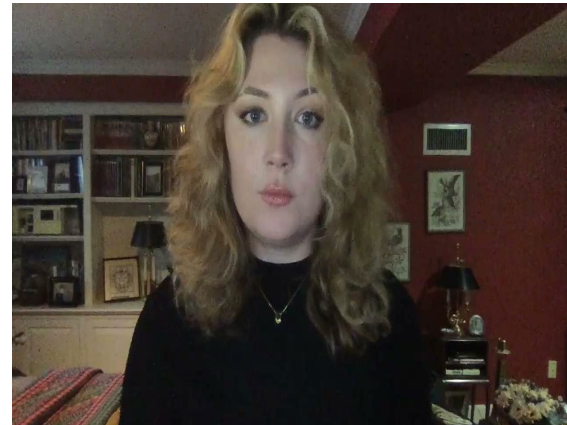
- **Peter Chan**, Stanford University Libraries
- **Zakiya Collier**, Documenting the Now
- **Lynda Schmitz Fuhrig**, Smithsonian Libraries and Archives
- **Bergis Jules**, Documenting the Now
- **Christie Moffatt**, National Library of Medicine
- **Jasmine Mulliken**, Stanford University Press
- **Dolsy Smith**, Social Feed Manager
- **Ed Sommers**, Documenting the Now, Stanford University Libraries
- **Brian Thomas**, Texas State Archives



Trello card with steps for crawling social media sites with archive-It

# Maintaining Simplicity

- Adopting complex technologies or practices makes long-term management difficult
- If a staff member leaves and takes knowledge with them, how is the work maintained?
- Needs to be simple for students to understand and use readily





# Themes

- Documentation is important
- Flexibility is key
- Relationship building can open doors
- Digital preservation requires funding and personnel
- Record procedure or policy changes, *with* rationales
- View workflows as learning-in-working or practiced-based and adaptable, rather than a set of rigid tasks
- Short-term and ongoing re-appraisal and re-prioritization and re-allocation of existing funds

# Future directions and questions

- Reappraisal of born digital materials already migrated and preserved, but not processed
- Access tools for web archives, including data harvesting tools
- Resource allocation and workflows for description and capturing are different for web-based content vs. other born-digital content
- Is appraisal criteria for permanent and culturally significant online university records different from other born-digital content?
- Should we apply digital preservation criteria retroactively? This requires additional development for our tools

# Q&A

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