A New interface for the UK Web Archive

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What does UKWA aim to do?

1. Collect the entire UK Web Space
2. Preserve it for the long term
3. Give access to the public
Three ‘collections’

• Open UK Web Archive (www.webarchive.org.uk)

• Legal Deposit Web Archive – Reading room access only (on library terminals)

• SHINE service - sourced from the Internet Archive with results pointing to it
Opportunity or challenge?

Every word of every website we have ever created is searchable
Open collection
The British Library provides access to this item on certain conditions

We expect everyone to read and accept the British Library guidelines on appropriate use of non-print legal deposit material before they begin to view material using this system. All usage will be monitored.

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Please close the browser tab when you have finished viewing this item.
Access has to work in all LD Libraries

- The British Library
- National Library of Wales
- National Library of Scotland
- Cambridge University Libraries
- Bodleian Libraries (Oxford)
- Trinity College, Dublin
Everything about what we do is hard!

1. Few know what a web archive is (and if they do it’s ‘The Wayback Machine’).
2. The word ‘archive’ itself is misleading.
3. No one knows what we collect, how long we’ve been collecting, how often and to what depth.
4. The various access levels for UKWA are very confusing (i.e. some is open access, most in reading rooms only).
5. Few people (even academics) know what a Legal Deposit Library is and what we mean by ‘Reading room’.
Reality of access?

A *chance* for some (very persistent) people to see historic web pages
What we need to get to?

The ability for ALL our users to browse or search for items in the historic web collection *effectively*, *quickly and easily*. 
What should we do?

1. Have one access point for ALL websites collected
2. Emphasise the strength of individual event, topic or theme based collections
3. Ensure these topics and themes are adequately described
4. Use better language in describing what we do, collect and can offer users.
5. Offer relevance based search results
What we do

The UK Web Archive (UKWA) collects millions of websites each year, preserving them for future generations. The UKWA is a partnership of the six UK Legal Deposit Libraries.

Use this site to discover old or obsolete versions of UK websites, search the text of the websites and browse websites curated on different topics and themes.

Topics and Themes

Topics and Themes are groups of websites brought together on a particular theme by librarians, curators and other specialists, often working in collaboration with key organisations in the field. Find out more.
Explore over 100 collections of websites brought together by librarians, curators and other experts in response to a wide range of events and diverse topics and themes.
Search results: 37,541,864 results for "www.gov.uk"

Sort by: Most relevant

Welcome to GOV.UK

Viewable only on Library premises
https://www.gov.uk/
Date collected: 2014-10-24

BGS
What next?

• A tutorial and/or a help guide
• Visualisations (starting with n-grams)
• Advanced search
• Workshops with researchers
Thank you

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