

# Archiving Digital Marketing

## Examining Preservation of Dynamic Content on the Web Through the Lens of Online Advertisements

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INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE  
ON DIGITAL PRESERVATION  
16 - 20 SEPTEMBER 2024  
Ghent & Flanders, Belgium

Slides: <https://bit.ly/ipres2024>



# Why Preserve Online Advertisements

Advertisements are not just promotional tools but reflect and shape cultural and societal norms over time.

**TRANSISTOR RADIOS**



Now you can own a truly portable radio incorporating transistors, the tiny electronic marvels which obviate valves and cumbersome B batteries. These smartly styled "Sony" receivers from Pyrox give excellent reception with high sensitivity using only standard torch batteries costing approximately four shillings.

**GIVE HUNDREDS OF HOURS FROM TORCH BATTERIES**

Right is the all-purpose "Sony" Model TR 72, for home and outside use—equal in tonal quality to the best electric MANTEL MODELS. Size 3½ in. x 6½ in. x 9½ in. Weight 4½ lb. Price £45. Above is the slim versatile "SONY" model TR 6. Size 1½ in. x 4½ in. x 8½ in. Weight 2½ lb. Price £40.

Available from

**PYROX LTD.**  
14-36 QUEENSBERRY ST., MELBOURNE. FJ9121.  
69-71 EDWARD ST., PYRMONT, N.S.W. MW4417.



**COCAINE**  
**TOOTHACHE DROPS**

Instantaneous Cure!  
PRICE 15 CENTS.  
Prepared by the  
**LLOYD MANUFACTURING CO.**  
219 HUDSON AVE., ALBANY, N. Y.  
For sale by all Druggists.  
(Registered March 1885.) See other slide.



**Vaide mascara.**  
AGORA E ESTE USE EM LOCAIS PUBLICOS.  
28047  
MARUMBI

Source: Wikimedia Commons

# Why Preserve Online Advertisements

ONLINE ADVERTISEMENTS

ARE DOCUMENTARY

EVIDENCE

for understanding  
mid-1990s history  
onward

How Politics Replaced Religion

AMERICAN POLITICS, IT TURNS OUT, IS AS RELIGIOUS AS EVER; IT'S JUST THAT WHAT WAS ONCE *religious* belief has now been channeled into *political* belief. Political debates over what America is supposed to mean have taken on the character of theological disputations. This is what religion without religion looks like.

Not so long ago, I could comfort American audiences with a contrast: Whereas in the Middle East, politics is war by other means—and sometimes is literal war—politics in America was less existentially fraught. During the Arab Spring, in countries like Egypt and Tunisia, debates weren't about health care or taxes—they were, with sometimes frightening intensity, about foundational questions: What does it mean to be a nation? What is the purpose of the state? What is the role of religion in public life? American politics in the Obama years had its moments of ferment—the Tea Party and tan suits—but was still relatively boring.

ADVERTISEMENT

The Everyday Mask

- ✓ Premium 5-Layer Construction
- ✓ 95% BFE Air Filter Protection
- ✓ All-Day Comfort

LEARN MORE

PROPER CLOTH

We didn't realize how lucky we were. Since the end of the Obama era, debates over what it means to be American have become suffused with a fervor that would be unimaginable in debates over, say, Belgian-ness or the "meaning" of Sweden. It's rare to hear someone accused of being un-Swedish or un-British—but *un-American* is a common slur, slung by both left and right against the other. Being called un-American is like being called "un-Christian" or "un-Islamic," a charge akin to heresy.

[ From the October 2018 issue: *The Constitution is threatened by tribalism* ]

