

The British Library Collection Development Policy for Websites

Advancing the world's knowledge is the mission for the British Library. It is our responsibility to enable access to the intellectual output of British publishing and guarantee this access for future generations.

The British Library archives freely available UK websites and makes them available for researchers through the UK Web Archive. Websites are collected selectively across the spectrum of knowledge and human activities, including science, technology and medicine, business, social sciences and arts and humanities. By building a collection of culturally important UK websites, we provide future researchers with historical and sociological data that may not be found elsewhere.

The Library prioritises the selection of websites which

- reflect the diversity of lives, interests and activities throughout the UK
- contain research value or are of research interest
- feature political, cultural, social and economic events of national interest
- demonstrate innovative use of the web

Among the prioritised categories, considerations informing selection also include criteria such as whether content is only published on the web and whether a website is at risk of being lost.

Currently owners of the selected websites are approached with a request for permission to include their sites in the Library's web collection. In the future, once regulations have been determined according to the Legal Deposit Libraries Act 2003, the Library intends to take periodic snapshots of the entire UK web presence of freely-available content.

Subject to the Library's national remit and responsibilities under the Legal Deposit legislation, where appropriate, the Library seeks collaboration with other Legal Deposit libraries and national and international stakeholders in web archiving. The British Library is a member of the Digital Preservation Coalition (DPC) Web Archiving Preservation Taskforce and the International Internet Preservation and Consortium (IIPC).

We respect intellectual property rights (IPR) and data privacy. We seek the appropriate permissions from rights holders and operate a "Notice and Take-down Procedure" which notifies us to take down web sites from the UK Web Archive under appropriate circumstances.

For more information, please see:

<http://www.webarchive.org.uk/>

To suggest a website for archiving, please use the web form here:

<http://www.webarchive.org.uk/ukwa/info/nominate>