

“Pages by Kids, For Kids”

**Unlocking Childhood and
Youth History through
Web Archived Big Data**

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The Enchanted Forest

Join us for an adventure in the only neighborhood made for children, by children.

Welcome to the Enchanted Forest

Welcome to the Enchanted Forest, home of the littlest GeoCitizens and some of the best homepages. This is a neighborhood for pages by kids, for kids - from animals to zephyrs, the Forest has everything that a young mind could need. This neighborhood is safe for anyone to wander through, and it's safe because of the dedicated Community Leaders who so generously volunteer their time to keeping it safe.

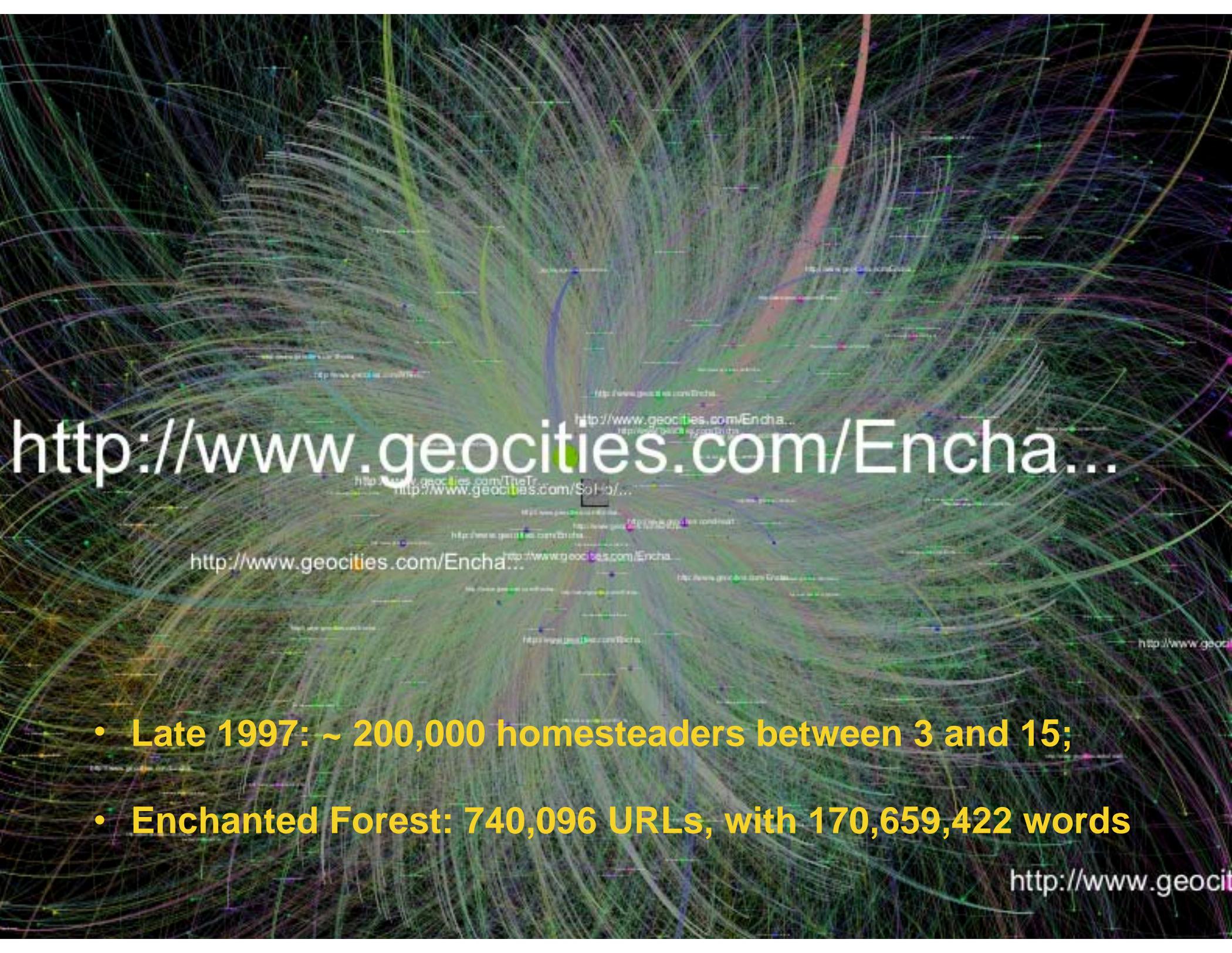


The Enchanted Forest

Join us for an adventure in the only neighborhood made by children, for children.

What can we learn?

- We can see two things in the story of the **Enchanted Forest**
 - **First** – we can explore how children connected with each other and articulated a vision of community that's alternative to the wide-open Web (primarily 1996 - 1999)
 - **Second** – we can get a scale of the data in the age of web historiography.



<http://www.geocities.com/Encha...>

- **Late 1997: ~ 200,000 homesteaders between 3 and 15;**
- **Enchanted Forest: 740,096 URLs, with 170,659,422 words**

<http://www.geocit>



Living Life Online:

Childhood History in the Web Age

Enchanted Forest

Civil War in Warhammer 40,000

7 posts by 7 authors  

★ **Nyarlathotep** Who can say, but it certainly sounds amusing. Later days, Nyar.

12/7/95



Peter Milligan

12/7/95



- hide quoted text -

I was recently playing a game of Warhammer 40,000 when the opponents had a disagreement and decided that they would have a civil war. The two armies in question were Space Wolf, Blood Angels and Imperial Guard. The Space Wolf player opened up with his Cyclone and using 12 missiles, wiped out the 1500 point Imperial army, and the survivors were picked off by the Blood Angel's thud gun.

Although I was delighted by this, it made for a short game, as the only model I got to use was my Leman Russ, who picked off the survivors after the Blood angels picked off the Space Wolves.

Do you think Civil War is an acceptable rule?

