Listening to the Past, Speaking to the Future

The report of the Archives Task Force


The Museums, Libraries and Archives Council

March 2004
Online media coverage of archives 1999-2003

1 Introduction

The purpose of this piece of work was to analyse online media coverage of archives, and to find news stories that illustrate examples of interest, activity or practice relating to archives, dating back over the last three to four years (1999-2003), which could inform the work of the Archives Task Force. Sources of information included the Internet, focusing on mainstream, English-language, media sites. The primary sources of content include BBC News, Guardian Unlimited, CNN, Independent, The Times and This is London. Searching focused on sites directly and via the use of news aggregators such as NewsNow, WorldNews Network and Google News. Other sources consulted, but in less detail, include newsgroups and bulletin boards.

Major findings of the research are presented, followed by extracts of the stories and information found on the Internet. News stories have been classified under a fairly general set of themes that evolved during the process of research. Within each theme, the extracts are classified in chronological order, with the most recent listed first. Many of the studies can be classified according to more than one theme: where this occurs reference has been to other, relevant themes at the end of the entry. Each news story is presented with a short summary, title, date and hyperlink. If relevant, details of other themes and links to similar reports are also listed. Please bear in mind that this research was conducted over the Spring and Summer of 2003, and that links cannot be guaranteed.
2 Findings

There is a significant interest in the existence and use of archives amongst the mainstream online media. Limiting the search to the last few years uncovered a wealth of media coverage on the sale, discovery, use, preservation and future of archives. BBC News and Guardian Unlimited alone have published a substantial volume and range of reports and the extracts included below thus provide a snapshot of the key issues concerning archives that most interest the (UK) media.

Searching for reports and case studies online can be problematic because archives are not necessarily referred to as ‘archives’ per se and it can therefore be easy to miss reports on the relevant issues. It is thus worth considering other search terms such as “public records” for future searching. Conversely the term ‘archive’ appears so frequently on Web sites, it can be difficult to search efficiently and meaningfully. In this sense any future monitoring of the Internet for more news stories on archives, should be limited to a few key sites, such as BBC News or Guardian Unlimited.

Many of the extracts either focus specifically on, or implicitly discuss some of the key themes espoused in the Archives Task Force report, namely access, learning, citizenship; partnerships; digitisation; relevancy and inclusiveness. In this sense much of the media coverage detailed here could easily and profitably be developed into case studies or examples of best practice for archives.

This document therefore acts as a useful starting point, an impetus, or thought-provoking piece for further research. For some of the less detailed coverage however – particularly that pertaining to the acquisition/sale/discovery of archives – it may be that these reports would be better amalgamated into studies on more generic themes such as ‘the consolidation of archives’ or ‘the financial value attached to archives’.

Generally, online media coverage on archives in the period studies can be summarised as follows:

- **The importance of archives**: Archives as evidence; Return of archives; Preservation of archives; Archives and regeneration
- **Care and ownership of archives**: Discovery/public release of archives; Investment/acquisition/donation of archives; Missing archives; New archives; Prominent figures in archives
- **Future of archives**: Digital/online archives; Issues with online/digital content and Online/digital archives; Legal issues
- **Access to archives**

**The importance of archives**

Perhaps most significantly, the majority of coverage emphasises the fundamental importance and wide-ranging relevance of archives to contemporary society. The use of archives as evidence, to reveal, support or disprove political or corporate alignments or agendas provides clear demonstration of their importance. BBC News, for example, reports on Paraguay’s Archive of Terror, the documents that detail the atrocities committed by the Stroessner regime and that have provided valuable evidence in prosecutions and
uncovering the fate of victims. The contemporary relevance of archives is again underlined by a BBC News report of June 2001 that notes how access to secret police archives in Bulgaria enabled a commission to ascertain that 78 of the candidates standing in Bulgaria’s legislative elections had served as members of the Communist secret police.

Media coverage that focuses upon the return of archives to their nation of origin also highlights the fundamental value government and society attaches to archives, both symbolically and literally. Thus, the role of archives in the formation of national identity is highlighted in an October 2002 report from BBC News that covers Iraq’s first steps to return Kuwait’s national archive, seized during the early 1990s.

Efforts to preserve archives also attract a fair volume of media coverage and these stories provide further evidence of the importance attached to archives. The political significance of archives relating to the former head of state, Chilean General Augusto Pinochet is highlighted in late 1999, when the UN made pleas they be preserved and protected. More recently in May 2003 a report on Guardian Unlimited criticises Italian Prime Minister Silvio Berlusconi for affecting “the dismemberment of the Italian state archive system…and harassing archivists and preventing them from talking to the press”.

Care and ownership of archives

The issue that appears to garner the most significant volume of media coverage is that relating to the ownership, discovery and sale of archives. Although many of these reports are short and may not necessarily provide enough information to be developed into case studies, they do demonstrate the financial value attached to archives and the notion that archives be ‘saved’ for the nation or a specific audience. However, unlike some of the reports outlined in the section above, they do not provide such clear illustration of how archives are used or what their public release signifies for contemporary audiences.