ADVERTISEMENT

# Web Ads are a Rich Source for Historians

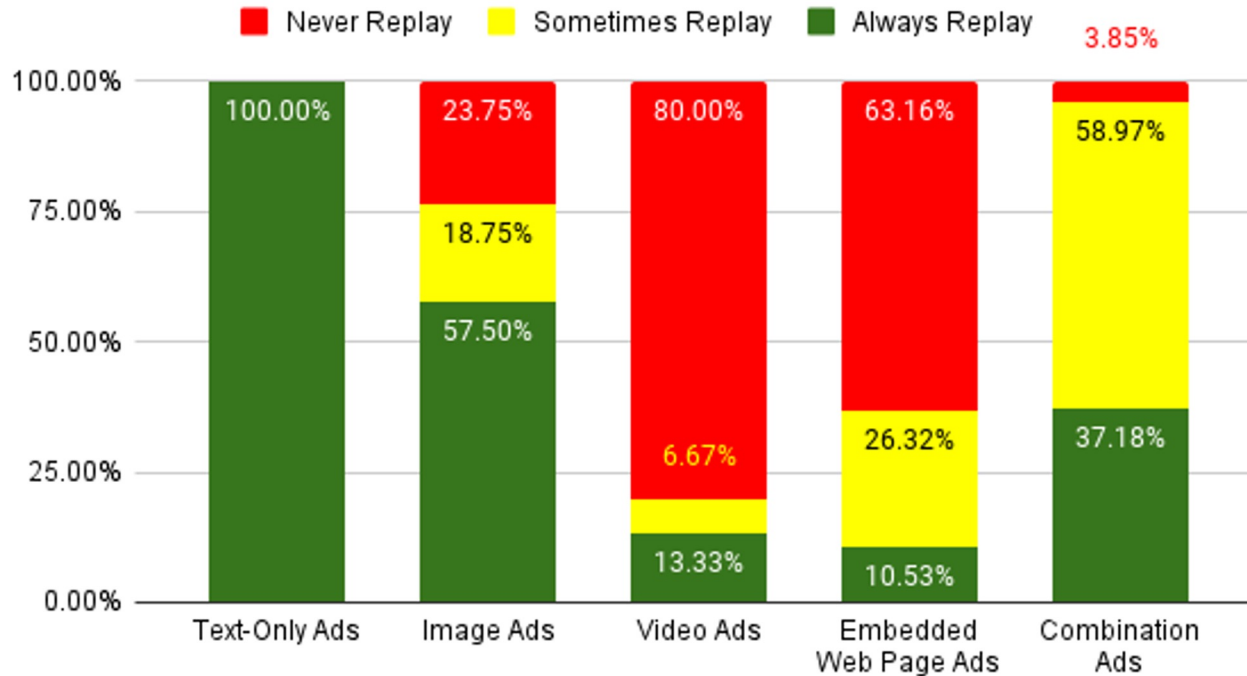
Archived ads enable scholars to:

- **EXPLORE** new questions
- **REVISIT** existing findings
- **ANALYZE** legal and social advertising practices.

This screenshot shows the BBC News homepage from 2011. The layout includes a top navigation bar with categories like News, Sport, Weather, Travel, Future, TV, Radio, and More. The main content area is divided into several sections: 'Top News story' featuring 'Greece faces final coalition push', 'Spotlight' on 'Africa Beats', 'News' with multiple articles including 'US insurance arms sales to Bahrain' and 'Guilty verdicts in Hudson murders', 'Business' with 'Extra capital for Spanish banks', 'Sport' with 'We can still win the title, says Eva', and 'Weather' for London. A 'More from BBC News' section at the bottom provides links to related content in Entertainment & Arts, Health, Technology, and Science & Environment.

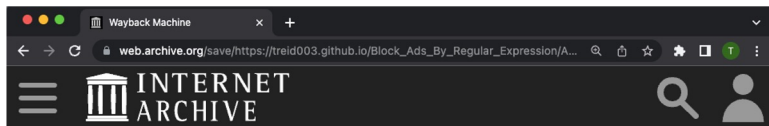
This screenshot shows the BBC News homepage from 2011, similar to the first one but with a different article selection. The 'Top News Story' is 'Greece faces final coalition push'. The 'Spotlight' section features 'Africa Beats'. The 'News' section includes 'Chavez cancer treatment 'success'', 'Business' with 'Extra capital for Spanish banks', and 'Sport' with 'We can still win the title, says Eva'. The 'More from BBC News' section highlights 'Repor renounces ODS fuel price', 'US panel approves anti-MS pill', 'Facebook bids 'try to govt food'', and 'UN adopts 'end govt' guidelines'. The 'Future' section includes 'Radiation rage' and 'Cris-Ali-Del'.