★ **Bub** Well If you're in another universe why not. But in terms of 40K no :) -- Bub 7262...@compuserve.com

12/8/95

★ **Joel E Slovacek** once in a while, so long as the people fighting the war understand that they will lose (since they have

12/8/95

★ **Chad Lubrecht** What is this civil war rule? I seem to have missed the original posting, sorry!

12/8/95

om/Enchanted

geocities.com/EnchantedForest/1004

http://www.geocities.com/EnchantedForest/Tower/3004

http://www.geocities.com/EnchantedForest/Glade/3899

http://www.geocities.com/EnchantedForest/Dell/1414

http://www.geocities.com/EnchantedForest/Tower/9608

The web was not just made by dot.com companies, but that “**eleven-year-old boys and grandmothers are also busy putting up Web sites. Of course, the quality of these sites varies greatly, but low-cost and even free home page services are a growing part of the on-line world.**”

- *New York Times*, March 17th 1997

The historiography of childhood and youth

What was
GeoCities and
what was the
EnchantedForest?



Welcome to GeoCities Home X

web.archive.org/web/19961220165813/http://www.geocities.com/

1,662 captures
22 Oct 96 - 4 Sep 03

OCT DEC FEB
20
1996 1998

TV TIME GIG TUNNEL
FOR A BLAST FROM TV'S PAST
[Click here for a Blast from TV's past!](#)

GEOCITIES
OUR COMMUNITIES ARE HOME TO THE MOST POPULAR COLLECTION OF FREE HOME PAGES & E-MAIL ON THE WEB. PLEASE JOIN OR VISIT ONE OF OUR 29 NEIGHBORHOODS TODAY.

YOUR HOME ON THE WEB

- ENTER HERE
- INFORMATION
- NEIGHBORHOODS
- WHAT'S NEW
- WHAT'S COOL
- WHAT IS GEOCITIES?

* Free Home Pages & Free Member Email Advertiser Information

GeoCities Daily Audio Update -- Sponsored by IBM VoiceType Simply Speaking

Today's Cool Homestead
Yosemite4273
Sunsets, coastal seagulls and flowers are part of the photographic fare at inetd's homepage.

GeoCities News of the Day - 12/20/96

GEOCITIES LIVE CHRISTMAS TREE! ON CAMERA!
Building a home page for the holidays?
[Submit](#) your letters to Santa, favorite holiday recipes and other holiday cheer to our special [North Pole neighborhood](#). And share your holiday spirit with GeoCitizens around the world by helping us trim our [virtual holiday tree!](#)

Live at the GeoCities Mainstage
Check out our [schedule of events](#) and be a part of the next show...

Cigardude's Smoking Room - Netscape

File Edit View Go Communicator Help

Back Forward Reload Home Search Netscape Print Security Stop

Bookmarks Location: <http://www.geocities.com/NapaValley/1070/>

The Smoking Room

Welcome to the Cigar Dude's Smoking Room

You are visitor number



since June 5, 1996

Your Choices

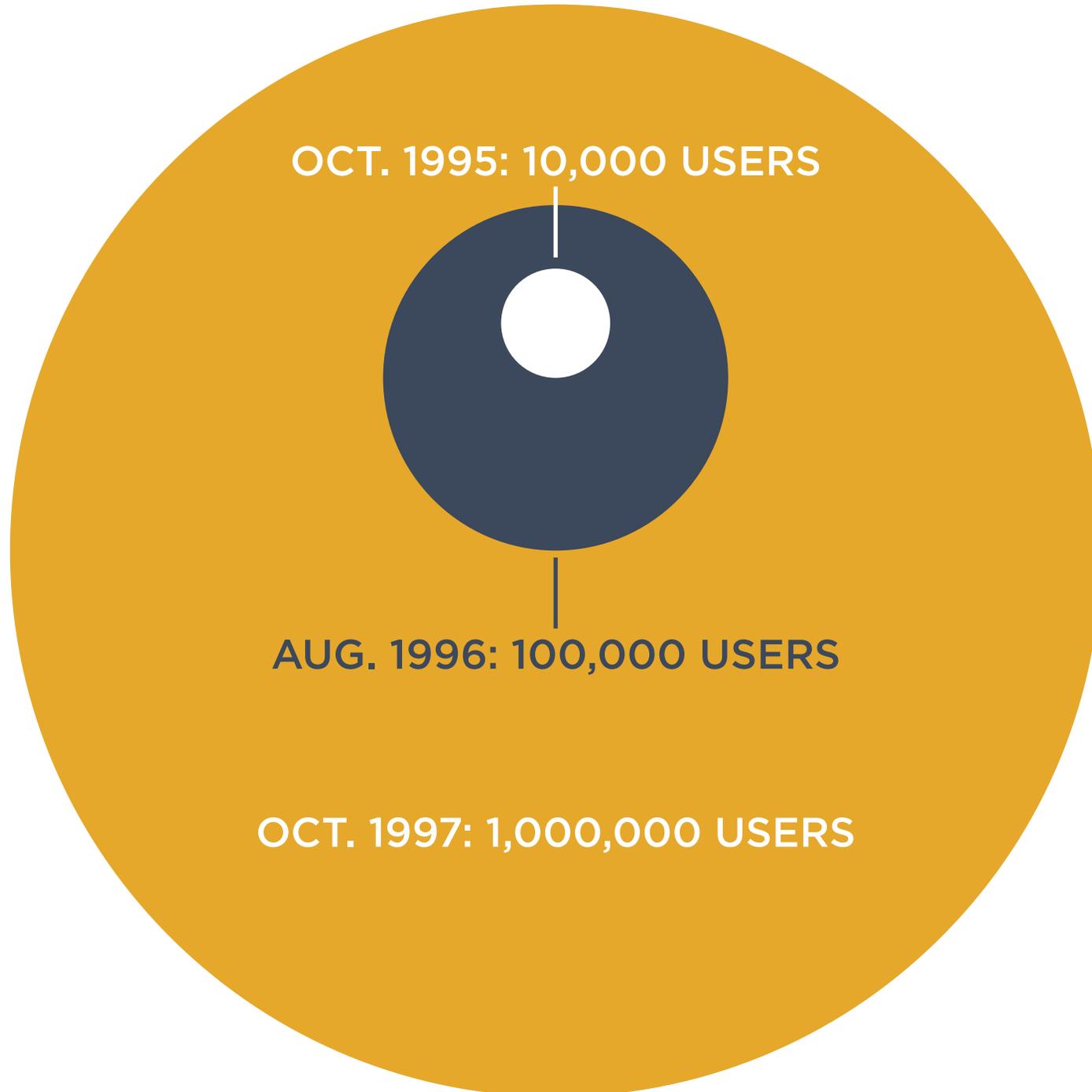
- [Cigars](#)
- [Wine](#)
- [Beer](#)
- [Links](#)
- [Home](#)

