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Preserving Student Life: UK Libraries' Experience with "Wildcat Histories"

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Bryan, Ruth E. and Leigh, Taylor C., "Preserving Student Life: UK Libraries' Experience with "Wildcat Histories" (2024). Library Presentations. 282.

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Preserving Student Life

UK Libraries' Experience with "Wildcat Histories"

ALA Promoting Preservation Interest Group | November 8, 2024

Ruth E. Bryan, University Archivist Taylor Leigh, Modern & Classical Languages Librarian

University of Kentucky Libraries



Why do "Wildcat Histories" matter?

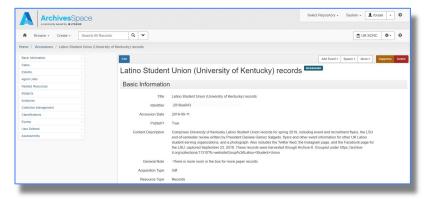




2018-present: Foundations

 Daniela Gámez Salgado (researcher, archival assistant, and Latino Student Union President), 2018-2021

"Wildcat Histories," 2020-2021



Accession record for Latino Student Union records in ArchivesSpace, 2019 (2019ua043)



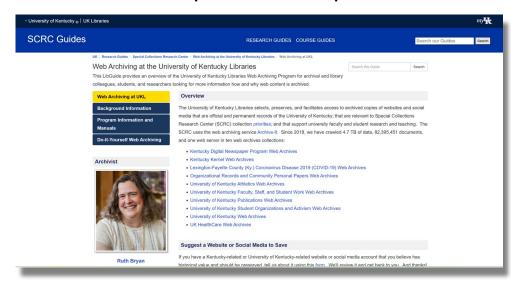
Top: Daniela Gámez Salgado, 2020

Left: Her exhibit, "A Visual History of Latino Students at UK," 2019

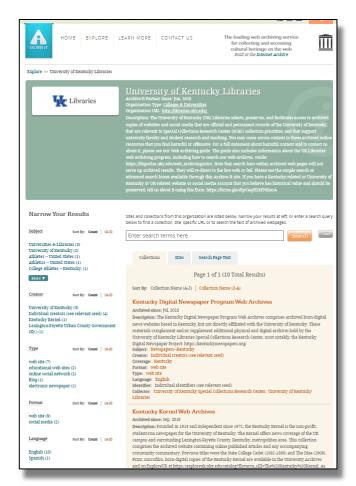


2018-present: Foundations

- Archive-It subscription, 2018
 - Hired Emily Collier
- 10 collections; policies, and procedures



https://libguides.uky.edu/web_archiving



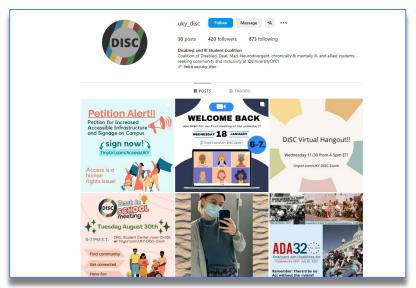
UK Libraries Archive-It home page



Web Archiving at UK Libraries

- Websites generally work OK
- Social media is much more difficult yet crucial to capture

 Enter: Project STAND and "Wildcat Histories" mini-grant



@uky_disc, Disabled and III Student Coalition Instagram, 7/21/2023



"Wildcat Histories": A Project STAND Mini-Grant, 2022-2023

- Project STAND (STudent Activism Now Documented)
- Consortium; began in 2018
- IMLS and Mellon Foundation funding
- \$14,000 to UK Libraries, April 2022-Aug 2023, for "Wildcat Histories: Preserving Activist UK Student Organizations' Legacies"



https://standarchives.com/



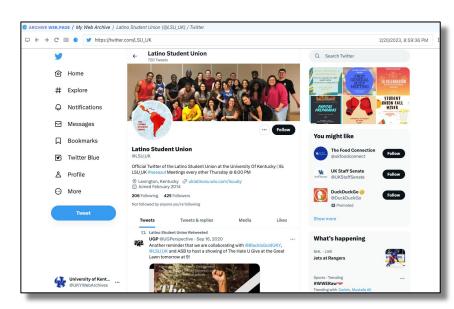
Grant Details

Partner with the Latino Student Union (LSU) to:

