



Early questions posted on Whova

Some resources

Question



With so many U.S. government websites being taken down under the Trump Administration, do you see a return to physical media for fact-checking and research?



Answer: Physical media is always a good way to fact-check, and it hasn't gone out of style, but here are some possible digital alternatives.

Some online resources that may help

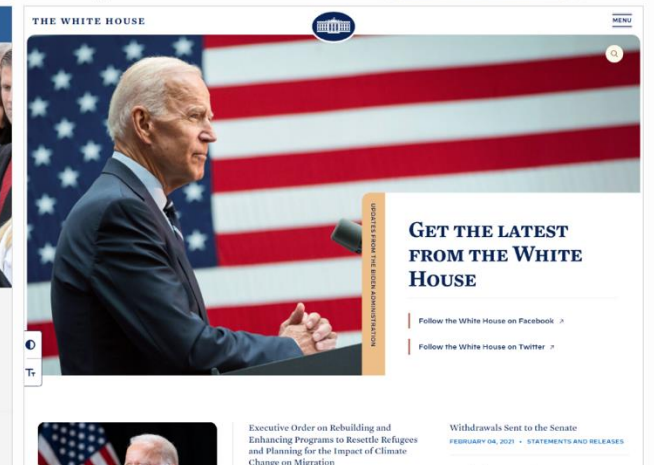
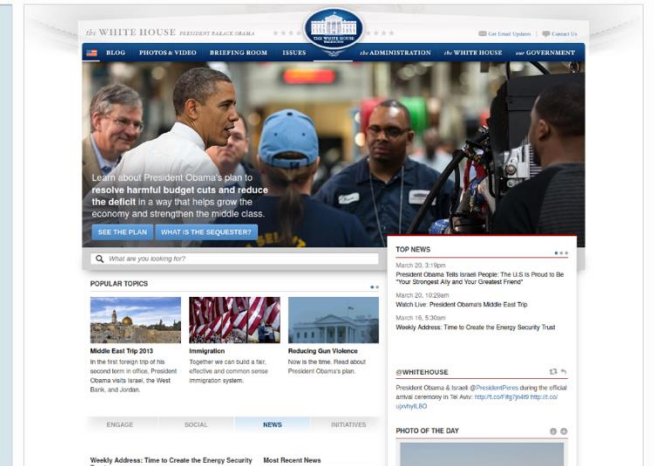
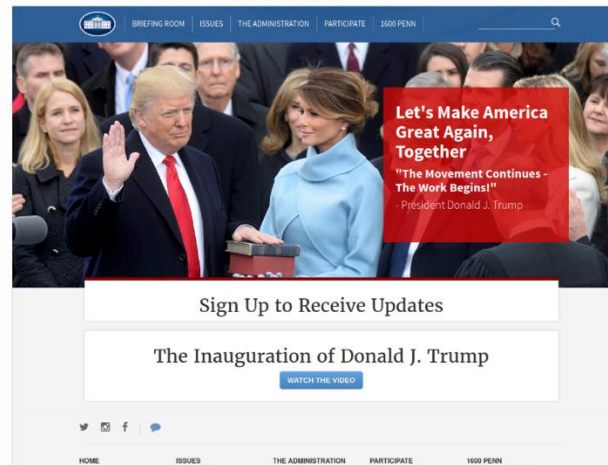
- End of Term Web Archive:
- <https://eotarchive.org/>
- Websites as they were prior to Jan. 20, 2025.

End of Term Web Archive

[Background](#) [Partners](#) [Contribute](#) [Media](#) [Datasets](#)

Purpose

The End of Term Web Archive captures and saves U.S. Government websites at the end of presidential administrations. The EOT has thus far preserved websites from administration changes in 2008, 2012, 2016, and 2020. We are currently accepting [URL nominations for the End of Term 2024 Web Archive](#).



Some online resources that may help

- The Journalist's Resource:
- <https://journalistsresource.org/home/as-the-us-government-removes-health-websites-and-data-heres-a-list-of-non-government-data-alternatives/>
- List of data alternatives

While journalists continue to report stories about what's happening to federal health data, they also need access to data to report stories about health issues in general.

