

# Capturing our State: The California State Government Web Archive

**Capturing our State:**  
The California State Government Web Archive  
An Infopeople Hosted Webinar  
April 24, 2017



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## Credits

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**LSTA Grant Funded Project**  
(thank you & disclaimer)



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# Capturing our State: The California State Government Web Archive

## Agenda

- Why CA.gov?
- Introduction to web archiving
- CA.gov web archive project overview
- Building your own archive

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## Outcomes

- Understand the basics of web archiving using Archive-It
- Be familiar with the scope and content of the CA.gov Web Archive
- Be able to search the CA.gov Web Archive and the WayBack Machine for state government information
- Know who to contact with questions about the project or suggest sites for inclusion in the archive
- Have ideas for web harvesting projects for your local government agencies

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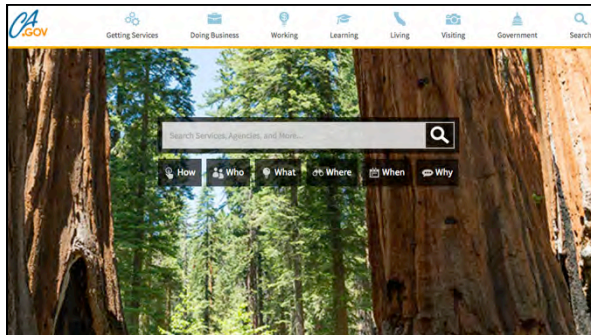
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# Capturing our State: The California State Government Web Archive

CA.gov archive:  
a collaborative effort!



- Stephen Abrams, CDL
- Julie Lefevre, UCS Institute for Governmental Studies Library
- Kris Kasianovitz, Stanford Library
- Shari Laster, UCSB Library
- Lucia Orlando, UCSC Library
- Bill Riddle, California State Library
- Mike Smith, UCSD Library
- Joseph Yue, UCLA Library
- Michael McNeil, California State Archives

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Web archiving

- Goals & principles
- Internet Archive & Archive-It
- Web crawlers

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Web archiving basics

Web archiving is the process of:

- collecting portions of the World Wide Web,
- preserving the collections in an archival format, and then
- servng the content for access and use.

Capture is usually accomplished with a *crawler* like Heritrix, which saves web pages and also follows links to additional pages.

Replay is the means of serving content for access and use: the Internet Archive's Wayback Machine, Archive-It Collections site, and Memento are good examples.

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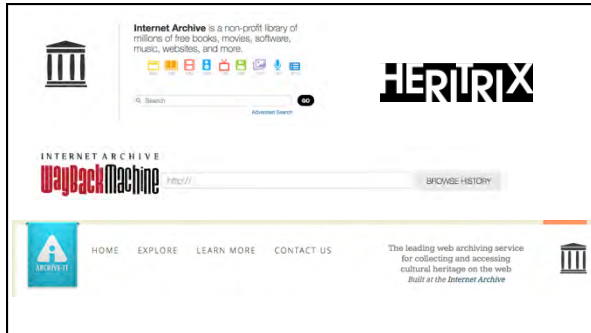
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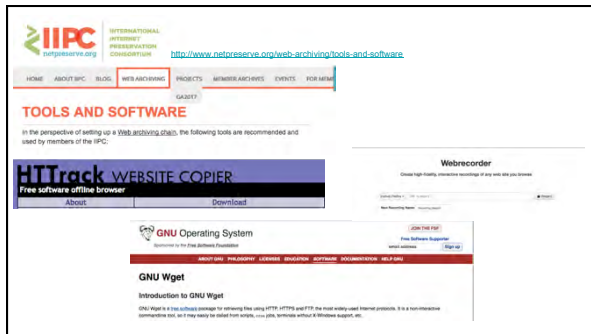
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## Crawling the web

A web crawler is a software script that fetches, analyzes, and files information from web servers at many times the speed of a human

The crawler starts with a list of URLs to visit, called the seeds

A seed can be a top level domain, like <http://www.ca.gov> or a sub-directory below the top-level domain, like <http://www.ca.gov/Agencies/Secretary-of-State/>

“Scoping” rules constrain the web crawl to ensure we collect what we want, and nothing more

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**Project overview**

- Scope of project
- Work involved
- Using our content

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**CA.gov archive: background**

<https://archive-it.org/collections/4743>

- 2007 Collection established in California Digital Library's Web Archiving Service (WAS)
- 2010–2012 Minimal development
- 2013 Cooperative project of the University of California/Stanford University Government Information Librarians, with representation from California State Library
- 2015 Content migrated to Archive-It (4.2Tb of data)
- 2016 LSTA grant application
  - Grant goals:
    - comprehensive capture of the State of California web domain
    - develop quality assurance workflows
    - determine a sustainable funding model

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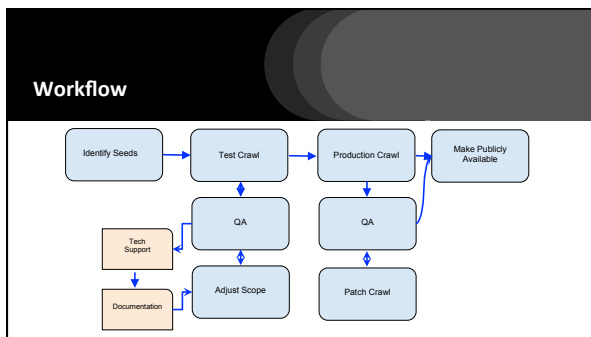
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## Gathering our seeds

A different kind of collection development:

Identified and reviewed URLs from [official state sources](#).

