Breaking down the Silos:
The Web Archives for Longitudinal Knowledge Project

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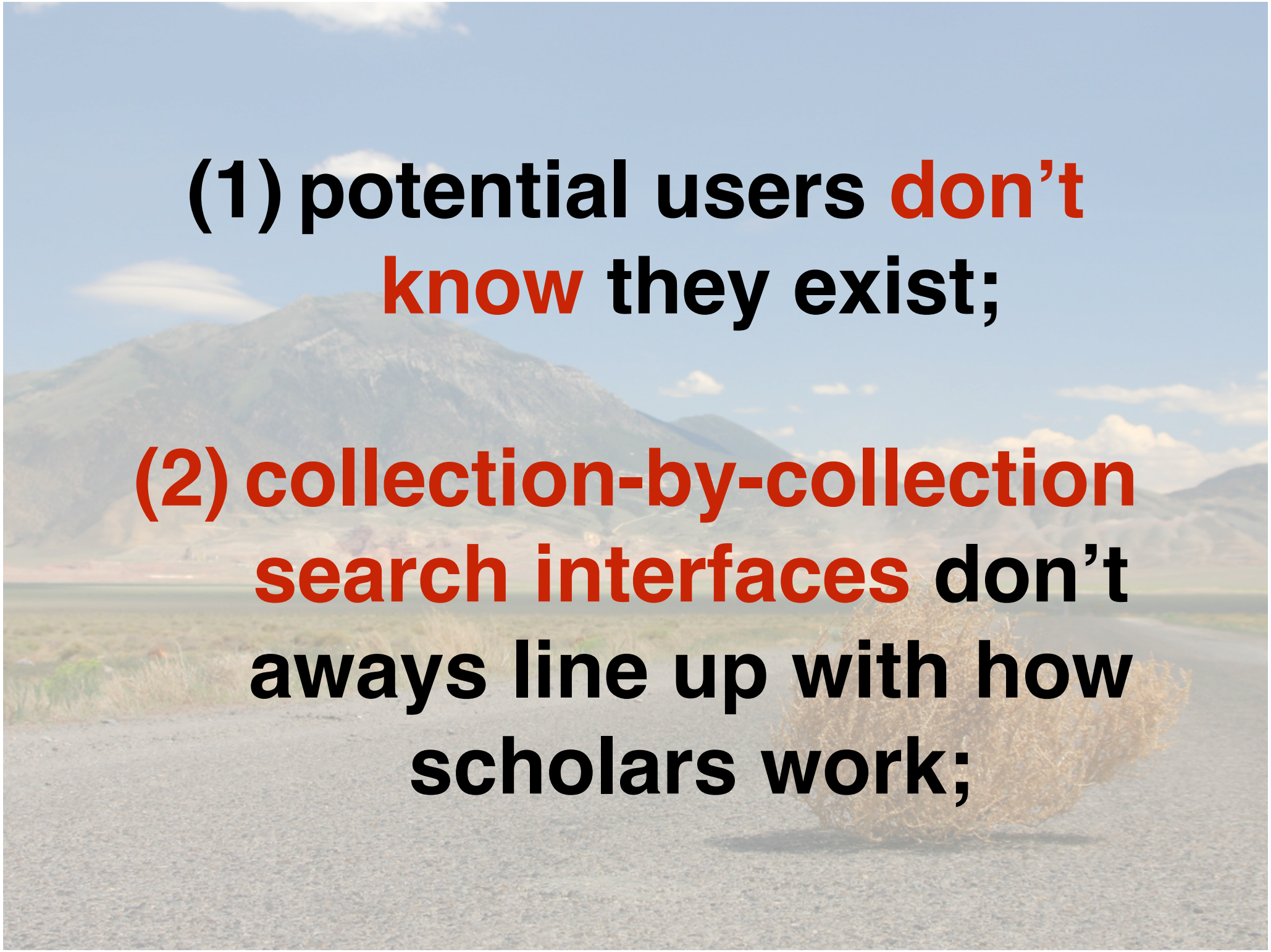
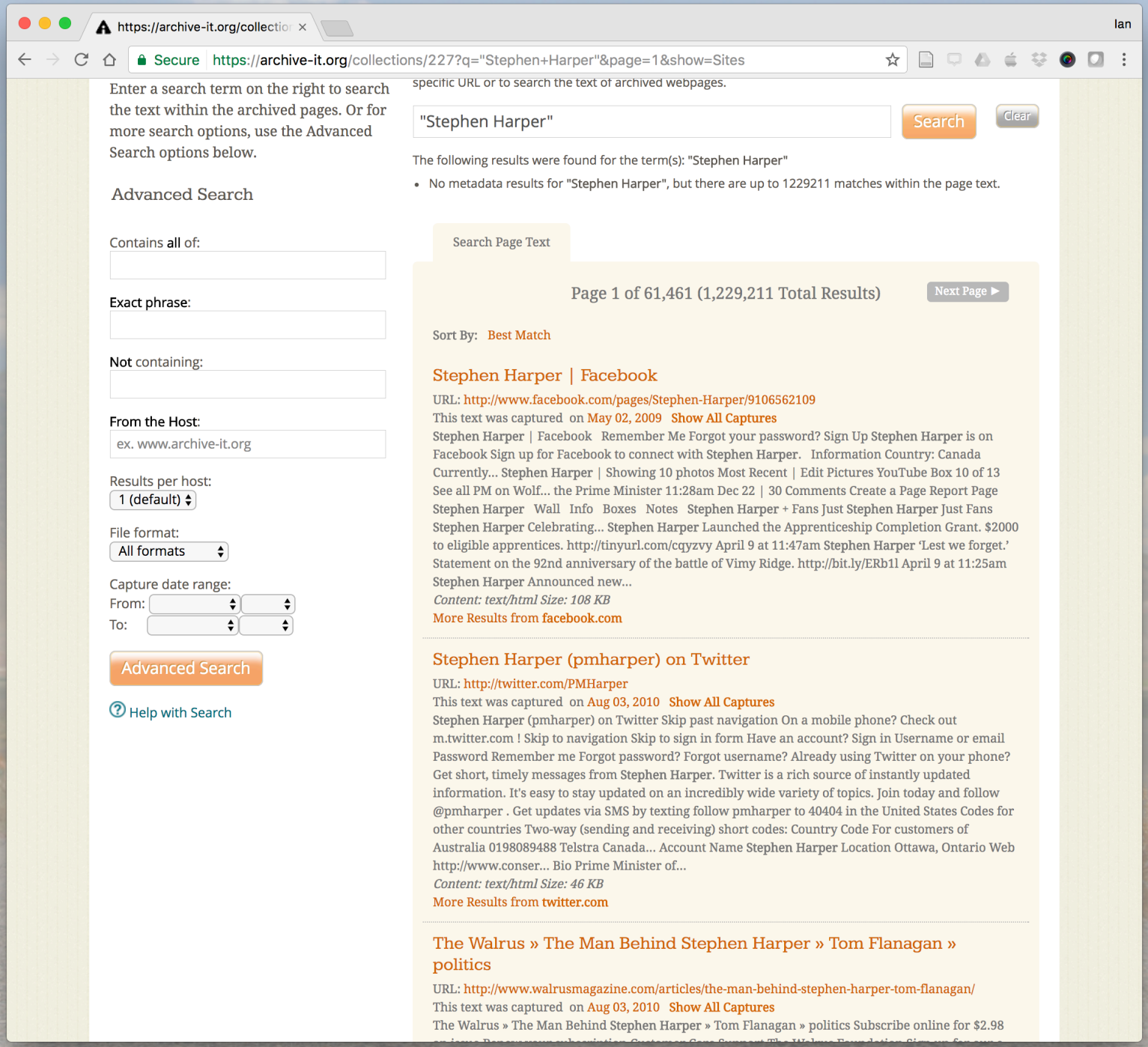
We have fantastic web archival collections in Canada.