The future of archives

The future of archives also attracts a considerable volume of media coverage and perhaps the most interesting commentary. Although many reports simply detail the publication of offline archives on the Internet, there are numerous speculative pieces that – generally with a note of concern – outline the issues surrounding the archiving and management of online content. Thus as recently as June 2003 both the Independent and media comment site Slate.com feature media reports entitled ‘The End of History’. Both reports imply that without a better system of archiving online content, the details of many key events that collectively constitute history and inform identity, will be lost. This point is perhaps best underlined by a report on CNN.com that details the work of 911digitalarchive.org, a Web site dedicated to archiving the digital coverage of the events of the terrorist attacks of 11 September 2001. As one of the first globally significant events that was reported and played out via digital media, the site’s director notes “All these digital objects are very fragile…and without the concerted effort of historians and archivists they'll be very easily lost, and it'll be as easy as the touch of a delete key.”

On a more positive note there are some interesting reports – which could make excellent case studies – examining how digitisation has enabled people to access and create
archives more easily. Thus in November 2002 Guardian Unlimited reports on the development of a simple database which can be accessed online that has enabled people across Britain to digitise and store pictures, documents, interviews and video clips in order to create archives of their own. The use of the Internet itself has lots of potential for case studies on archives, and weblogs, archived repositories of information on particular subjects, such as daypop, would make interesting reading.

The legal implications of online archives, particularly with regard to issues of privacy and ownership are also touched on in Guardian Unlimited.

Access to archives

The common theme underlying virtually all of the media coverage that was found is access. The use of archives for political purposes is only possible if they can be accessed by a suitable audience, and sometimes such documents only become politically significant once they are publicly released and thus accessible to a wider audience. As noted many of the reports focus specifically on public release and thus access and various acquisitions and sales of archives are dressed in the rhetoric of access or being ‘saved for the nation’. Moreover the whole concept of digital archives and the publication of archives online is rooted in the notion of making archives accessible to a wider audience and more user-friendly to an existing user base.

Those reports selected for the theme ‘Access to archives’ are considered to best summarise the importance of access, or focus specifically on attempts to make archives more accessible. Thus in May 2003 BBC News notes the efforts of the British Film Institute to overhaul its film archive in order to create better public access. Similarly in the same month Guardian Unlimited reports on the new home and re-cataloguing for the Refugee Council’s archive, a move designed to make the materials more accessible to the public.
3 Stories, arranged by theme

- Archives as evidence
- Return of archives
- Preservation of archives
- Archives and regeneration
- Discovery/public release of archives
- Investment/acquisition/donation of archives
- Missing archives
- New archives
- Prominent figures in archives
- Digital/online archives
- Issues with online/digital content and online/digital archives
- Legal issues
- Access to archives

Archives as evidence

Tablets That May Reveal El Nino Secrets are Feared Lost in Iraq, Jun-03
Clay tablets that are thought to contain the secrets behind the El Nino phenomenon are feared to have been lost in the looting of Iraq following the overthrow of Saddam Hussein.
http://news.independent.co.uk/world/environment/story.jsp?story=413756
Also relevant for stories on Missing Archives
A subscription is necessary to read this article

Foreign Secretary was Target for Assassination by Zionist Groups, May-03
The release of MI5 files reveals a terrorist plot to assassinate politicians. The plot was part of a plan to help achieve a Jewish state.
http://news.independent.co.uk/uk/politics/story.jsp?story=408352

Hearing Transcripts Invaluable After Charges of ‘New McCarthyism’, May-03
In response to charges of a new McCarthyism, the archives of McCarthy’s trials are proving extremely helpful in defining exactly what McCarthyism means.
Similar stories: http://www.cnn.com/2003/ALLPOLITICS/05/05/mccarthy.hearings/index.html

Spies and Lovers, May-03
The importance of the women that supported two of the most successful of the Cambridge Spies would not have been discovered had it not been for archives in Moscow, which were opened up after the Cold War.
http://www.guardian.co.uk/weekend/story/0,3605,951585,00.html
Also relevant for stories on access to archives

Archives that Hold the Key to the Future for the Iraqis, Apr-03
Plea written by a group of academics, lamenting the destruction of Iraq’s national archives and demanding that the US and UK government intervene to prevent further pillage.
http://www.guardian.co.uk/letters/story/0,3604,940409,00.html
Vatican Opens Secret Nazi Files, Feb-03
Amid accusations that the Pope failed to speak out against the Holocaust, he Vatican is opening up archives that document its relations with Nazi Germany
http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/world/europe/2765517.stm
Also very relevant for issues concerning access to archives

Secret Chernobyl Archives Released, Apr-03
Secret KGB archives released in Ukraine show that there were problems with the Chernobyl nuclear plant before the 1986 explosion the world's worst civilian nuclear disaster.
http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/world/europe/2965375.stm