The main purpose of this page is to give me a forum to voice my views and opinions on cigars, good beer and fine wine. It's also a pretty good way for me to learn HTML. This page was first created on May 8, 1996 and will take some time to evolve, so if you are into cigars you might want to check back every once in a while to see what's up. It is always nice to know what other people

Welcome to my home page, devoted to some of the finer pleasures in life; good cigar

Start Cigardude's Smoking ... 00:36

GEOCITIES USERS:



Neighbourhoods (1994-1999)

Our communities are home to the most popular collection of **FREE HOME PAGES & E-MAIL** on the web. Please join or visit one of our 29 neighborhoods today.

Miss an episode of your favorite soap?
Click here.

[Click here if you missed an episode of your favorite soap.](#)

G E O C I T I E S YOUR HOME ON THE WEB

29 NEIGHBORHOODS

- ENTER HERE
- INFORMATION
- NEIGHBORHOODS**
- WHAT'S NEW?
- WHAT'S COOL?
- WHAT IS GEOCITIES?

New Feature

Travel
CLICK HERE FOR TRAVEL!
[Air, car & hotel reservations with free express delivery of your tickets!](#)

[*Current members enter here](#)

Neighborhood *Directory and Profile*

Our [Homesteaders](#) set up residency in one of our twenty-nine themed communities, based on the content of their home page. **If you are interested in joining one of our communities**, please read the descriptions below and choose the neighborhood whose theme corresponds to the intended theme of your home page.

For access to the neighborhood features, *homesteader pages* and a whole lot more, or to apply for residency, click on the name of the GeoCities neighborhood you're interested in.

Topic-based clustering

Makeup

Survey of 432 websites:
20.8% built by adults;
15.9% clearly by children/
youth;

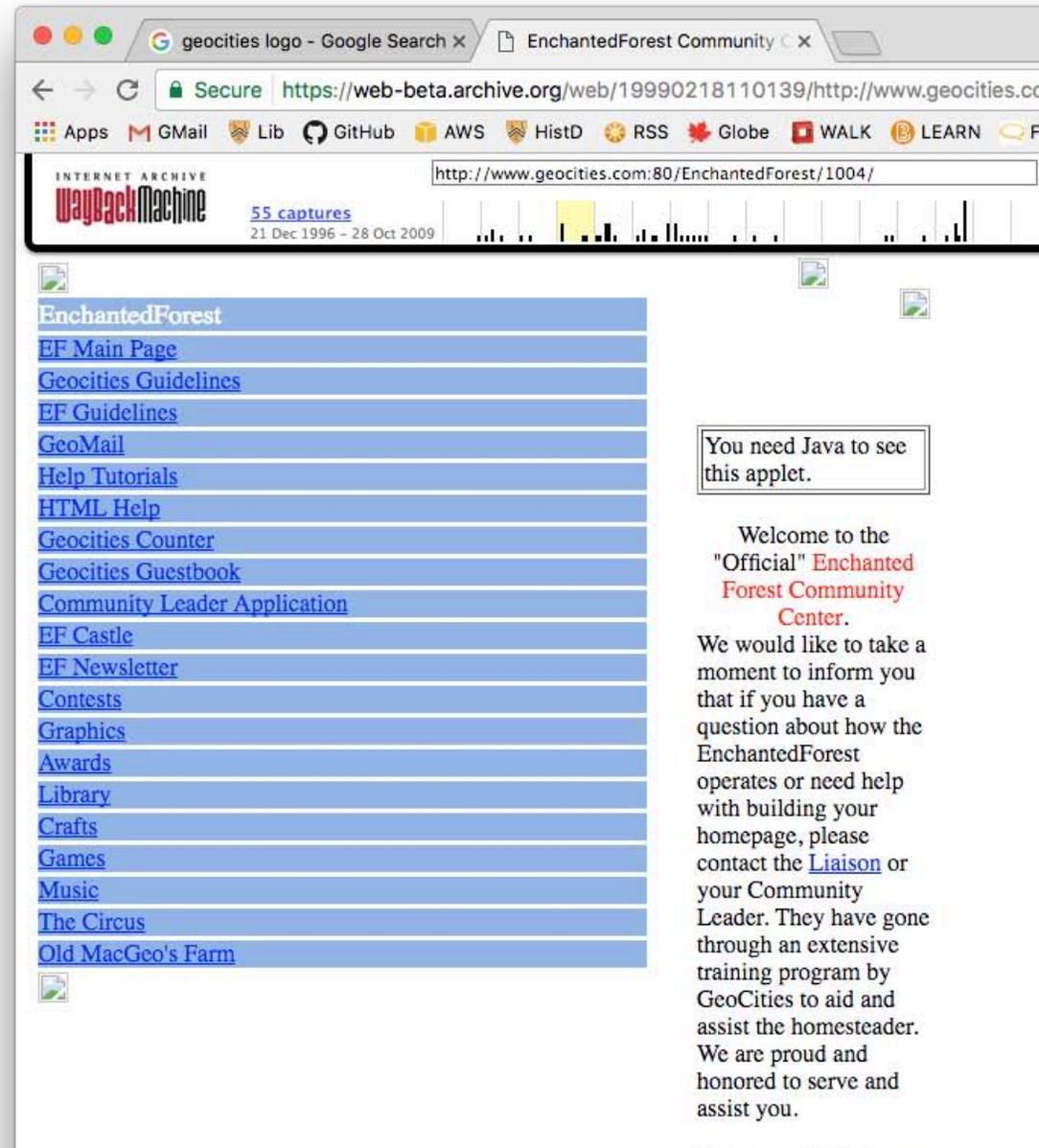
The rest we weren't
comfortable determining.



