

## The British Library Collection Development Policy for websites

Advancing the world's knowledge is the mission of the British Library. Web resources are part of the nation's intellectual output and crucial to the Library's mission. It is our responsibility to preserve the UK's digital heritage and guarantee access to it for future generations of researchers.

The British Library's Web Archiving programme began in 2004 when we began collecting selected websites, making them available through the Open UK Web Archive with the permission of website owners.

Non-print Legal Deposit legislation was enacted in the UK on 6<sup>th</sup> April 2013 enabling the Legal Deposit Libraries (LDLs) to preserve and provide access to the entire UK web domain.

On behalf of the Legal Deposit Libraries, the British Library will archive copies of freely accessible UK websites and web pages from the open web, using an automated harvesting process, known as 'crawling'. A 'snapshot' of every website within scope will be archived at least once a year.

Selected websites will also be archived on a more frequent basis such as quarterly, monthly, weekly or even daily, in order to ensure that content that changes rapidly is archived adequately. Such websites will be selected by the Legal Deposit Libraries for their importance and research value. In addition, the Legal Deposit Libraries envisage crawling other selected websites in order to develop 'special collections'. Such collections could be based on political, cultural, social and economic events of national interest. These collections may be planned in advance (for instance, in relation to a major national event), or take place in response to an unfolding event.

Legal Deposit web collections are available to view on the premises of the Legal Deposit Libraries. However, we continue actively to request permissions from site owners to make selected resources available through the [Open UK Web Archive](#). Content selected for this additional work is largely that already included in one or more collection in the Legal Deposit Web Archive. In pursuit of an effective collection development strategy the Library engages proactively with a wide range of stakeholders to ensure joined-up working with other archiving organisations, academic institutions, curators and subject specialists, website publishers, researchers and the general public.

We work closely with web archiving organisations in the UK through the Digital Preservation Coalition (DPC) and international partners such as the members of the International Internet Preservation Consortium (IIPC) to exchange information, share lessons learned and develop ongoing web archiving capability.

For more information see <http://www.bl.uk/aboutus/legaldeposit/websites/> or contact [web-archivist@bl.uk](mailto:web-archivist@bl.uk).