# Challenges: Ephemerality



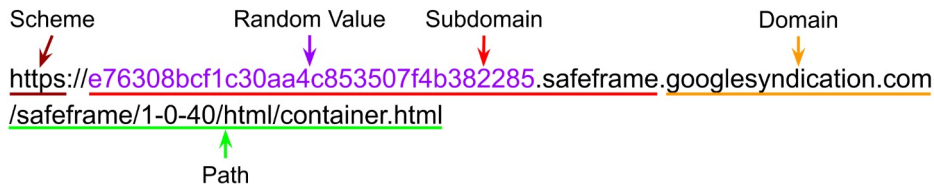
Replaying Ads in Containing Web Page

# Challenges: Institutional Resistance



Sorry

This URL is in the Save Page Now service block list and cannot be captured. Please email us at "info@archive.org" if you would like to discuss this more.



Hrm.

Wayback Machine has not archived that URL.  
Click here to search for all archived pages under  
<https://s0.2mdn.net/simgad/4399882211496353364>



# Enhanced User Interface Tools

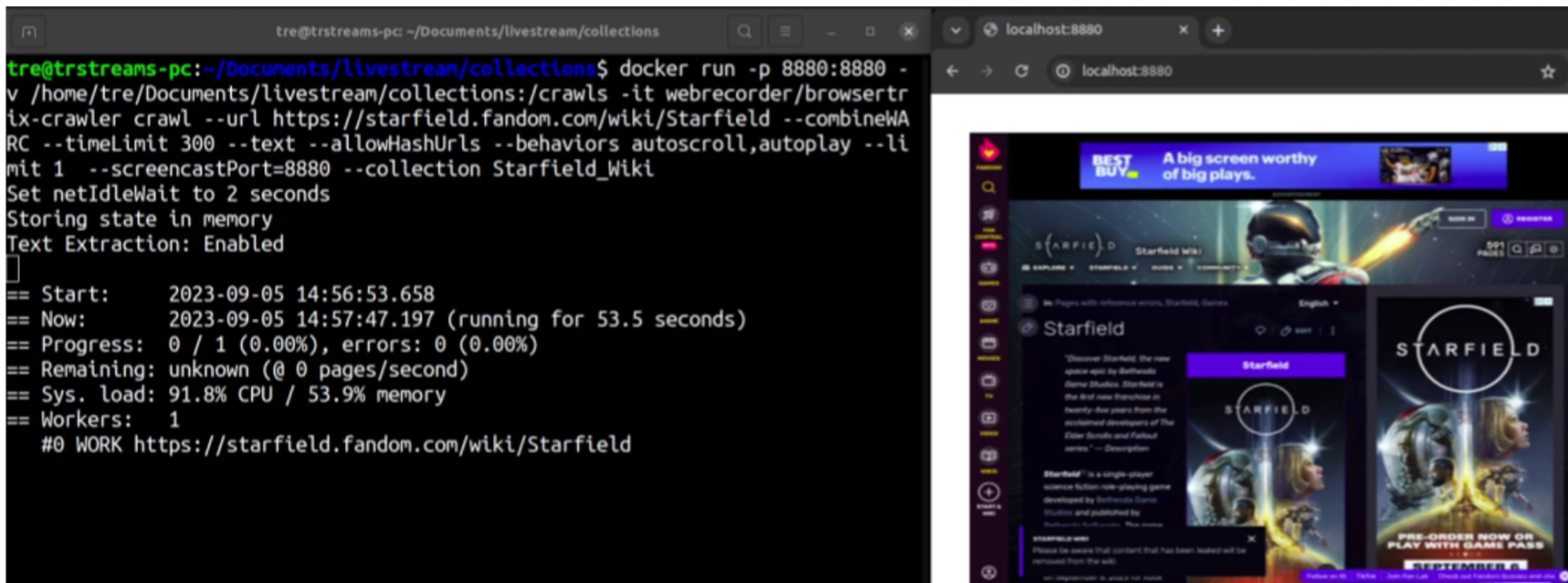


```
tre@trstrems-pc ~/Documents
Find
403
8/site-packages/websocket/_app.py", line
231,
Match case
Match entire word only
Match as regular expression
Wrap around
8/site-packages/websocket/_core.py", line
220
ke(self.sock, *addrs, **options)
8/site-packages/websocket/_handshake.py",
line 69, in handshake
status, resp = _get_resp_headers(sock)
File "/home/tre/.local/lib/python3.8/site-packages/websocket/_handshake.py",
line 135, in _get_resp_headers
raise WebSocketBadStatusException("Handshake status %d %s", status, status
message)
websocket._exceptions: WebSocketBadStatusException: Handshake status 403 Forbidden
den
2023-05-19 12:39:10,250 9119 INFO WebsockThread:9222 root.thread_raise(_init
_py:245) queueing <class 'brozzler.browser.BrowsingException'> for thread <M
ainThread(MainThread, started 139769784014656)>
2023-05-19 12:39:40,280 9119 INFO MainThread brozzler.chrome.Chrome.stop(chrom
e.py:292) terminating chrome pid 9142