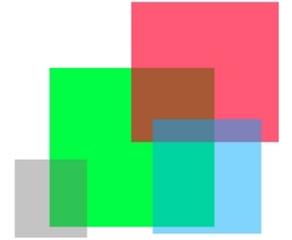
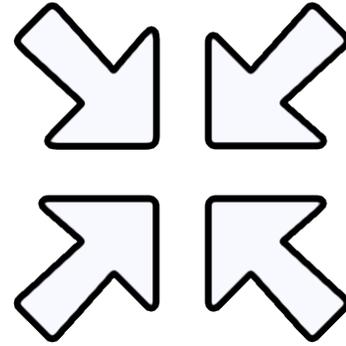
The screenshot shows the GeoCities website interface. At the top, there is a navigation bar with the text "click there" and "to find people" flanking a "WHOWHERE?" logo. Below this is a purple banner with "GEOCITIES" and "YOUR HOME O". The main content area features a large graphic for the "ENCHANTED FOREST" neighborhood, showing a girl reading a book. To the right of this graphic are several blue buttons labeled "What's", "Infor", "Neighb", and "Ho". Below the main graphic, there are two purple banners: "RESIDENTIAL DISTRICT" and "COMMERCIAL DISTRICT", with a "JOIN!" button between them. A small gift icon is positioned to the left of a text block that says "Come celebrate the holidays with GeoCities by visiting [Pole](#) neighborhood." Below this, there are three horizontal sections of text: "Read messages from your neighbors in the [EnchantedForest n](#) Contribute your own stories, birthday wishes and more!", "Please take a moment to read the [special content guidelines](#) re EnchantedForest neighborhood.", and "EnchantedForest also has its own [GeoRewards program](#) that's". On the left side of the page, there is a teal vertical sidebar with a "G" logo and icons of a bar chart and a laptop. The sidebar contains the following links: "COMMUNITY LEADERS", "SEARCH", "UTILITIES", and "HELP".

Community Leader

Welcome to the EnchantedForest, home of the littlest GeoCitizens and some of the best homepages. This is a neighborhood for pages by kids, for kids - from animals to zephyrs, the Forest has everything that a young mind could need. **This neighborhood is safe for anyone to wander through, and it's safe because of the dedicated Community Leaders who so generously volunteer their time to keeping it safe.**



Technical dimensions



Using Warchbase:

**Filter-Analyze-Aggregate-
Visualize** Cycle

www.geocities.com/EnchantedForest/Glade/3891

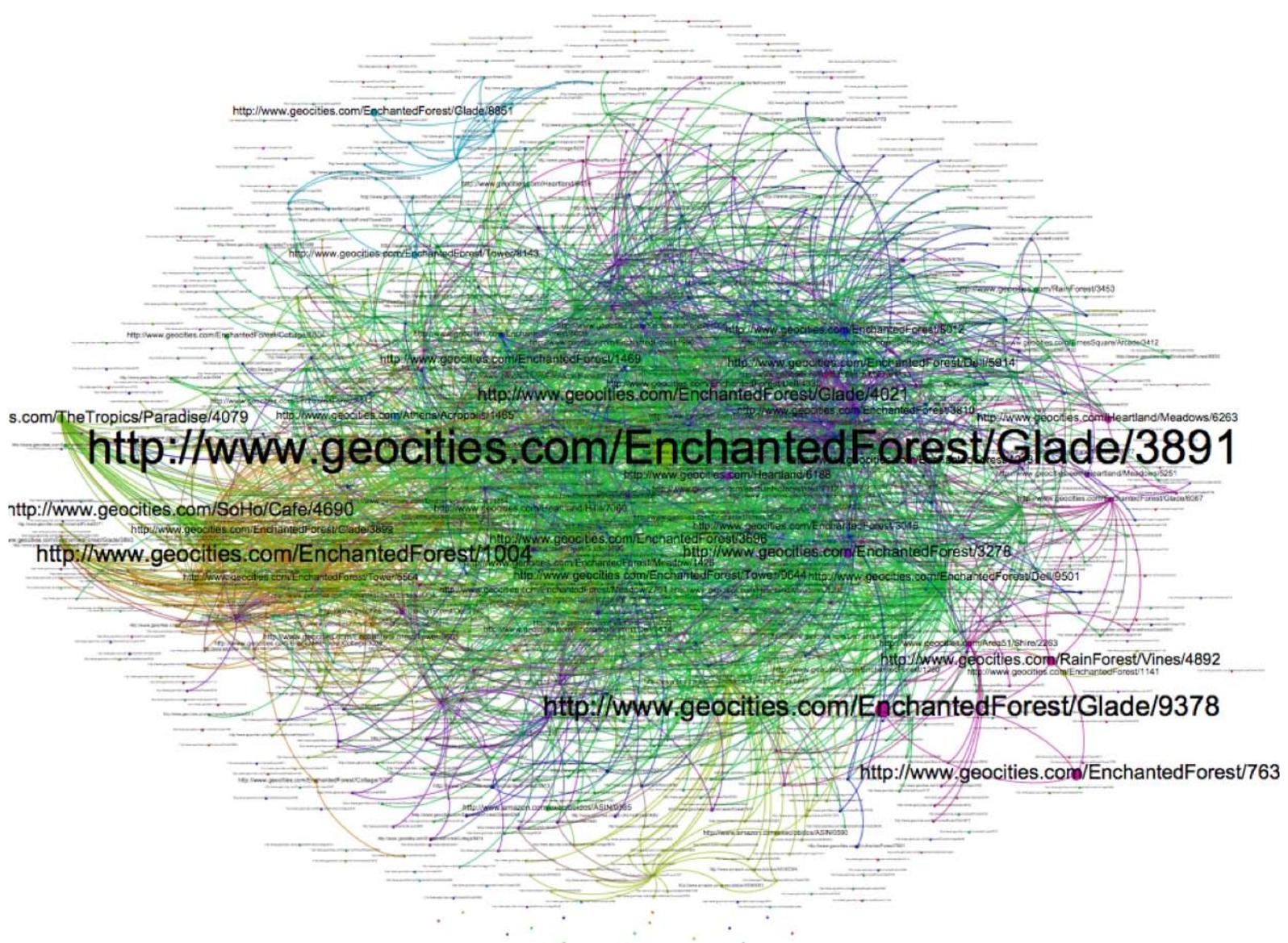
<http://www.geocities.com/Solfa/EnchantedForest>

