Introduction

The Department of American Studies at the University of Texas at Austin (AMS) is an interdisciplinary program with a vibrant social media presence. Their departmental blog, AMS :: ATX, is heavily trafficked and their Twitter account, @AmStudies, has nearly 1000 followers. Graduate students in the program are responsible for the published content, which is balanced between internal news and announcements and items of scholarly interest to students, faculty, staff, alumni, and other interested parties. During a meeting with University of Texas Digital Repository staff, AMS asked if we were able to preserve their blog and Twitter account.

Acquisition

Tools Used
- Twitter Archive Feature
- WordPress Export
- ScreenCapture (by Google)

Files Created
- Interactive archive + CSV
- WXR = RSS XML
- PNG

Metadata

5 Required Fields at UTDR
- dc.title
- dc.creator
- dc.date.created
- dc.description.department
- dc.subject

7 Additional Fields for Social Media Data
- dc.contributor
- dc.coverage.temporal
- dc.description.abstract
- dc.language.iso
- dc.type
- dc.source
- dc.relation.ispartof

Challenges & Future Work

Challenges
- Traditional crawlers don’t work very well on database-driven websites like WordPress, which makes it difficult to capture the look-and-feel and content of the blog.
- The blog is still live; we want to ensure we aren’t drawing traffic away. Must include many links back to AMS :: ATX.
- DSpace quirks necessitated redundant encoding of URLs to ensure live links.

Future Work
- Digital humanities projects also based in WordPress.
- Other departments have heard about AMS and want their social media preserved, too!

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