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RE-CONFIGURING WEB IMAGINARIES

REFLECTIONS ON COMMUNITY-BASED
WEB ARCHIVING FOR DATA JUSTICE

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THE ARGUMENT

- ▶ The Web is an important aspect of everyday life. The Web is ephemeral.
- ▶ The Web is being archived, but we don't know how. Case studies unpick sociotechnical contingencies of web archiving to re-create the Web.
- ▶ Multiplicity of practice enables different sociotechnical imaginaries of the Web.
- ▶ Unpicking these imaginaries is crucial for understanding the future of the Web.

GOVERNMENT SHUTDOWN

Because Congress did not fulfill its responsibility to pass a budget, much of the federal government will shut down.

LEARN MORE

Images: [Archive-It Blog](#) (2013)



Image: TechCrunch (2016) <http://tcrn.ch/1S1WRfF>



Reference: Ben-David (2016)
Image: Aleksandra Domanović, [From yu to me](#) (2014).

WEB ARCHIVES

Library of Congress. Image: <https://flic.kr/p/dUt1ir>



WEB ARCHIVING



The Internet Archive



Data Rescue NYC

Image: Sam Hodgson, NYTimes <https://nyti.ms/2mxKAGM>



'WEB ARCHIVAL LABOUR' – TOWARDS IMAGINARIES

- ▶ constraints of automation, the work of making web archives work
- ▶ values of archivists embedded in practice
- ▶ power and the imaginary

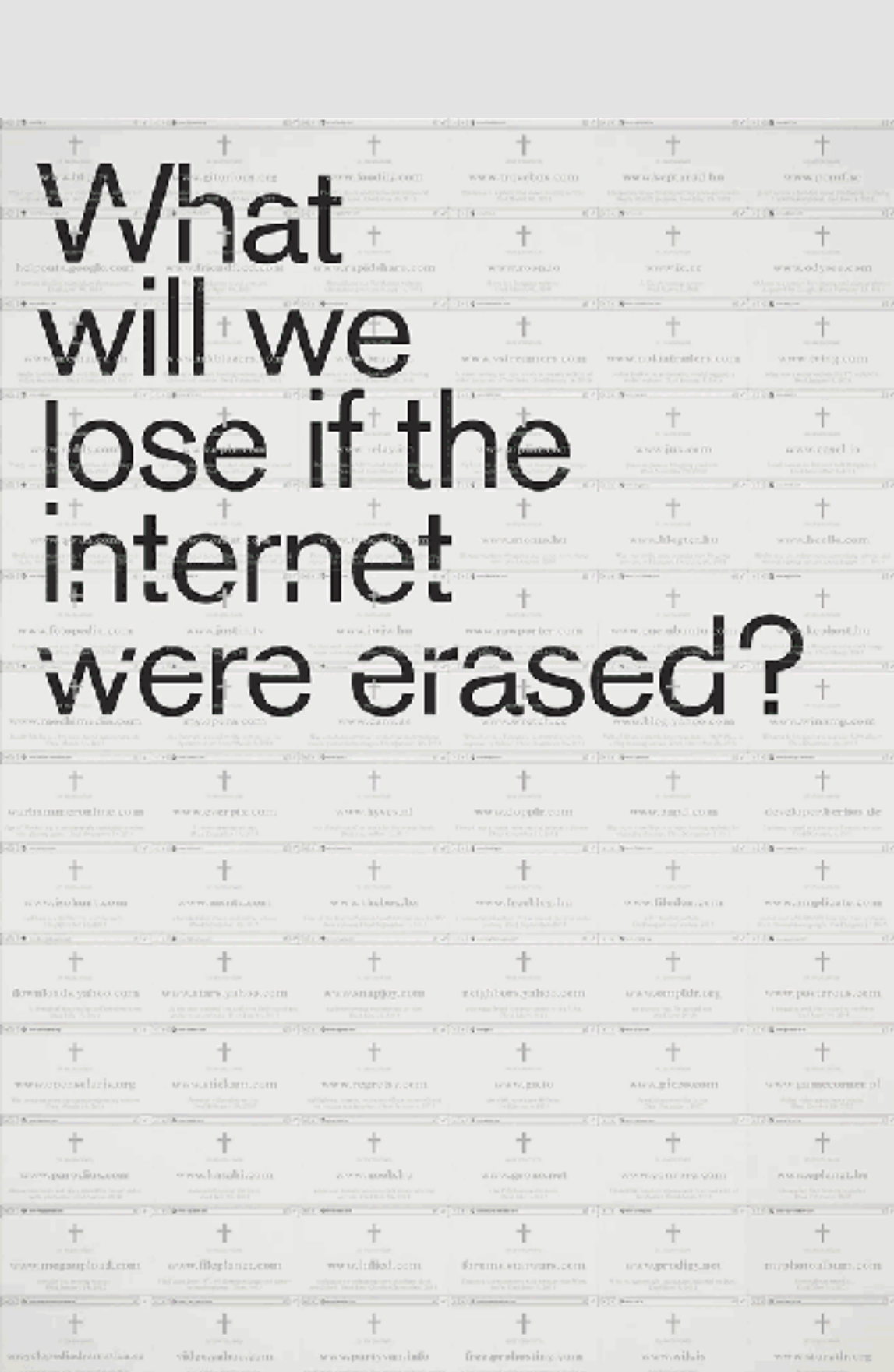
*Ogden, J., S. Halford, and L. Carr. 2017.
'Observing Web Archives: The Case for an
Ethnographic Study of Web Archiving'.*