2023-05-19 12:39:40,781 9119 INFO MainThread brozzler.chrome.Chrome.stop(chrom
e.py:303) chrome pid 9142 exited normally
Traceback (most recent call last):
File "/home/tre/.local/bin/brozzle-page", line 8, in <module>
sys.exit(brozzle_page())
File "/home/tre/.local/lib/python3.8/site-packages/brozzler/cli.py", line 20
9, in brozzle_page
browser.start(proxy=args.proxy)
File "/home/tre/.local/lib/python3.8/site-packages/brozzler/browser.py", lin
e 352, in start
self._wait_for(lambda: self.websock_thread.is_open, timeout=30)
File "/home/tre/.local/lib/python3.8/site-packages/brozzler/browser.py", lin
e 323, in _wait_for
raise BrowsingTimeout(
brozzler.browser.BrowsingTimeout: timed out after 30.0s waiting for: <function
Browser.start.<locals>.<lambda> at 0x7f1e9549b3a0>
tre@trstrems-pc:~/Documents$

steps_for_brozzler_demo_2023.sh
home > tre > Documents > GitHub_Issues > Brozzler_2023 > $ steps_for_brozzler_demo_2023.sh
1 # Brozzle Page example
2 warcprow -p 8081 -d ./warcs/IGN/brozzle_page/2023_05_19
--dedup-db-file /dev/null
3
4 export
BROZZLER_EXTRA_CHROME_ARGS="--ignore-certificate-errors"
5
6 brozzle-page --chrome-exe '/usr/bin/google-chrome'
--proxy localhost:8081 'https://www.ign.com/articles/
the-last-of-us-season-1-review'
7
8
9 The web page does not load.
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```

<https://github.com/internetarchive/brozzler>

# Increased Support for Dynamic Content



Starfield Wiki page (<https://starfield.fandom.com/wiki/Starfield>)



# Toolbox Approach

