



The Cart Before the Horse: Web Archiving For Future Access

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The Collection in Question

- Harry Ransom recently acquired a large analog and digital collection from a well known author.
- It has not yet been processed.
- Thus, I need to refer to them as ‘Well Known Author X’, because...



If I tell you...

I'd have

to kill you.



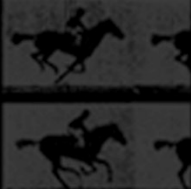
‘X’ Agreed to Website and Social Media Archiving

- I asked ‘X’ if I could archive their current website, blog and Facebook page.
- ‘X’ said yes.



However...

- We did not have an access system in place when I was archiving these materials.
- So the material would be processed, but not accessed by researchers at least 6 months to a year later.



Access Challenges: Website, Blog & Facebook

- How would researchers view these archived website and Facebook files down the road?
- What kind of access would they want?
- What kind of access could I give them?
- What kind of formats would I provide?



Access Solution 1: Website, Blog & Facebook

- First, I mapped out which access formats I would/could provide them.
- ❖ WARC file (WebRecorder.io / WARCCreate)
- ❖ PDF file (Adobe Acrobat Pro)
- ❖ HTML files ('X's Web Developer-website only)
- Overkill, YES...but it gave many options both for me and the researcher.
- *I could do this because the websites were small and had minimal database components.*



Access Solution 2: Website, Blog & Facebook

- Second, I mapped out how I thought researchers would view the files.
- In the Reading Room (like the other born digital materials), using Quick View Plus and a WARC viewer on a computer.
- This gave both of us access options.



Sometimes The Cart Comes Before the Horse

- Sometimes materials come in and need processing, before you are ready to provide access!
- It has happened to me many times...
- Just go with a plan, and be prepared to change that plan after access is provided and you get feedback from researchers.
- Embrace change...

A fluffy brown and white cat with a grumpy expression is sitting in a patch of green grass. The cat has dark brown patches around its eyes and on its ears, with white fur on its face and body. Its eyes are half-closed, and its mouth is slightly downturned. The background is a soft-focus outdoor setting with more greenery.

There's only two things I don't like:

Change and the way things are.



HRC

HARRY RANSOM
CENTER

Thank You!

- Lisa Snider
Harry Ransom Center (until August 30th) /
Canadian Museum of Human Rights (Sept. 2nd)
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