Paraguay’s Archive of Terror, Mar-02
The Archive of Terror, documents detailing the atrocities committed by the military regime of Alfredo Stroessner in Paraguay have proved vital in legal cases against Stroessner’s regime and in completing details concerning the suffering and fate of Stroessner’s victims.
http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/world/americas/1866517.stm
Similar stories: http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/world/americas/1823650.stm

Russian Secret Police Archive Released, Dec-01
Soviet history may have to be rewritten now that the Russian secret police headquarters has released the archives of Stalin's secret agents into the public domain.
http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/world/monitoring/media_reports/1719668.stm

Spin on Boer Atrocities, Dec-01
A recently released private archive has shed new light on the conditions of concentration camps during the Boer War. The archive exposes how the media were manipulated in order to play down the poor conditions in the camps.
http://observer.guardian.co.uk/international/story/0,6903,615822,00.html
Also relevant for stories on Discovery/Release of archives

Archives Reveal Russia’s Nightmare, Oct-01
Records released by the National Security Archive, an independent research institute at George Washington University, reveal the problems faced by the Soviets in Afghanistan during its ten years fight against the Mujahideen between 1979 and 1989.
http://www.thisislondon.co.uk/news/articles/818361

Bulgarian Spies Run for Parliament, Jun-01
A new law providing public access to secret police archives has enabled a commission to ascertain that 78 of the candidates standing in Bulgaria’s legislative elections served as agents for the country’s communist secret police.
http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/world/europe/1365300.stm
**Poles Queue for Secret Police Files, Feb-01**
CNN report detailing the impact of the Institute for National Remembrance, an archive which manages the information collated by Poland’s secret police between 1944 and 1989. The archive is now being used to help people find out the truth about those previously accused of dissent.  

**Tobacco Barons, Feb-00**
A Guardian expose on UK tobacco company BAT is made possible by access to US tobacco company archives. Under a court ruling US companies were forced to make their archives accessible to the public. The archives implicate BAT in black marketeering around the world.  
http://www.guardian.co.uk/bat/article/0,2763,191287,00.html

**Nazi Archive Gives Hope to Children of ‘Master Race’, Nov-99**
The German federal archive’s acquisition of a card index enables those born under a Nazi plan to create an Aryan master race to establish the identify their birth mothers and fathers.  
http://www.guardian.co.uk/international/story/0,3604,252766,00.html

**The War that Time Forgot, Oct-99**
Newly accessible archive footage has enabled documentary-makers and historians to present the Second World War in a new light.  
http://www.guardian.co.uk/tv_and_radio/story/0,3604,258149,00.html

**Fakes Leave Art World in Chaos, Feb-99**
Tampering with archives is the key to one man’s criminal production of ‘genuine fake’ pieces of art.  
http://www.guardian.co.uk/uk_news/story/0,3604,314899,00.html

**The Hidden Hand, Feb-99**
Robin Cook highlights the importance of the use of archives (including MI5 and MI6 files) in developing a full and extensive piece of research about the provenance of the infamous Zinoviev letter, purportedly written by the president of the Comintern in 1924.  
http://www.guardian.co.uk/comment/story/0,3604,310229,00.html  
Also relevant for stories on Access to Archives

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**Return of archives**

**Iraq Begins Kuwait Archive Handover, Oct-02**
Iraq has begun returning Kuwait’s national archive, seized during the seven-month occupation from 1990 to 1991.  
http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/world/middle_east/2344247.stm  
Similar stories:  
http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/world/middle_east/2344247.stm;  
http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/world/middle_east/2193116.stm

**Germany Returns Stolen Russian Archives, Jan-01**
Germany has returned to Russia more than two-hundred priceless historical documents which were stolen from archives in St Petersburg seven years ago and smuggled to the west.  
http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/world/europe/1138759.stm
Preservation of archives

More Judas than Moses, May-03
Weakened by a reduction of funding and threatened by closure the Italian state archives have received little support from the Italian government.
http://www.guardian.co.uk/comment/story/0,3604,962640,00.html

Kabul’s Radio Treasure Trove, May-02
Radio archives have been carefully preserved for over thirty years in Kabul, Afghanistan.
http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/world/from_our_own_correspondent/1979482.stm

Paperchase, Feb-01
An examination of how far and how much should be invested in preserving literary archives.
http://www.guardian.co.uk/arts/story/0,3604,434464,00.html

UN Urged to Save Vital Archives of Pinochet’s Terror, Nov-99
Pleas are being made to save an archive deemed to be vital to the successful prosecution of former Chilean head of state, General Augusto Pinochet. Without international protection the evidence contained in the archives is thought to be under risk because it is unguarded.
http://www.guardian.co.uk/Pinochet_on_trial/Story/0,2763,194697,00.html

Archives and regeneration

‘Move Archives to Tyne and Wear’, Feb-03
There is a call to move historical records dating back nearly 1,000 years from Newcastle to Sunderland. A local historian and manager of the Workers’ Educational Association believes that a purpose-built centre to house the archives on Wearside could help the area’s regeneration.
http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/england/2796863.stm

Discovery/public release of archives

Booze Tapes Reveal Larkin’s Bleak Fate, Jun-03
Newly discovered tapes reveal that poet Phillip Larkin spent the final years of his life battling alcoholism.
Not possible to save link – search The Times Online

Lost Piaf Recordings Found in Library Archive, Jul-03
Five previously unknown recordings by Edith Piaf have been found in France’s national library.
Not possible to save link – search The Times Online

Tale of the Tape: Saving Historic US Sounds, Jun-03
Interview with Director of the American Folklife Centre, at the Library of Congress, focusing on the centre’s recorded archive.
Everest Climbers’ Tapes Found in Museum Archive, May-03
Unique personal testimonies of four Everest pioneers have been discovered in the archives of a British Museum.

