Belleville Area District Library Board
Regular Meeting Agenda
June 11, 2024 at 7:30 PM

The Belleville Area District Library Board will meet in person in the library's 2nd floor Conference Room.

Agenda:

1. Pledge of Allegiance
2. Roll Call: Cichewicz, Fleming, Hughes-Grubbs, Juriga, Peters, Priest, Stoudemire
3. Approve Agenda
4. Approve May 14, 2024, Regular Meeting Minutes
5. Public Comments
6. Public Hearing 2024-25 Budget
7. Committee Reports
    A. Building-Cichewicz
    B. Bylaws-Juriga
    C. Finance-Stoudemire
        a. Approve 2024-25 Budget
        b. Approve 2023-24 Amended Budget
        c. Fund Balance Allocation per GASB 54
    D. Marketing-Hughes-Grubbs
    E. Personnel-Priest
    F. Policy-Fleming
    G. Art
8. Approve Accounts Payable
9. Director's Report/Comments/Communications
10. Trustee Comments
11. Chair Comments
12. Adjournment

Any citizen wishing to provide input or ask questions about any agenda item may speak during the meeting's Public Comments section or forward comments to the Library Director in advance by leaving a message at 734-699-3291 or via the Contact Us link at www.belleville.lib.mi.us. Any citizen requesting accommodation to attend this meeting may contact the library at least 24 hours prior to the meeting, using the above contact information.

Next Regular BADL Board Meeting: July 9, 2024, at 7:30 PM

Belleville Area District Library
Meeting Minutes
May 14, 2024

1. **Call to Order:** Chair Sharon Peters called the meeting to order at 7:30 pm.

2. **Roll Call:** The following board members were present: Dan Fleming, John Juriga, Sharon Peters, Linda Priest, and Tanya Stoudemire. Absent and excused: Joy Cichewicz and Alma Hughes-Grubbs. Also present: Library Director Mary Jo Suchy.

3. **Approve Agenda:**
   Motion by Juriga, seconded by Priest, to approve the agenda as presented. The motion carried unanimously.

4. **Approve April 9, 2024, Regular Meeting Minutes**: Motion by Stoudemire, seconded by Cichewicz, to approve the April 9, 2024, minutes as presented. The motion carried unanimously.

5. **Public Comments:** Dr. Maria Jackson Smith noted that it was refreshing to be at a meeting when it is still light outside.

6. **Committee Reports**
   A. **Building:** The flag pole light is not working again.
   B. **Bylaws:** No report.
   C. **Finance:** Stoudemire presented the 9-month budgetary report.
   D. **Marketing:** The Friends book sale and the plant swap were very well attended.
   E. **Personnel:** The library received personnel policy documents from the attorney.
   F. **Policy**: No report.
   G. **Art:** No report.

7. **Approve Accounts Payable:** Motion by Stoudemire, seconded by Juriga, to approve the accounts payable as presented. The motion carried unanimously.

8. **Director's Report:** See attached.

9. **Trustee Comments**:
   Juriga – Thanked Dan for sharing the information from *The Independent* regarding FEMA reimbursements for last August's storm damage. He thanked U.S. Representative Debbie Dingell for recognizing the Rosies in Washington.
   Fleming – Complimented the library's flower pots in front of the building. Commented that the changes to the library's website look nice. Noted that he will not be able to make the June board meeting.
   Stoudemire – Thanked Mary Jo for overseeing all of the library's activities, finances, and staff training.
   Priest – Was in the fireplace room before the meeting where she heard about the library's Playaway collection.

10. Chair Comments:

Peters – Hasn't been in the library much this month due to foot surgery.

11. Adjournment:

Motion by Juriga, seconded by Cichewicz, to adjourn. The meeting adjourned at 8:15 pm.