Not all seeds can be captured as entered: "Site not found" errors, robots.txt can prevent capture.

Many official state sites are missing: we add content as we find it.

Following an initial test crawl, we reviewed the data, corrected some errors, and completed our first snapshot (1.9Tb) in December 2016.

Future crawls using Archive-It will de-duplicate against the content we have collected.

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## Managing our collection

Distributing & shifting project work is a learning process!

Check seed reports, contact website administrators to request permission to crawl blocked content

Quality assurance on captures, conduct patch crawls

Troubleshoot problems, request assistance from Archive-It to solve issues

Communicating process and progress within the group & broader communities

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## Our collection

This year so far:

413 active seeds (URLs)

7,598,972 documents -- 2.7Tb

This is a big collection by Archive-It standards (though not for the Internet Archive!).

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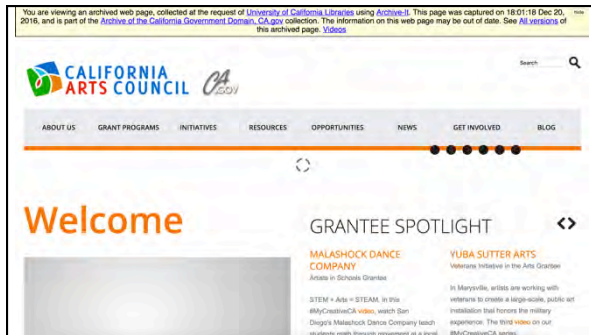
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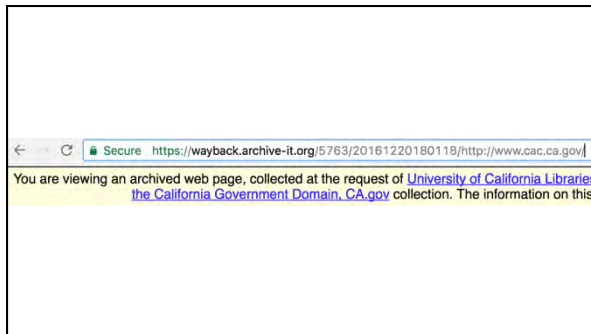
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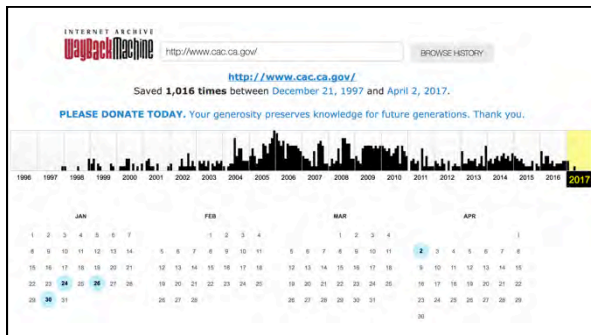
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# Capturing our State: The California State Government Web Archive

## Build your own collections!

- Examples
- Using Archive-It
- Considerations

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**Examples of Local Government Information Web Archives using Archive-It**

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## Getting started

**Advantages to subscribing to Archive-It:**

- The Internet Archive handles the technical aspects of capture, preservation, and playback
- You control what's collected, including frequency & depth of capture
- Content can be exported to include in a digital archive
- Community of Archive-It partners working on projects

You can contribute in other ways, too:  
<http://blog.archive.org/2017/01/25/see-something-save-something/>

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# Capturing our State: The California State Government Web Archive

## Archive... with a plan!

Determine the scope of your collection based on your user communities.  
Once you have set up & tested your crawl, schedule it to run on regular intervals.  
Keep an eye on your space: Archive-It de-duplicates content, but some projects may require waiting until the next subscription year to complete an initial capture.  
Be ready for the unexpected!

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## Get in Touch

Have questions about the CA.gov web archive?  
Want to suggest site(s) for inclusion?  
Let us know!  
email: [cagovarchive@lists.berkeley.edu](mailto:cagovarchive@lists.berkeley.edu)

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**THANK YOU!**

**Discussion and  
Questions**

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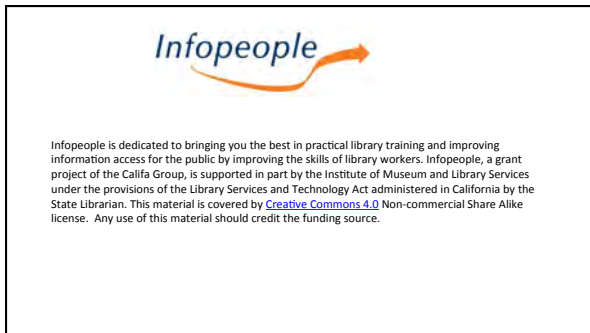
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