‘Lost’ Music Archive Released, May-03
An archive of recordings by major stars including U2, Rod Stewart and Elvis Costello is to be released to the public for the first time.
http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/entertainment/music/3030235.stm

Radio Clyde’s Attic Clear Out Unearths Musical Treasure, May-03
Report on the discovery by Scottish Radio Holdings of one of the biggest archives of musical recordings thought to exist outside the BBC.
http://media.guardian.co.uk/radio/story/0,12636,956538,00.html
Similar stories: http://www.thisislondon.co.uk/news/business/articles/timid63024

Family Archives Help State History, Mar-03
Report detailing how the discovery of a Chinese family’s archive has helped enriched the state archive with rare photographs of Mao Zedong and Deng Xiaoping.

Beatles Discovered in University Archive, Oct-02
Following their discovery in a university archive, hundreds of photos of the Beatles are put on display to the public.
http://education.guardian.co.uk/higher/news/story/0,9830,806335,00.html

Imperial Archive Holds Clues to Chinese Calligraphy, Aug-02
The discovery of a large archive of Chinese archives is considered to be able to provide important clues as to how China’s writing system developed.
Also relevant for stories on Archives as Evidence

Rare Nureyev Archives Made Public, Jun-02
Hours of rare classical music recordings and video footage of Russian artists, such as ballet dancer Rudolf Nureyev, are being released after gathering dust for more than seven decades.
http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/entertainment/arts/2044732.stm

Papers Show Nixon Felt Close to China, May-02
The latest batch of documents released from the US National Archives reveal the feelings of Nixon and Henry Kissinger towards many other foreign countries, with rare praise reserved for China.

Look Back in Awe, Jan-02
The Fawcett collection, an archive of the stories of women’s lives, housed in the women’s library in London has been opened to the public
http://www.guardian.co.uk/weekend/story/0,3605,638855,00.html

Beatles TV Gem Resurfaces, Nov-01
A BBC appeal has uncovered over 100 lost TV and radio programmes including an audio recording of The Beatles on a TV chart show.
Ill King’s War Record Revealed, Sep-00
The Public Records Office releases details of the state of ill health of King George VI whilst in military service.
http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/uk/927744.stm

Missing Kohl Files Safe in Archive, Jul-00
According to German press reports, an archive destroyed by former German Chancellor Helmut Kohl has turned up in the archives of a conservative German foundation.
http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/world/europe/847825.stm

Library Gets Archive of a Century, May-00
The BBC has donated the world’s largest history archive to the British Library. The archive includes recordings taken across the UK and effectively forms a detailed record of the 20th century.
http://www.guardian.co.uk/uk_news/story/0,3604,221945,00.html

British War Archives Released, Apr-00
Previously secret British war archives have been released to the public.
http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/world/europe/720006.stm

Shakespeare’s Will – as Penned by Him, Apr-00
A new exhibition of some of the highlights of the Public Records Office has been unveiled to celebrate the opening of the new Education and Visitor Centre at Kew.
http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/uk/705522.stm

National Archives Releases 12 Hours of Nixon Tapes to the Public, Jan-00
The US National Archives releases a small portion of the nearly 4000 hours of tapes clandestinely recorded by Nixon during the Watergate scandal.

Search Uncovers Lost Bach Archives, Aug-99
5000 lost documents in Ukraine, missing for over fifty years, which include music by Bach and his children, have been recovered.
http://www.guardian.co.uk/international/story/0,3604,283358,00.html

Investment/acquisition/donation of archives

France Supports Serbian Film Archive, Jun-03
Plans to make Serbia and Montenengro’s film archive one of the most sophisticated in the world are unveiled.

Cash Boost for Engineer’s Archive, Jun-03
Academics at Bristol University have been given £83,000 to categorise an extensive archive of work relating to Isambard Kingdom Brunel.
http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/england/bristol/3003550.stm
Clinton Adds Ark. to History Archive, Jun-03
President Clinton donates his gubernatorial papers to the state’s historical archives, along with four other former governors.