- Preserve their social media and website(s)
- Hire LSU student members to work on the grant
- \$400 to support LSU archival work

Use the preserved LSU social media as a pilot to:

 Develop procedures and guidelines for preserving student social media (whether donated to the archives or not)



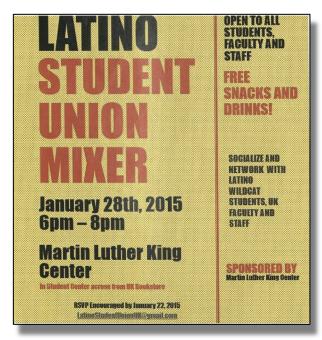
LSU Twitter feed



Grant Details

Communication and outreach initiative:

- To 15 selected activist student organizations
- Using social media preservation procedures and guidelines about archiving (whether donated to the archives or not)
- \$100 each to support archival work



LSU mixer flyer, 2015, from the Latino Student Union records





Claudia Benito, Student Organizations Communication Student Assistant



Flor Muciño, Social Media Preservation Student Assistant



Taylor Leigh, Principal Investigator



Ruth Bryan University Archivist, Ex-Officio



Sarah Dorpinghaus, Technology Project Manager



Emily Collier, Technology Consultant





Grant Timeline

4/2022 - 3/2023

3/2023

3/2023 - 8/2023

7/2023 - 8/2023

9/2023 - 11/2023

Social media and website preservation research and testing

Description procedures

Meetings with experts

Documenting the Now Web Archiving Workshop

Outreach to student groups

Developing procedural documentation

Outreach to student groups

LSU collection guide testing, finalizing, upload to ExploreUK.uky.edu Requesting nocost extension to 11/30/2023

Outreach to student groups

Training and assistance as needed

Provide archival services as needed (for any format)

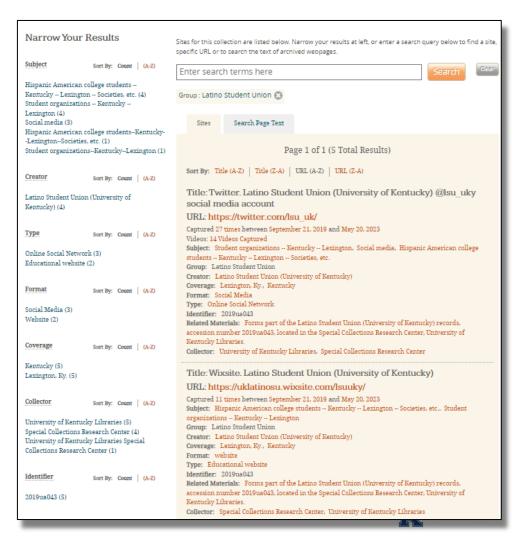


exploreuk.uky.edu



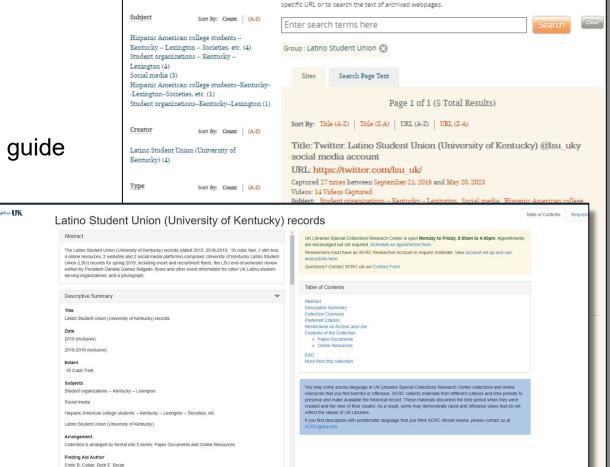
Deliverables:

 LSU social media and website in Archive-It



Deliverables:

- LSU social media and website in Archive-It
- LSU records collection guide is online in ExploreUK



Sites for this collection are listed below. Narrow your results at left, or enter a search query below to find a site,

