Proposal for a collaborative project with the Portuguese Web Archive

User profiles and cases of use for a Web Archive

The Portuguese National Foundation for Scientific Computing (FCCN) is currently engaged in the [Portuguese Web Archive](#) (PWA) project and seeks to cooperate with Research and Development organisations who are interested in participating in innovative activities. This document presents a proposal for a project with an estimated duration of 1 year, which could form part of a master's thesis or introduction to research.

The PWA periodically compiles and archives the Portuguese Web. However, mechanisms that make the information accessible to the public are required.

The PWA launched an experimental service that provides historical search of the archived information. This makes it possible to search and access archived pages which are no longer available on the web.

Users can search for pages containing certain terms using a search interface similar to current Web search engines such as Google. In addition, users are also able to access the history of a given page.

These new services could be useful to groups of users with different profiles in various situations. For example:

- Journalist documenting an article;
- Webmaster recovering lost versions of a page;
- Historian studying digital documents;
- Web visitor visiting broken favourite links;
- Lawyer obtaining evidence for a case.

There are other use cases and profiles that merit comprehensive analysis so that the system can be designed to respond to their needs.

The main objective of the proposed work is to study the profiles and needs of Portuguese Web Archive users and indentify new use cases and potential users.

The results of this research will contribute to a better planning of the project so that it can meet the community needs. There are some related studies:

- Marcel Ras and Sara van Bussel, Web Archiving User Survey, National Library of the Netherlands (Koninklijke Bibliotheek), 2007;
- IIPC Access Working Group, Use cases for Access to Internet Archives, International Internet Preservation Consortium, 2006.

It would be useful to validate whether the findings of these studies reflect the reality of the Portuguese community and to identify new needs.