ITN Deal Extends News Library, Apr-03
ITN has acquired the British Pathé news archive.
http://media.guardian.co.uk/broadcast/story/0,7493,942746,00.html

Capturing the Greats, Mar-03
The John Murray collection, a rich and important literary archive which includes the works of Jane Austen, Charles Darwin, David Hume, Lord Byron and William Gladstone, is to be sold. The National Library of Scotland is keen to purchase it.
http://www.thisislondon.co.uk/entertainment/stayingin/articles/3673318?source=Evening%20Standard

‘Invaluable’ Rock Art Donation, Mar-03
An archive featuring some of England's finest prehistoric rock art has been handed over to a university in North-East England.
http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/england/2845449.stm

Archive of 18th Century Scientist James Watt to be Auctioned, Dec-02
The archive relating to the life and works of engineer James Watt is to be auctioned.
http://www.guardian.co.uk/uk_news/story/0,3604,866911,00.html

Priceless Musical Archive Secured, Nov-02
An historic collection of music manuscripts has been saved for the nation after a public appeal by the British Library raised £1 million.
http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/entertainment/arts/2492599.stm

Joyce Archive Bought for £8m, May-02
Hundreds of manuscripts and notes penned by the novelist James Joyce have been bought by the National Library in Dublin for £8m. The rare collection, believed to be the largest of its kind includes unseen drafts of the classic book Ulysses.
http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/entertainment/arts/2015259.stm

British Library Buys Richardson Archive, Apr-02
Papers and correspondence of actor Sir Ralph Richardson have been bought for the nation by the British Library.
http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/entertainment/arts/1917078.stm
Similar stories: http://www.guardian.co.uk/uk_news/story/0,3604,680995,00.html;
http://www.guardian.co.uk/uk_news/story/0,3604,681145,00.html
http://www.thisislondon.co.uk/news/londonlife/articles/447359

Appeal to Keep Beethoven’s Ninth, Mar-02
The British Library is appealing to the public to help it raise the money to buy an archive of original musical scores that includes the manuscript for Beethoven’s Ninth Symphony.
http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/entertainment/arts/1873343.stm
Bob Hope Helps Comedy Archive, Mar-02
Veteran comedian Bob Hope has donated $1m to the organisation behind the Emmys to help create an internet archive of TV comedy performances.
http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/entertainment/tv_and_radio/1859754.stm

ITN Snaps Up Rights to C4 Archive, Mar-02
ITN has secured exclusive rights to sell Channel 4’s entire back catalogue of film and programme clips as part of its growing library business, ITN Archive.
http://media.guardian.co.uk/broadcast/story/0,7493,662306,00.html

Tolkien Archive Fetches £58,000, Nov-01
A rare collection of proof copies, first editions and letters by Lord of the Rings author JR Tolkien has fetched more than £58,000 at auction.
http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/entertainment/arts/1660712.stm
Similar stories: http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/entertainment/arts/1659491.stm

Booker Winner’s Archive Auctioned, Oct-01
The personal archive of two-time Booker prize winner Peter Carey has been auctioned for Aus$80,000 (£28,500).
http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/entertainment/arts/1616847.stm

Canal Project Makes a Splash, Oct-01
A three-year project to create an electronic archive of Gloucestershire’s rivers and canals has been launched. The project is funded by a National Heritage Lottery grant of £400,000.
http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/england/1573204.stm

Unique Kerouac Archives Acquired, Aug-01
The personal and literary archives of writer Jack Kerouac, who died in 1969, have been acquired by the New York Public Library.
http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/entertainment/arts/1504285.stm

‘Alice in Wonderland’ Archive for Sale, Mar-01
A collection of books, photographs and papers belonging to the young girl who inspired Alice in Wonderland are to be auctioned.
http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/entertainment/arts/1237682.stm

Olivier Archive Saved for Nation, Apr-00
The huge theatre archive of the late British thespian Lord Olivier has been bought by the British Library.
http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/entertainment/702914.stm

Redgraves Hand Over Archive, Mar-00
Three generations of the Redgrave acting dynasty have gathered in London to hand over their huge private family archive to the nation.
http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/entertainment/675893.stm
Missing Archives

 Millions of Personal Records Lost, Feb-03
 Millions of personal records have disappeared from a library in Bristol. It is thought that these records could be used to construct false identities.
 http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/england/2781759.stm

 Hunt for Dylan Thomas Film Footage, Sep-02
 In preparation for an exhibition and festival to commemorate the 50th anniversary of his death, researchers are looking for film footage of Dylan Thomas.
 http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/wales/2256207.stm

 Chris Evans Radio 1 Tapes Missing, Jan-01
 The archives of infamous radio recordings made by DJ Chris Evans, whilst still a presenter for the BBC's Radio One, have disappeared.
 http://media.guardian.co.uk/broadcast/story/0,7493,424415,00.html

 New Archives

 Donating Your Personal Archive, No Date
 The Guardian appeals for people to donate any personal papers relating to the newspaper's archive.
 http://www.guardian.co.uk/newsroom/story/0,11718,728622,00.html

 How Dahl's Matilda Nearly Died and James Almost Rode on a Giant Cherry, Jun-03
 Roald Dahl's archive, to be housed in a new £4m centre in Buckinghamshire is to open soon. It is hoped that the centre will also encourage reading and writing.
 http://www.guardian.co.uk/uk_news/story/0,3604,972550,00.html