<http://www.geocities.com/EnchantedForest/1004>

<http://www.geocities.com/EnchantedForest/Glade/0221>

<http://www.geocities.com/EnchantedForest/Glade/9378>

<http://www.geocities.com/EnchantedForest/7631>



<http://www.geocities.com/EnchantedForest/Glade/8851>

<http://www.geocities.com/EnchantedForest/Tower/4143>

<http://www.geocities.com/EnchantedForest/Cottage/3304>

<http://www.geocities.com/EnchantedForest/1459>

<http://www.geocities.com/EnchantedForest/5012>

<http://www.geocities.com/EnchantedForest/Dell/5814>

<http://www.geocities.com/EnchantedForest/Glade/4021>

<http://www.geocities.com/TheTropics/Paradise/4079>

<http://www.geocities.com/Athens/Acropolis/1485>

<http://www.geocities.com/EnchantedForest/3810>

<http://www.geocities.com/Heartland/Meadows/6263>

<http://www.geocities.com/EnchantedForest/Glade/3891>

<http://www.geocities.com/Heartland/6188>

<http://www.geocities.com/SoHo/Cafe/4690>

<http://www.geocities.com/EnchantedForest/Glade/3888>

<http://www.geocities.com/EnchantedForest/1004>

<http://www.geocities.com/EnchantedForest/3278>

<http://www.geocities.com/EnchantedForest/Tower/6504>

<http://www.geocities.com/EnchantedForest/Tower/9644>

<http://www.geocities.com/EnchantedForest/Dell/9501>

<http://www.geocities.com/RainForest/Vines/4892>

<http://www.geocities.com/EnchantedForest/Glade/9378>

<http://www.geocities.com/EnchantedForest/763>

**From exploring these sites we
can begin to find the sites that
form the core of our story.**

HOORAY



HOORAY



HOORAY



ENCHANTED FOREST AWARDS



Welcome to the Enchanted Forest Awards Page!

Hip Hip Hooray!

Everyone likes to win awards right?

Well what are you waiting for?

Criteria for an award

- **Links:** Links had to work and be age-appropriate (“Kidsafe”);
- **Graphics:** Graphics had to be working and could not just be linked from other servers;
- **Loading time:** Pages had to load in under a minute;
- **Navigation:** Sites had to be easy to navigate – suggested code was provided to make a drop-down menu at the bottom of your site;
- **Frames:** If a site had frames, it had to have a non-framed version for older browsers;
- **Content:** It had to “offer a person looking at your site more than just one thing to see”;
- **Personal Info:** Your site couldn’t contain personal information, such as last names, dates of birth, and address;
- **Layout:** The site needed to be “attractive and organized.”

The Connective Tissue of the Enchanted Forest

**Finding pages of
individual children**

One well-connected example

Hi! My name is Brandon. I am 10 years old. As you can tell from the music, I am a big fan of Star Wars. My hobbies include baseball (I hate that my season is over), football, watching nascar races (my favorite driver is Ernie Ervin), riding my bike, and playing my games. My favorite game on Virtual Boy is Mario Tennis, Sonic and Knuckles on Sega Genesis, Willy Beamish on Sega CD, Teenage Mutant turtles on Super Ninetendo [sic], and Star wars on 32x. When I grow up, I want to be a baseball player. We live in S.C. I would like to hear from you!



Another

INTERNET ARCHIVE
Wayback Machine
6 captures
7 Apr 01 - 20 Oct 09

http://geocities.com/EnchantedForest/Tower/9644/Puzzle.html Go

AUG 2002

Help Pooh solve this puzzle!! All you do is find the words in the blocks, then when you finish you will notice that there are 8 blocks not crossed out, just unscramble those letters and [E-mail](mailto:beauty12@geocities.com) the word and your E-mail to me (at beauty12@geocities.com) TO GET YOUR AWARD!! Good Luck!!

| | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|--|--|
| B | E | E | K | O | L | W | O | | |
| A | P | E | A | O | O | R | O | | |
| D | I | S | N | E | Y | A | H | | |
| T | I | G | G | E | R | B | B | | |
| E | B | R | A | O | H | B | O | | |
| L | H | U | N | N | Y | I | T | | |
| G | O | P | H | E | R | T | H | | |
| I | A | A | M | I | L | N | E | | |
| P | E | E | Y | O | R | E | R | | |