```
Squidwarc — -zsh — 82x22
[mrk335@CCI-63JQLNF9 Squidwarc % ./run-crawler.sh -c conf.json]
Running Crawl From Config File conf.json
With great power comes great responsibility!
Squidwarc is not responsible for ill behaved user supplied scripts!

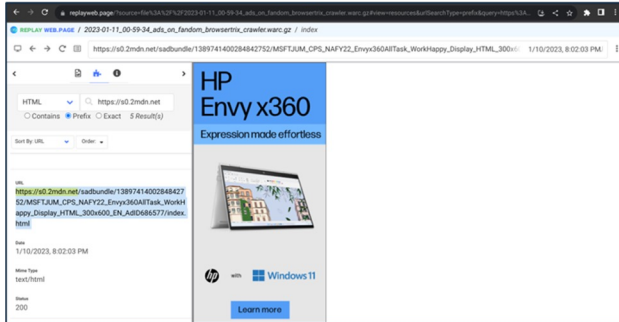
Crawler Operating In page-only mode
Crawler Will Be Preserving 1 Seeds
Crawler Generated WARCs Will Be Placed At /private/tmp/Squidwarc
Crawler Will Be Generating WARC Files Using the filenameified url
Crawler Navigating To https://ipres2024.pubpub.org/
Crawler Navigated To https://ipres2024.pubpub.org/
Running user script
Crawler Generating WARC
Crawler Has 0 Seeds Left To Crawl
Crawler shutting down. Have nice day :)
mrk335@CCI-63JQLNF9 Squidwarc % █
```



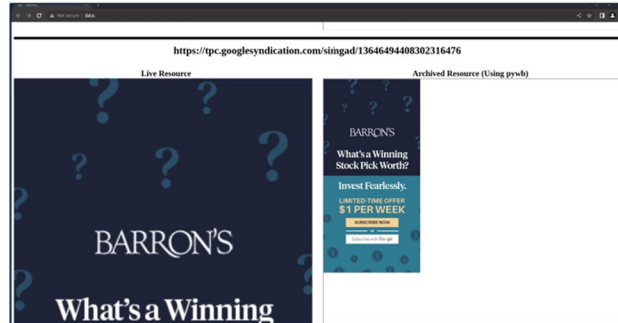
<https://github.com/N0taN3rd/Squidwarc>

# Tools Comparison

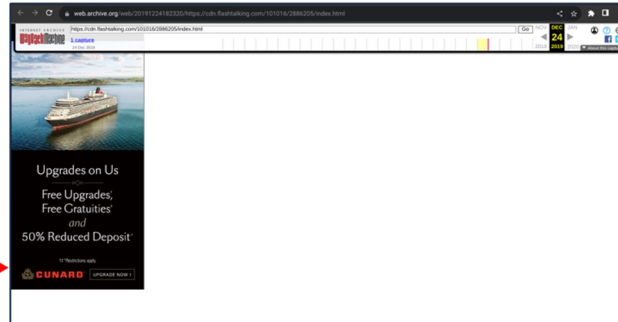
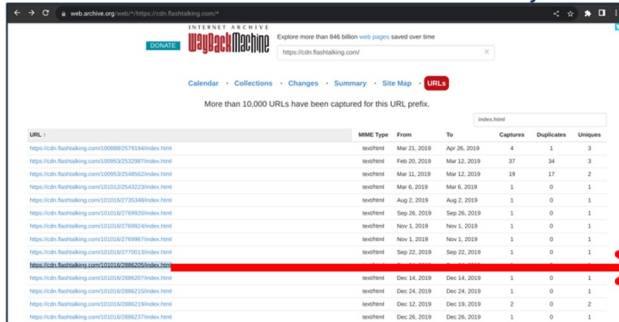
ReplayWeb.page's URL Search



Our Tool For Displaying Ads From A WARC file

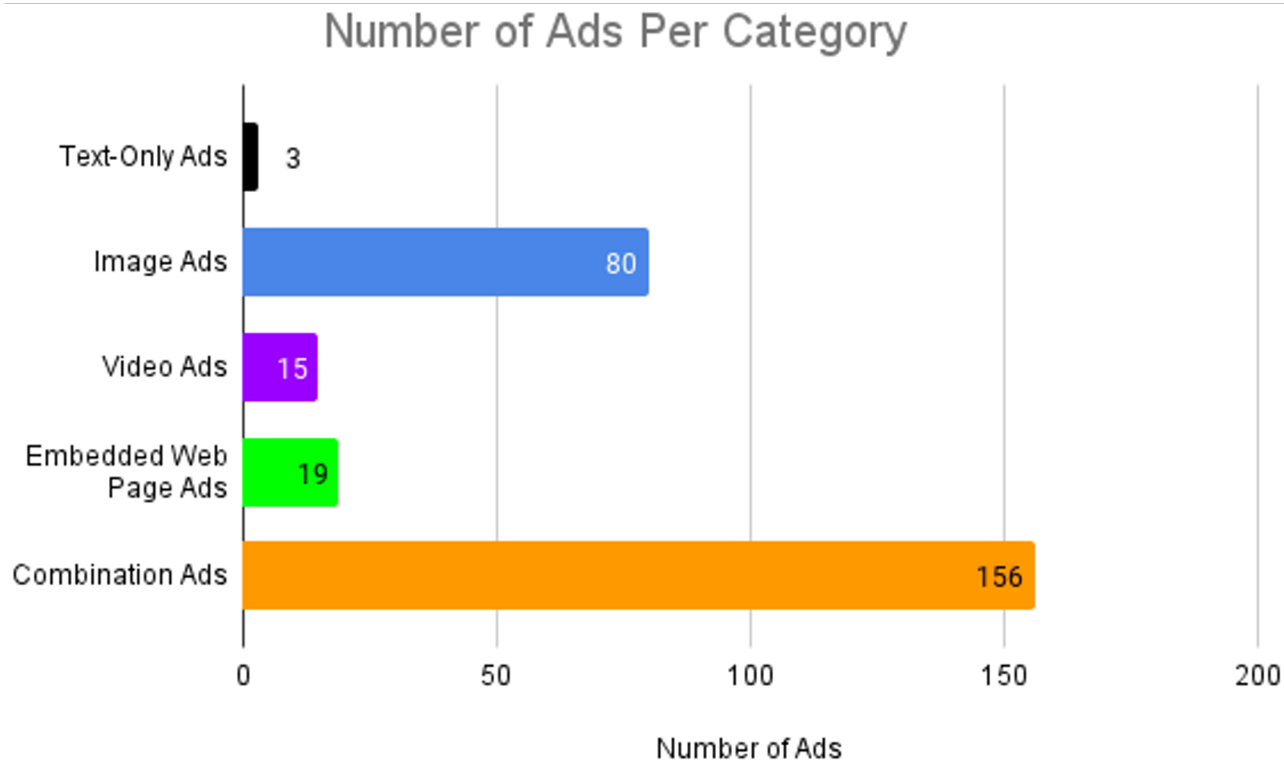


Wayback Machine's URL Search

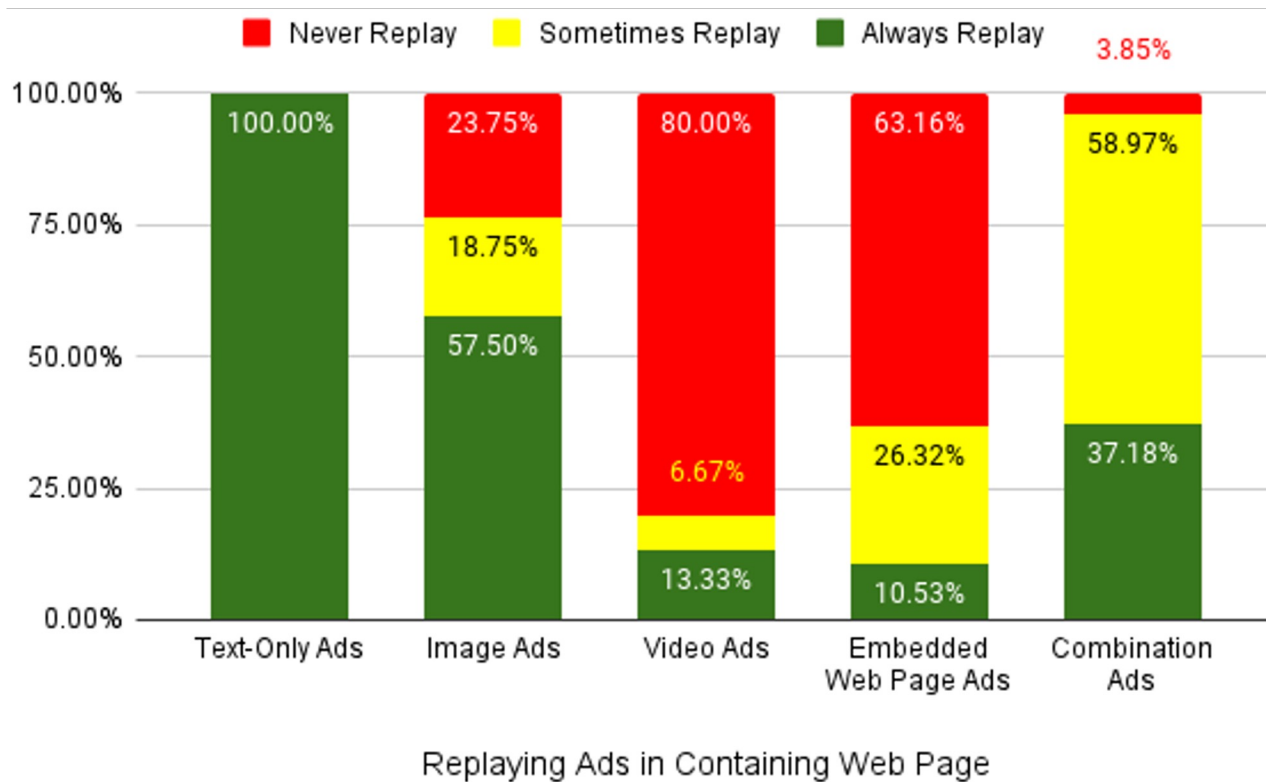


<https://github.com/webrecorder/replayweb.page>

# Study Results



# Study Results



# Pursue Partnerships and Collaboration

## LIBRARY LIBRARY OF CONGRESS

Everything Advertising

Library of Congress > Free to Use and Reuse Sets > Free to Use and Reuse: Advertising Food

