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Preserving the Uncrawlable: Serving the Server

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Preserving the Uncrawlable: Serving the Server

tiny.cc/ukweb2024

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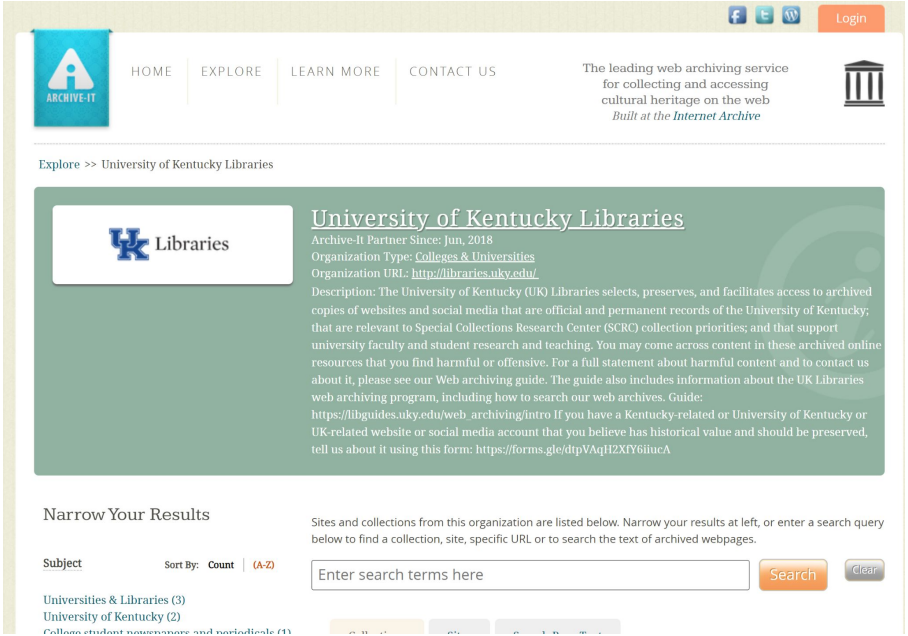
Andrew McDonnell, Digital Archivist
University of Kentucky Libraries
Special Collections Research Center
April 25, 2024

University of Kentucky Libraries Web Archiving

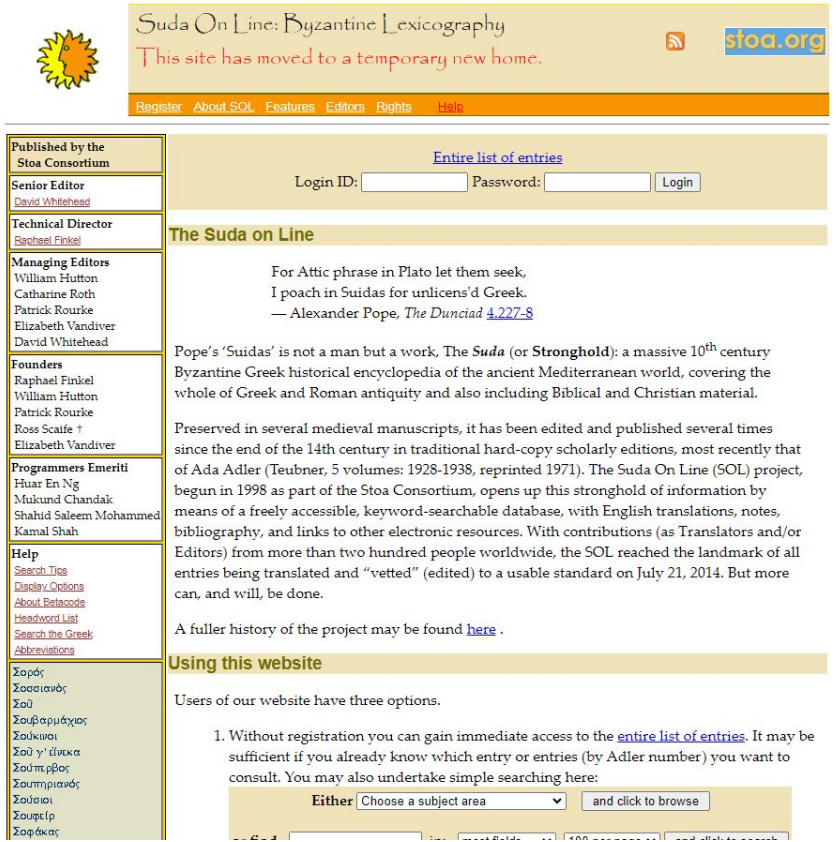
Established in 2018
https://archive-it.org/organizations/915