 Lady Thatcher Opens Cambridge Archive, Oct-02
 Lady Thatcher's opens an archive housing her political papers at Cambridge University.
 http://education.guardian.co.uk/higher/news/story/0,9830,822600,00.html
 Similar stories: http://education.guardian.co.uk/higher/news/story/0,9830,822600,00.html

 Pullman Donates Manuscripts in Bid to Boost Children's Creative Writing, Aug-02
 Writer Phillip Pullman donates his manuscripts to the Centre for the Children's Book in Newcastle in the hope that his work will be preserved and to stimulate children's creative writing.
 http://www.guardian.co.uk/uk_news/story/0,3604,775959,00.html
 Also relevant for stories on the preservation of archives

 Nation Chronicled in Screen Archive, Nov-01
 The National Screen and Sound Archive of Wales, new home to over a century of film and sound recordings, has opened.
 http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/wales/1668115.stm

 Mixed Metaphor, Mar-01
 The archive of the lives of the people of Tiger Bay, Cardiff represents a remarkable social history that emphasises important values such as tolerance and respect. The founder of the archive
believes it has empowered local people to represent their own history and has become a key part of the area’s regeneration.
http://society.guardian.co.uk/societyguardian/story/0,7843,451160,00.html
Also relevant for stories on Regeneration

**Saving Hong Kong’s Film Heritage, Jan-01**
The new Hong Kong film archive is a challenging and interesting prospect.
http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/entertainment/1136594.stm

**Disaster Archive to be Launched Online, Oct-00**
An online archive, detailing the foundation of a national archive of disasters, has been launched. It is intended to provide support and material for academics, campaign groups, individuals and professionals.
http://education.guardian.co.uk/higher/story/0,5500,390128,00.html
Also relevant for stories on Online/Digital Archives

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**Prominent Figures in Archives**

**British Academics Denounce Sacking of Italian Historian, Oct-02**
The Director of the Central State Archives in Italy has controversially lost his job. Some commentators view the decision as part of possible moves to make certain documents in the archive less accessible in order to satisfy Prime Minister Berlusconi’s intention that Italian history is re-written.
http://education.guardian.co.uk/higher/news/story/0,9830,806402,00.html

**Patrick Saul, Jul-99**
Obituary of the founder of the National Film Archive, Patrick Saul.
http://www.guardian.co.uk/obituaries/story/0,3604,281524,00.html

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**Digital/online archives**

**Iraq ‘Virtual Heritage’ Planned, Jun-03**
A US university is hoping to create a virtual archive of Iraq's historical treasures.
http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/entertainment/arts/2958878.stm

**Massive Photo Archives to be Accessible Over the Internet, Jun-03**
One of the world’s largest photographic collections, the archives of the George Eastman museum is to be made accessible over the Internet.
http://www.10nbc.com/index.asp?template=item&story_id=8065

**Liverpool Library to get £40m Injection, Mar-03**
Liverpool’s library is to receive a huge virtual archive as part of a £40m redevelopment plan.
http://education.guardian.co.uk/elearning/story/0,10577,913218,00.html
Related stories: http://education.guardian.co.uk/elearning/story/0,10577,912807,00.html
Also relevant for stories on investment
Prehistoric Art Archive Goes on the Internet, Mar-03
An archive of the UK’s finest collection of prehistoric rock art is to be published online on a state of the art Web site that includes GPS, digital photographs and drawings.
http://news.scotsman.com/arts.cfm?id=303082003

Scott Archive Goes Online, Mar-03
The results of seven years of detective work by an academic tracking down letters by Sir Walter Scott are being made available online.
http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/scotland/2832361.stm

Working Life Goes Online, Mar-03
English Heritage has introduced an online digital archive of more than 300 years of working life.
http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/england/2826113.stm

Arts Society’s Archives Go Online, Feb-03
The Royal Society for the encouragement of the Arts (RSA) launches its records online.
http://education.guardian.co.uk/elearning/comment/0,10577,887867,00.html

Cambridge First with Electronic Archive, Feb-03
Cambridge University is set to become the first UK university to launch an electronic super-archive that would make its academic material freely available.
http://education.guardian.co.uk/elearning/story/0,10577,893541,00.html

Digital Domesday Book Unlocked, Dec-02
A rich digital archive of British life in the 1980s has been brought back to life by researchers from the UK and the US. They have developed a way to access the information gathered by the BBC’s Domesday project which has been stored on technology which has become outdated.
http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/technology/2534391.stm

MIT Launches Digital Archive, Nov-02
The Massachusetts Institute of Technology has launched a "super-archive" that will make research from all its academics freely available. DSpace is a digital repository system that will capture, store, distribute and preserve the intellectual output of MIT’s faculty and research staff.
http://education.guardian.co.uk/higher/news/story/0,9830,834158,00.html