But not many people
use them…


(1) potential users don't know they exist;
(2) collection-by-collection search interfaces don't aways line up with how scholars work;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Ian
Secure https://archive-it.org/collections/227?q="Stephen+Harper"&page=1&show=Sites
Enter a search term on the right to search the text within the archived pages. Or for more search options, use the Advanced Search options below.
Advanced Search
Contains all of:
Exact phrase:
Not containing:
From the Host:
ex. www.archive-it.org
Results per host:
1 (default)
File format:
All formats
Capture date range:
From:
To:
Advanced Search
Help with Search
specific URL or to search the text of archived webpages.
"Stephen Harper"
Search
Clear
The following results were found for the term(s): "Stephen Harper"
No metadata results for "Stephen Harper", but there are up to 1229211 matches within the page text.
Search Page Text
Page 1 of 61,461 (1,229,211 Total Results)
Next Page ▶
Sort By: Best Match
Stephen Harper | Facebook
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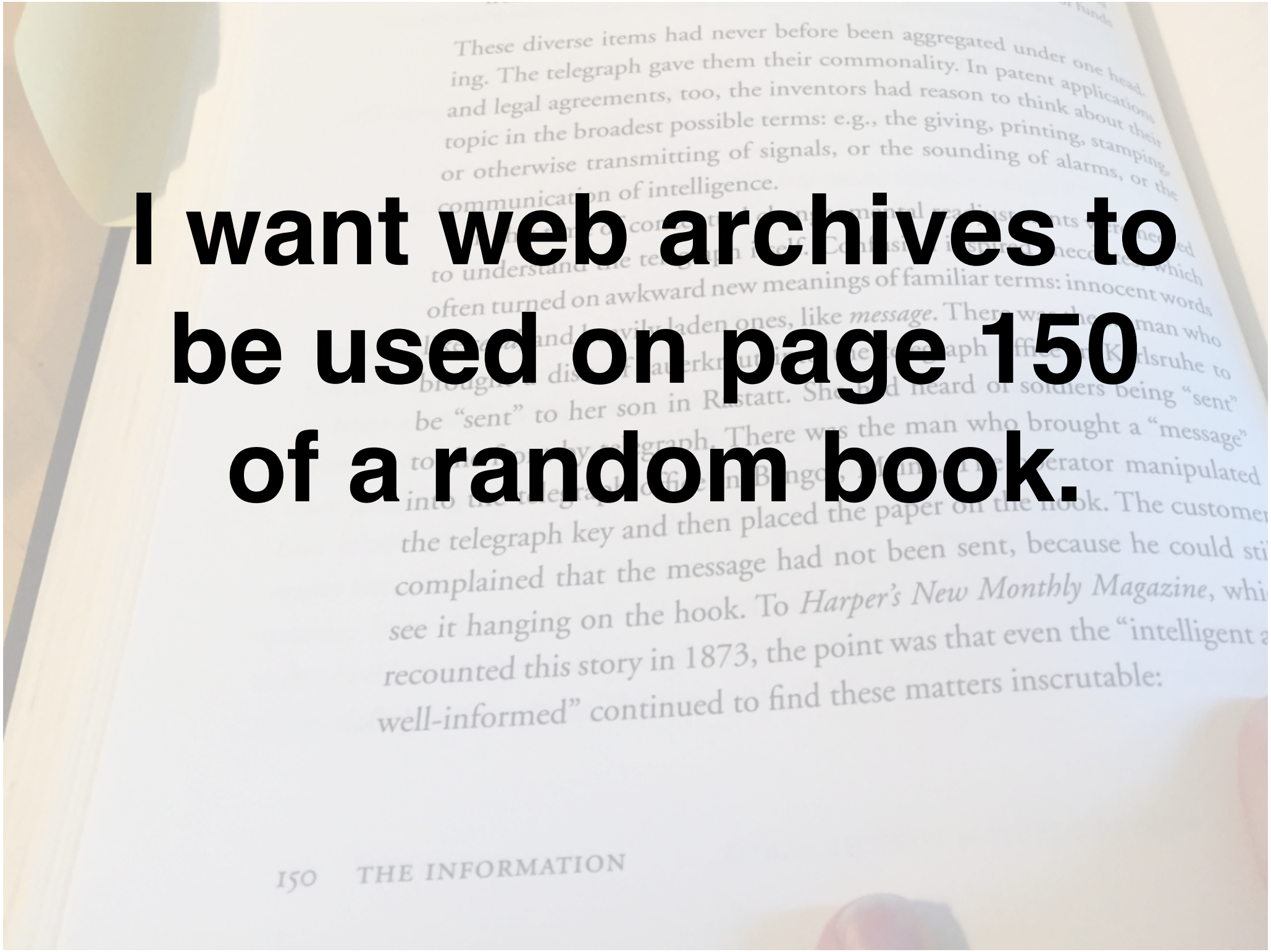
Canadian
archival data is
silo'd by
institution and
collection.

