

EMAIL, WEB, AND SOCIAL MEDIA

ARCHIVING

A FOUR STEP GUIDE: IDENTIFY, DECIDE, EXPORT, MANAGE*

Why we need to archive our online content:

Digital diaries

email messages, blog posts, tweets, facebook updates, tumblr shares: even once-monthly posts add up.

Comprehensive legacy

a full picture of your career captures your digital, "ephemeral" content as well as hardy analog material.

Third parties

we can't trust twitter, facebook, or even Google to save all your content.

STEP ONE

IDENTIFY what you have and where it is

email

GMAIL
OUTLOOK
.EDU
OTHER:

web

PERSONAL WEBSITE
PROFESSIONAL WEBSITE
BLOG
OTHER:

social media

TWITTER
FACEBOOK
TUMBLR
OTHER:

*Note: four step method adapting from LOC.

STEP FOUR

MANAGE what, where, when

LOCKSS

lots of copies keeps stuff safe – save to computer hard drive, to external hard drive, to cloud (GoogleDrive, etc.)

Checking in

set up regular appointments (maybe bimonthly, maybe annually) to look over, update, and check on content

RESOURCES

Links for Personal Archiving (General)

- NARA guidelines for federal agencies: <http://www.archives.gov/records-mgmt/resources/socialmediacapture.pdf>
- personal digital archiving resources: <http://library.columbia.edu/locations/dhc/personal-digital-archiving/online-resources.html>
- LOC on Personal Website, Blogs, and Social Media: <http://www.digitalpreservation.gov/personalarchiving/websites.html>
- LOC on Personal Email Archiving: <http://www.digitalpreservation.gov/personalarchiving/email.html>
- WIRED on archiving your social media: <http://www.wired.com/2014/07/archive-social-networks/>

Links for Individual Sites/Platforms

- GMail:
 - archiving messages as part of working process: <https://support.google.com/mail/answer/6576?hl=en>
 - exporting message data: <http://gmailblog.blogspot.com/2013/12/download-copy-of-your-gmail-and-google.html>
- Outlook:
 - archiving emails in Outlook 2013: <http://www.howtogeek.com/198907/how-to-archive-email-messages-in-outlook-2013/>
 - archiving in Outlook 2010: <https://support.microsoft.com/en-us/kb/2720581>
- WordPress:
 - WordPress backups: https://codex.wordpress.org/WordPress_Backups
- Blogger:
 - <https://support.google.com/blogger/answer/97416?hl=en>
- Weebly:
 - <http://www.webnots.com/backup-weebly-site/>
- Twitter:
 - downloading your Twitter archive: <https://support.twitter.com/articles/20170160-downloading-your-twitter-archive>
- Facebook:
 - downloading your info: <https://www.facebook.com/help/131112897028467/>
- Instagram:
 - try Instaport: <http://instaport.me/>
- Tumblr:
 - backing up your Tumblr: http://www.webmonkey.com/2008/10/simple_ways_to_back_up_your_tumblr_blog/

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STEP TWO

DECIDE what has long-term value

- what long term value means: pick the information that you think will contribute most productively to your legacy (business emails with a gallery or fellow artists are likely included; mass emails from Groupon are likely not)
- you can archive as much or as little as you think essential
- selection criteria brainstorming: interactions with galleries, fellow artists; all blog entries; tweets within date range of big exhibition...

email

SELECTION CRITERIA:

web

SELECTION CRITERIA:

social media

SELECTION CRITERIA:

STEP THREE

EXPORT to safe places

email

- what's with the archive function?
- saving attachments
- exporting in a selected format

web

- automated export options for linking files
- saving as HTML vs. PDF

social media

- varies by platform
- many/most have manual option download

Things to consider

- saving a few vs. saving many
- saving metadata (naming files with dates and content indicators)