COMMUNITY WEB ARCHIVING

DocNow

- ▶ formed around social justice issues, common identities and experiences, marginalised voices (Flinn 2009; Gilliland and Flinn 2013)
- ▶ grassroots, mobilising publics and data 'tactics' (Currie et al 2018)

The background of the image is a dense grid of small, faded website thumbnails. Each thumbnail shows a different website, with various layouts, colors, and text visible, though they are too small to read clearly. The overall effect is a mosaic of digital content.

What
will we
lose if the
internet
were erased?

“EVERYTHING ON THE
INTERNET CAN BE SAVED”

ARCHIVE TEAM

Image: Stan Haanappel (2015) Archive Team

<http://stanhaanappel.nl/category/work/>



“[...] **THIS IS HISTORY** YOU BASTARDS. WE’RE COMING IN, A TEAM OF MULTIPLES, AND WE WILL UTILISE TOR AND SCRIPTING AND ALL MANNER OF CHICANERY AND WE WILL DUPE THE HELL OUT OF YOUR DYING, DESTROYED, LOSING-THE-BIG-BATTLE WEBSITE AND **SAVE IT FOR THE PEOPLE** WHO WERE DUMB ENOUGH TO THINK YOU’D LAST [...]”

Jason Scott

co-founder, Archive Team

Artwork by Ashley Riot: <http://jocelynada.deviantart.com/>



Archive Team
@archiveteam

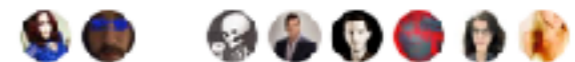
Following ▼

We're starting an effort to archive @vine. If you have favorites, please let us know by using this Google Form:

<p>Hi Archive Team about your favorite Vines</p> <p><small>Hi Archive Team about your favorite Vines</small></p> <p><small>There's a lot of Vines out there, and we need to start somewhere. If you have favorites, please tell us what they are so we can toss them in at the front of the queue. There's ten entries here. If...</small></p> <p><small>docs.google.com</small></p>	<p>Tell Archive Team about your favorite Vines</p> <p>There's a lot of Vines out there, and we need to start somewhere. If you have favorites, please tell us what they are so we can toss them in at the front of the queue. There's ten entries here. If...</p> <p>docs.google.com</p>
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10:50 PM - 27 Oct 2016

486 Retweets 264 Likes



7 488 264

ARCHIVE TEAM & THE HACKER ETHIC* AS SOCIOTECHNICAL VALUES

- ▶ *"All information should be free." (Levy 1984)*
- ▶ *"Mistrust Authority. Promote decentralisation." (Levy 1984)*
- ▶ *"Less yacking, more hacking" & the do-ocracy of web archiving.*
- ▶ *'Tyranny of structurelessness' (Freeman 1972; Coleman 2013) and the soft power of the few*

References:

Coleman, G. (2013) *Hacker, Hoaxer, Whistleblower, Spy: The Many Faces of Anonymous*. London: Verso.

