**Other approach: Using history files saved on the computer**

Always returns SQLite files: retrieve file from computer (use javascript?), let user inspect file, submit whitelisted + “user-cleaned” content (Similar to WebHistorian)

Advantages:

* Works for all browsers (not tested yet: Internet Explorer), also when multiple ones are used -> No need to switch browsers
* Works for all operating systems (Windows, Linux, Mac)
* Tracks mobile and browser in one (if synched)
* On Android devices FB and Twitter in-app browsing can be disabled and are also tracked (not possible for iphones; here one can only manually do this)
* No additional software needs to be downloaded (as the files are already on the computer)

Downsides:

* Synching
  + Needs to be done for all browsers that are used (and very annoying with multiple accounts .e.g. gmail accounts or is this not a problem as long as the main syncing account it not signed out? Additional accounts can be open but do not affect the syncing?)
  + Option to somehow make a fake account/email for the duration of the study? (to not “force” people to submit their old history/make an account with the different providers)
  + Have option of people participating in the study even if they do not want to sync/didn’t sync before (makes comparison possible)
* Finding the file
  + Done by the user or via client-side javascript? What is the easiest way of doing this? -> location by Opera, Firefox and Chrome is shown via the Help, could be extracted
  + For Safari no way to look it up in browser -> always the same in all versions?
* Processing the file
  + Have the SQLite databases changed over time or did the schema stay the same? How much work to adapt this continuously?
* Except for Safari no distinction between devices in database (was it mobile or browser?)
* Apps that do not use browsing (news apps etc) are not included at all (big downside for tracking mobile news consumption since it mostly happens via the applications -> but also not included in Google Takeout)

**Firefox:**

Help -> Troubleshooting -> Profile Directory -> Click on “Show in Finder”/”Open Directory”

File “places.sqlite” submitten

Example for MAC:

<file:///Users/felicialoecherbach1/Library/Application%20Support/Firefox/Profiles/>

Example for Linux(Ubuntu):

<file:///home/felicia/.mozilla/firefox/dsiz0ro7.default/places.sqlite>

**Chrome:**

type <chrome://version> into the browser -> copy Profile Path ->

file:// + path in browser OR copy in ‘Go To’/file browser

submit file “History”

Example for MAC:

<file:///Users/felicialoecherbach1/Library/Application%20Support/Google/Chrome/Default/History>

Example for Linux(Ubuntu)

<file:///home/felicia/.config/google-chrome/Default/>

**Opera (only with Android phones, otherwise history is not synced):**

Help -> About opera -> Paths -> Profile shows the file name -> copy and paste ->

file:// + path in browser OR copy in ‘Go To’/file browser

submit file “History”

Example for MAC:

<file:///Users/felicialoecherbach1/Library/Application%20Support/com.operasoftware.Opera/History>

Example for Linux(Ubuntu)

<file://home/felicia/.config/opera>

**Safari (only MAC):**

<file:///Users/felicialoecherbach1/Library/> or copy in ‘Go To’ (without file://)

Go to Safari -> History.db

TODO:

Internet explorer? -> Does not work on linux and mac, so I cannot test it

Samsung browser: can apparently be synced with Firefox by signing in

Example Paths for Windows

Make Screenshots for explanations (signing in/sync + finding files)