### Free to Use and Reuse: Advertising Food

Large and small, printed and handwritten—all kinds of signs advertise food. The shape of a building, a display of cans, and the smile of a street vendor also encourage food choices. Which of the following images would persuade you to take a second look at the fruit, vegetables, meats, and other fare available from the 1880s to present day?

Browse more content that is free to use and reuse.

Southern fish vendor, Augusta, Georgia. Photo by Detroit Publishing Co., 1903. Prints & Photographs Division

Silver Dragon Restaurant sign, Coeur d'Alene, Idaho. Photo by John Margolies, 1987. Prints & Photographs Division

Nathan's Hot Dogs from boardwalk, Coney Island, New York. Photo by Al Ravenna, 1954. New York World, Telegram & Sun Collection. Prints & Photographs Division

Snider's Catsup. Poster, 1900. Prints & Photographs Division

DUKE UNIVERSITY LIBRARIES REPOSITORY COLLECTIONS & ARCHIVES

### Ad\*Access

Over 7,000 U.S. and Canadian advertisements covering five product categories - Beauty and Hygiene, Radio, Television, Transportation, and World War II propaganda - dated between 1911 and 1955.

adbeat Features About Us Our Data Pricing Log In Free Account Sign Up

### Global Reach & Scope of Coverage

Adbeat crawls millions of pages - detecting, analyzing and processing over 8 billion ads - every single day.