Freeman, J. (1972) *The Second Wave*. vol. 2 (No. 1)

Levy, S. (1984) [1994] *Hackers: Heroes of the Computer Revolution*. New York: Dell Publishing.



"TRUMP, DATA & THE ENVIRONMENT"

EDGI | the Environmental
Data & Governance
Initiative

Image: DataRescue NYC, Sam Hodgson,
NYTimes <https://nyti.ms/2mxKAGM>

IT WON'T BE LONG UNTIL...

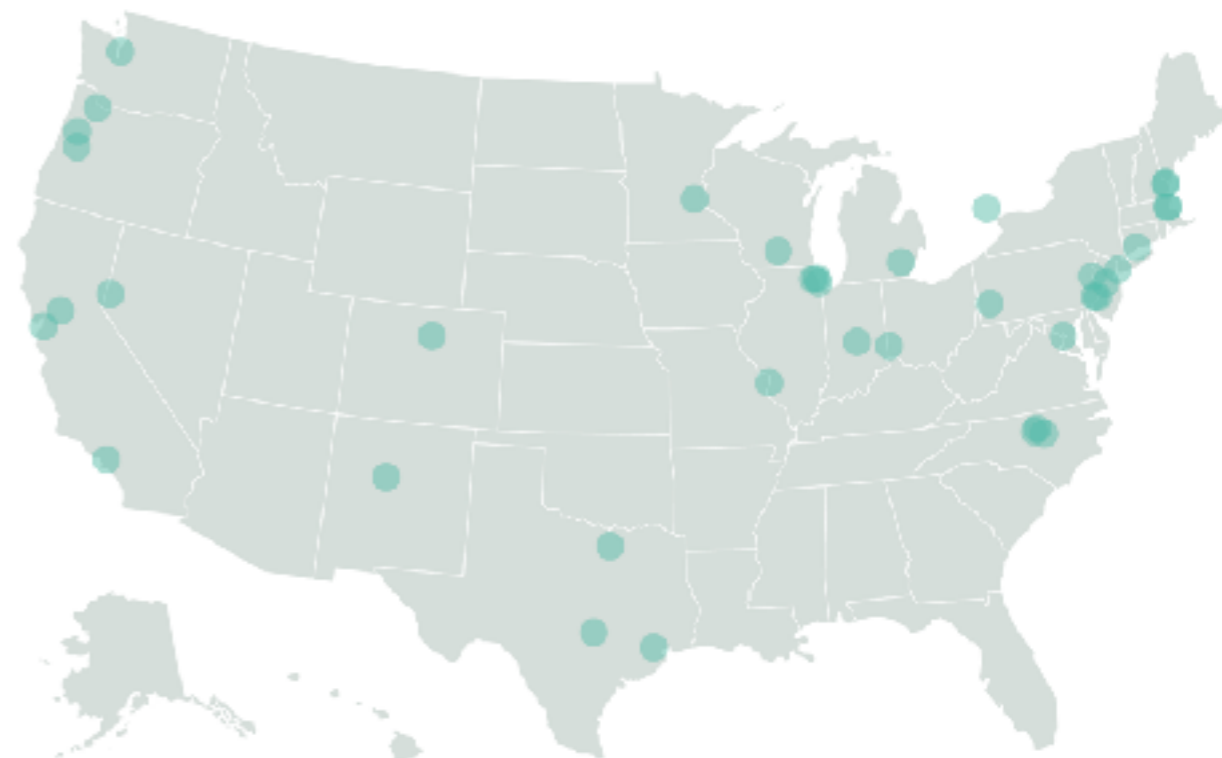
THE WATER IS UNDRINKABLE, THE AIR IS UNBREATHABLE AND THE GROUND IS CONTAMINATED.

MISSION ACCOMPLISHED.