Microsoft Plans Online Life Archive, Nov-02
Microsoft researchers are working on the production of a “back-up brain”, a database of an individual’s life that will hold a vast range of items that can be easily searched.
http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/technology/2495649.stm

Newsreel Archive Launched Online, Nov-02
Hundreds of hours of historic newsreel footage can now be viewed free of charge on the Internet. The bi-weekly, Pathé news bulletins, which played in cinemas from 1910 to 1970, have been released via the Pathé Web site thanks to a grant from the National Lottery. More than 3500 hours of footage is available.
http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/entertainment/film/2490639.stm
Similar stories: http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/wales/2491869.stm;
http://film.guardian.co.uk/News_Story/Guardian/0,4029,126111,00.html
http://education.guardian.co.uk/elearning/story/0,10577,843795,00.html
‘Silk Road’ Treasures Brought to Life on the Web, Nov-02
A collaboration between the British Library and the National Library of China has led to the online publication of an archive about the Silk Road.
http://www.bl.uk/cgi-bin/news.cgi?story=1303

Electronic Archive of the Day the US was Attacked, Sep-02
The coverage and events of 11 September are being preserved online. 911digitalarchive.org hosts an online archive dedicated to preserving the electronic information and exchanges relating to the terrorist attacks on the US.

Missal Launched on the Web, Aug-02
State of the art technology has been used to publish parts of the Sherborne Missal, the most expensive item ever acquired by the British Library. Users can turn pages, enlarge details and listen or read commentaries on the text.
http://www.bl.uk/cgi-bin/news.cgi?story=1286

Scots Online Archive Planned, May-02
Scots speakers are being invited to add their voices to the first major online archive of the country’s different languages.
http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/scotland/1987171.stm

British Library Begins Website Archive, Mar-02
The British Library has begun the task of preserving the country’s digital heritage by archiving websites of cultural significance.
http://www.guardian.co.uk/internetnews/story/0,7369,670427,00.html

Webarian, Feb-02
The founder of Alexa, a digital resource that archives Internet history, discusses the site’s history.
http://www.guardian.co.uk/online/story/0,3605,653286,00.html

Coke Adds Life to Online Ad Archive, Dec-01
The popular soft drink Coca-Cola intends to put over 100 years of advertising campaigns online, as part of the development of a multimillion pound archive of its marketing heritage.
http://media.guardian.co.uk/newmedia/story/0,7496,616540,00.html

Russian Film Archive Goes Online, Dec-01
Russia's Central Film and Stills Archive has put its main catalogue online, offering web users access to most of its collection of 38,000 feature and documentary films.
http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/world/monitoring/media_reports/1700714.stm
Similar stories:
http://education.guardian.co.uk/higher/artsandhumanities/story/0,12241,783454,00.html

Jewish Cemetery Archive for the Web, Apr-01
One man is attempting to map all the remaining Jewish cemeteries in the Czech Republic and publish the archive for posterity on the Web.
http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/world/monitoring/media_reports/1300447.stm
Book Now, Sep-00
The £7.5m planned redevelopment of the Borthwick Institute archive is one example of the wave of
digitisation that is transforming university libraries and archives.
http://education.guardian.co.uk/higher/story/0,5500,373021,00.html
Also relevant for issues on access and investment

Issues with Online/digital content and online/digital archives

As Email Volume Grows, So Does the Need to Archive, Jun-03
A report from the Radicati Group suggests that few global corporations have an archiving policy in
place for emails.

The End of History, Jun-03
Are we entering a “new digital dark age”? The potential problems in the computerisation and
digitisation of society come under the spotlight.
http://news.independent.co.uk/digital/features/story.jsp?story=420334

The End of History, Jun-03
The movement to paperless government administration is having a damaging impact upon official
record-keeping.
http://slate.msn.com/id/2083920/

NASDAQ: Securities Dealers Must Archive Instant Messages, Jun-03
A new ruling by the US National Association of Securities Dealers that stipulates that securities
dealers must now archive instant messages for a minimum of three years.

Second Sight, Apr-03
The war on Iraq highlighted the growing importance of Weblogs for recording and tracking
information (“The weblogs offer a rolling people’s history of the war that will be of incalculable
value to future historians”).
http://www.guardian.co.uk/online/story/0,3605,937953,00.html

Library Issues Online Archive Warning, Feb-03
The National Library of Scotland is warning that a whole chapter in the country's history will be lost
unless a 92-year-old law is changed to include material published on the Internet, CD-Rom and
DVD.
http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/scotland/2751163.stm

Past Times, Feb-03
As a second reading of a private members bill on legal deposit libraries approaches, the potential
negative repercussions that may occur if digital records are not archived must be considered.
http://education.guardian.co.uk/higher/comment/story/0,9828,913225,00.html

Digital Records ‘Obscure the Past’, Dec-02
The benefits and disadvantages of traditional versus digital archives highlight the problems of
digitising historical records.
Record Makers, Nov-02
A simple database that allows people to digitise and store pictures, documents, interviews and video clips, is being used by groups of people across Britain (and increasingly across the world) to create archives. [http://www.commanet.org](http://www.commanet.org)
http://society.guardian.co.uk/societyguardian/story/0,7843,838492,00.html

Store the Front Page, Sep-02
The transience of online media may have serious consequences upon history-making.
http://media.guardian.co.uk/mediaguardian/story/0,7558,792675,00.html

Saving for Future, Aug-02
The development of Internet archiving and the challenges ahead are investigated.
http://education.guardian.co.uk/higher/news/story/0,9830,782973,00.html

Archivists Keep Data from Being Lost in Cyberspace, Nov-01
Analysis of the problems archivists face in preserving information published online.