Proposed 6/11/2024

Belleville Area District Library Budget

	2022-23 Audited	2023-24 Approved	2023-24 Prop. Amended	2024-25 Proposed
Revenues				
Millage	**2,379,784**	**2,460,000**	**2,460,000**	**2,600,000**
Grant Revenue	**6,317**	**6,300**	**6,300**	**6,300**
Interest Income	**1,568**	**1,500**	**300**	**20,000**
State Aid	**43,969**	**43,000**	**43,000**	**43,000**
Local Library Fines and Fees	**115,193**	**58,700**	**62,200**	**62,200**
Late Fees		2,000	500	500
Penal Fines		36,000	36,000	36,000
Lost Book Fees		700	1,700	1,700
Copies/Fax Fees		20,000	24,000	24,000
Contributions and Donations	**2,831**	**2,500**	**4,000**	**2,500**
General Donations				
New Library Capital Campaign				
Appropriation of Fund Balance				
GRAND TOTAL REVENUES	**2,549,662**	**2,572,000**	**2,575,800**	**2,734,000**
Expenditures				
Salaries	**999,553**	**1,160,000**	**1,160,000**	**1,218,000**
Benefits and FICA	**321,671**	**381,740**	**381,740**	**414,177**
F.I.C.A.		88,740	88,740	93,177
Employee Health Insurance - Library		215,000	215,000	240,000
Retirement (MERS Defined Contribution)		78,000	78,000	81,000
Books and Materials	**184,452**	**275,000**	**275,000**	**275,000**
Supplies	**36,626**	**50,000**	**50,000**	**55,000**
Professional Fees	**27,627**	**49,100**	**49,100**	**50,000**
Audit		8,600	8,600	9,500
Finance		13,500	13,500	13,500
Legal		7,000	7,000	7,000
Architect		10,000	10,000	10,000
Other		10,000	10,000	10,000
Bank Fees		**1,000**	**1,100**	**4,000**
Dues	**2,891**	**5,000**	**5,000**	**5,000**
Contracted Services	**92,630**	**125,000**	**125,000**	**130,000**
Contracted Services		20,000	20,000	25,000

Belleville Area District Library Budget				
	2022-23 Audited	2023-24 Approved	2023-24 Prop. Amended	2024-25 Proposed
Delivery		6,000	6,000	6,000
Payroll		15,000	15,000	15,000
Acquisitions Services		23,000	23,000	23,000
Automation System & Cataloging		41,000	41,000	41,000
Outside Maintenance		20,000	20,000	20,000
Telephone & Telecommunications	**20,503**	**31,000**	**31,000**	**31,000**
Telephone		15,000	15,000	15,000
Telecommunications		16,000	16,000	16,000
Insurance - Liability & Worker's Comp	**15,470**	**38,000**	**38,000**	**38,000**
Utilities	**52,957**	**86,000**	**86,000**	**86,000**
Repairs and Maintenance	**70,165**	**85,000**	**90,000**	**90,000**
Printing and Publications	**16,391**	**24,000**	**24,000**	**24,000**
Postage	**9,729**	**12,000**	**12,000**	**12,000**
Computer Hardware/Software	**42,267**	**80,000**	**80,000**	**80,000**
Capital Outlay (Equipment/Furniture)	**1,320**	**25,000**	**25,000**	**25,000**
Miscellaneous	**12,549**	**30,000**	**30,000**	**30,000**
Travel and Meetings		8,000	8,000	8,000
Library Programs		18,000	18,000	18,000
Other		4,000	4,000	4,000
GRAND TOTAL EXPENDITURES	**1,906,801**	**2,457,840**	**2,462,940**	**2,567,177**
Beginning Fund Balance	**4,843,200**	**4,970,050**	**5,486,061**	**5,598,921**
Change to Fund Balance	**642,861**	**114,160**	**112,860**	**166,823**
Year End Fund Balance	**5,486,061**	**5,084,210**	**5,598,921**	**5,765,744**
Funds committed to the following fiscal year	1,150,000	1,230,000	1,230,000	1,300,000
Funds restricted - building contributions	459,387	459,367	459,387	459,387
Funds assigned - future capital improvements				2,000,000
Remaining Funds	**3,876,674**	**3,394,843**	**3,909,534**	**2,006,357**

