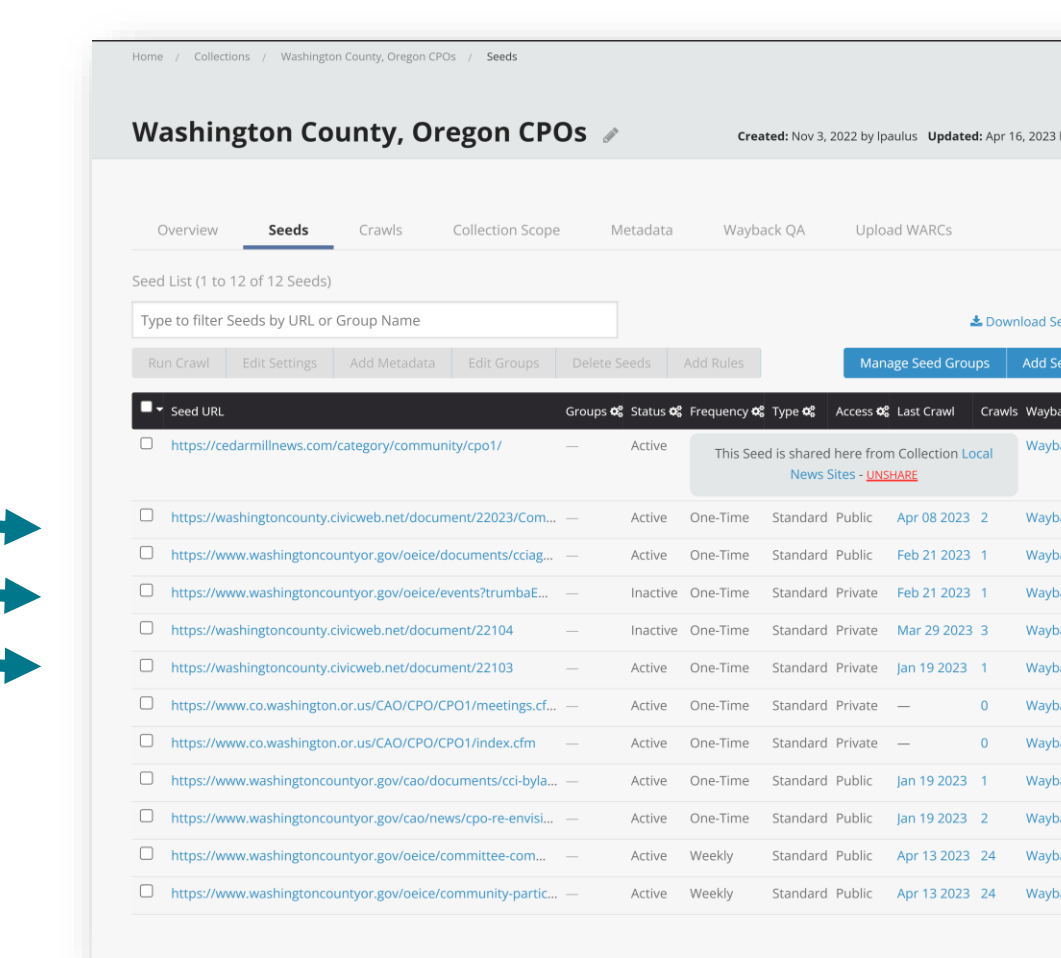


Archiving web-based local news and culture with Community Webs

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URLs of pages, documents, images, or whole domains



Seed list showing all URLs in CPO collection in dashboard on partner.archive-it.org. List includes one seed shared from the Local News Collection. Seeds collected once can be featured in different collections by theme.

Why archive the Web, and why in public libraries?

With many records now published only on the Web, the ability to preserve collections of online newspapers, local blogs, civic websites, social media, and other web content is frequently out of reach for smaller organizations which have in the past been sources of local, historically-valuable information.

Public libraries commonly serve as information custodians and anchors for their communities. Having access to tools for locally-focused web archiving can help diversify the historic record and preserve under-represented voices in community memory.

Who collects web history, and how?

