Preserving the Open Access Tracking Project

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Providing open access to datasets, code, archival collections, and other information has increased in importance over the last fifty years as investigators embrace reproducible research and extensive collaboration with other professionals. However, despite the development within individual fields of repositories dedicated to tracking open access data within specific focus areas, it is still difficult to compile information about open access across disciplines. In 2009, Peter Suber created the Open Access Tracking Project (OATP), part of the Harvard Open Access Project, to address this gap. Through OATP, users around the world can "tag" any mention of open access information, and OATP preserves the tag record. Through both curated lists and user-generated searches, tags allow users to compile data about open access information across disciplines.

My research in the Spring of 2021while attending University of Michigan's School of Information demonstrated a gap in current archival methods dealing with website preservation. Services such as Archive-It preserve a website at a moment in time, while services such as Harvard's Dataverse preserve a dataset at a moment in time. However, if a website like OATP is built on a dynamic database and it is important to preserve a record of *both* the site and the database, there is currently no effective way to archive this type of site in one place. "Preserving the Open Access Tracking Project" outlines my research on the difficulties in preserving OATP's content and provides preliminary suggestions about archiving both the visual and database elements of websites.

About the author:

In the Spring of 2021, ***Erin Annis*** graduated from the University of Michigan's School of Information with a focus in digital curation. Previously, she attended a graduate program in upstate New York at Binghamton University, where she achieved ABD status in Early Modern European history and is still (slowly but surely!) progressing on her dissertation. Though combining a background in humanities with the more technologically-focused field of digital curation has at times been daunting, it has given Erin an appreciation not only for the ways in which technology can cross disciplines, but also some of the challenges of incorporating technology into the humanities. Erin currently lives in Ann Arbor with her sister and her cat and various half-completed craft projects, which creates a very fun home atmosphere.