# Preserving Public Government Information: The 2008 End of Term Crawl Project

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> DLF November 13, 2008

#### Outline

- Project Goals and History
- Nomination of URLs
- Partner Activities
- □ Future Work

## **Project Goals**

- Work collaboratively to preserve public U.S. Government Web sites at the end of the current presidential administration ending January 19, 2009.
- Document federal agencies' presence on the Web during the transition of Presidential administrations.
- To enhance the existing collections of the five partner institutions.

## Project History

- Collaborating Institutions:
  - Library of Congress
  - Internet Archive
  - California Digital Library
  - University of North Texas
  - US Government Printing Office

## **Project History**

- First Meeting Canberra, Australia
  - Early April 2008, at the National Library of Australia, International Internet Preservation Consortium (IIPC) formed the partnership and discussed implications and possible roles for each institution.
  - Agreed from the beginning to share all content with any partner who wished a copy.

## **Project History**

- Monthly meetings since that time conference calls and one face-to-face meeting.
  - Defined roles
  - Released an announcement
  - Sought help from specialists to nominate URLs for harvesting
  - Shared technology planning
  - Developed URL Nomination Tool

## Pause for Vocabulary

- Seed List List of URLs fed to the crawler for harvesting.
- Crawler
   – Software which downloads file, parses text to extract URLs, adds URLs to list and repeats
- Scope Whether a URL should be included or not
- Crawl Running a crawler on a given seed list
- SURT Sort-able URL Reversible Transformation

### **Volunteer Nominators**

- Call for volunteers at end of August to lists targeting:
  - Government information specialists
  - Librarians
  - Political and social science researchers
  - Academics
  - Web archivists (IIPC, Archive-IT communities)
- 31 individuals signed up to help

#### Nominator To-Dos

- Nominate the most critical URLs for capture as "in scope"
- Add new URLs not already included in the list
- Mark irrelevant or obsolete sites as "out of scope"
- Add minimal URL metadata such as site title, agency, etc.
- Deadline: November 30, 2008
- 23 volunteers have nominated at least one site or more (including project team)
- 479 URLs nominated in scope or out of scope so far
- Nominations based on their interests/expertise

## In Scope vs. Out of Scope

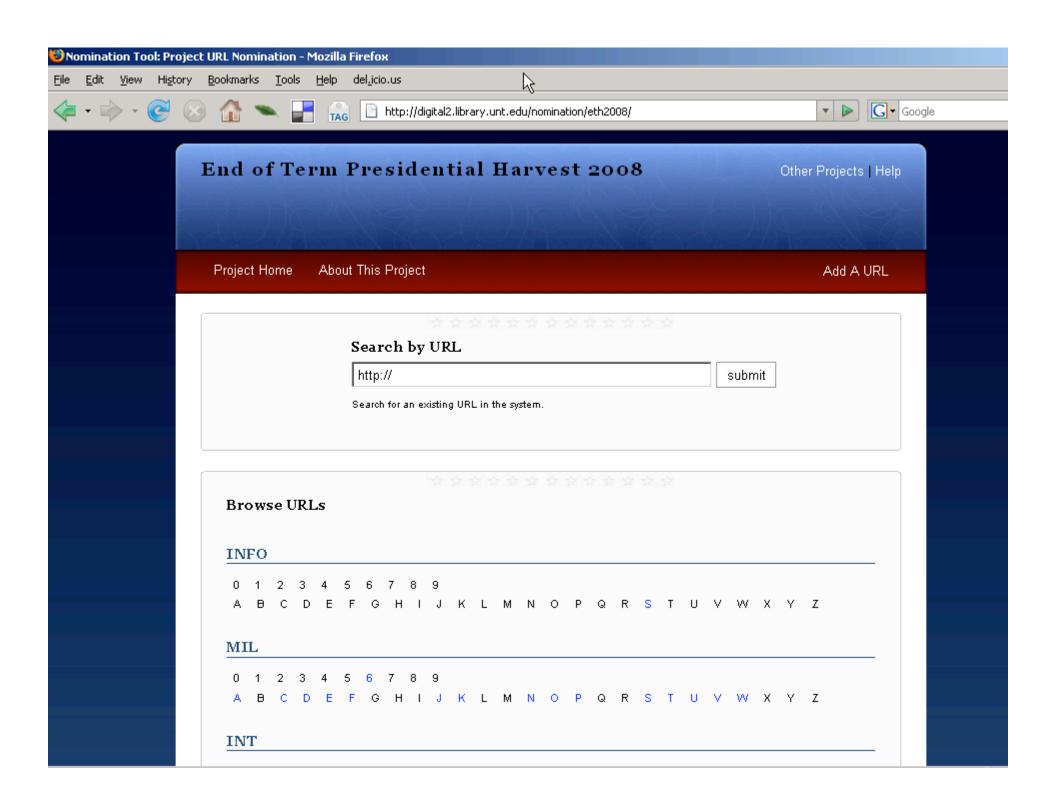
- In scope: Federal government Web sites (.gov, .mil, etc.) in the Legislative, Executive, or Judicial branches of government. Of particular interest for prioritization are sites likely to change dramatically or disappear during the transition of government
- Out of scope: Local or state government Web sites, or any other site not part of the above federal government domain