EPA

SCOTT FRUITT

Image: <http://comicskingdom.com/mike-smith/2017-12-30>



DataRescue

Image: <https://envirodatagov.org/datarescue/>

Archivers.space

HARVESTING 1774 OF 2478 PROPOSED URLS

669

RESEARCHING

750

HARVESTING

34

BAGGING

18

DESCRIBING

303

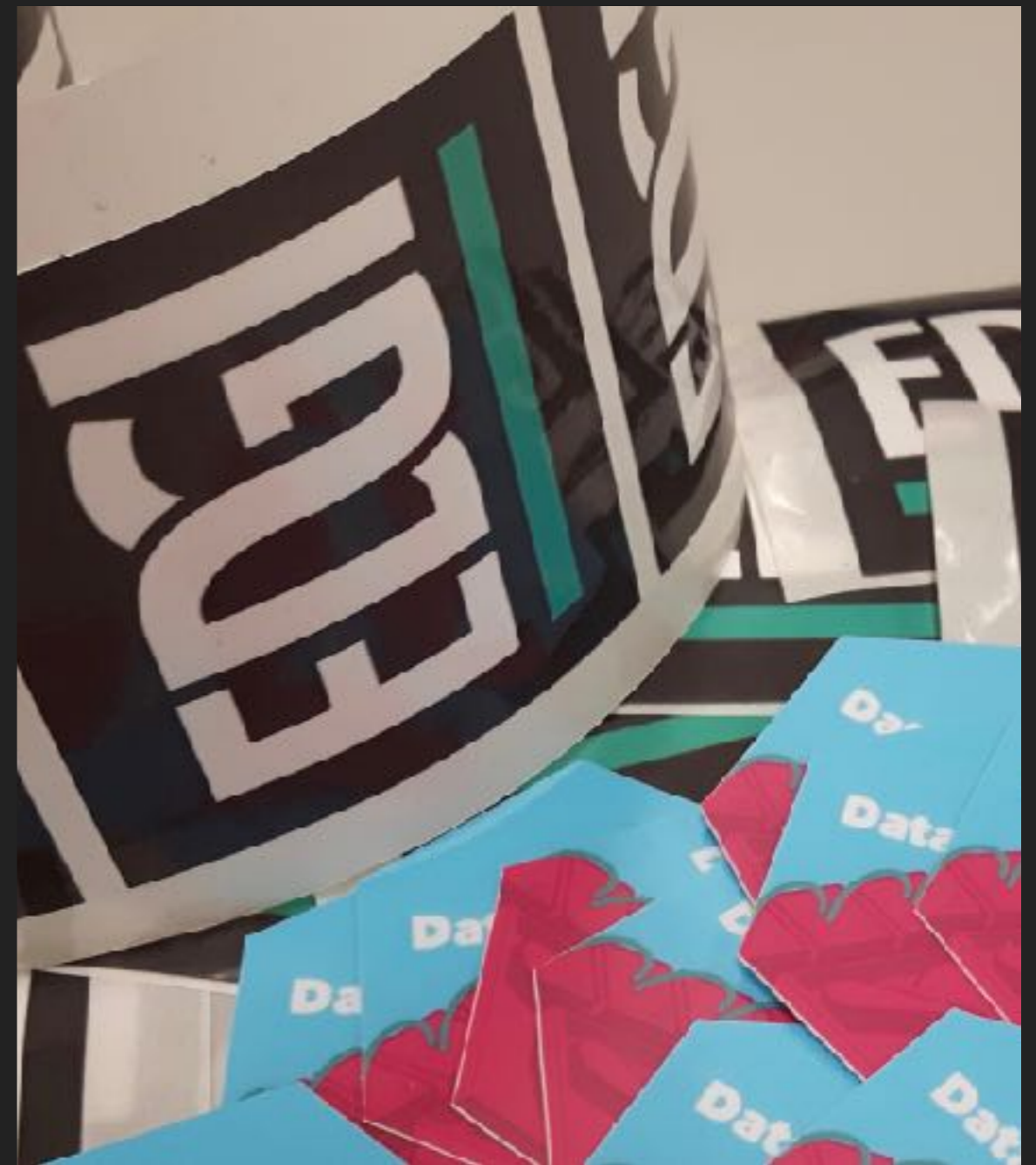
COMPLETE

Image: <https://www.archivers.space/>

'everything.gov'