The Canadian Web Archival Landscape

- **Currently around 25 Canadian collecting institutions, amassing around ~ 130 collections**
- **Most use Archive-It as a back-end provider of web archival services**

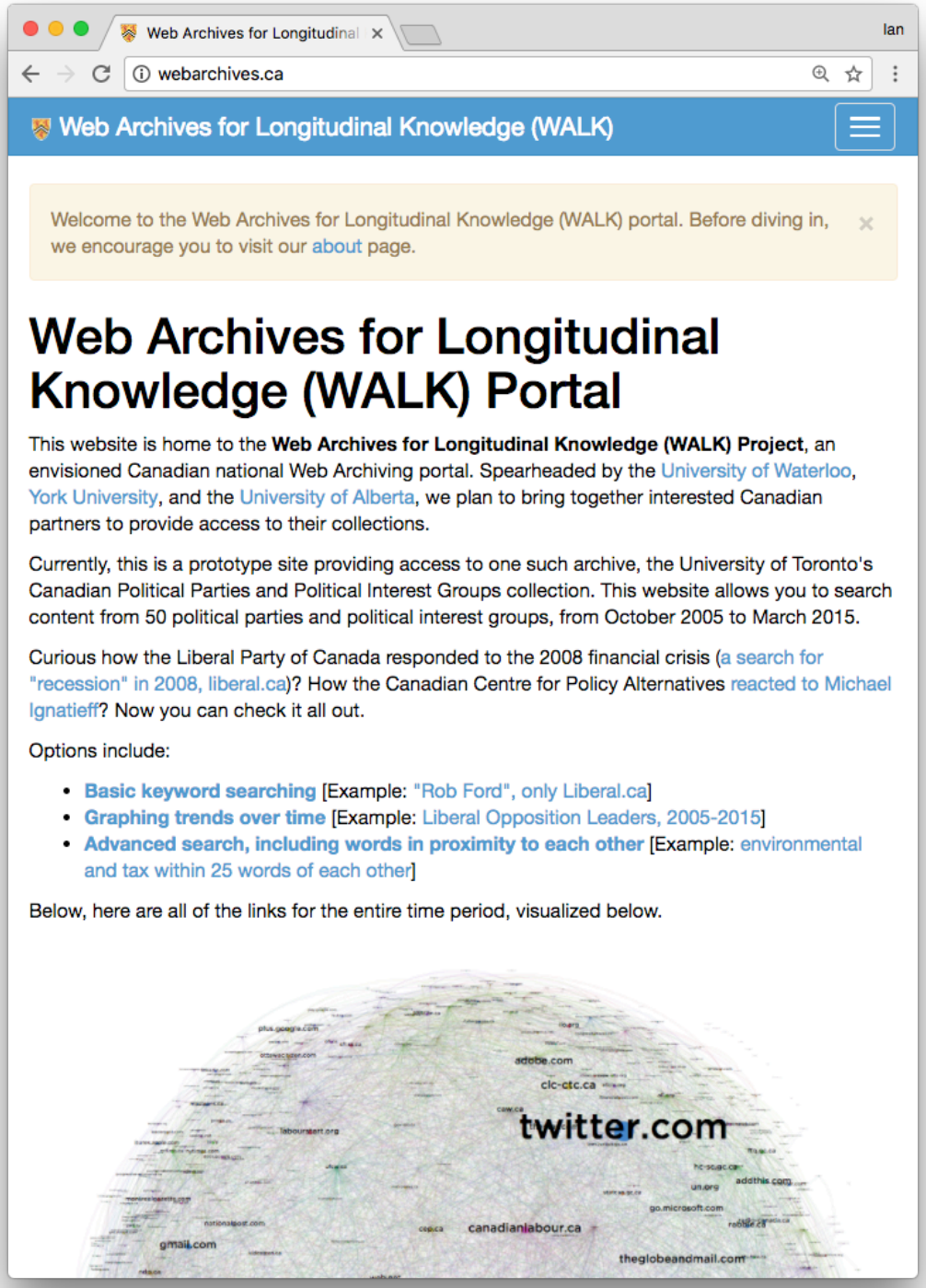

Right now, to use Canadian web archives – you have to really want to use them.


i.e. you need
to be an
expert.