Belleville Area District Library
Budget
Debt Retirement Fund budget
June 30, 2023 and June 30, 2024

Fund Balance at June 30, 2023	$	530,939
Fiscal Year Ending June 30, 2024		**6/11/2024 Prop. Amended**
Revenue:		
Estimated Tax Levy	$	760,000
Expenditures:		
Principal		600,000
Interest		382,450
Fees		
Total		982,450
Fund Balance at June 30, 2024	$	308,489

Fiscal Year Ending June 30, 2025		**6/11/2024 Proposed**
Revenue:		
Estimated Tax Levy	$	947,000
Expenditures:		
Principal		620,000
Interest		361,450
Fees		
Total		981,450
Fund Balance at June 30, 2025	$	274,039

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

June 2024

LIBRARY PROGRAMS **May: Adults: 15 Youth: 17**

LIBRARY VISITS	**2023/24**	**2022/23**	**% change**
May	10,850	9,852	10.13%
Fiscal Year	122,724	109,078	12.51%

TOTAL CIRC	**2023/24**	**2022/23**	**% change**
May	19,567	20,264	-3.44%
Fiscal Year	230,222	230,014	0.09%

ADULT PROGRAMMING	**2023/24**	**2022/23**	**% change**
May	212	172	23.26%
Fiscal Year	1,725	1,467	17.59%

YOUTH/TEEN PROGRAMMING	**2023/24**	**2022/23**	**% change**
May	2,509	1,194	110.13%
Fiscal Year	6,569	4,767	37.80%

ALL AGES PROGRAMMING: May: 0 Fiscal Year: 450

REF. QUESTIONS	**2023/24**	**2022/23**	**% change**
May	1,745	1,570	11.15%
Fiscal Year	18,301	16,735	9.36%

INTERNET USE	**2023/24**	**2022/23**	**% change**
May	1,054	1,030	2.33%
Fiscal Year	11,051	10,486	5.39%

YOUTH/TEEN INTERNET	**2023/24**	**2022/23**	**% change**
May	279	274	1.82%
Fiscal Year	3,079	2,204	39.70%

BUILDING: Library carpet and tile cleaning are pending. The fire system required a five-year piping inspection, hydro static testing, and gauge replacement. The state boiler inspector also paid a visit which initiated a visit from Long Mechanical who issued us a CSD-1 report. The flagpole light has been repaired and re-caulked. The power outage and brownout on June 5 caused a delayed opening and an early closing for the library. Both events caused us to have to manually reboot the HVAC units on the roof and troubleshoot some intermittent Internet outages.

PROGRAMMING: The last day of school was June 6, and the library is now gearing up for the Summer Reading Program. Signup for the program begins June 10, and the library has fun programs, activities, and reading prizes for all ages. The adult summer reading program kicks of with a Saturday Book Café on June 15, from 3-5 pm. The teen program also begins on June 15 with pizza and board games. A variety of children's programs will take place on Tuesday and Saturday mornings.

STAFF:
Outgoing staff: Shelving page, Naima Yarbrough
Incoming staff: Library clerk Kali Harrison; shelving pages Carolyn Losey and Wyatt Altizer; shelving intern Brendan Carr.

OUTREACH: The library will have a booth on the Saturday of Lake Fest (June 22). We will also have a booth once a month at the Monday Farmers' Market.

The Library Network
Libraries working together.

Dollar Power Using The Library Network Services

For the Year 2023, your Public Library received signaficant value for the cost of services to The Library Network.