There's no perfect alternative to the government databases, but some non-governmental organizations have their own datasets, which can be useful to journalists. Several journalism associations have also been downloading government data and making them available to their members.

To help journalists with their continued reporting, we have curated a list of non-government websites that have health data, although some use government data to create their reports.

We'll continue to update this list. If you have a suggestion for a database, please [email us](#).

Tips for preserving websites

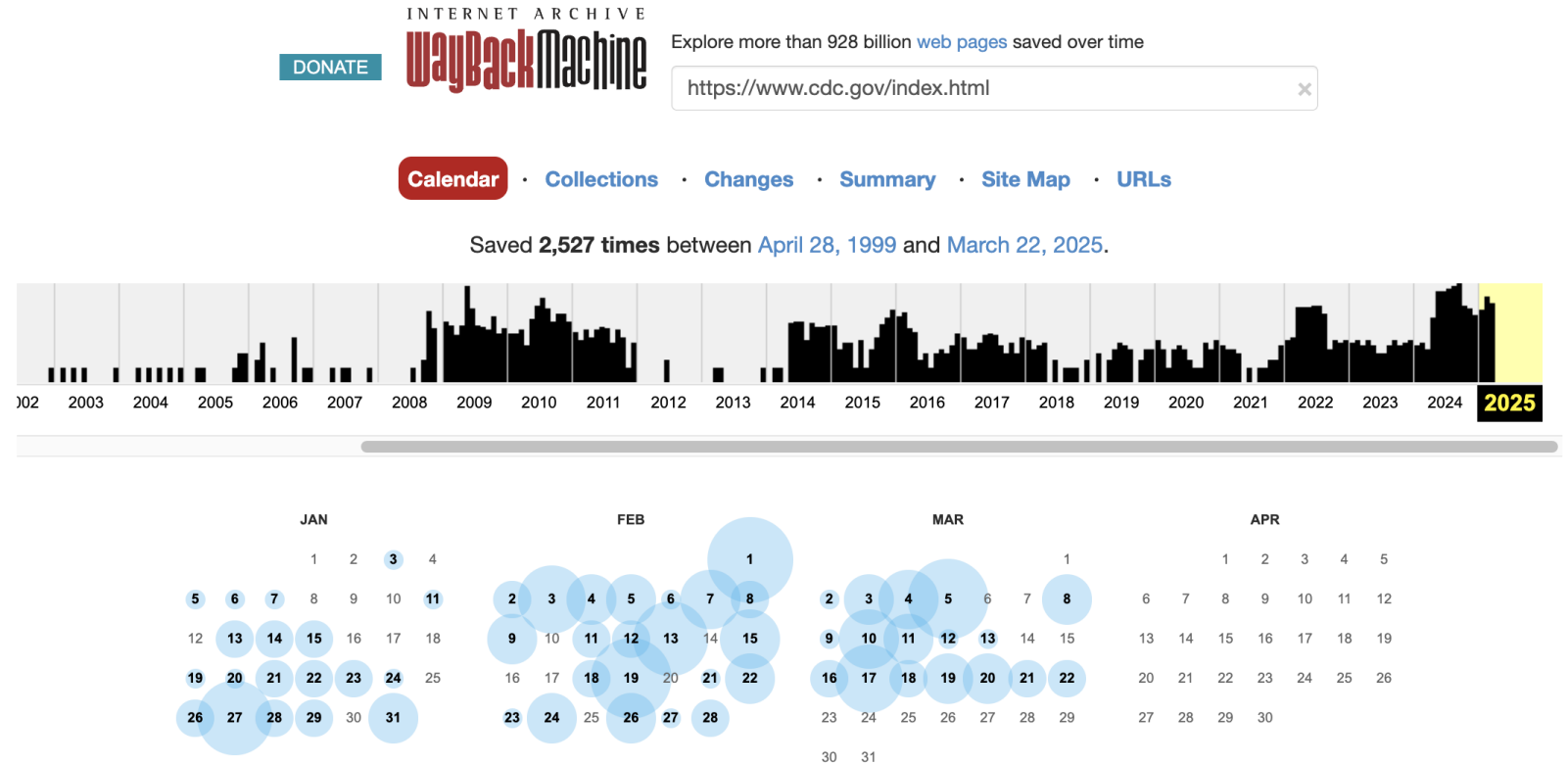
- Save the websites to the [Wayback Machine](#). The easiest way to do this is by installing the Wayback Machine extension for your browser. The add-ons and extensions are listed on the left-hand panel of the website's homepage.
- To find the missing websites, go to [Wayback Machine](#) and type in the website's URL in the search bar.
- If you're concerned that certain websites or web pages may be removed, you can suggest federal websites and content that end in .gov, .mil and .com to the [End of Term Web Archive](#).
- You can suggest federal climate and environmental databases to [Environmental Data and Governance Initiative](#).
- You can suggest databases to [The Data Liberation Project](#), which is run by MuckRock and Big Local News.
- Tell science journalist [Maggie Koerth](#) what CDC data you've downloaded and whether you've made them publicly available.