I want web archives to be used on page 150 of a random book.

Enter the Web Archives for Longitudinal Knowledge Project



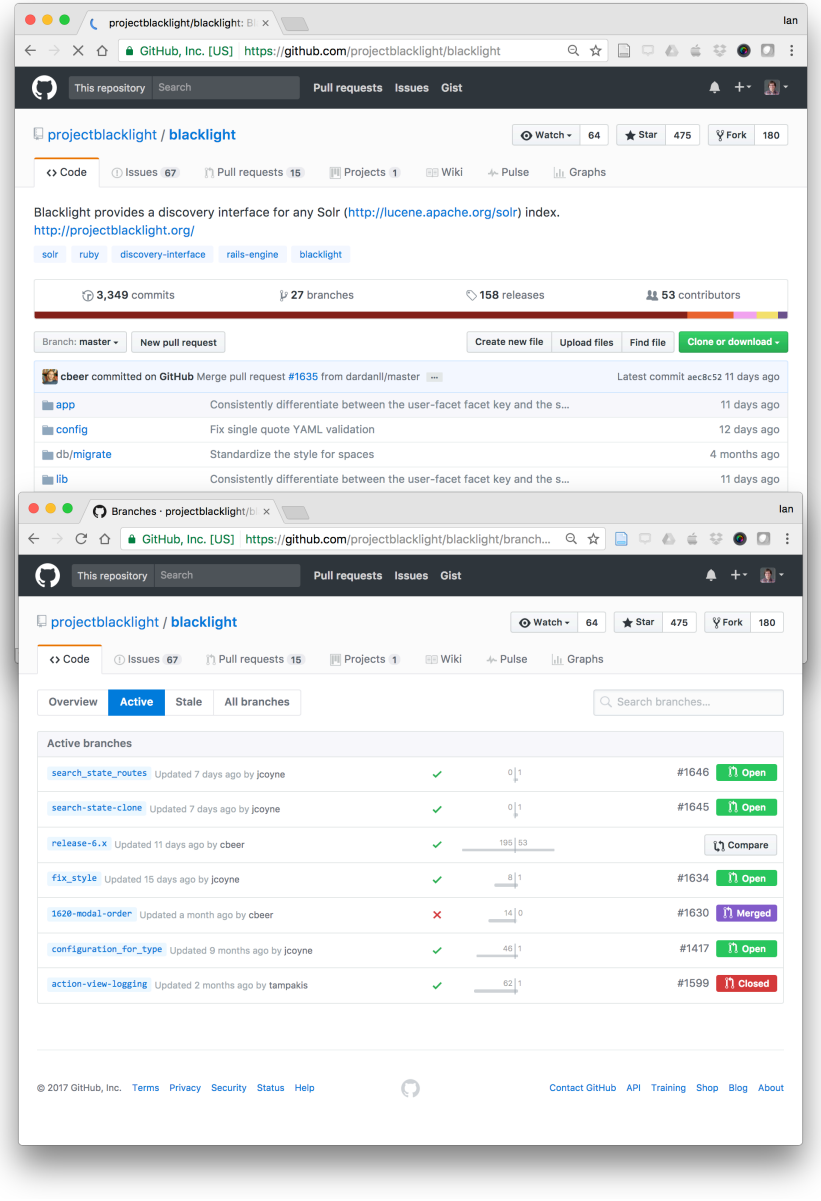

We want to break down silos, bring Canadian web archives into a centralized portal with access to derivative datasets.

WALKin’

- **Institutions with signed MOUs**: Toronto, Alberta, Victoria, Winnipeg, Dalhousie, Simon Fraser University
- 61 collections (~ half of Canadian web archival collections)
- 16 TB of WARC files
- Developing new Solr front end based on **Project Blacklight**. Data stored on Compute Canada/Dataverse (currently indexed 120 million records).

