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Becoming a Web Archivist:

My 10 Year Journey in the National Library of Estonia

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You can't connect the dots looking forward; you can only connect them looking backwards (Steve Jobs)

- 2002 – first contact with web preservation topic
  - Bachelor's thesis *Library's Electronic Catalog as Intermediator of Internet Resources (*Information Sciences, Tallinn University)
- 2008 – senior bibliographer of web resources; Collection Development Department, National Library of Estonia
- 2009 – preparations to relaunch the web archiving program

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Legal aspects of web archiving

- 2006–2016 Legal Deposit Act allowed to collect web publications and make them publicly accessible
- since 2017 - new coplitely revised Legal Deposit Copy Act
  - More specific criteria
  - Restricted access, except if permissions from copyright holders were gained
- Open access to government websites by default (according to Public Information Act)

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Selection principles

- Former policy overly library oriented
- 2010 - expert group of people from different memory and research institutions to cover wider range of interests
- 2011 - new selection policy
- 2010-2015 only selective and event/thematic harvesting
- 2016 – first bulk harvesting of Estonian web content

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Aquisition (methods and tools)

2010-2015

- Selective, event/topical
- Netarcive Suite
- Heritrix version 1.14
- Multiple seeds in one job (topically divided)
- QA – manual browsing

Since 2016

- Selective, event/topical, bulk
- in-house built curation tool
- Heritrix version 3.3
- One seed per job (with few exceptions)
- QA – manual browsing, Heritrix reports analysis
- Screenshots of websites' homepages (since 2016)
- Deduplication (since 2017)

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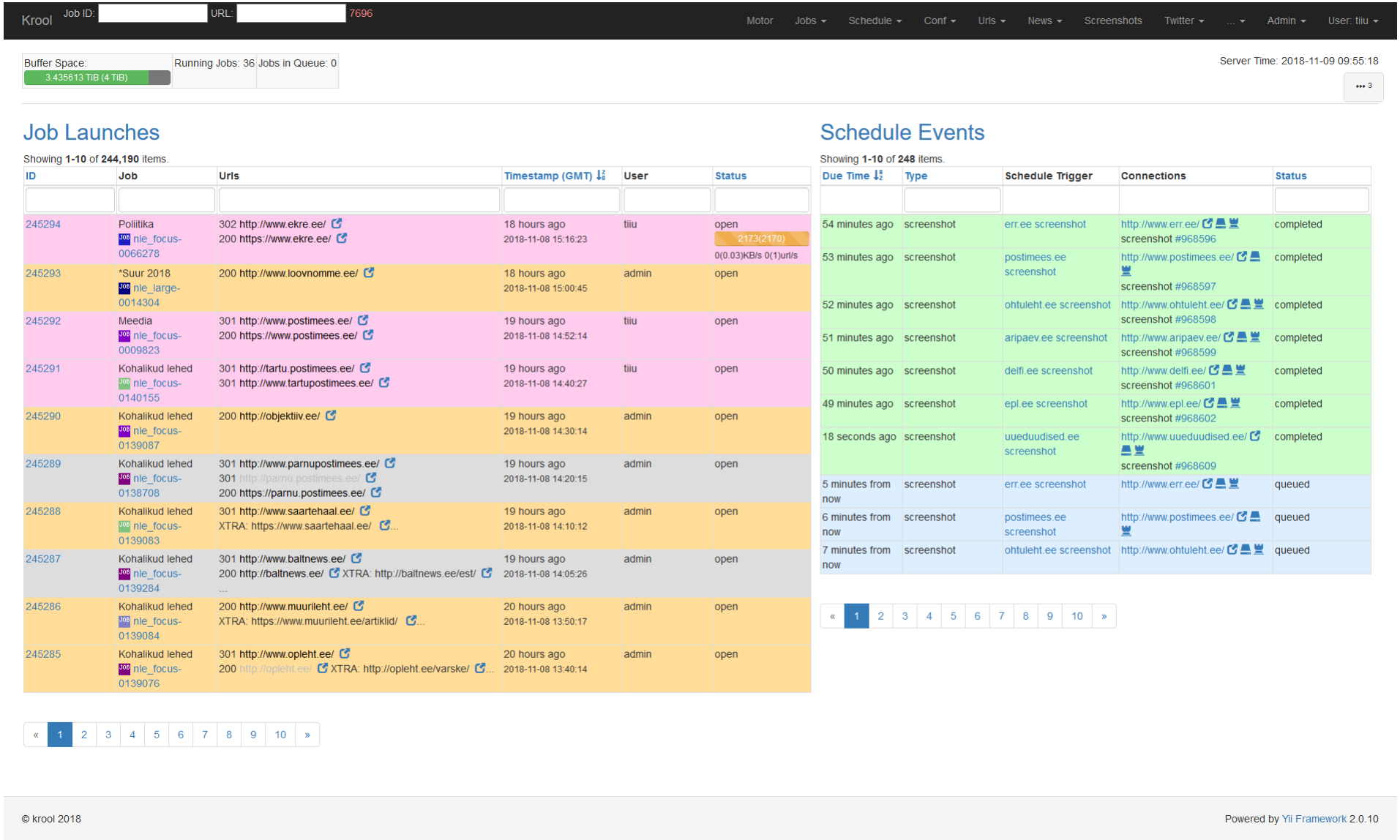
Curator tool „Krool“



Content description and discovery

- Thematic catalog of archived websites
- Search by URL or words in metadata fields (title, description, seed/related URL)
- Not standarized yet – implementation of Dublin Core and OCLC's „Descriptive Metadata for Web Archiving" planned in 2019
- Wayback Machine's old version in public portal
- Python WayBack – for internal use (QA)
- Full-text search in coming years

Preservation

- Archive size 28,7 TB
- Bit preservation
- 2 copies: library’s disc space + magnetic tape outside the library
- Long-term preservation solution
  - on the analysis stage with as-is process map freshly done, final results are expected in March 2019

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Formation of the web archive team

Profile	2009-2012	2013	2014	2015	2017-
Web curator	1 full-time	1 full-time + 1 part-time	3 full-time	2 full-time	2 full-time
Technical staff	1 part-time	1 part-time	1 part-time	1 full-time	2 full-time

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IIPC – our supporting pillar

- Member since 2012
- Most trusted source of expertise
- Specific community for a very specific task – almost like a secret sect
- Different communication channels, webinars, annual meetings etc.
- Cooperation through collaborative collections
- Not too active in working groups, more keeping eye on them

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Concluding remarks

- Comparing to 2008, landscape has changed remarkably
  - Web archiving is widely recognized activity among memory institutions
  - Most national libraries (at least in Europe) have launched their nations web preservation programs
  - Plenty of (professional) information and events organized
  - Bigger media coverage
- Web is like a jungle –constant struggle with obstacles in capturing the content (robot blocking, limited technical tools, authenticity etc)

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Concluding remarks

Things I love about my work:

- uniqueness
- very versatile in nature
- encourages creativity
- challenging
- enthusiastic and devoted colleagues
- great international community
- ...etc.

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Thank You!

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