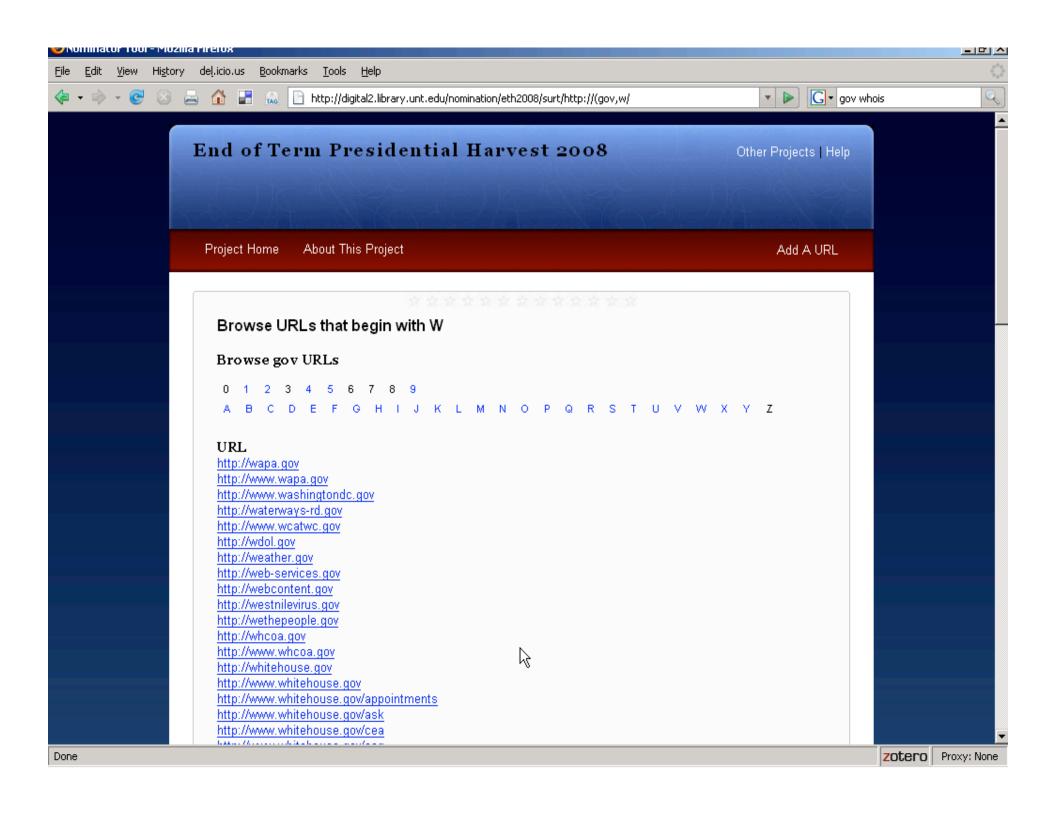
#### **URL Nomination Tool**

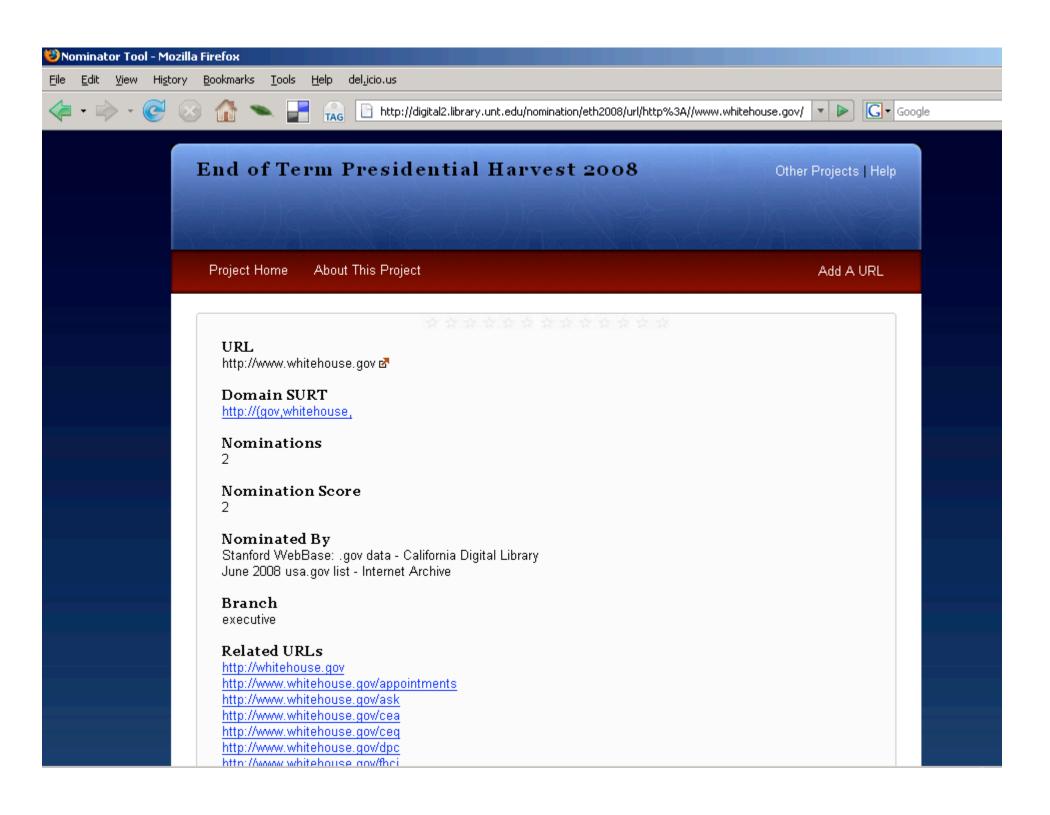
- Allows for collaboration with subject experts
- Ingest seed lists from different sources
- Record known metadata for seed
  - Branch
  - Title
  - Comment
  - Who nominated
- Allow people to help with nomination
  - Search
  - Browse
  - "easy to use"
