

INTERNET ARCHIVE SITES

A GUIDE FOR USERS

What you need to know

Internet archive sites can be a way to access content that is no longer readily accessible on the web. These sites use a cached ('snapshot') version of web content that was captured on a particular date and time.

A worked example accessing a 'dead' link

Link



On this page from the ATNS there's a link to a government report, but the link is dead due to a change in department name and/or web address.

The original (dead) link is <u>this one</u> but when accessed it transfers to <u>a different page</u> which says "Page not found".

Queensland Government

Department of Seniors, Disability Services and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships

Home Ferror - Page not found

Error - Page not found

By right-clicking and copying the address of the <u>original (dead) link</u> into a web archive, we may be able to access the content using a snapshot of the page.

Sites



Two useful archive sites are:

- <u>Trove's web archive for Australian sites</u> (previously known as Pandora)
- The Internet Archive's Wayback Machine

You may need to try both, depending on the age and location of the content.

Using Trove



As this link is Australian, <u>Trove</u> would be a good first choice.

Paste in the dead link and search.

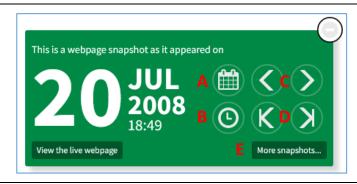
Where a snapshot is available the link will display under the search box. Trove may also display other pages making use of the dead link.

By clicking on the search result link, Trove will display a snapshot of the page, with the date of capture shown in a green box (in this case 20 July, 2008).

In the browser's URL bar, a <u>stable link to this</u> <u>captured page</u> can be found.

Scrolling down, the links on the page are also stable (including the complete report in archived form) and can be copied and shared with others.

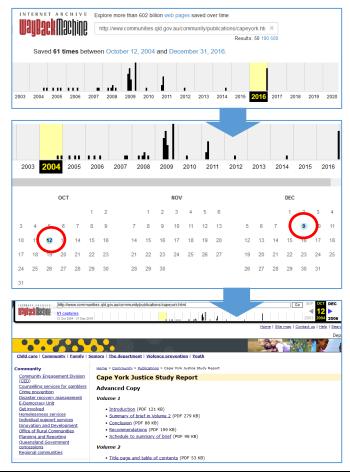
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Where the snapshot shown does not provide access to the content required, the green date box has further options:

- [A] a calendar of all snapshots by year,
- [B] a simple timeline of snapshots,
- [C] navigation between previous or next snapshots,
- [D] the ability to jump to the first or last snapshot taken, and
- [E] more snapshot options (usually including the <u>Wayback Machine</u>).

Using the Wayback Machine



Pasting a <u>dead link</u> into the <u>Wayback</u> <u>Machine</u> search box will display options for snapshots by year.

Aim for a year close to the original publication date of the content required.

As the report needed is from 2001 and the first available screenshots are from 2004, this would be a logical choice.

Clicking on 2004, two dates show with snapshots (one each for Oct and Dec).

Some snapshot dates may work as direct links, while others will have a pop-out window with times. Click on the option provided for access.

The Wayback Machine will display the page. In the browser's URL bar, a <u>stable link to this</u> <u>captured page</u> can be found.

Note: Do not copy the link from the Wayback Machine toolbar (shown top of the left screenshot). This is the original (dead) link.

As with Trove, the links on the page are stable (including the <u>full report</u>) and can be copied and shared with others.

The year of capture can be easily adjusted via the toolbar at the top of the screen.

How do these archived links work? Looking at the links from each archive site, the same basic structure can be seen – Web archive link then formatted year/date/time then original (dead) link

Trove	https://webarchive.nla.gov.au/awa/20080720084951/http:/www.communities.qld.gov.au/community/publications/capeyork.html
Wayback Machine	https://web.archive.org/web/20041012225642/http:/www.communities.qld.gov.au/community/publications/capeyork.html

This structure should mean that the links are persistent – as long as the snapshot is retained for that particular date and time, the archived links will work.

Note: Not all web pages may be captured by these archive sites, and snapshots may not cover all dates.

Need help? Ask the Library

newcastle.edu.au/library/help-and-information