The Internet Archive (archive.org) has been working to save the ephemeral web since 1996. Providing 26+ years of web history accessible through the Wayback Machine, they partner with 1,000+ libraries and other institutions through the Archive-It platform to identify important web pages and save them for future viewing.

Both Archive-It and the Wayback Machine make it possible to archive web pages to the Internet Archive's servers, however the services differ significantly. Wayback Machine's "Save Page Now" allows the public to add individual webpages to the overall Wayback Machine collection. In contrast, Archive-It is a full-featured end-to-end suite of services for institutions collecting, managing, preserving, downloading, and providing public access to large-scale web and born-digital archival collections. Archive-It provides curation and data quality review tools for crafting accessible archives, with perpetual access points for archived content and options for integration with a variety of services including the Digital Public Library of America (DPLA).

About Community Webs

The mission of this Internet Archive program is to advance the capacity for public libraries and other cultural heritage organizations to build archives of web-published primary sources documenting local history and underrepresented voices. Since 2017, the Community Webs program has grown to 150+ members across 40 U.S. states and territories.

This grant-funded program provides participants a 3-year subscription to Archive-It with a half-terabyte data allowance, plus training, technical support, and funding for professional development activities.



<https://communitywebs.archive-it.org/about/>
<https://archive-it.org/home/cedarmillbethanylibraries>
<https://library.cedarmill.org>

Creating collections, making connections: starting small and building as you go

What to collect?

Since we do not generally collect archival materials, making the pitch for joining Community Webs needed be focused and specific and require a small commitment of staff time. Even if you have just one website in your collection, if it is relevant to your community it can have impact. Our community is fortunate to have:

A local print and online newsletter

Since 2003 the independent monthly newsletter [Cedar Mill News](#) has chronicled the events and local items of interest in Cedar Mill and Bethany. Besides showing the changes in the community through local topics and advertisements, the newsletter features local history articles and land use development news, all of which offers rich content for archiving local community growth and change.

As we build our web archiving skills, we follow other related threads of community interest, including:

Citizen Participation Organizations (CPOs)

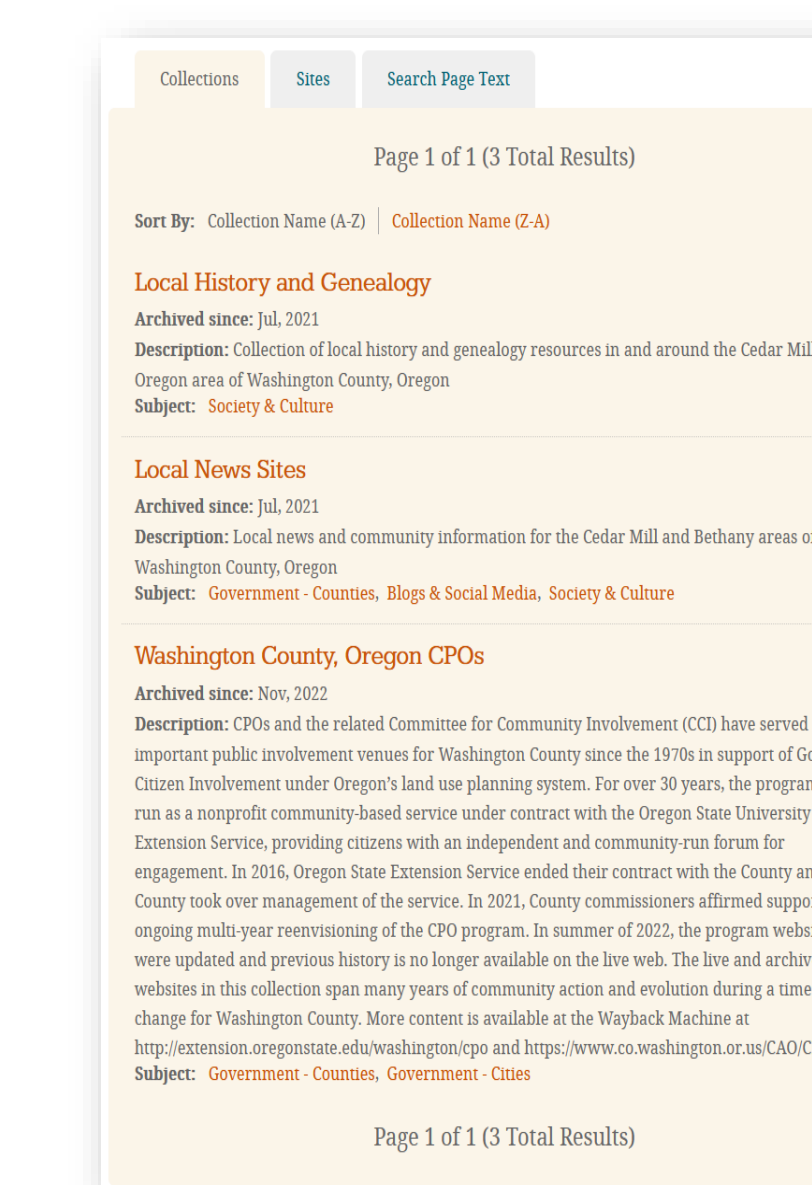
A unique facet of our county's government structure, CPOs and the related Committee for Community Involvement (CCI) have served as important public involvement venues for Washington County residents since the 1970s in support of Goal 1 (Citizen Involvement) under Oregon's land use planning system. Cedar Mill is the center and home of the original CPO1 and over the years the library has been a center for patron engagement. Web-only content from public and private sources provide a window to land use and community planning history which cannot be replicated elsewhere.