- Create seed lists for crawls

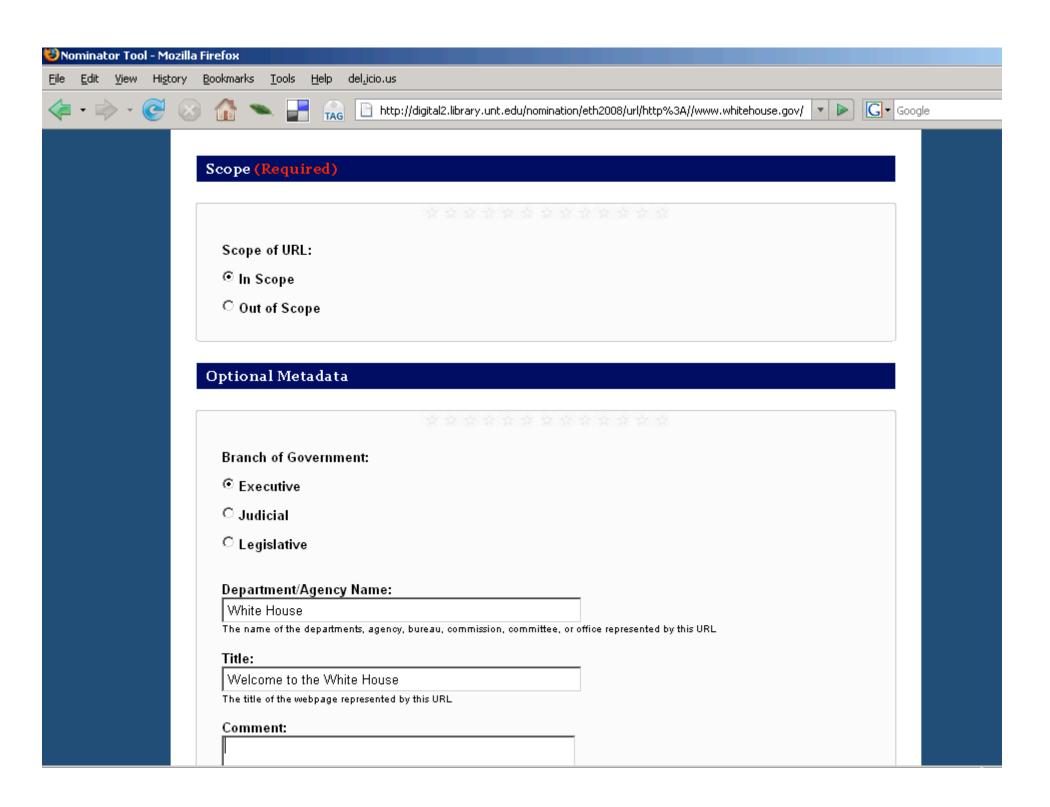
#### Nomination – In Scope/Out of Scope

- On batch import a URL is given a positive nomination +1
- A user of the Nomination Tool has the ability to nominate a URL as in scope (+1) or out of scope (-1)
- Nominations are calculated to give a possible measure of importance for a project.

