MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY

AGRICULTURE AND APPLIED SCIENCE

University Archives Historical Collections





Five Years of Web Archiving @ Michigan State University

Ed Busch August 18, 2015





Overview

- What We Did
- What We Learned
- What Are We Doing Now
- What We Would Like To Do
- Fun Facts



What We Did

- Our Mission: collect the official records of the institution and preserve the legacy of the nation's pioneer land-grant university.
- Our Goal: To "preserve and make accessible" MSU web sites of enduring historical and research value
 - Almost every office and unit on campus has a web site with business information
 - Content that isn't preserved anywhere else
 - Publications!
 - Integral to the mission of MSU





What We Did

- Ran trial "snapshots" of msu.edu using Archive-It
- Inventory of MSU related web sites (early 2011)
 - Top level domains = approx. 1,300 sites
 - External domains = approx. 190 sites
 - e.g. coachizzo.com or spartancash.com



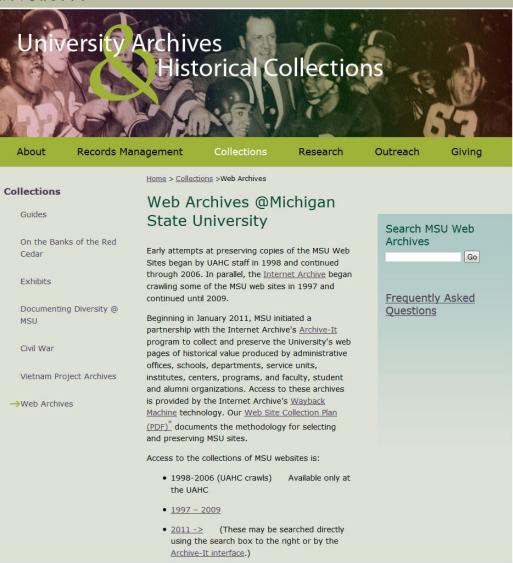


What We Did

- Created 3 large collections and 2 smaller special collections
 - Administration and Services; Colleges, Schools, Research Centers & Institutes; and Student Organizations and Groups
 - Topical Events Web Sites; Decommissioned MSU Web Sites
- Added Landing Page to our web site
- Updated Retention Schedule to include web sites
 - Websites are listed with MSU Publications
- Created Web Site Collection Plan
- Added Metadata at collection level
- Identified crawl schedule



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9/15/16





- Once you create a collection, you can't split or combine easily
 - What's the best collection creation strategy- to lump or not? Smaller seems to provide more flexibility.
 - I've kept new collections smaller





Our New Collections

- Michigan State University Libraries Collection
- MSU Administration and Services Collection*
- MSU Alumni and Fan Sites Collection
- MSU Athletics Collection
- MSU Colleges, Schools, Research Centers & Institutes Collection*
- MSU Employee Unions Collection
- MSU Related News Publications Collection
- MSU Social Media Collection
- MSU Sponsored Projects Collection
- MSU Student Organizations and Groups Collection*
- MSU Topical Events and Subjects Web Sites Collection
- MSU Arts and Culture Collection





Some sites are just difficult to crawl – "recursive issues"

- Using regular expressions and constraints Archive-It staff very helpful
- Text matching
- Lots of test runs takes time





- Web Archiving requires more staff time than expected
- Websites are being created or modified every day
 - New functionality often causes problems in next crawl
 - Lots of sites from outside the domain are related to the university.
 - Units reorganize and change domains
 - Run Test crawls!





What Are We Doing Now

- Have captured over 4.2 TB since 2011.
 - 668 active seeds
- Revisiting problem seeds
- Spending more time on quality check
 - Particularly prime websites like president's office, board of trustees, etc.
 - Getting feedback from users on a few captured sites





What Are We Doing Now

- Member of campus Web Development group (WebDev CAFÉ) – meets monthly
 - Gives me an insight on what's going on with university websites and to remind them to let me know when a site is changing or being removed.
- New sites
 - Social Media sites
 - Non-MSU Historical Collection sites
- Working with users who need permanent links to content
 - One professor has been working with me to get faculty retiree biographical information captured





What We Would Like To Do

- Expand Social media crawls
- Catalog our Crawl Collections
- Investigate using data for Digital Humanities research
- Add more metadata
 - Need to decide what would be useful



Fun Statistics



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Google Search Operator statistics

- site:msu.edu 5,910,000, site:umich.edu 12,600,000
- Shows number of indexed URLS includes duplicates
- site:msu.edu filetype:pdf 1,040,000
- site:umich.edu filetype:pdf 669,000
- www.check-domains.com
 - msu.edu Google indexed pages 427,000
 - umich.edu Google indexed pages 1,830,000









Wrap Up

- Questions, Comments, Suggestions?
- Contact
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