Suda On Line: Byzantine Lexicography

Founded in 1998

Still live:
www.cs.uky.edu/~raphael/sol/sol-html

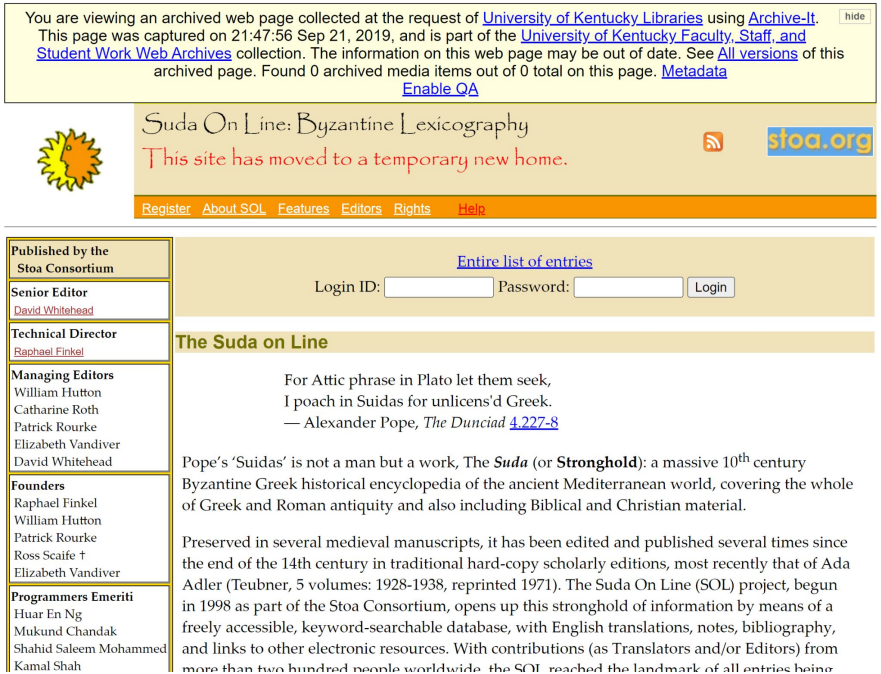


Suda On Line: Byzantine Lexicography

Founded in 1998

https://wayback.archive-it.org/11384/*/https://www.cs.uky.edu/~raphael/sol/sol-html/

Looks Great!



House of lies.

