Updating links to blogs: Peter Murray-Rust

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Abstract

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One reason to move my blog from Blogger to a git-backed repository is that I can update links but that the version history shows exactly what change was made. I have been using three icons: when I can find a new URL for the website, I use ; when I cannot find a new URL, but the old URL is in the Internet Archive, I use a ; finally, if I cannot find anything to replace the broken link, I use . For example, the blog of Rich Apodaca is now archived, and I have been updating the many links to his (still running) blog to use DOI links. That has the added benefit of making blog-to-blog citations more FAIR.

Now, another blog I link to a lot, is the blog by Peter Murray-Rust, which has run at various URLs, including http://wwmm.ch.cam.ac.uk/blogs/murrayrust/ and now at https://blogs.ch.cam.ac.uk/pmr/. My posts on Blogger have a lot of links to the `wwmm.ch.cam.ac.uk` domain, e.g. `http://wwmm.ch.cam.ac.uk/blogs/murrayrust/?p=845`. The problem with these URLs is that they do not get properly rewritten and all point to a *European copyright: Cancel Articles 3, 11 and 13* post from 2018.

But here too, the Internet Archive is helping. It gives me the opportunity to find what `p=845` pointed too. Now, not all blog posts are archived and therefore sometimes need to figure out which posts it was using archived posts just before or after the post I linked too. Of course, this only works because Peter's blog is still online with all posts. First step is to list all pages using the old URL pattern in the archive, e.g. with `https://web.archive.org/web/*/http://wwmm.ch.cam.ac.uk/blogs/murrayrust/*`. Here, the first * indicates `any date`, while the second * indicates `any URL that started with the preceding`.

This gives a list of 1233 posts, which you can filter with the text box on the top right of the list, where I filtered here for URLs with `p=`:

INTERNET ARCHIVE
WayBackMachine
DONATE
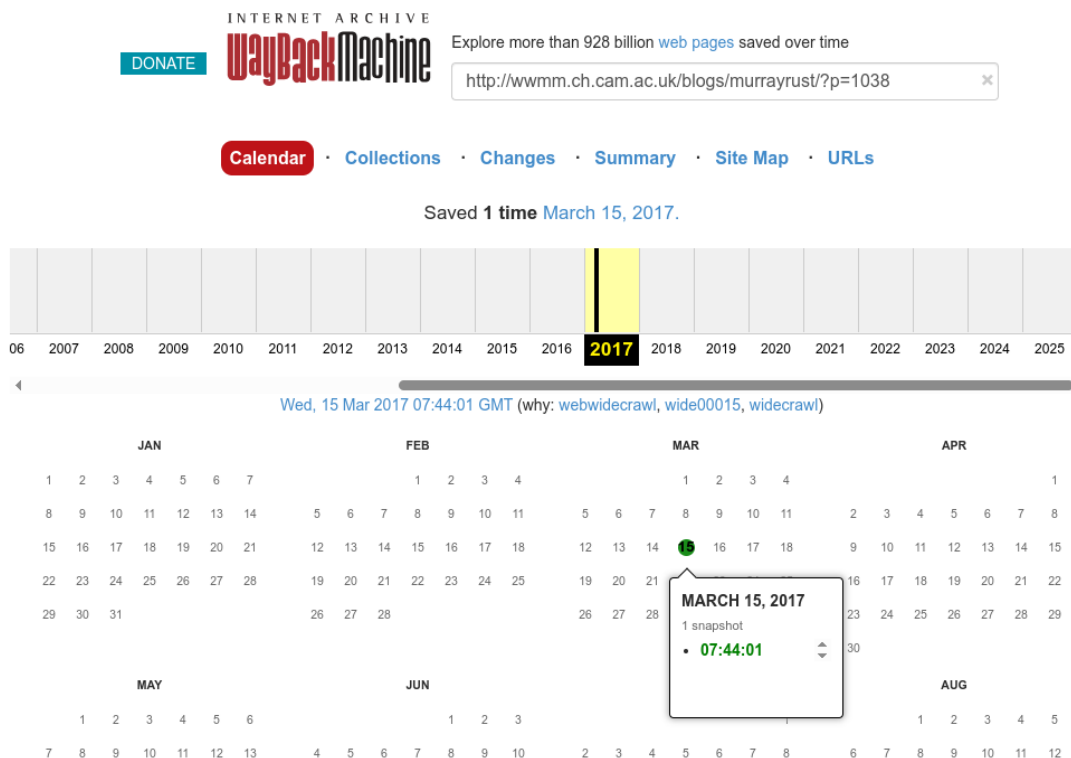
Explore more than 928 billion web pages saved over time

http://wwmm.ch.cam.ac.uk/blogs/murrayrust/ ✕

Calendar · Collections · Changes · Summary · Site Map · **URLs**

1,233 URLs have been captured for this URL prefix.

p=

URL ↑	MIME Type	From	To	Captures	Duplicates	Uniques
http://wwmm.ch.cam.ac.uk//blogs//murrayrust//?p=1326	text/html	Mar 20, 2009	Jun 25, 2018	11	4	7
http://wwmm.ch.cam.ac.uk/blogs/murrayrust//?p=834	text/html	May 8, 2015	May 8, 2015	1	0	1
http://wwmm.ch.cam.ac.uk/blogs/murrayrust/?feed=rss2&p=286	text/xml	Aug 10, 2007	Aug 10, 2007	1	0	1
http://wwmm.ch.cam.ac.uk/blogs/murrayrust/?feed=rss2&p=299	text/xml	Aug 10, 2007	Aug 10, 2007	1	0	1
http://wwmm.ch.cam.ac.uk/blogs/murrayrust/?feed=rss2&p=346	text/xml	Jul 20, 2007	Jul 20, 2007	1	0	1
http://wwmm.ch.cam.ac.uk/blogs/murrayrust/?p=1001	text/html	Feb 19, 2012	Jan 16, 2025	4	1	3
http://wwmm.ch.cam.ac.uk/blogs/murrayrust/?p=1008	text/html	Jan 15, 2013	Jan 15, 2013	1	0	1
http://wwmm.ch.cam.ac.uk/blogs/murrayrust/?p=1027	text/html	Mar 24	Mar 24	1	0	1

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However, if the blog post I am looking for is listed, it does not mean it actually has been archived. In the above screenshot, note the `From` column, and that date needs to be from before the `wwmm.ch.cam.ac.uk` stopped being used. For example, the following post has an Internet Archive, but after the move and the original content is not visible, but a redirect message instead, here visible as a green date:

This way, I have been able to update various links already, not with a DOI and blog-to-blog citation as for Rich's blog, but just with an updated link so that readers of these older posts actually end up on the post I originally linked to, such as here: