The State of Researcher Use of Web Archives

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**Motivation:** There is growing community of researchers working with Internet Archive data.

This study sought to understand the ways in which researchers and librarians use and collect Internet and Web archives

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Web Archiving Collaboration: New Tools and Models
June 2015
Collection Development / Descriptive Metadata and Access
What did we want to learn?

• More insight on use cases

• Learn about current researcher practices and frequency of web archive and internet data use

• Learn about collecting and metadata practices of librarians/archivists

• Understand the convergences/divergences of researcher and librarian/archivist needs and practices
Survey:

- Distributed in January & February 2016
- Targeted a diverse array of researchers & librarians
- 285 overall respondents
Key Takeaways:

• Researchers are not leveraging existing resources; 49% report collecting their own archives

• Education is key; librarians often have what the research community needs / wants – but researchers aren’t aware

• Many challenges exist – targeted outreach can drive meaningful engagement
33% Librarians / archivists

59% Academics
Researchers focus on exploratory research & analysis...

... But there are indications of misalignment
Researchers perceive barriers to engaging with archives:

- Lack of metadata
- No data relevant to my work
- Hard to find relevant material
- Lack of tools to access data
- Lack of tools to analyze data
- Data are too big!
Researchers want metadata to better understand collections:

- Website title (75%)
- Source (author / creator) (68%)
- Date of capture (65%)
- Keywords (59%)
- Collection policy (48%)
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DATA?
Some metadata exists, but more is needed.
Demonstrate use? Google Analytics of bust.
A surge of researchers are realizing the potential of Web archives
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White paper coming in June 2016!