BLWA Answers sheet
22/01/2019

Answers to BLWA worksheet

BLWA Tasks

For the following tasks you will need to go to the following URL:
https://archive-it.org/home/bodleian

Task 1a: Searching and finding information on the BLWA

- Click on the ‘Sites’ tab (Between Collections and Search page text)
- Next, use the basic search bar and search for the keyword: ‘Rowing’ to find the Magdalen College Boat Club website.
  - How many websites has this search query found?
    - Answer: 1
  - How many times has this website been captured?
    - Answer: 3 times
- Click on the URL section (e.g. starting in http://www...) to enter the Wayback interface showing all web archive captures.
- Click on the Crawl from June 8th, 2017 to access an archived copy of the website.
- Using only the archived version of the website find the following information:
  - In which year was the Magdalen College Boat Club was established?
    - Answer: 1859
  - What subject does the ‘Captain of Boats’ committee member study at Oxford?
    - Answer: Classics

Task 1b: Advanced searching techniques on the BLWA

- On the BLWA Archive-It Search page click on the ‘Search Page Text’ tab below the main search bar, to swap to a page text search.
- Search for ‘general election’ in the search bar.
  - How many results do you receive from this search?
    - Answer: 2,740 results
- We are interested in the 2015 General election, use the ‘Advanced Search’ options on the left of the window to help us narrow the search.
- Use the ‘Exact phrase:’ and the ‘Capture date range:’ search options to narrow the search.
How many times was ‘General Election’ mentioned across all collections in 2015?
  • Answer: 1227 results (capture date range used: January 2015 – December 2015)

Using the advanced search options find the following information:
  • How many pages relating to ‘women’ can be found in the Science, Medicine and Technology collection between September 2013 – November 2014
    • Answer: 6,680 results
  • In November 2016 which collection had more results related to ‘Brexit’, the Arts and Humanities collection (30 results) or Social Sciences collection?
    • Answer: Arts and Hum (30 results) Social Sci (6,400 results)
    Therefore it is Social Sciences has more Brexit related results.

Task 2a:

  • Go back to https://archive-it.org/home/bodleian and click on the collections tab.
  • Chose the University of Oxford Colleges collection.
  • Click on the URL under ‘All Souls College’ to enter the Wayback interface showing all web archive captures.
    • Notice that the website has been captured 27 times since 2016.
    • With what frequency is the website being captured (i.e. backed-up by our archive)? Can you think of why we are doing it at this frequency?
      Answer: The website is being captured quarterly. The Reason for this is that the university mostly updates its website 3 months before the start of a new semester.
• Click on the first capture of ‘Apr 24, 2016’ and the capture of ‘Oct 13, 2018’. Important: make sure to open them in a new tab or window.
• At first glance the website seems relatively unchanged, apart from the News and Dairy the website seems relatively unchanged.
• Click on the tab ‘Research’ on both websites and click on Classical Studies. Do you see any changes here? If so, why do you think it is important that the archive captures this information?

Answer: the researchers have changed. There a lot more researchers now. Both Patrick Finglass and Simon Hornblower, are new and are currently doing research on Pindar. By capturing this data we know what kind of research was conducted at the college at a certain point in time. This information could be helpful to someone who does research on a similar topic and wishes to reach out to fellow researchers. Or when someone is looking into the history of the College itself.

Task 2b:
The All Souls College Oxford website has undergone only minor changes. However, there are a number of websites in our collection that have undergone a massive change within the last year.

• Go back to https://archive-it.org/home/bodleian and click on the collections tab.
• Chose the University of Oxford collection.
• Scroll down to ‘Faculty of Classics, Oxford’, or use the search function on your computer (Ctrl+F).
• Click on the URL under “Faculty of Classics, Oxford” to enter the Wayback interface showing all web archive captures.
• Click on the first capture of ‘Dec 8, 2017’ and the capture of ‘Dec 8, 2018’.
• Do you see how much the websites have changed over time? Take some time to click around the website and compare the two.

Answer: This site has a new layout with new titles for information articles. Some of the information (like under graduate admissions), however, is still very similar.