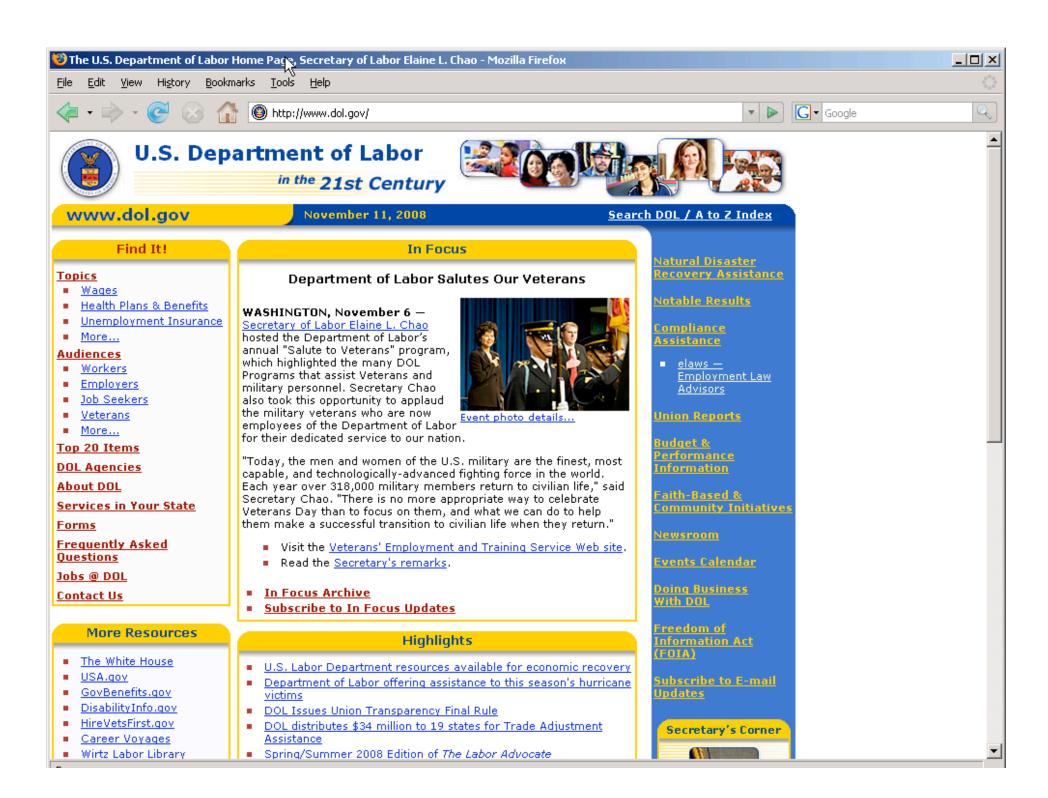


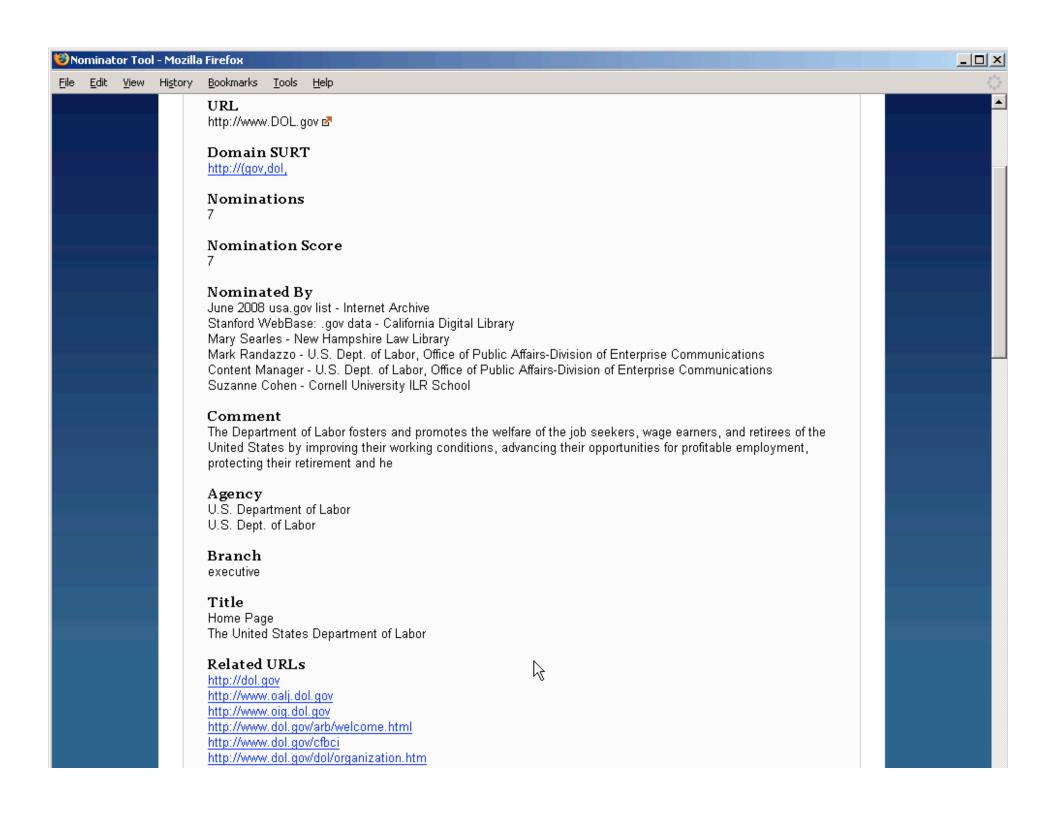




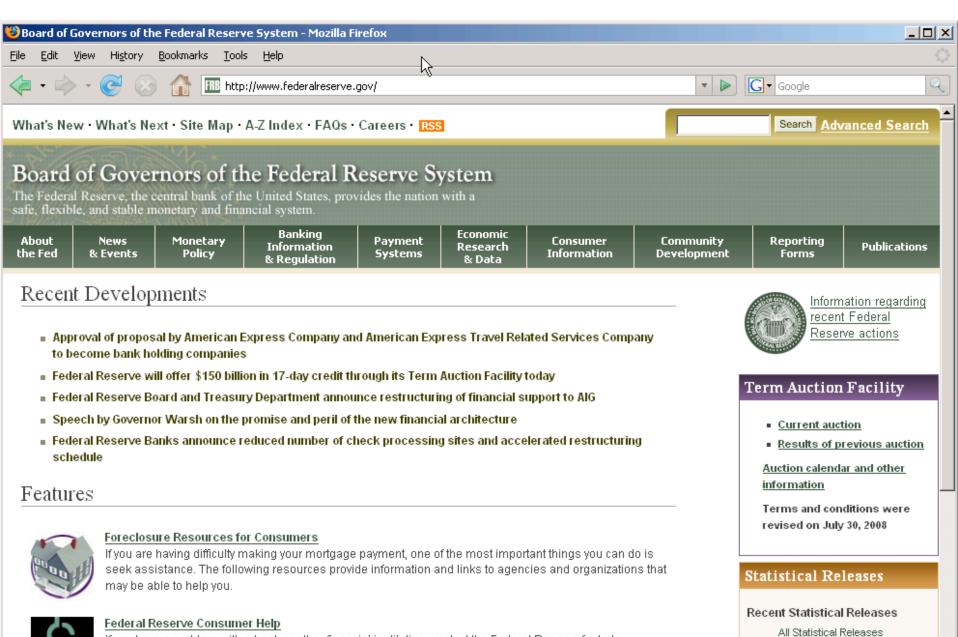












If you have a problem with a bank or other financial institution, contact the Federal Reserve for help.