Local History and Genealogy

Local history posts already archived through the Local News Sites collection can be highlighted and cross posted in this collection in addition to more traditional sites as time allows.

About Cedar Mill & Bethany Libraries

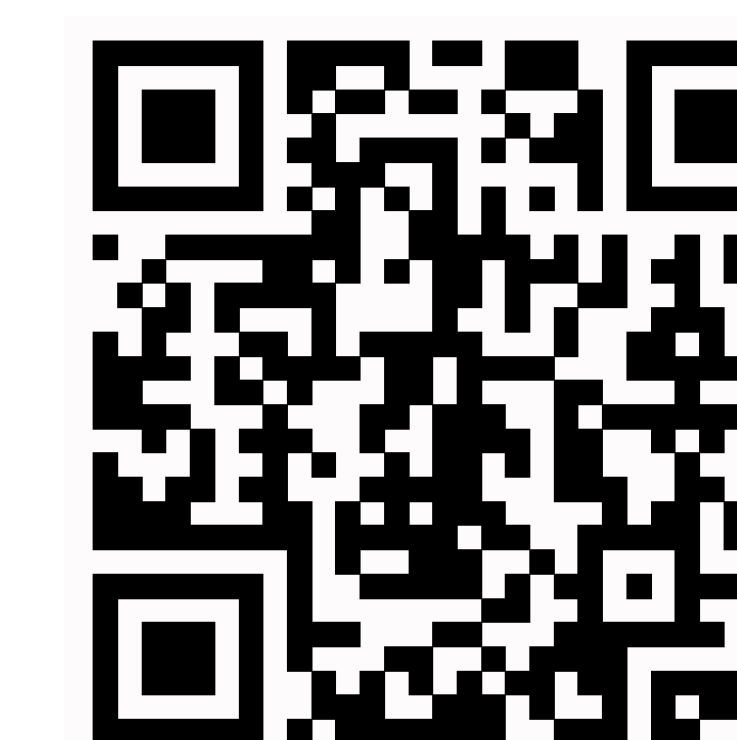
Located just north of Beaverton in Washington County, our nonprofit community library association provides library services for 80,000 people in the most diverse county in the state. Within our suburban service area located outside city boundaries, there is no obvious history-oriented institution collecting the stories of our communities. The libraries do not host physical archives but have served as a community hub for information and engagement for over four decades, and have done other digital projects in the past in local oral history and library association history. This project continues that work in supporting our libraries' commitment to foster community engagement and lifelong learning.



Collection list on institution's landing page on Archive-It.org. Page includes a full text search and filters by topic.

In future, with the addition of collection metadata, similar views will be visible in the Digital Public Library of America – <https://dp.la>.

Find out more



Download this poster and supporting documents at library.cedarmill.org/CommWebsPosterOLA2023

Or after the conference at nwcentral.org/conference-materials/



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