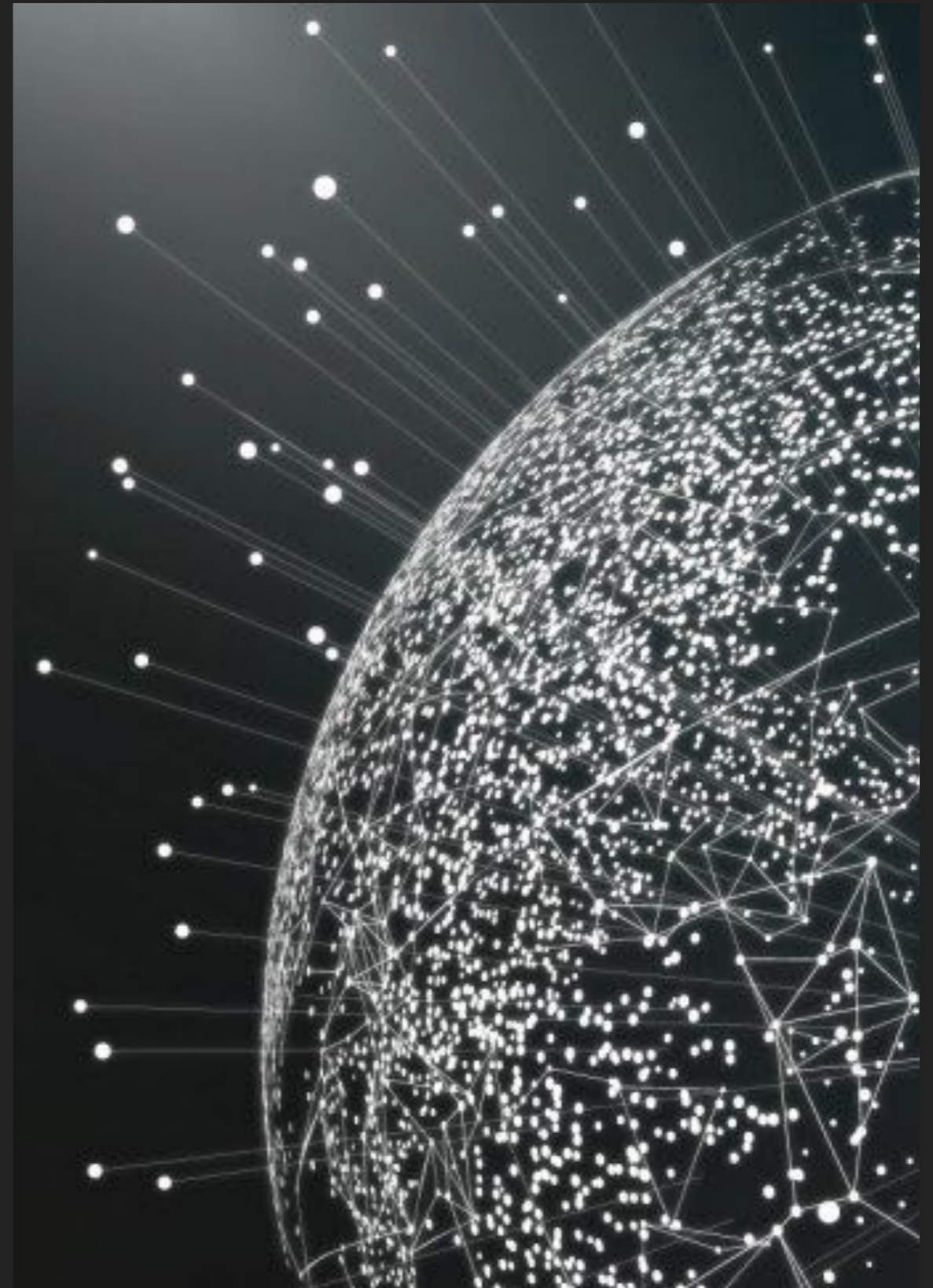
EDGI & ENVIRONMENTAL DATA JUSTICE

- ▶ from collecting to stewardship
- ▶ championing accessibility and persistence
- ▶ explicit critique of emphasis on data as naturally occurring
- ▶ decentralised community stewardship