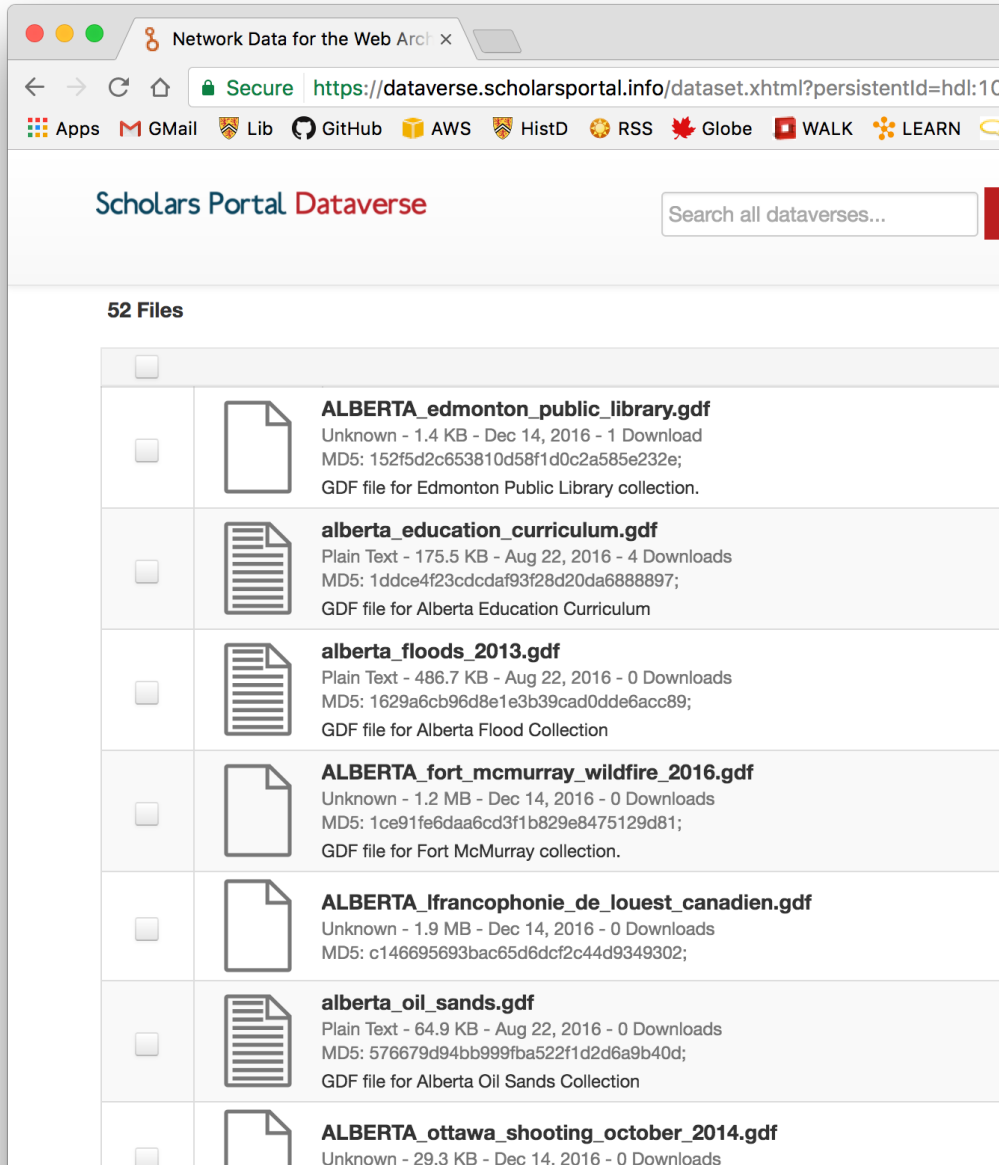
WALKin’

- Project Blacklight, bringing us into a broader community
- Better APIs, bug fixes, and ability to interact with, give back, communicate with a larger GLAM community (many of you!)