The Way it Was, Dec-01
The development of means to archive information on the Internet (including the Internet Archive) and sites from which it is possible to see how the Internet has developed are discussed.
http://www.guardian.co.uk/online/story/0,3605,621057,00.html

Questions and Ancestors, May-00
The impact of the online publication of public records and has made it easier to trace family histories.
http://www.guardian.co.uk/online/story/0,3605,219307,00.html

People’s History, Nov-99
Historian Simon Schama outlines his feelings about the development of digital archives.
http://www.guardian.co.uk/2000/article/0,2763,196740,00.html

Legal issues

Courting Contempt Online, Jan-02
Newspapers’ public online archives could be under threat following a judge’s ruling in the case of a man found guilty of murder.
http://media.guardian.co.uk/mediaguardian/story/0,7558,636556,00.html

Abuse of Trust, Jun-00
Be warned, there are considerable commercial and privacy issues to consider in the use of archived images, particularly in the media.
http://www.guardian.co.uk/saturday_review/story/0,3605,330032,00.html
Access to archives

Top Secret Joke the CIA Didn’t Want You to Hear, Jun-03
A classified CIA report on an alleged terrorist attack on Santa Claus, that has been keep secret for 30 years has been published. The report underlines US government hysteria about keeping information secret.

Film Archive Set for Overhaul, May-03
One of the world’s largest film archives is set for a thorough overhaul as the British Film Institute (BFI) looks to ensure there is better public access.
http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/entertainment/film/3007211.stm

UEL Unveils Refugee Archive, May-03
An archive documenting 50 years of asylum seeking in the UK has been given a new home by the University of East London. The Refugee Council's archive has been re-housed and re-catalogued to the university’s Docklands site to make the materials more readily accessible to the public.
http://education.guardian.co.uk/higher/artsandhumanities/story/0,12241,964279,00.html
Also relevant for ‘New’ Archives section

In Pursuit of the Facts, Apr-03
Anthony Beevor vents his frustration in accessing archives in the process of researching his book and his desire to make unused parts of his research available to others by publishing it online.
http://books.guardian.co.uk/review/story/0,12084,934120,00.html

Tate Opens £2m Research Centre, Apr-02
A £2.2m donation by the Kreitman Foundation has allowed the Tate Britain to bring together its vast archive, which has until now been spread across various buildings in London. However access to the archive will be restricted to those with an in-depth knowledge of their subject who have already exhausted all other avenues of obtaining information.
http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/entertainment/arts/1946721.stm
Similar stories: http://www.thisislondon.co.uk/entertainment/daysout/articles/373921

Spanish Government Funds Group that Exalts Franco, Sep-02
The Spanish government has provided financial assistance to the National Francisco Franco Foundation, an archive about Franco. The archive has been criticised for allowing only Franco sympathisers access to its files.
http://www.guardian.co.uk/international/story/0,3604,796104,00.html

Atomic Centre Reveals its Secrets, Oct-01
Historians in Oxfordshire can use previously unseen archive material housed at a site that for decades was at the heart of Britain’s atomic research. A state-of-the-art £1.5m archive centre has been opened at Harwell by the UK Atomic Energy Authority.
http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/england/1628140.stm

Explorers’ Aids on Display, Feb-01
The Royal Geographical Society has opened the doors of its London headquarters, which includes an archive of 500,000 items, after securing funding from the National Lottery Heritage Fund.
Unlocking the Secrets of Government, Jan-01
The limit on the extent of the documents that the Public Records Office annually makes accessible is made clear.
http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/entertainment/1178926.stm

Open Up Ma’am, Mar-00
The reasons for and against making the royal archives accessible to all are discussed.
http://www.guardian.co.uk/freedom/Story/0,2763,191125,00.html

Call for Access to Holocaust Archives, Jan-00
A three day international forum on the Holocaust concluded with a declaration requesting that wartime archives of governments and businesses be opened up to throw light upon the remaining secrets of the Holocaust.
http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/world/europe/622177.stm

In the Frame for Posterity, Jun-99
The History Channel is attempting to build an archive of photographs of the 20th century, consisting of images sent in by members of the public.
http://www.guardian.co.uk/guardiansociety/story/0,3605,291236,00.html

Curse of Koestler, Apr-99
Two biographers have become entangled in a row over the rights to access Arthur Koestler’s archive.
http://www.guardian.co.uk/arts/story/0,3604,297132,00.html
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