Suda On Line: Byzantine Lexicography

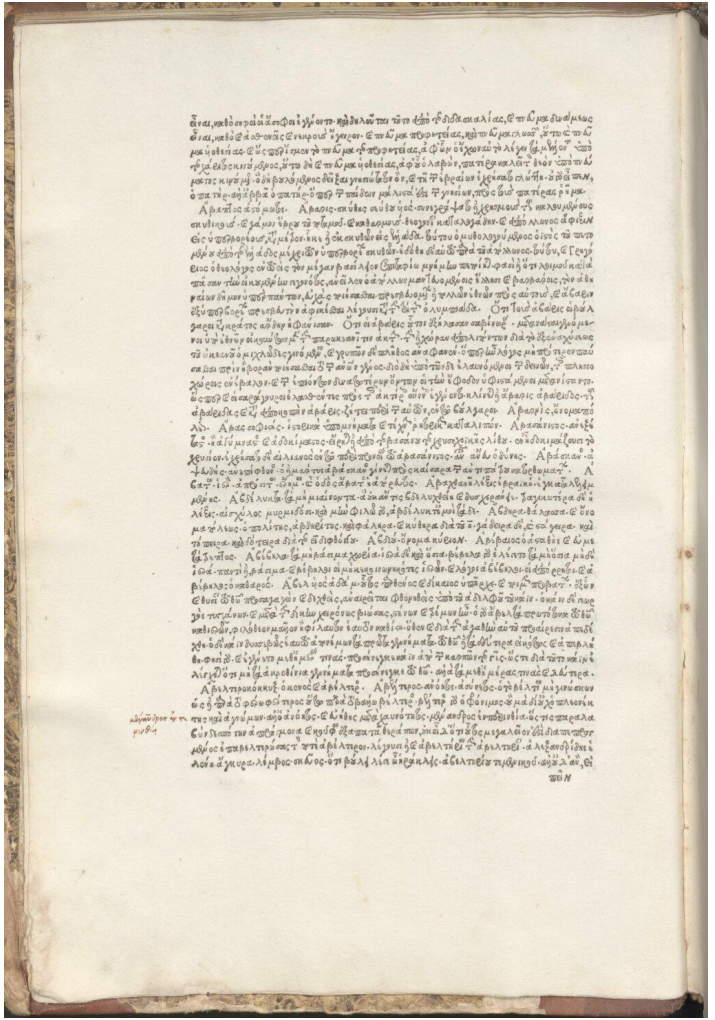
Founded in 1998

- What and Why?(Appraisal)
- How? (Capture/Ingest)
- Larger philosophical questions (Context/Respect des fonds)

Suda Off Line: Byzantine Lexicography

1499 edition housed by the Bavarian State Library and shared online by the Munich DigitiZation Center (MDC)

https://daten.digitale-sammlungen.de/bsb00050756/image_16



Suda On Line: Byzantine Lexicography

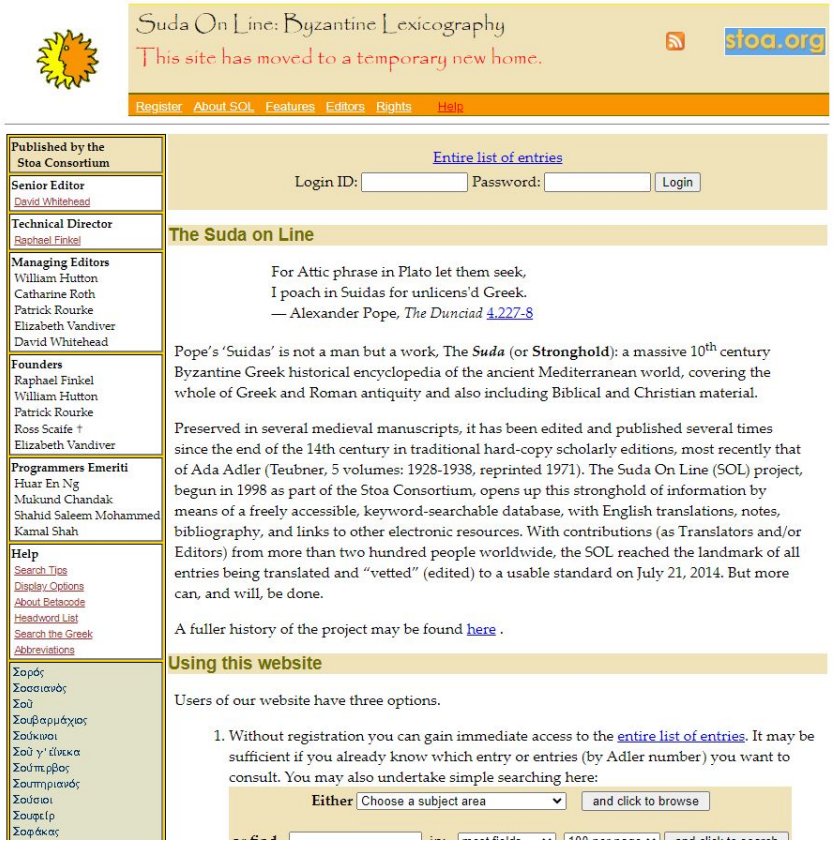
Founded in 1998

- Translation of 10th century encyclopedia written in Greek
- Crowd-sourced project, pre-dating Wikipedia
- Product of the Stoa Consortium for Electronic Publication in the Humanities
- Only English translation of the Suda, in any format