AAMILNE
BEE
DISNEY
EEYORE
GOPHER
HUNNY
KANGA
OH BOTHER
OWL
PIGLET
ROO
RABBIT
TIGGER

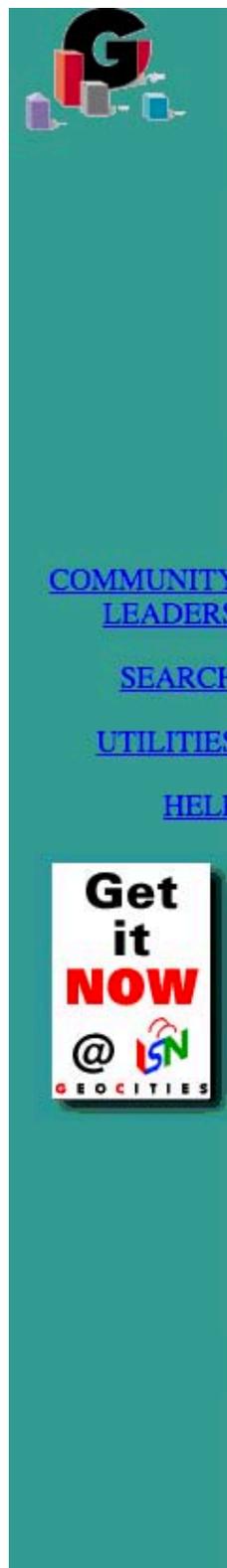
This is the **AWARD** you will win!!

HOME

Suddenly we have access to the voices of thousands we never before would have had in our archives, and a method to find them.

But also dubious ones...

- One of the most central pages was the **GeoKidz club** - tenth highest PageRank in GeoCities



COMMUNITY LEADERS
SEARCH
UTILITIES
HELP



[Find a new flame...click here!](#)

GEOCITIES YOUR HOME ON THE WEB



ENCHANTED FOREST

- [What's New?](#)
- [Information](#)
- [Neighborhoods](#)
- [Home](#)

| | | |
|---|--|---|
| Browse Great Pages Here | Join This Neighborhood | Visit Our Commercial Sponsors |
|---|--|---|

[Tell us how to improve your neighborhood](#)

SAY HI TO OUR NEW PARTNERS
We're pleased to welcome [RockVillage](#), [Earwig](#), [CountrySpotlight](#) and [GroovePlanet](#) to our GeoPartners program. These sites are affiliated with over 90 radio stations around the country. Tune in today!

GEOCITIES MARKETPLACE UPDATE

\$10 off on your first purchase of \$50 or more at [Internet Shopping Network](#)

Shop for [computer products](#), [flowers](#) or GeoCities [logo items](#) ... or just [play!](#)

Read messages from your neighbors in the [EnchantedForest newsletter](#).
Contribute your own stories, birthday wishes and more!

Have you ever given your dad an OUTRAGEOUS Fathers Day gift? Tell us about it for our [Father's Day Contest!](#) All entrants will get this graphic to put on their pages to show off.



Join the [GeoKidz Club!](#)

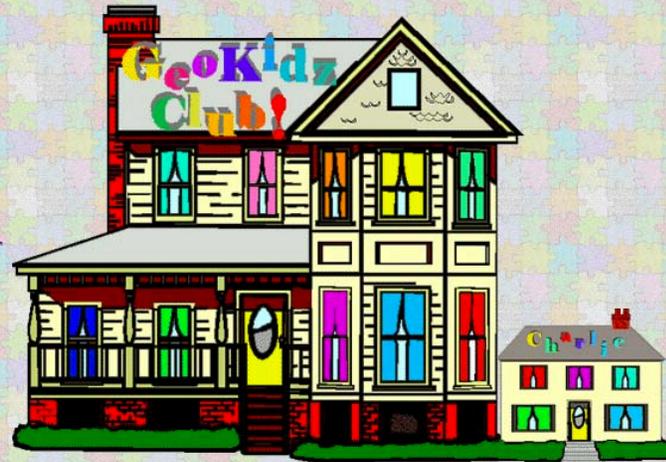
Welcome to the Official

Attic Window
[Email Us!](#)

Top Floor from LEFT to RIGHT
[How to get your free Home Page](#)
[*Important* Stuff to Read](#)
[General Questions \(Not HTML\)](#)
[Newsletters, Links & GuestBook](#)
[GeoKidz Club SmallKidz Room](#)

Bottom Floor from LEFT to RIGHT
[Recreation Room](#)
[GeoKidz Club Message Forums](#)
[GeoKidz Club BIGKidz Room](#)
[The HTML Center](#)
[Gallery of Members' Work](#)

Door
[Join the GeoKidz Club!](#)



Click on the door and windows to visit all the rooms in the Club House!

IMPORTANT! Please check the Important Stuff to Read Page Regularly. That's where we let you know all the things that are happening and the new things that are added to the Club. If you don't read it, you might miss knowing something important!

The site and its contents are all © Melange 1997

This page hosted by [GeoCities](#) Get your own [Free Home Page](#)

The GeoKidz Club

Poetry, book reviews, chat rooms, games, book reviews,
HTML lessons.

The catch...

“Part of [the survey] might ask them does daddy play golf, how many clubs does he have, do you have a cat or dog, how many rooms in your house, do you have a car, does mummy and daddy drive, and how many cars do they have.”

– Moira Scollay, Federal Privacy Commissioner of Australia, 1998

**This is going to turn
out well...**



Home » News & Events » Press Releases » Internet Site Agrees to Settle FTC Charges of Deceptively Collecting Personal Information in Agency's First Internet Privacy Case

Internet Site Agrees to Settle FTC Charges of Deceptively Collecting Personal Information in Agency's First Internet Privacy Case

Commission Establishes Strong Mechanisms for Protecting Consumers' Privacy Online

FOR RELEASE

August 13, 1998

GeoCities, one of the most popular sites on the World Wide Web, has agreed to settle Federal Trade Commission charges that it misrepresented the purposes for which it was collecting personal identifying information from children and adults. This is the first FTC case involving Internet privacy. Under the settlement, GeoCities has agreed to post on its site a clear and prominent Privacy Notice, telling consumers what information is being collected and for what purpose, to whom it will be disclosed, and how consumers can access and remove the information. To ensure parental control, GeoCities also would have to obtain parental consent before collecting information from children 12 and under.