Commercial Paper

Flow of Funds - Z.1

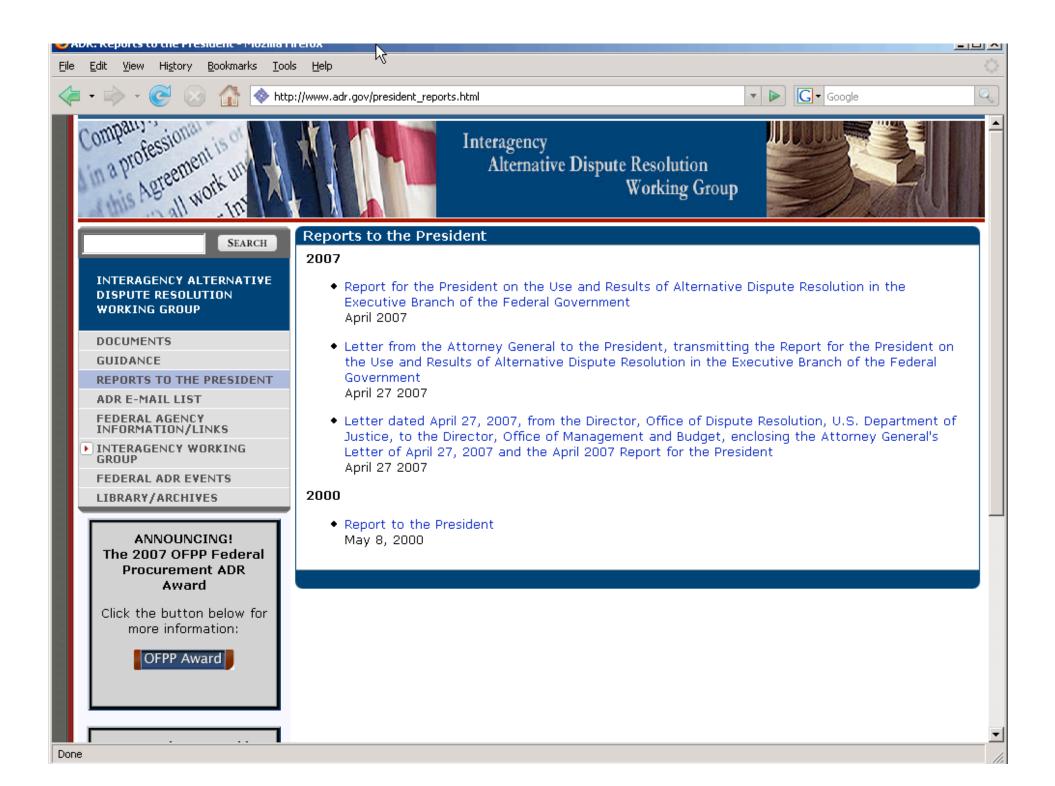
Foreign Exchange Rates - H.10

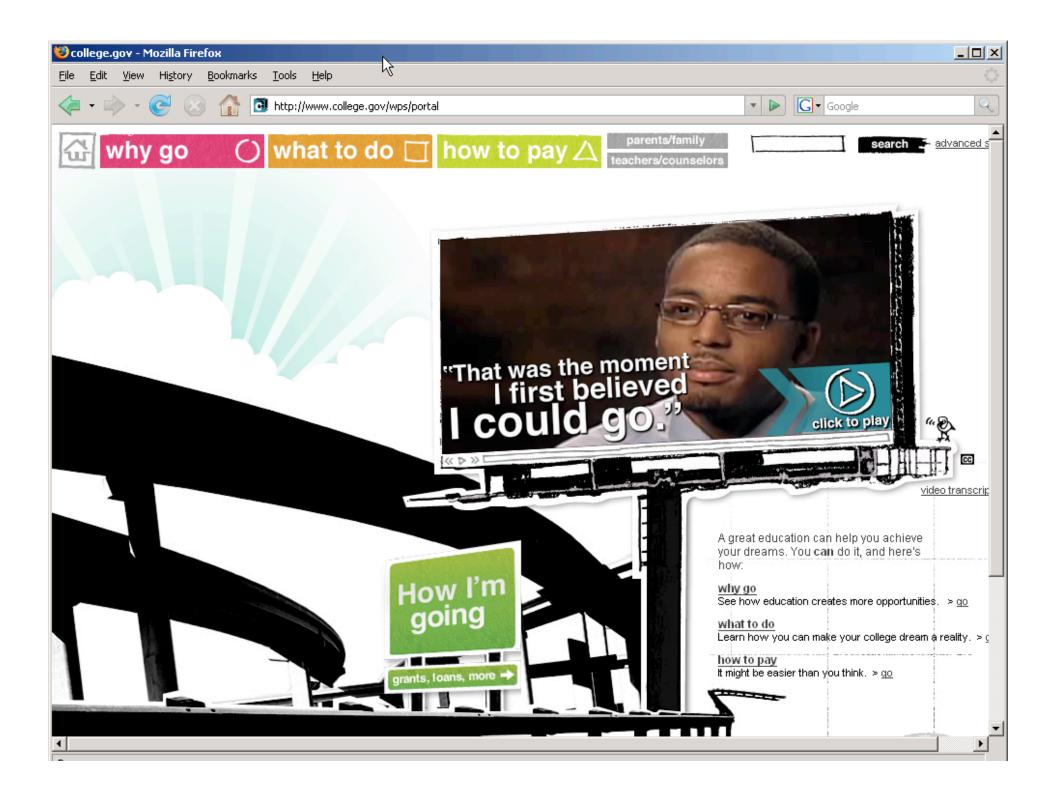
Selected Interest Rates - H.15











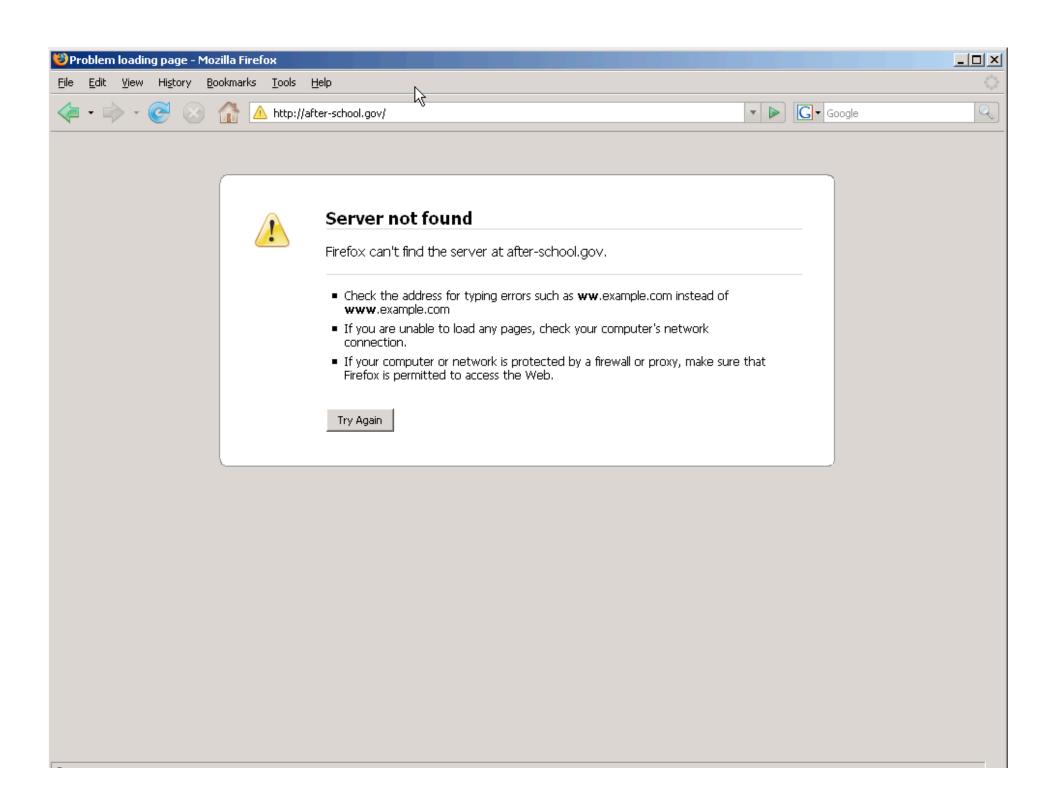


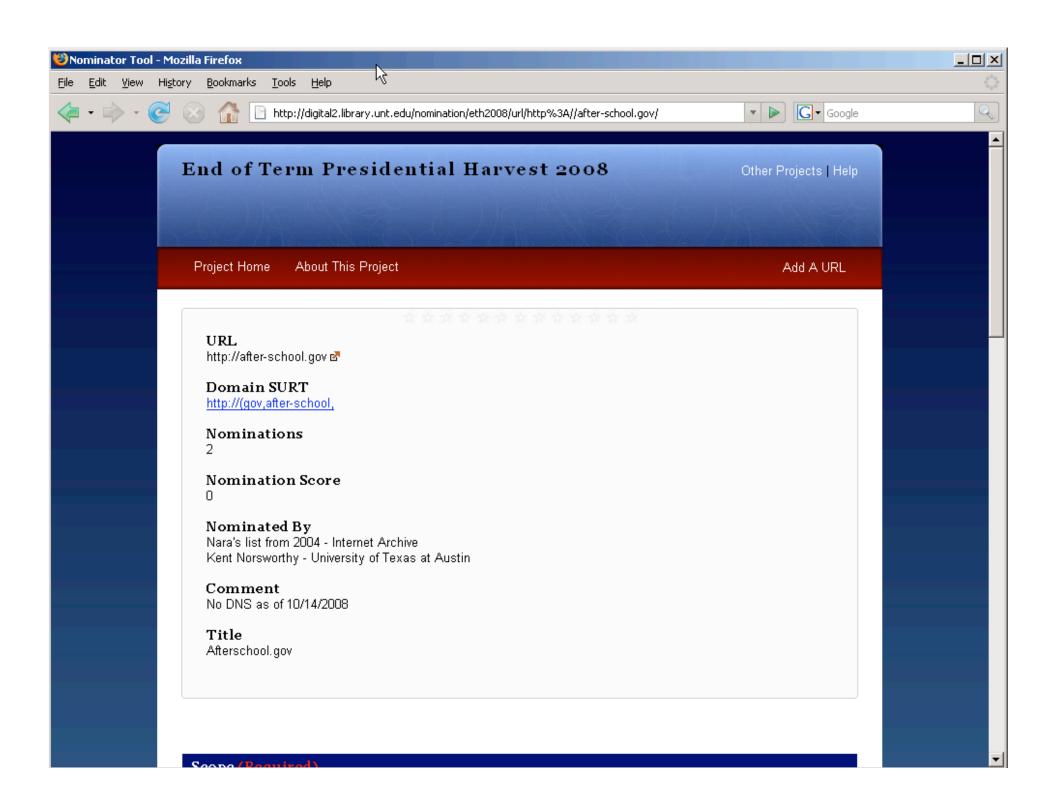


# Change.gov – really a .gov?

- Content copyright © 2008 by Obama-Biden Transition Project, a 501c(4) organization.
- Search of .gov whois says domain was registered by GSA (General Services Administration)
- Other official transition sites:
  - http://www.opm.gov/transition/TRANS20R-Ch1.htm
  - http://directory.presidentialtransition.gov/
  - http://www.chcoc.gov/Transmittals/TransmittalDetails.aspx
    ?TransmittalId=1300
  - http://www.usoge.gov/directors\_corner/presidential\_transition.aspx







#### Partner Roles

- Internet Archive Broad, comprehensive harvests
- Library of Congress In-depth Legislative branch crawls
- University of North Texas Sites/Agencies that meet current UNT interests, e.g. environmental policy, and collections, as well as several "deep web" sites.
- California Digital Library Mutiple crawls of all seeds in EOT database; sites of interest to their curators
- Government Printing Office Support and analysis of "official documents" found in collection

## Crawl Schedule

	September			October				November				December					January				February			
	15	22	29	6	13	20	27	3	10	17	24	1	8	15	22	29	5	12	19	26	2	9	16	23
