Archive-It

Susan Leach-Murray

Some of the other highlights from the website include information about Encoded Archival Description (EAD) finding aids and how to create them, emergency management, response and recovery, how to become a librarian-in-residence, ask a librarian, interlibrary loan, the National Book Festival, ALA conference information, standards for description, and digital and retrieval standards.

Overall, this website contains a wealth of information and is easy to search and find resources. Librarians and archivists alike can have access to a multitude of materials and be able to assist their own patrons or themselves.

Rating: 5 out of 5

Patricia K. Falk
Bowling Green State University
Bowling Green, Ohio
✉ pkfalk@bgsu.edu

Check for updates

Archive-It

https://archive-it.org

Archive-It "was first deployed in 2006 from the Internet Archive (https://archive.org) and it is a subscription web archiving service collecting and accessing cultural heritage on the web." This website is quite robust with useful information, but not overwhelming for the user.

It is obvious that collections are the focus. A search can begin right from the homepage or by clicking on the Explore menu at the top. There are two ways to search: either by collection name or by collection organization. Each type of search provides an adequately sized scrolling banner that includes an image and a collection title or organization description. Links near the search boxes offer the user quick access to all collections or all organizations. Currently, there are 4,498 collections and 585 organizations listed.

Navigating keyword search results is quite intuitive. One can easily sort all search results alphabetically with one click on the links at the top: A to Z or Z to A. Previous- and next-page buttons are positioned at both the top and bottom of the results list, while the current-page display allows one to understand the position of the results compared to the total number of pages. However, the search results' tabs for Collecting Organizations, Sites, and Search Web Page Text did not seem to work properly at this time. Finally, one can narrow results by Type of Collecting Organization, Collecting Organization, Subject, Creator, Publisher, Contributor, Date, Type, Format, Language, Coverage, and Collector with an option to sort these categories A–Z instead of total number of items (count). This is a clear search and discovery process for any user.

Aside from the collections, more information about Archive-It can be found from the Learn More menu at the top or bottom of the homepage. There is good information provided in four separate tabs: About Archive-It, Blog, Projects, and Conferences. A brief overview of Archive-It and Internet Archive is provided with additional right-side links for staff introductions, informational webinars sign-up, web archiving lifecycle

model white paper, and an Archive-It brochure. Blog posts are current and cover information focused on about web archiving. One can navigate all blog posts page by page back to the oldest blog post on March 11, 2012, keyword search blog posts, or click on blog post categories. A Twitter feed can also be found here. The Archive-It Projects tab has links to various "projects, programs, and opportunities to contribute." The Conferences tab offers a community calendar for upcoming conferences and events where Archive-It will participate. Information about Archive-It Partner Meetings is located here as well.

The standard communication and social media outlets are present. One can complete a form to contact Archive-It and follow them on Facebook, Twitter, or their WordPress blog. However, more detailed information for Archive-It can be found by clicking on the Login button in the top, right of the homepage. While valid users will be allowed to gain access to the back-end of their Archive-It collections and account by logging-in, there is also a wealth of information provided from the Help Center. One does not need to login in order to view this information. Several topics include an Archive-It User Guide (Getting Started, Collections, Quality Assurance, Access, etc.), FAQs along with Software, and Services (Release Notes and Presentations). A handy search box is also available here. Subscription pricing information is absent.

All in all, the Archive-It website is excellent. It is sleek and simple, yet provides the basics for anyone getting started without it being overwhelming for the user. It would be improved if the granular product details were more obviously available from the homepage.

Rating: 4.8 out of 5

Susan Leach-Murray
State of Arizona Research Library, Phoenix, AZ, USA
✉ smurray@azlibrary.gov

Check for updates

Planet Cataloging

http://planetcataloging.org

Web logs, or "blogs," remain a significant platform for niche communities even as other types of social media have grown more visible and popular on the Internet. In the early to mid-2000s, when blogging became increasingly popular, it was difficult to keep track of the different sites that might be of interest, and aggregators that funneled the feeds of multiple blogs to one place became an important tool for anyone who wanted to keep on top of developments. Planet Cataloging was created in 2007 as an aggregator of blogs of interest to cataloging and metadata librarians. It is maintained by librarians Jennifer W. Baxmeyer of Princeton University and Kevin S. Clarke of the University of California, Los Angeles.

Visitors to the site will find a traditionally laid out blog with the latest posts at the top and earlier ones below. These posts are all harvested from a curated list of blogs ("blog roll"). The source blog is indicated by a green caption. The posts are reformatted in the no-nonsense black-text-on-white-background used by Planet Cataloging; clicking the caption will bring you to the original blog post, which might have different formatting. Scrolling