"GeoCities misled its customers, both children and adults, by not telling the truth about how it was using their personal information," said Jodie Bernstein, Director of the FTC's Bureau of Consumer Protection. "This case is a



EVENTS
CALENDAR

Related Cases

GeoCities

Media Resources

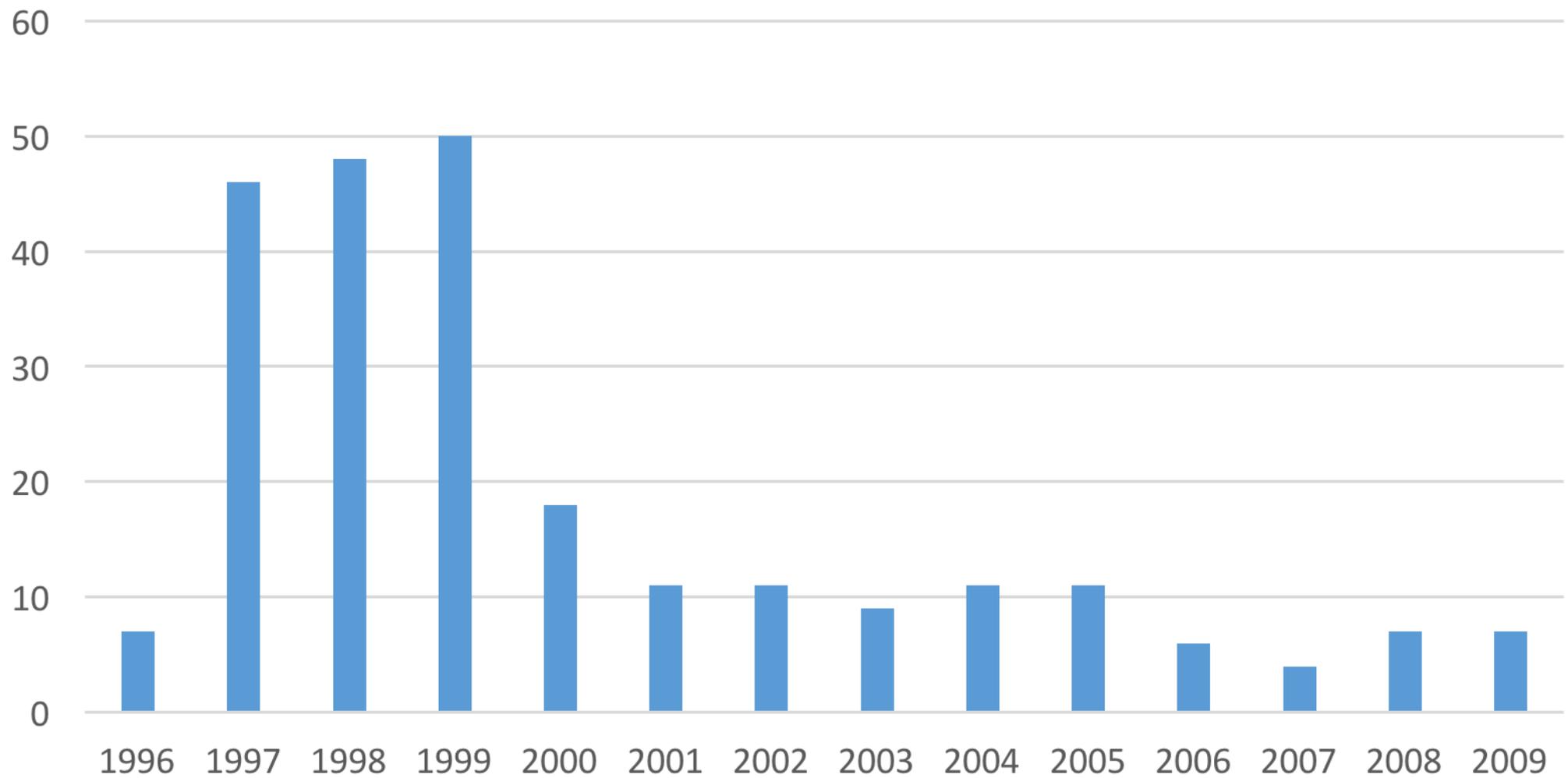
Our [Media Resources](#) library provides one-stop collections of materials on numerous issues in which the FTC has been actively engaged. These pages are especially useful for members of the media.

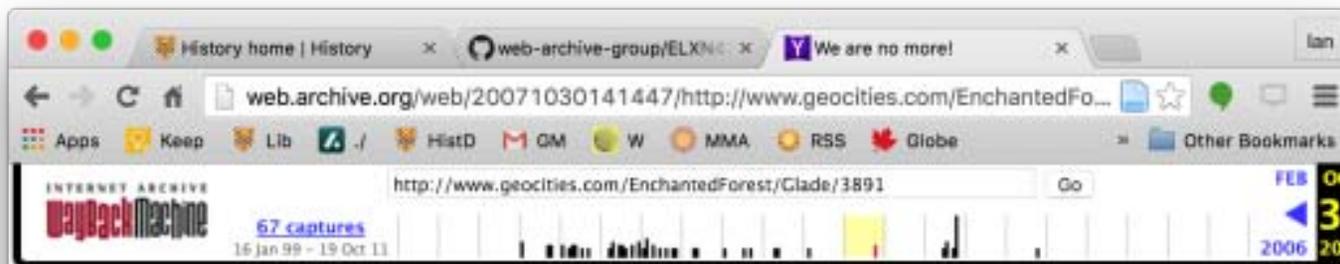
Home

**Changed the
dynamics.**

All Good Things Must
End...

Last Modified Dates in EnchantedForest Sample





Yahoo got rid of us! Sorry but we do not exist anymore. We haven't in a long time now. Yahoo doesn't care about the kids anymore. Pedophiles and porno sickos can now run rampid and there's nothing anyone at Yahoo is gonna do! They just don't care about the safety of children. All they care about is numbers and money!
May God have mercy on them all!



