Creating a Systemized Web Archiving Structure

HANNAH WANG, MATTHEW CRESSON, NAHALI CROFT, and SANGEETA DESAI

Abstract: The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill (UNC-CH) Libraries have been archiving websites for almost a decade. It began as a small, test project in the University Archives and Records Management Services (UARMS) department, and over time has grown into a larger undertaking, with UARMS collecting online materials as part of the university's records schedules. Many of the special collections at UNC-CH have also begun collecting web-based materials within their respective collecting scopes. The different collections use a single Archive-It account, with UARMS monitoring the account usage of all departments. Though the collections have operated on the "good neighbor" policy, there is no way to ensure this will continue in the future. Further complicating matters, when the last electronic records archivist left UNC-CH, a part-time graduate student employee was tasked with overseeing web archiving while the university sought to hire a new electronic records archivist. Finally, the Carolina Digital Repository (CDR) received its first honors thesis with web components in 2015, which added a new dimension to the shared web archiving system that was already showing faults.

Four students in Dr. David Gotz's Spring 2016 Systems Analysis course at the UNC-CH School of Information and Library Science tackled the problems and breakdowns in this system to help the UNC-CH Libraries find a streamlined web archiving solution. Over the semester, we reviewed case studies, tested available tools, and interviewed both stakeholders and those with expertise with web archiving to develop a workable system.

About the Authors:

Hannah Wang is a second year MSIS student at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. She is the Carolina Academic Library Associate in the Carolina Digital Repository at UNC-CH Libraries and the president of the UNC Student Chapter of the Society for American Archivists.

Matthew Cresson is an Archivist Intern at the International Executive Service Corps in Washington D.C. where he processes the holdings of the company. He earned his MSLS from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill in May 2016.

Nahali Croft is the Digital Archivist at Georgia College where she manages efforts to acquire, preserve, and provide access to digital special collections material. She is a member of the SNAP Steering Committee and is the outgoing intern for the Committee on Public Policy. She earned her MSLS from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill in May 2016.

Sangeeta Desai is a second year MSIS student pursuing the Archives and Records Management track at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. She is also a Research and Design Graduate Assistant at House Undergraduate Library, an academic coach at the UNC's Learning Center and holds a PhD in South Asian Studies from the University of Wisconsin-Madison.