Beyond controversy: Appraising websites and social media in the university archives

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ICA-SUV conference, Dundee, Scotland
The University of Virginia (UVA)

Photos courtesy of the Albert and Shirley Small Special Collections Library, University of Virginia
Academical village
Interrogating UVA’s history

https://at.virginia.edu/2XbOecv
Websites and social media can help us shift the emphasis from capturing documentation about people to documentation by people.
The university and controversy

MATERIALS RELATING TO THE RESIGNATION AND REINSTATEMENT OF PRESIDENT TERESA SULLIVAN
Contribute to the UVa Archives

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Recently Added Items

"DID CLIMATE CHANGE CONTROVERSY CAUSE UVA’S SACKING OF TERESA SULLIVAN?"
Article in The Guardian, 14 November 2012, by U.Va. history professor Robert Geraci showing previously unreported clues to a possible cause or... see more

U.VA.'S “JUNE CRISIS”: WAS IT ABOUT CLIMATE SCIENCE?

WAKE-UP CALL: LOCAL STORIES: UVA AND THE WEATHER
On the July 8 Wake-Up Call on WNRN-FM, host Rick Moore is joined by show producer Sean McCord to discuss local issues in the news, including the... see more

SULLIVAN SUPPORT BANNER FROM JUNE 24, RALLY FOR HONOR

http://sullivan.lib.virginia.edu/
Universities and controversies

Steven Salaita Clippings Index

This document provides an index to preservation copies of documents, news stories, blog posts, social media traffic, and other materials concerning (a) the decision by the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign to rescind a job offer to Steven Salaita and (b) the subsequent controversy and lawsuit regarding this decision. The indexed materials are stored in the Internet Archive or in a preservation repository managed by the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign.

The linked materials comprise (a) textual documents from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign and (b) or other public (i.e., Internet-accessible) resources such as news articles, blog postings, and public tweets. The index organizes these materials by type of material and chronologically by date of creation thereafter. All materials linked in this document were available on a public website at the time that their links were captured.

Most materials are available through the Internet Archive and are managed under their terms of service, privacy, and copyright policy. Upon request, we may un-link material from this index while the Internet Archives is addressing a rights issue.

A small subset of the materials (for example, YouTube videos and Twitter streams) has been captured by the University of Illinois Archives staff using web capture tools, and these materials are being stored in a preservation repository managed by the University Archives and Library. As of August 2015, links to these documents do not appear below because we anticipate that we may only be able to provide access to them locally or via their original links. The Archives is developing policies and procedures for their access and use.

The University of Illinois Archives does not endorse the opinions expressed in any of the materials linked from this index. They are intended for use in private research, teaching, and study, and the index is provided to encourage fair use, as defined by the US Copyright Act. For all other uses of these materials, including but not limited to publication, broadcast, and distribution, you must obtain written permission in advance from original author, creator, or copyright owner of the materials that are linked from this index.

https://archives.library.illinois.edu/social-media-archives/salaita-reference-index/
Archivists should “...become active participants in the creation, analysis, and selection of the documentary record.” - Helen Willa Samuels (Varsity Letters, 1992)
Collecting Student Organization Websites and Social Media
Macro-appraisal and functional analysis

“The objective is to capture the full richness of provenance information—the structures, processes, and activities of organizations—and to make routine the inferential process which permits one to locate information which has been or is being created by organizational activities.” (David Bearman and Richard H. Lytle, “The Power of the Principle of Provenance,” Archivaria (1985-86))
What functions/activities document the university? Which perspectives are not represented?

Seven Functions from *Varsity Letters*

- Promote culture
- Convey knowledge
- Confer credentials
- Foster socialization
- Provide public service
- Conduct research
- Sustain the institution
The University of Virginia's Honor Code is at once an injunction and an aspiration. The injunction is simple: students pledge never to lie, cheat, or steal, and accept that the consequence for breaking this pledge is permanent dismissal from the University. It is for its aspirational quality, however, that the Honor Code is so cherished: in leading lives of honor, students have continuously renewed that unique spirit of compassion and interconnectedness that has come to be called the Community of Trust.

"HONOR CALLS US TO BE HONORABLE TO EACH OTHER NOT MERELY BY NOT COMMITTING TRANSGRESSIONS, BUT ALSO BY DOING REVERENCE TO THE OTHER IN OUR MIDST."
What would functions/activities as documented from the bottom up look like?

Advocating diversity
Advocating for pay equity
Holding the university accountable for its actions
Participating in larger societal and political dialogues
Others?
Living Wage at UVA
Our #FIGHTFORSIXTEENUVA continues nonetheless, but let us celebrate the victory we have finally won today! We are indebted to the many Black and Brown workers who gave (and lost) their lives servicing within the University and Health systems. May real justice continue to reign.

Living Wage at UVA
@LivingWageatUVA · Mar 14
@presjmryan a salary of $750k is ridiculous when the average contracted employee makes less than 5% of what you’re paid. The wage inequalities that you constantly benefit from are killing the dreams and lives of so many.
#FIGHTFORSIXTEENUVA

Living Wage at UVA
@LivingWageatUVA · Oct 10, 2018
BOOST: With contract endowment is $9.5 BIL, monopolized not only C Virginia economy as we neighbor?

Extinction Club at UVA
EXTINCTION CLUB UVA · MONDAY, JULY 23, 2018
Hey guys! The UVA Extinction Club is a club based on the New Curriculum that is devoted to discussing and implementing change in the University and Charlottesville community in regards to the effects of climate change. We focus primarily on the causes of climate change and the extinction of species all over the globe. On this page, you will find helpful information about the club, including how to get in touch with us and pertinent articles surrounding the state of our world and environmental policies everywhere.

Extinction club Facebook page: participating in larger societal and political dialogues

#fightforsixteen/Living Wage campaign: Advocating for pay equity/holding university accountable

#voicesandvisibility/UVA Charge: Advocating diversity (women in STEM)
A university is also a “health care provider, entertainment center, sports business, start-up incubator, sustainability coordinator, and industrial and government research center, not to mention a food service, and employment agency…” Chad Wellmon (Organizing Enlightenment, 2015)
View from the Bottom up

The University

- Advocating diversity
- Advocating for pay equity
- Holding the university accountable
- Participating in societal/political dialogues

(These are subject to be fluid and change over time)
Thank you!

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