THE TENACITY OF ORPHANED BLOGS

CAROLYN HANK
chank@utk.edu

SAA 2013 RESEARCH FORUM | NEW ORLEANS LA
AUGUST 13, 2013 | SESSION 8
2006-2008 GENERAL BLOGGERS

active

QUESTIONNAIRES n=223

SHEBLE, CHOEMPRAYONG & HANK (2007)
2009-PRESENT
SCHOLAR BLOGGERS

BLOG
public

BLOGGER
active

QUESTIONNAIRES
INTERVIEWS
BLOG ANALYSIS

HUMANITIES, SCIENCES, SOCIAL SCIENCES & PROFESSIONAL AND USEFUL ARTS
SELECT FINDINGS

BLOGS

VALUABLE FOR PRESERVATION INTO LONG-TERM FOR PUBLIC ACCESS PERSONAL ACTION

ACTIVE BLOGGERS

BACKGROUND
... but what about those blogs that are no longer actively published to but still publicly available?
1) PUBLICLY AVAILABLE = 570 (86%)
2) PUBLISHED IN ENGLISH = 544 (84%)
3) KNOWLEDGE OR PERSONAL BLOG = 498 (77%)
4) TIME-STAMPED POSTS = 496 (77%)
5) ACTIVELY PUBLISHED TO = 271 (42%)
6) AT LEAST 1 YEAR OLD = 231 (36%)
7) IDENTIFIERS (RE: AUTHORSHIP) = 208 (32%)
BLOG PURGATORY
WHERE ABANDONED OR ORPHANED BLOGS GO TO "DIE"
AKA: AN "END" OF THE BLOG LIFE CYCLE

PROBLEM AREA
2012-PRESENT
SCHOLAR BLOGS (STAGE 1)

BLOGGERS

BLOG ANALYSIS
QUESTIONNAIRES
INTERVIEWS

HUMANITIES, SCIENCES, SOCIAL SCIENCES & PROFESSIONAL AND USEFUL ARTS

METHOD
SAMPLE: ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

HUMANITIES, SOCIAL SCIENCES, SCIENCES, PROF. & USEFUL ARTS

BLOG

N=1779

PUBLICLY AVAILABLE
PUBLISHED IN ENGLISH
KNOWLEDGE/PERSONAL
TIME-STAMPED POSTS

METHOD
SAMPLE: ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

HUMANITIES, SOCIAL SCIENCES, SCIENCES, PROF. & USEFUL ARTS

BLOG

N=1779

= 909

METHOD
ACTIVE ...

61%

OR 556 BLOGS ACTIVELY PUBLISHED TO
INACTIVE ...
no new posts
past 3 months

39%

OR 353 BLOGS NOT
ACTIVELY PUBLISHED TO
OF THESE 353 …

65% OR 230 LEFT “NO NOTE TACKED TO THE DOOR”
OF THESE 353 ... 

22%  13% 

77 LEFT “NOTE” IN LAST POST ONLY 

46 LEFT “NOTE” IN 2ND OR 3RD TO LAST POST

RESULTS
I'M STILL HERE...

“... at any rate, I'm not ready to throw in the towel, despite a year of not blogging here. I've gotten too much out of it - great friends, even my current job - to quit just yet. The question is: How do I get the motivation back?”
THEMES ...

I’LL BE BACK...

[AUG 2012] “I’m shocked by how long it’s been since I’ve posted on here. I’ve put up a few posts over at ... since I stopped posting here, but not many. I’m posting this to say that I’ll soon be back!”

(2nd to most recent post: June 15, 2010)

“This site is under construction and will be until I stop being lazy.”
THEMES ...

THE END IS HERE ...

“This blog has completed its mission.”
“I’ve begun to feel like this blog is less and less suited to my day-to-day activities. Rather than try to force it to fit, I’ve decided to build something new.”
THEMES …

THE END IS HERE, AND …

EG: APPRECIATION (OR NOT)

“And, of course, my schedule will be a bit more flexible once I am free of this aged blog, this paltry thing.”

[COMMENT]: “Where are you man, why you are not writing anymore”
THEMES ...

THE END IS HERE, BUT ...

“I will leave the blog up for whatever value it has. And I thank those of you who have commented and sent encouraging support. Now, it is my aim to have more time to paint and write.”

“I want to keep the site up. I would be sad if the archives disappeared. Lots of good stuff. But keeping the place up? … well, we’ll see.”
RMA (Remember Me Always)

“There may still be some activity on this site as I back-fill some old and (for inactive blogs) posts from other blogging platforms. My goal is to eventually have this as a (more or less) complete archive of my personal blogging from early 1998 to this year.”
WHAT’S NEXT
SCHOLAR BLOGS (STAGE 2+)

BLOGGERS active?

PUBLIC

BLOG ANALYSIS
QUESTIONNAIRES
INTERVIEWS

HUMANITIES, SCIENCES, SOCIAL SCIENCES & PROFESSIONAL AND USEFUL ARTS


THANK YOU ...

CAROLYN HANK

Email: chank@utk.edu

Slideshow: 

AND THANKS TO

... OCLC/ALISE Library and Information Science Research Grant Program

... ALEX LENT, RA (MCGILL)