If your task is to accurately report on the billions of ad impressions served daily across the entire display advertising landscape, global reach and scope of coverage are the two pillars on which you must build.

Adbeat leads the industry with a vast array of high-performance servers distributed strategically across the globe. This unrivaled infrastructure is what allows Adbeat to provide the most accurate, comprehensive, timely data in the industry.

- 3 Million** Pages crawled by Adbeat every day
- 8 Million** Ads detected, analyzed, and processed every day
- 1.1 Million** Advertisers covered by Adbeat's crawlers



# Future Work

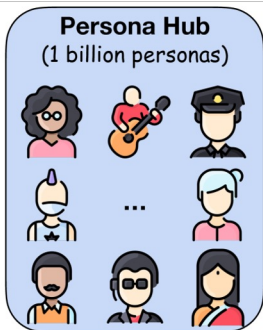
World Knowledge



Public Web Text  
(~10<sup>14</sup> tokens)

Compress

Represented by  
distributed carriers



~10<sup>10</sup> tokens

Decompress

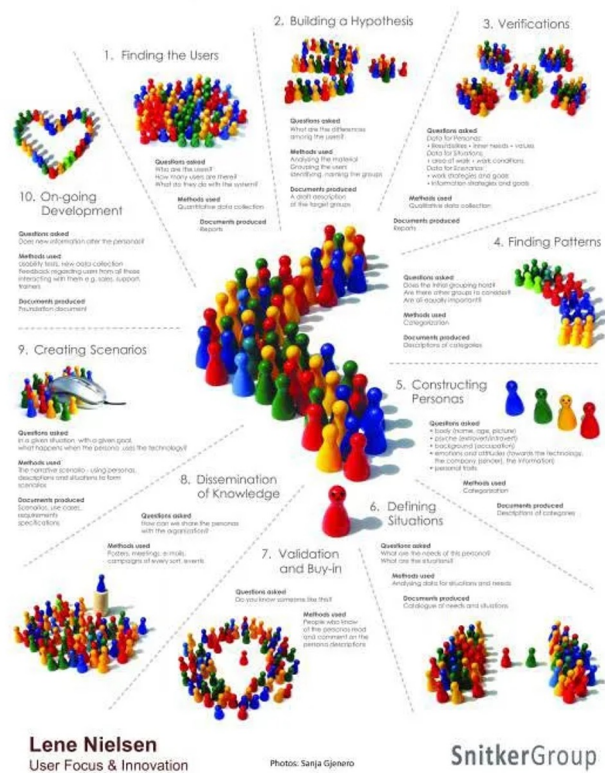
Generate texts with  
their knowledge

World Knowledge



Public Web Text  
(~10<sup>14</sup> tokens)

# 10 Steps to Personas



(Delétang et al., 2023; Ge et al., 2024), <https://github.com/tencent-ailab/persona-hub>

Lene Nielsen.

# In Summary

- Online ads are cultural artifacts, preservation is essentials
- Modern ads are highly personalized and dynamically loaded
- Web Ads tech is complex and the ads themselves are ephemeral
- Text/img ads are easy to capture and reply but majority use more complex techs
- Encoding personas into crawler can help to surface and preserve resources crawlers will never encounter