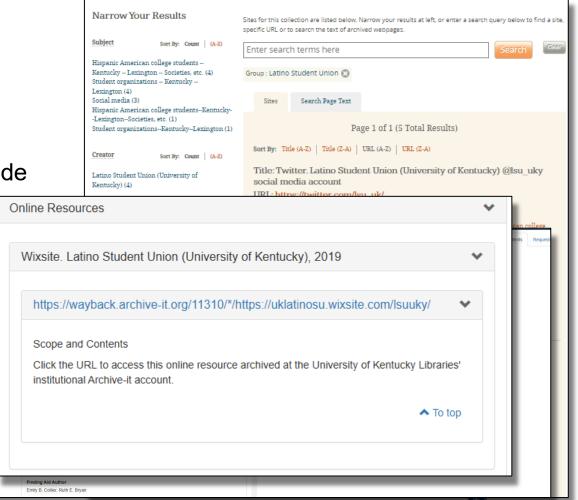
Narrow Your Results

Deliverables:

 LSU social media and website in Archive-It

 LSU records collection guide is online (ExploreUK)

 With links to seeds in Archive-It



Deliverables: Archival Procedures and Instructions

"How to Archive" Guide

Wildcat Histories: How To Archive Guide

This folder is meant to serve as a template for setting up your own Google Drive organization. Feel free to add folders that pertain to your group, but below we include a number of folders with information we recommend including. The following information is important for organizational transfer of knowledge. Additionally, the information is important to keep track of in case of any unexpected changes or new endeavors. Keep in mind that the best time to organize documents is when they are created.

Event Information Folder

This folder could serve as a place to hold information about events hosted by your organization. There are many elements to this, so there are folders within to help further organize.

Event Details Folder

- Any extra documentation concerning the event
- List of the school year's events with dates, titles, content info

Flyers

- Include the flyers your organization posted on social media
- Flyers that were printed and distributed

- Photos

- Upload photos that were taken for or at the event

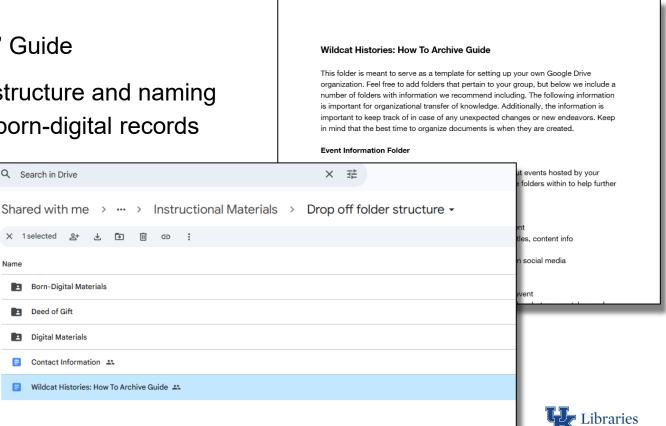




Deliverables: Archival Procedures and Instructions

- "How to Archive" Guide
- Example folder structure and naming conventions for born-digital records

Name



Deliverables: Outreach

- Videos and informational and instructional flyers
- Berenice Cruz, LSU review of instructional guides
- LSU presentation
- Social media campaign



Still from a promotional video recorded by Flor Muciño, our Social Media Preservation Assistant.

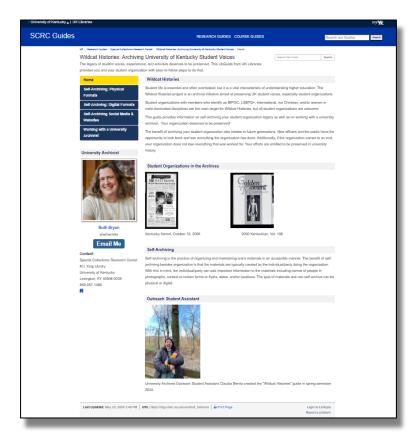


Informational flyer created by Claudia Benito, our Student Organizations Communication Assistant.