Alternative sources of health data

- **ProPublica:** The nonprofit investigative news organization has several helpful datasets, including the [Nonprofit Explorer](#) allows you to browse millions of annual tax returns filed by tax-exempt organizations, including nonprofit hospitals. [Nursing Home Compare](#) and [Nursing Home Inspect](#), which provides the latest CMS data on nursing homes in an easy-to-download format. Its [Nursing Home Inspect](#) website is interactive and searchable by nursing home, state or county. And [Dollars for Docs](#) allows users to search for industry payments to doctors, made from August 2013 to December 2018.

Some online resources that may help

- The Wayback Machine:
- <https://web.archive.org/>
- This has been a go-to site for me for a number of years.



Some online resources that may help

- Other data preservation efforts:
- There's a list in the Journalist's Resource story I cited earlier.

Data archiving efforts

- **Harvard Dataverse**: Harvard Dataverse is a large publicly-available repository of data from researchers at Harvard University and around the world, covering a range of topics from astronomy to engineering to health and medicine.
- The **Data Rescue Project** is a collaboration among a group of data organizations, including [IASSIST](#), [RDAP](#), and members of the [Data Curation Network](#). The project has created a [Data Rescue Tracker](#) to catalogue ongoing public data rescue efforts.
- The **Harvard Library Innovation Lab Team** has released more than 311,000 datasets harvested in 2024 and 2025 on Source Cooperative.
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- **Public Environmental Data Project**: Run by a coalition of volunteers from several organizations, including Boston University and the Harvard Climate and Health CAFE Research Coordinating Center, the project has compiled a large list of federal databases and tools, including the CDC's Social Vulnerability Index and Environmental Justice Index.
- **Investigative Reporters & Editors**: The nonprofit journalism organization has downloaded more than 120 data sets from the federal websites, as recently as November. Some of those data sets include Adverse Event Reporting System, Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System, Medical Device Reports, Mortality Multiple Cause-of-Death Database, National Electronic Injury Surveillance System (NEISS), National Practitioner Databank, Nuclear Materials Events Database, OSHA Workplace Safety Data and Social Security Administration Death Master File. IRE members can contact the organization and order the data sets. The organization has been providing data to members since the early 1990s.
- Run by health policy data analyst [Charles Gaba](#), ACASignups.net has [a list](#) of archived versions of cdc.gov web pages.

Question

What is your process for fact-checking? Do you do it as something comes up — or do you mark everything and then come back to it?



Answer: It depends on the project and what “deal” you have with your client or organization.

I tend to do it as it comes up, which comes from a newspaper background. But on a book, you might not want to do that.

Suggestions from the audience?

The traditional process

- To understand how a magazine might traditionally do fact-checking read this article on the Truth in Journalism website:
- <https://thetijproject.ca/guide/the-editorial-process/>

Bookmarks
chrome://bookmarks



The Truth in Journalism Fact-Checking Guide

- However, many newspapers just fold fact-checking into the editing process.
- You need to know what your boss or client expects from you. Do they want queries before you take any time to do fact-checks? Is the deadline tight?