Suda On Line: Byzantine Lexicography

Founded in 1998

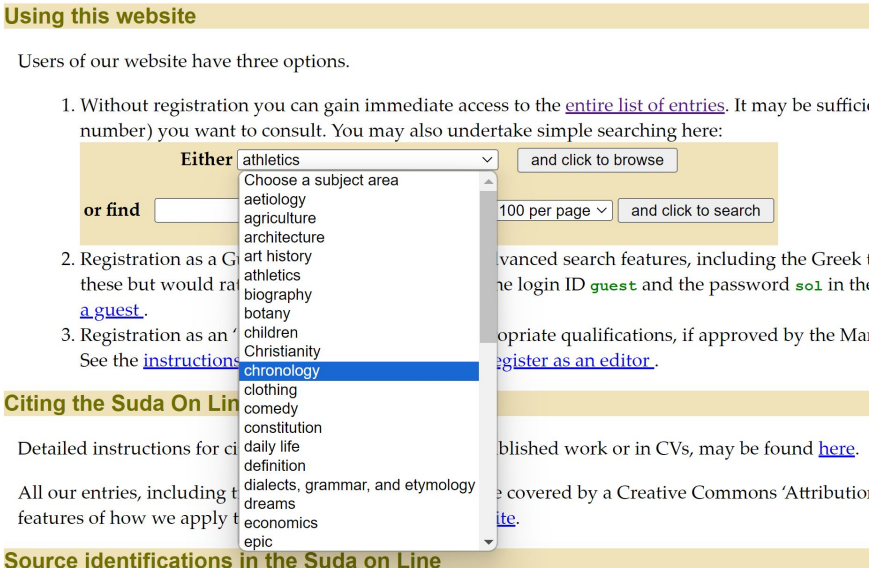
Still live:
www.cs.uky.edu/~raphael/sol/sol-html



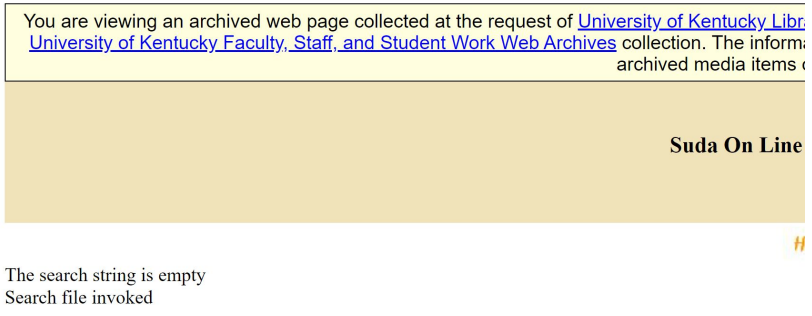
Why Won’t you Just Crawl?

…

Server-Side Operations



Preserving function, not just form.



Idea 1:
Preserve the Whole Server
...

The Importance of the Donor

Passive vs. Active Web Archiving

A bird in hand.

OVF/OVA file

-Open Virtualization Format/Appliance

-Preserve the full disk image as a virtual machine

-Document content and instructions

-Easy!

A bird in hand.

OVF/OVA file

-Open Virtualization Format

-Preserve the full disk image as a virtual machine, import in VirtualBox

-Document content and instructions

~~-Easy!~~

Possible?

———

A bird in hand.

OVF/OVA file

-Open Virtualization Format

-Preserve the full disk image as a virtual machine

-Document content and instructions

~~-Easy!~~

~~Possible?~~

Possible!

The .OVA
It's something.

Pros

-The full server is preserved

-It works

Cons

-Offline storage limits access

-Long-term sustainability?

-Requires full access to server

-Requires all website components share one server (no external resources/API integration)

Idea 2:
ReproZip-Web

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ReproZip-Web

They’re presenting here tomorrow!

ReproZip-Web

Capture server-side actions

Also capture external website elements

Package & reproduce sites far more complex than Suda On Line

ReproZip-Web

Pros:

-Potentially ideal for efficiently capturing DH projects

-Smaller output than server image

-Lower barrier to serving access than VM

ReproZip-Web

Challenges:

-Technical complexity

-Requires access/permissions to servers

-Widespread acceptance of .rpz standard/sustainability

ReproZip-Web

That being said:

Oui.

.RPZ

—

A Larger Question

...

What is a website when it’s no longer online?

The Offline Suda On Line

To what extent is SOL a tool?

To what extent a text?

—

The Offline Suda On Line

Aboutness & Context.

The Future of the Suda On Line

The conversation continues...

References

Boss, Katherine, Ilya Kreymer, Vicky Rampin, and Rémi Rampin. “Server-Side Web Archiving Using Reprozip-Web”. *iPRES 2023 Proposal Submission*. https://drive.google.com/file/d/1D9h_qc7jd4KP58DxlsFhzNxr7ckiPtPy/view . Accessed 2024 April 14.

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Thank you!

Questions?

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