REFLECTIONS

- ▶ **observing imaginaries at work - the imagination becomes a field of social practices**
- ▶ **claims of legitimacy, authority**
- ▶ **material implications of the ways 'the problem' is framed, conceived**
- ▶ **imaginaries as continuously co-produced**



INTERNET ARCHIVE



[data, together]

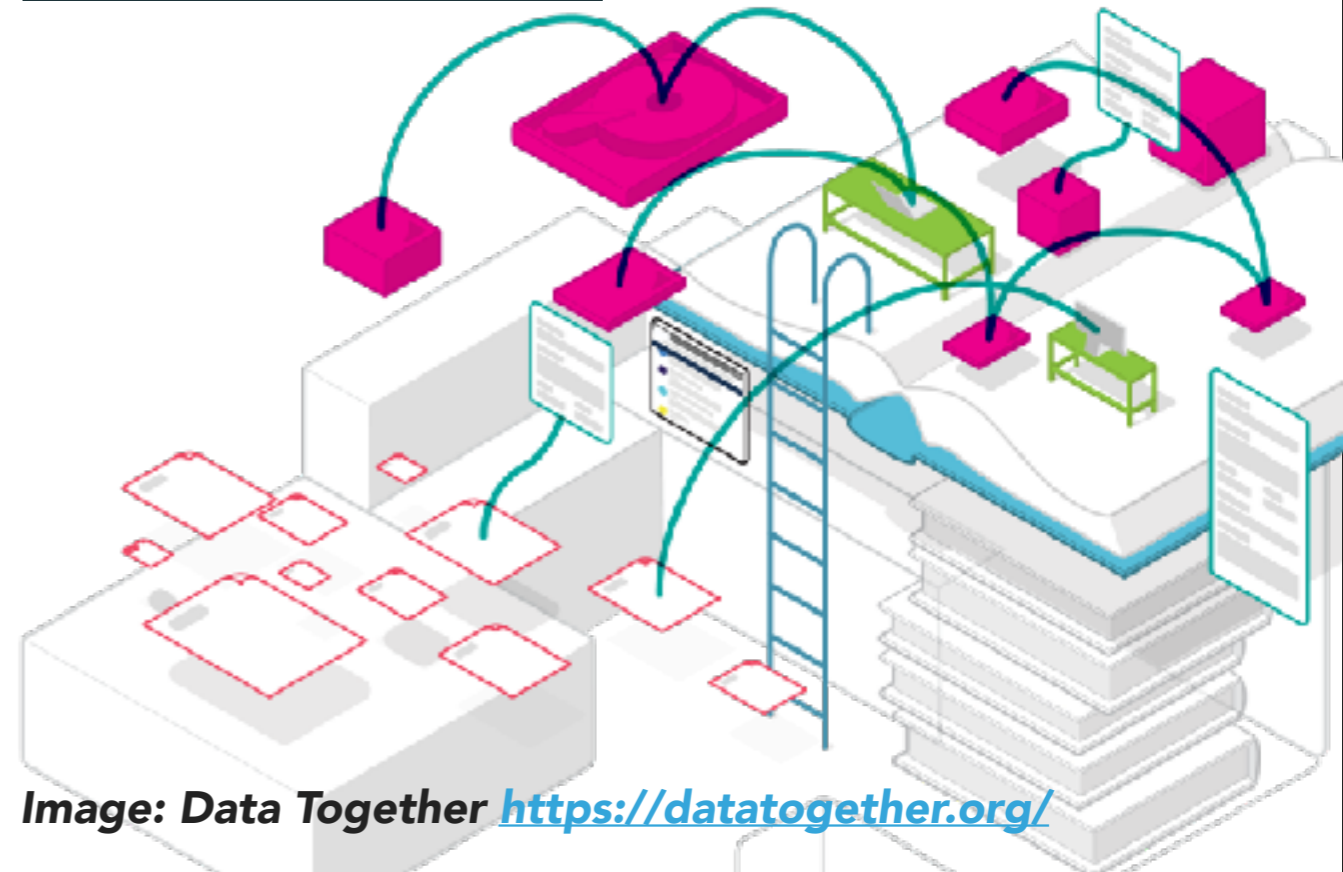


Image: Data Together <https://datatogether.org/>

>= 3 backups (last: 26.0703242828) 2 backups (last: 36.8282258955) 1 backup (last: 26.5361231324) IA only (last: 10.5653366893)

