

Addressing our many solitudes:

Building a web archives community of practice in
Canada

Jeremy Heil, Queen's University
Nicholas Worby, University of Toronto

Oh Canada...



Archive-It national license: putting the 'tools of the trade' within reach

- Provides a discount to members of 21 library consortia in Canada, including public, post-secondary, health, special, and K-12 schools
- BUT...
- Creating a web archiving program can be challenging!

Creating a community of practice to
support web archiving in Canada

Canadian Web Archiving Coalition (CWAC)

La Coalition canadienne de l'archivage Web (CCAW)

- Current home is the Canadian Association of Research Libraries (CARL-ABRC)
- CWAC-CCAW was “...established in 2017 to develop an inclusive community of practice within Canadian libraries, archives, and other memory institutions engaged or otherwise interested in web archiving, in an effort to identify gaps and opportunities best addressed by nationally coordinated strategies, actions, and services, including collaborative collection development, training, infrastructure development, and support for practitioners.”



Collections Interest Group

Initially tasked with:

- Establishing tools, policies & workflows for collaborative collection building across Canadian institutions
- Creating mechanisms to respond to evolving events of regional/national significance
- Supporting collection development through the creation of collection policy best practices & templates
- Developing sustainable, federated preservation services for Canadian web archive collections

Current work:

- Tool/project exploration for collaborative collections building
- Web archiving policy analysis
- WARC North planning

Copyright Working Group

- Supporting the creation of a memorandum to provide guidance on the copyright implications of web archiving in Canada
- Two perspectives:
 - the legal considerations applicable to government libraries
 - the legal considerations for educational institutions such as those associated with the Canadian Association of Research Libraries
- Memo will be added to a web archiving code of best practices toolkit that will be developed by CWAC, complete with use case scenarios
- The goal is to support organizations in Canada that are interested or currently engaging in web archiving programs

Training Interest Group

Initially tasked with:

- Hosting an annual capacity-building workshop
- Providing regular webinars and other training opportunities
- Creating best practice guidelines for establishing a web archiving program
- Working collaboratively on methodologies to improve the QA and metadata creation processes

Currently working on an environmental scan to discover:

- Documentation / information around getting started with a web archiving program
- Existing, publicly accessible QA and training documents
- List of existing services and tools for web archiving

Advocacy Interest Group

- Produce a list of best practices in web archiving funding requests, grants
- Participate in and, wherever possible, present at applicable conferences, events
- Partner with other Canadian information interest groups
- Produce prototypes for institutional marketing campaigns, publicity and other outreach activities

Next steps

Draft of best practices toolkit

WARC North pilot & testing

How can we better collaborate with the broader web archiving community?

More information...

CWAC

<https://bit.ly/2Fmi1GJ>

2017 Web archiving in Canada survey

<https://bit.ly/2wAhOXK>

Permafrost

<https://permafrost.scholarsportal.info/>