Post-grant, 2024: Instructions and Outreach

Wildcat Histories LibGuide

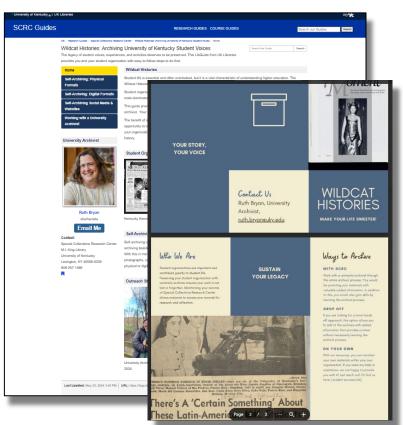


https://libguides.u ky.edu/wildcat_hi stories



Post-grant, 2024: Instructions and Outreach

- Wildcat Histories LibGuide
- Outreach flyers using exhibit and other examples from the archives.
- Email, social media, personal contacts



https://libguides.u ky.edu/wildcat_hi stories



What's up with "Wildcat Histories" in fall 2024?

On hold





Nature of grant organization





- Nature of grant organization
- Award amount vis-à-vis R1 grant offices





- Nature of grant organization
- Award amount vis-à-vis R1 grant offices
- Accounting for our effort





- Nature of grant organization
- Award amount vis-à-vis R1 grant offices
- Accounting for our effort
- Personnel and supervision





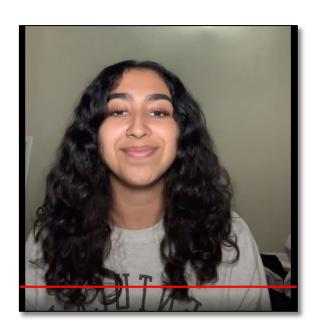
Obstacles to Preservation: Outreach & Engagement



Informational flyer created by Claudia Benito, our Student Organizations Communication Assistant.



Instructional sheet created by Claudia Benito.



Still from a promotional video recorded by Flor Muciño, our Social Media Preservation Assistant.



Outreach Successes



Undergraduates working on a scavenger hunt activity at the exhibit, "Documenting the Presence of Hispanic Students at UK."

UK Libraries Special Collection Research Center, December 2022.

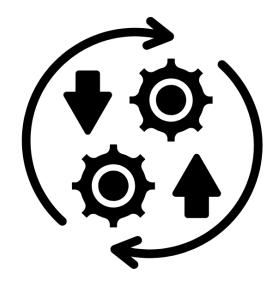




Presenting on Wildcat Histories at the SALALM annual conference, June 2023, Washington D.C.



Constant change



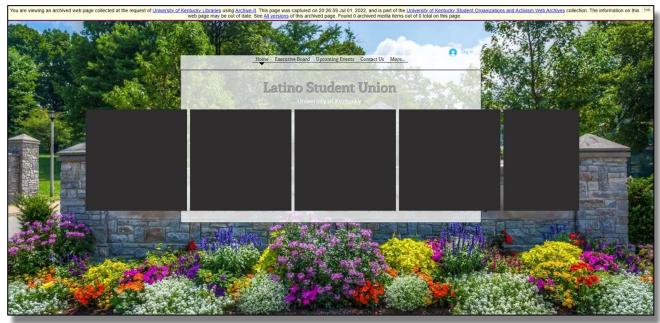
Created by BEJOUN from Noun Project



Success with informational interviews: saved a lot of time



• Archive-It: Websites (Wix)



LSU Wix website, 7/1/2022



• Archive-It: Websites (Wix)



LSU Wix website, 3/22/2024

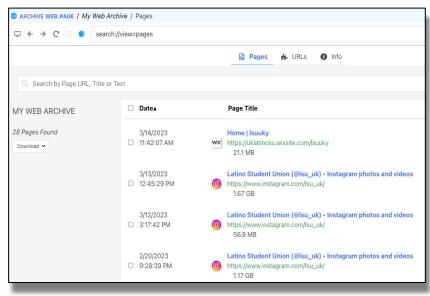


- Failure (automation): Facebook
 - Can use manual/boutique methods
 - Not scalable

Dormitory complex Facebook group we manually preserve



- Success: Crawl Instagram and Twitter/X using Webrecorder
- Upload WARCs (Web ARChive file format) to Archive-It