CURRENT BACKUP GEOLOCATIONS

35 Clients Operating in 11 countries

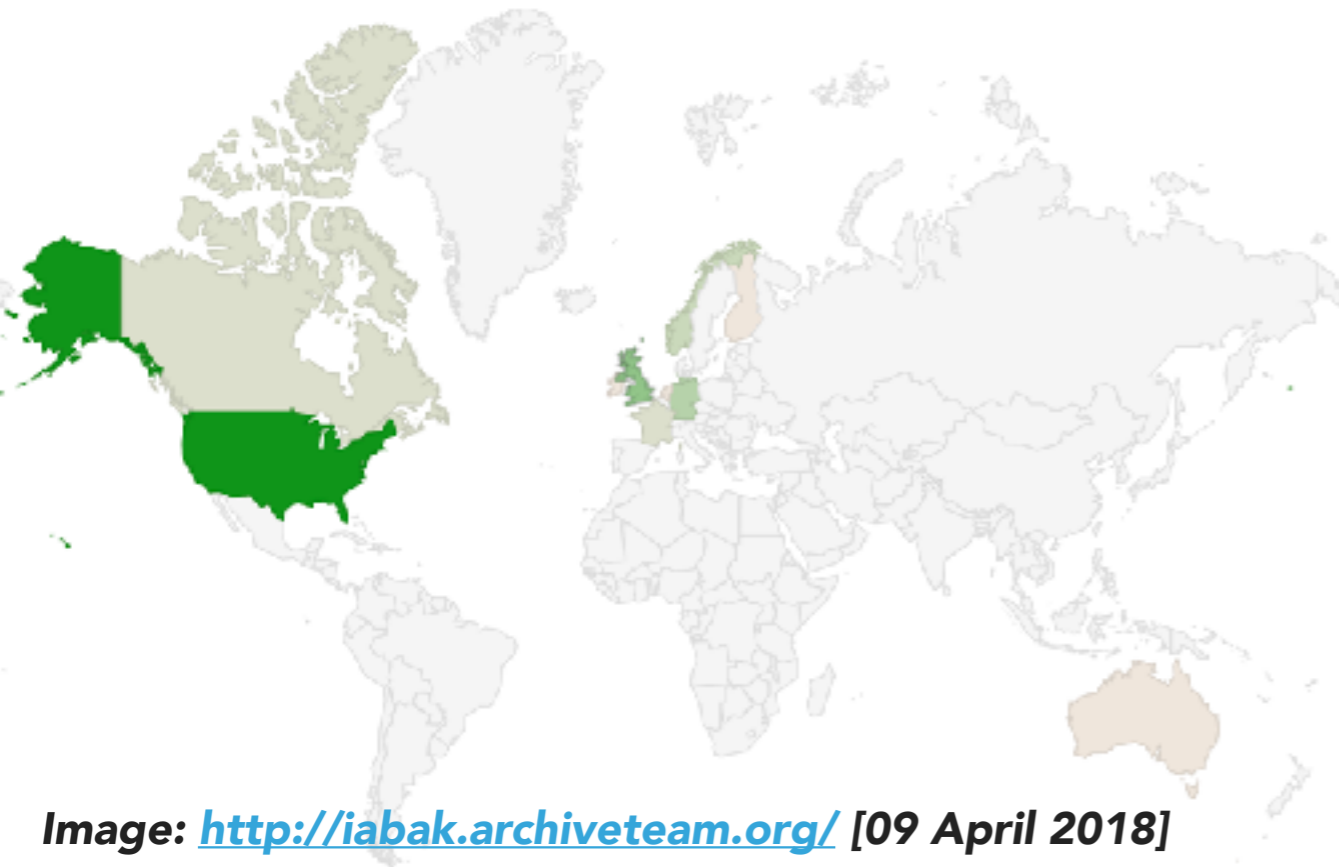


Image: <http://iabak.archiveteam.org/> [09 April 2018]

