

Towards A Macroscope For UK Web History

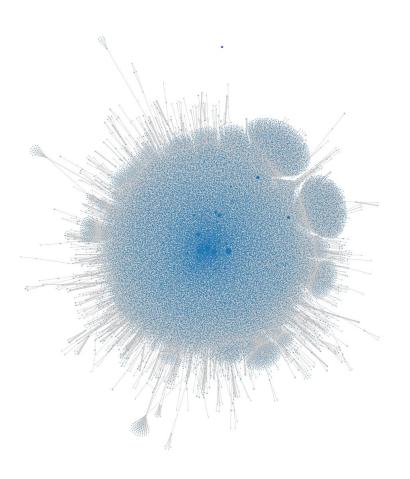
Andrew Jackson

UK Web Archive Technical Lead



The UK Web Archive

- Three collections:
 - Selective Archive (since 2004)
 - Legal Deposit Archive (since 2013)
 - JISC Historical Archive (1996-2013)
- Statistics:
 - Over six billion resources
 - Over 100TB compressed data
- Goals:
 - Preserve UK web history
 - Support access
 - Enable research





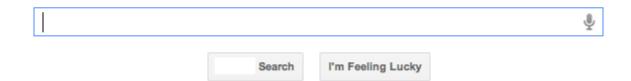
The Problem



© Neil Howard CC-BY-NC https://flic.kr/p/cUd91m



The Solution?





The Macroscope

"Macroscopes provide a 'vision of the whole,'
helping us 'synthesize' the related elements and
detect patterns, trends, and outliers
while granting access to myriad details."

- Plug-and-Play Macroscopes by Katy Börner
- Big Data, Small Data and Meaning by Tim Hitchcock



The Demo

http://www.webarchive.org.uk/shine



The Future

- Scale & Sustainability:
 - 1996-2010 2 billion resources
 - 2011-2013 2 billion more in two years...
 - 2013 onwards > 2 billion per year...
- Features & Usability:
 - Better full text search result quality, and more curation
 - Richer deconstruction of trends
 - Contextualisation of individual URLs and hosts
 - Improve network analysis capability
 - Understand lifespan and lifecycle of URLs