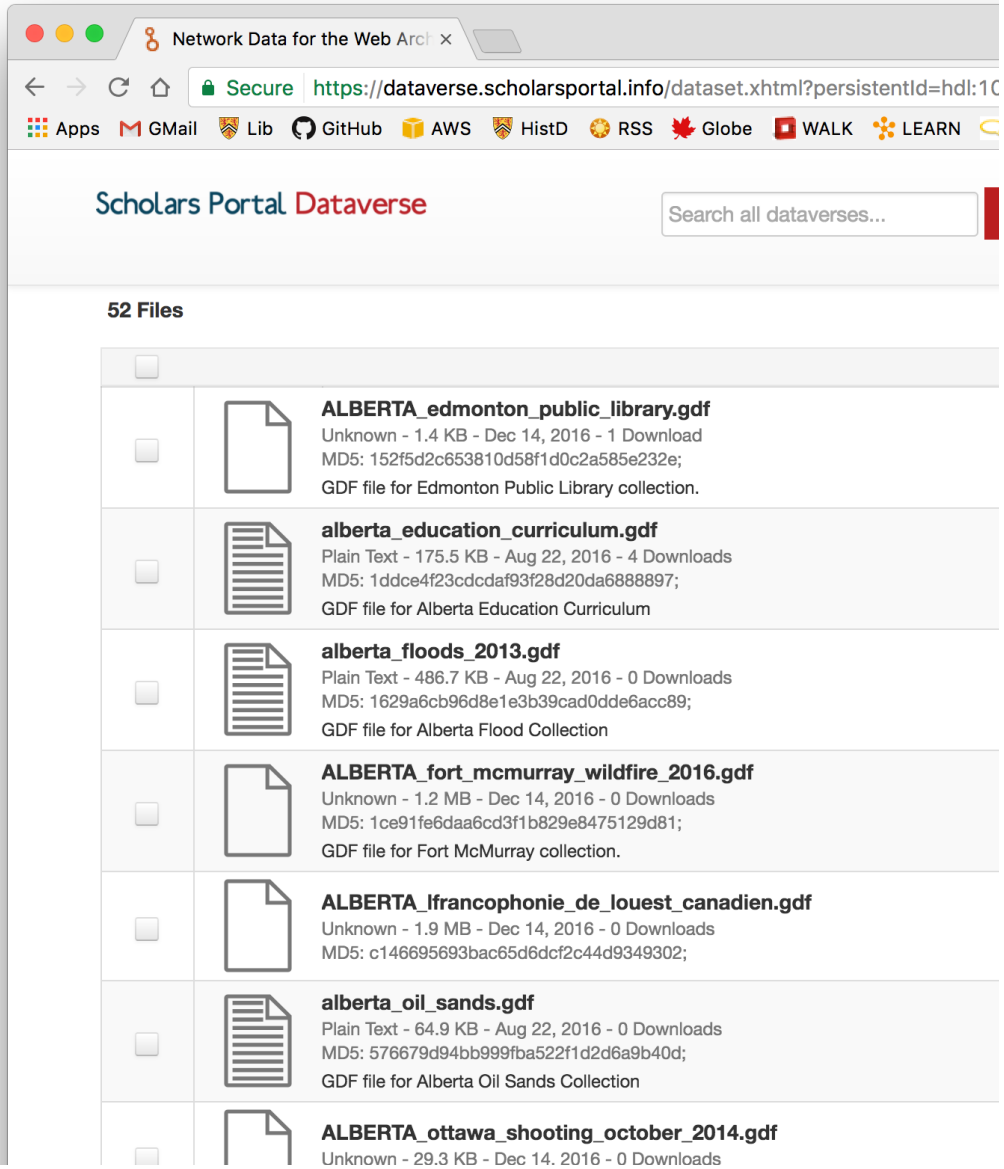
WALKin’

- For every collection, we use warcbase to generate derivatives like:
  - Domain counts
  - URL counts
  - Full text
  - Domain-To-Domain links
- Upload selected datasets to Dataverse



WALKin’

- So networks scholars can play with hyperlink graphs; people can see collection coverage; we can run correspondence analysis; digital humanists can do sophisticated text analysis.



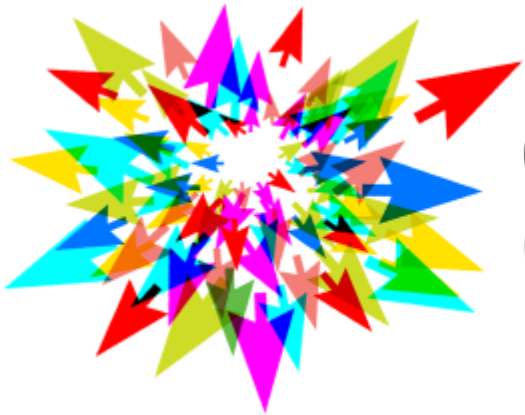
The goal: One central hub for web archiving search, research, derivatives. So researchers can cite web archives on page 150 of a book without needing to be an expert.

Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada

Conseil de recherches en sciences humaines du Canada

Canada

Ontario



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Thanks!

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