Internet Archive	Broad	d Cra	wl				Bro								Broad	ad Crawl								
Library of Congress				Legis					slative				Legislative				Legislative				Legislative			
UNT				Selected			Selected								Selected									
CDL								Broa	d										Broad	i				
TBD												Priorit	ized,	URL	Symm									

#### Two Approaches:

- Broad, comprehensive crawls
- Prioritized, selective crawls

#### Key dates:

- Election Day, November 4
- Inauguration Day, January 20

## Library of Congress crawl plan

- Legislative: Enhance existing, ongoing monthly congressional crawls (house.gov, senate.gov, committees, etc.) to include any prioritized legislative URLs
- Continue monthly crawl, but crawl deeper, longer (one month rather than one week)
- October February
- Will also support crawl of all prioritized seeds between election and before inauguration

## UNT crawl plan

- Crawling selected URLs of interest to UNT Libraries, including:
  - FEMA
  - Energy Information Administration
  - Department of Agriculture
  - Homeland Security
  - Office of Faith-Based and Community Initiatives
  - Department of Education
  - Fuel Economy
  - Environmental ethics and policy materials across agencies
- Around the election; pre-inauguration; postinauguration; possibly one year later snapshots

## CDL crawl plan

- Exhaustive crawl of all seeds in nomination tool
- Before election; after election but before inauguration; shortly after inauguration; and six months after inauguration
- Focused crawling of sites of interest to University of California curators
- Using their Web Archive Service

## IA crawl plan

- Performed baseline harvest of 2522 seeds from Sept 15, 2008 until Election Day.
- Plan to support interim captures between Election Day and Inauguration Day to support selective harvests.
- Will begin final comprehensive harvest of all URLs nominated and/or visited on Jan. 21, 2009. Will conclude when full scope of materials have been visited. Will only collect new material, i.e. content that was added or that has changed since the baseline harvest.

#### Near-Future Work

- Centralizing web data into a single collection at the Internet Archive
- Providing WayBack access to content
- Providing search access to content
- Distributing collection among partners (25-35 TB projected)
- Investigation of browse by Agency/Branch

#### Other Future Work

- Extracting topical collections from crawl data
- Providing programmatic access for data-mining
- Research in calculating "size" of collection in relation to real world measures
  - Number of pages of text collected
  - Number of 8x10 in equivalent images collected
  - Hours of Audio
  - Hours of Video
  - Number of PDFs
  - Physical library space requirements to hold collection if in physical format.

## Questions?

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