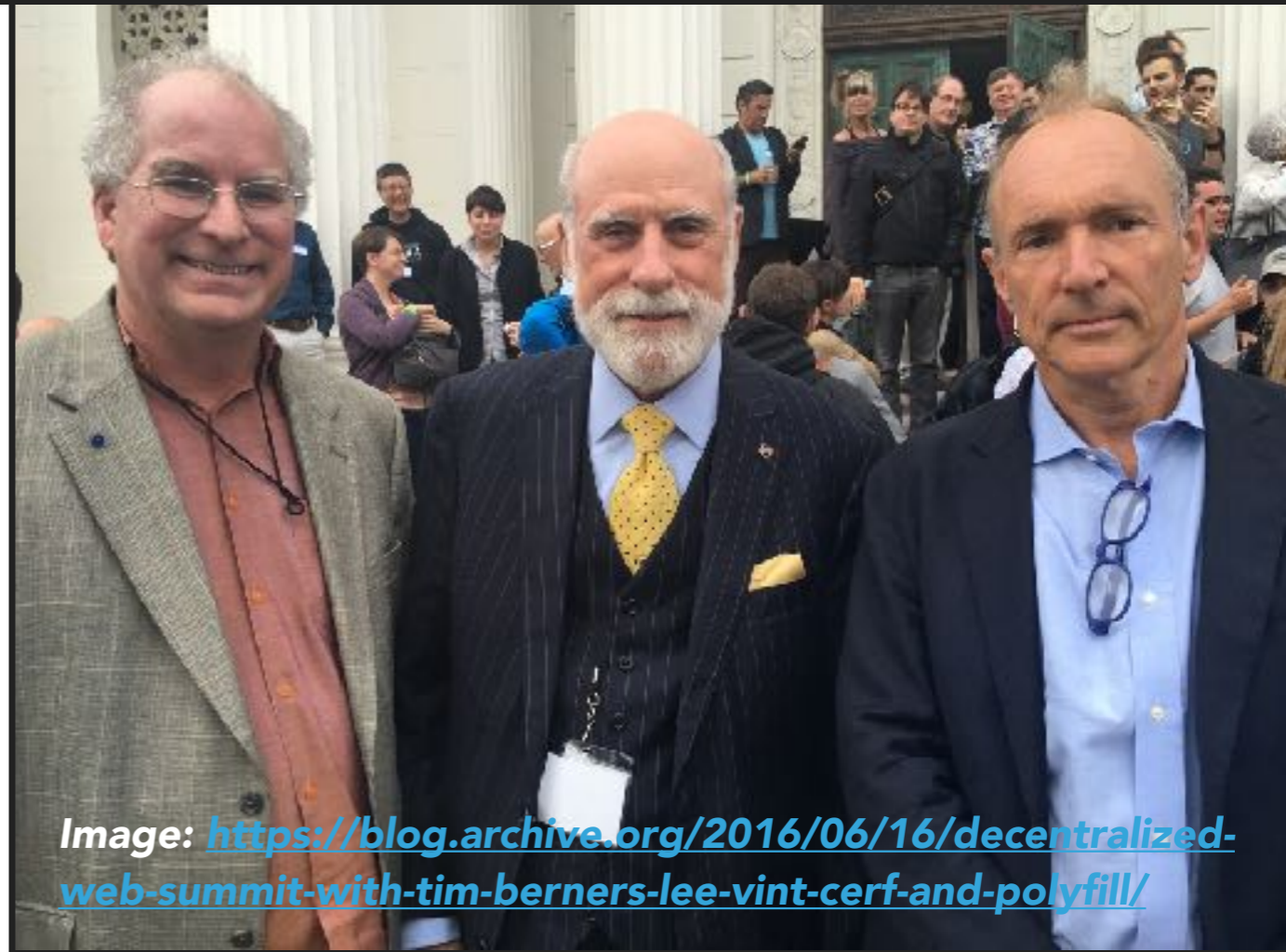


Image: <https://blog.archive.org/2016/06/16/decentralized-web-summit-with-tim-berners-lee-vint-cerf-and-polyfill/>

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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