Conclusions

A preliminary history of the Enchanted Forest



The screenshot shows the GeoCities website for the Enchanted Forest neighborhood. At the top, there is a navigation bar with the text "click there" and "to find people" flanking a "WHOWHERE?" logo. Below this is a purple banner with "GEOCITIES" and "YOUR HOME". The main content area features a large illustration of a girl reading a book in a forest, with the text "ENCHANTED FOREST" overlaid. To the right of the illustration are several buttons: "What's", "Info", "Neighbors", and "Home". Below the illustration, there are two purple banners: "RESIDENTIAL DISTRICT" and "COMMERCIAL DISTRICT", with a "JOIN!" button in between. A small gift icon is next to the text "Come celebrate the holidays with GeoCities by visiting the Pole neighborhood." Below this, there are three paragraphs of text: "Read messages from your neighbors in the EnchantedForest neighborhood. Contribute your own stories, birthday wishes and more!", "Please take a moment to read the special content guidelines for the EnchantedForest neighborhood.", and "EnchantedForest also has its own GeoRewards program that".

click there **WHOWHERE?** to find people

GEOCITIES YOUR HOME

ENCHANTED FOREST

RESIDENTIAL DISTRICT COMMERCIAL DISTRICT JOIN!

Come celebrate the holidays with GeoCities by visiting the Pole neighborhood.

Read messages from your neighbors in the [EnchantedForest](#) neighborhood. Contribute your own stories, birthday wishes and more!

Please take a moment to read the [special content guidelines](#) for the EnchantedForest neighborhood.

EnchantedForest also has its own [GeoRewards program](#) that

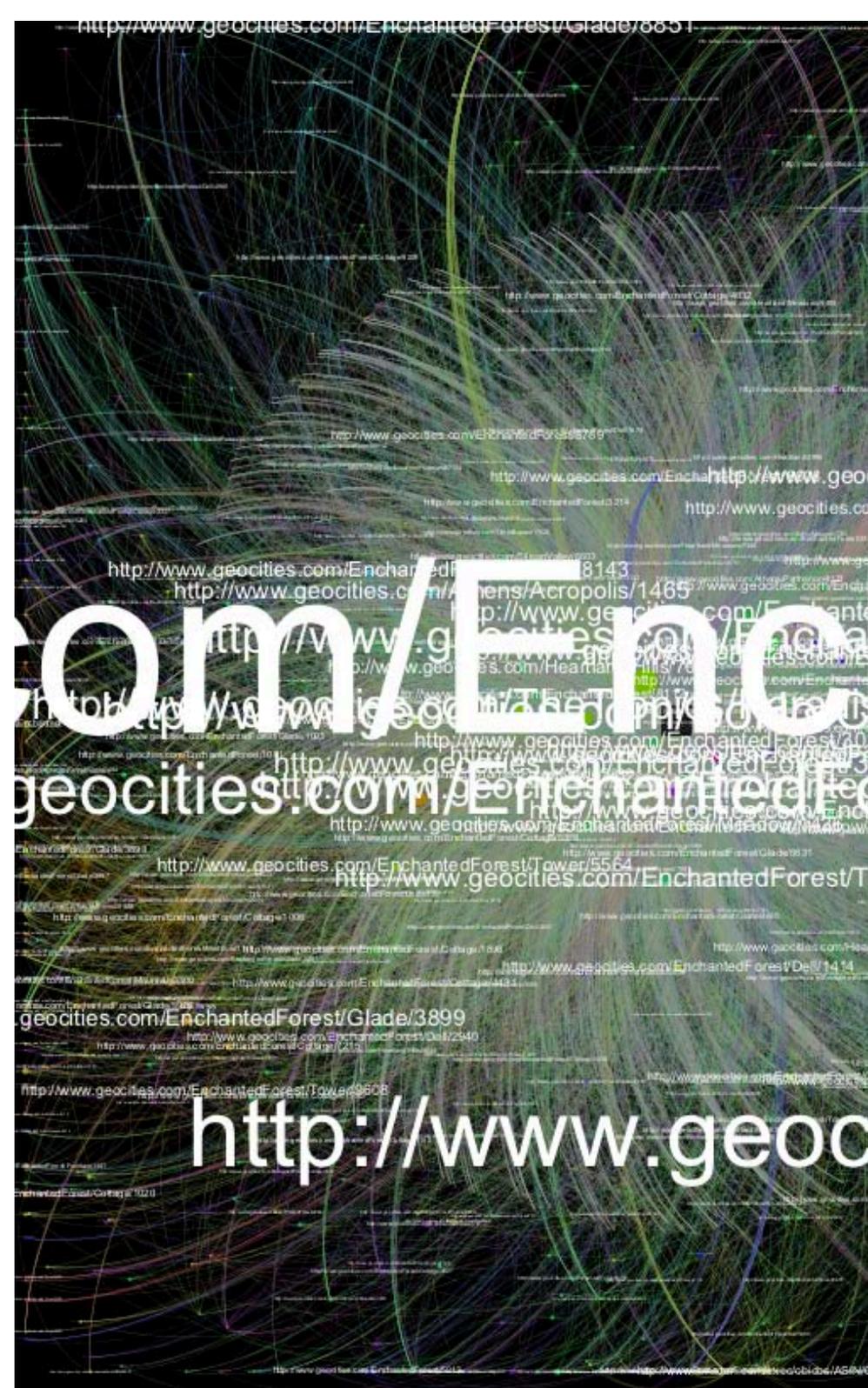
COMMUNITY LEADERS

SEARCH

UTILITIES

HELP

How we can
work with
these sources.



All of this matters.



Social Sciences and Humanities
Research Council of Canada

Conseil de recherches en
sciences humaines du Canada

Canada



compute
canada

calcul
canada



UNIVERSITY OF
WATERLOO

Thanks very much!

Ian Milligan
Assistant Professor
@ianmilligan1



UNIVERSITY OF WATERLOO
FACULTY OF ARTS
Department of History