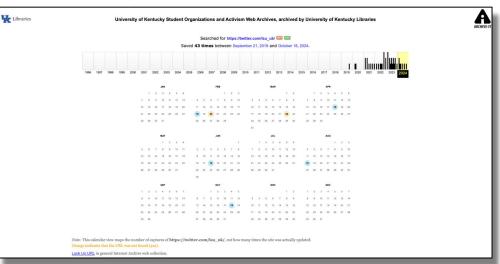


Webrecorder Archive-It admin view



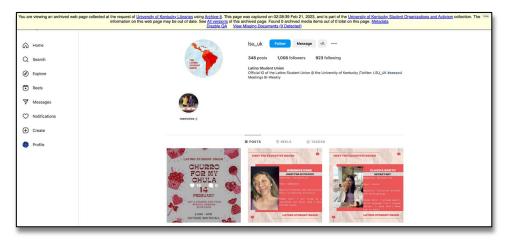
- Problem: Wayback machine sometimes doesn't replay social media well
- Added a note: "Many of the Wayback calendar pages do not load properly as Archive-It struggles to crawl Instagram. A quality crawl was run using Webrecorder and the uploaded WARC can be viewed in Wayback under February 21, 2023."

Title: Twitter, Latino Student Union (University of Kentucky) @lsu_uky social media account URL: https://twitter.com/lsu_uk/ Description: Many of the Wayback calendar pages do not load properly as Archive-It struggles to crawl Twitter. A quality crawl was run using Webrecorder and the uploaded WARC can be viewed in Wayback under February 21, 2023. Note, this crawl still does not always play with success in Captured 43 times between September 21, 2019 and October 18, 2024 Videos: 16 Videos Captured Subject: Student organizations - Kentucky - Lexington, Social media, Hispanic American college students -- Kentucky -- Lexington -- Societies, etc. Group: Latino Student Union Creator: Latino Student Union (University of Kentucky) Coverage: Kentucky, Lexington, Ky. Format: Social media Type: Online social networks Related Materials: Forms part of the Latino Student Union (University of Kentucky) records, accession number 2019ua043, located in the Special Collections Research Center, University of Collector: University of Kentucky Libraries, University of Kentucky Libraries Special Collections Research Center





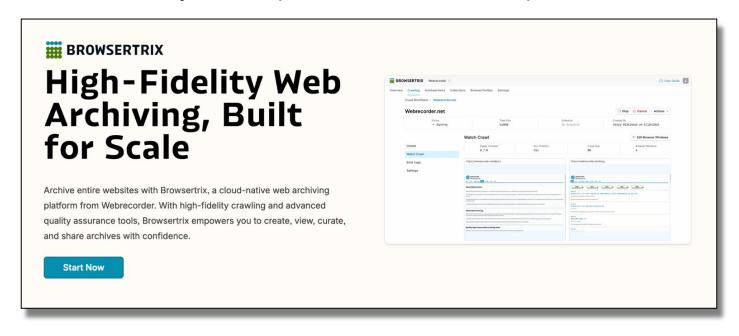
- Problem: Webrecorder for better crawls = reach our data limit quickly
- External WARCs hog data
 - Must be titled and uploaded precisely
 - Can't be deleted if make a mistake
 - No data deduplication
- Need to match data budget to overall acquisition priority



LSU Instagram capture



- In general, not sustainable for us
- Browsertrix may be an option, but has no description or access







Created by Denis Sazhir from the Noun Project

 Are the scope or goals of the project are commensurate with the amount of the grant/resources available?





Created by Denis Sazi from the Noun Project

- Are the scope or goals of the project are commensurate with the amount of the grant/resources available?
- What are your institution's financial and grant bureaucracy and payment and reporting options?





Created by Denis Sazhi from the Noun Project

- Are the scope or goals of the project are commensurate with the amount of the grant/resources available?
- What are your institution's financial and grant bureaucracy and payment and reporting options?
- Online resource preservation and access is both enabled and limited by the technology ecosystem you have.





Created by Denis Sazhi from the Noun Project

- Are the scope or goals of the project are commensurate with the amount of the grant/resources available?
- What are your institution's financial and grant bureaucracy and payment and reporting options?
- Online resource preservation and access is both enabled and limited by the technology ecosystem you have.
- Online resource preservation is not sustainable without dedicated staff.



Final Thoughts

(0°x°0)

Created by Denis Sazhin from the Noun Project

- Grateful for Project STAND and UK Libraries funding
- 6-year experiment
- Wiser



Created by Chaiwat Kinkaew from Noun Project



Thank you for listening!!

We would love to hear from you!



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University Archivist



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Modern & Classical
Languages Librarian