Bellevillle Area District

TLN Cooperative Service	Cost to Library	Value to Library	Notes
Michigan Activity Pass	$ 187	$ 1,910	201 MAP passes checked out
Delivery Service	$ 22,610	$ 376,880	47,110 items received
Cataloging & Records	$ 9,776	$ 128,083	7,319 items
Items Borrowed	$ 27,877	$ 35,990	1,525 items from TLN Catalog
Ebooks - Libby	$ 11,306	$ 395,496	26,384 items checked out
Emagazines - Libby	$ 1,319	$ 6,558	3,079 items checked out
Wide Area Network & Internet, net of e-rate	$ 3,802	$ 15,217	150, 50 Mbs Service
Employee Assistance Program (EAP)	$ 640	$ 840	42 Employees Covered
Amazon Prime Membership	$ 9	$ 129	Statewide
2023 Totals	**$ 77,525**	**$ 961,102**	

Other Benefits Not Quantified:	
Programs Attended	2
SAS Programs Attended	3
IT Services	
Book/Magazine Discounts	
Database Discounts	
Equipment Discounts	

MEMORY CAFE

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 19TH

@ 11 AM

Belleville Area District Library
Cozzad Room A

Join us at this relaxed, informal, and free event for people with memory difficulties and their caregivers.

Connect with others,remember times past, enjoy some goodies,and make a craft!

A diagnosis is not required to attend.

MAIN LIBRARY
167 4th St.
Belleville, MI 48101
(734) 699-3291

BELLEVILLE AREA DISTRICT LIBRARY

SUMPTER MEDIA CENTER
23465 Sumpter Rd.
Belleville, MI 48101
(734) 699-3291

www.belleville.lib.mi.us

COMPUTER CLASSES SUMMER 2024

COMPUTER BASICS

LEVEL 1: INTRODUCTION TO COMPUTERS. TUESDAY. JUNE 11 @ 1: 30 PM
LEVEL 2: NAVIGATING YOUR COMPUTER. TUESDAY. JUNE 18 @ 1: 30 PM
LEVEL 3: INTERNET AND EMAIL. TUESDAY. JULY 2 @ 1: 30 PM

INTRODUCTION TO MICROSOFT WORD

TUESDAY. JULY 16TH @ 1:30 PM

MICROSOFT EXCEL

LEVEL 1: THURSDAY. AUGUST 1 @ 10:00 AM
LEVEL 2: THURSDAY. AUGUST 15 @ 10:00 AM

CLASSES HELD AT:
SUMPTER MEDIA CENTER. 23465 SUMPTER ROAD. BELLEVILLE. MI 48111

REGISTRATION REQUIRED: HTTPS://BELLEVILLE.EVANCED.INFO/SIGNUP

ADVENTURE BEGINS AT YOUR LIBRARY™

YOUTH SUMMER READING PROGRAM
JUNE 10-JULY 31
AGES 1-18

What adventures will you have this summer? Sign up with Beanstack and start reading June 10th! For every hour read, earn a prize. You can start collecting prizes June 17th. Receive up to 10 prizes, or until supplies last. Last day to record reading is July 31st.

JUNE

MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
10 REGISTRATION BEGINS!	11	12	13	14	15 **Teen Pizza & Board Games** 2 pm, Ages 12-18 *please register
17 FIRST DAY TO REDEEM PRIZES!	18 **Storytime With Mermaid Molly** 11 am, All Ages	19	20 **Littles' Storytime** 11 am, Ages 4 & under	21	22 **Kam Komics Class** 2-3:30 pm, Ages 9-18
24	25 **Wild Animal Super Powers with Howell Nature Center** 11 am, All Ages	26	27 **Littles' Music & Movement** 11 am, Ages 4 & under	28	29 **A World of Music & Stories with Ms. Audrey** 11 am, All Ages

Track your reading on the **beanstack** app

Available on the App Store

GET IT ON Google Play

BELLEVILLE AREA DISTRICT LIBRARY

belleville.lib.mi.us ~ 734-699-3291

JULY

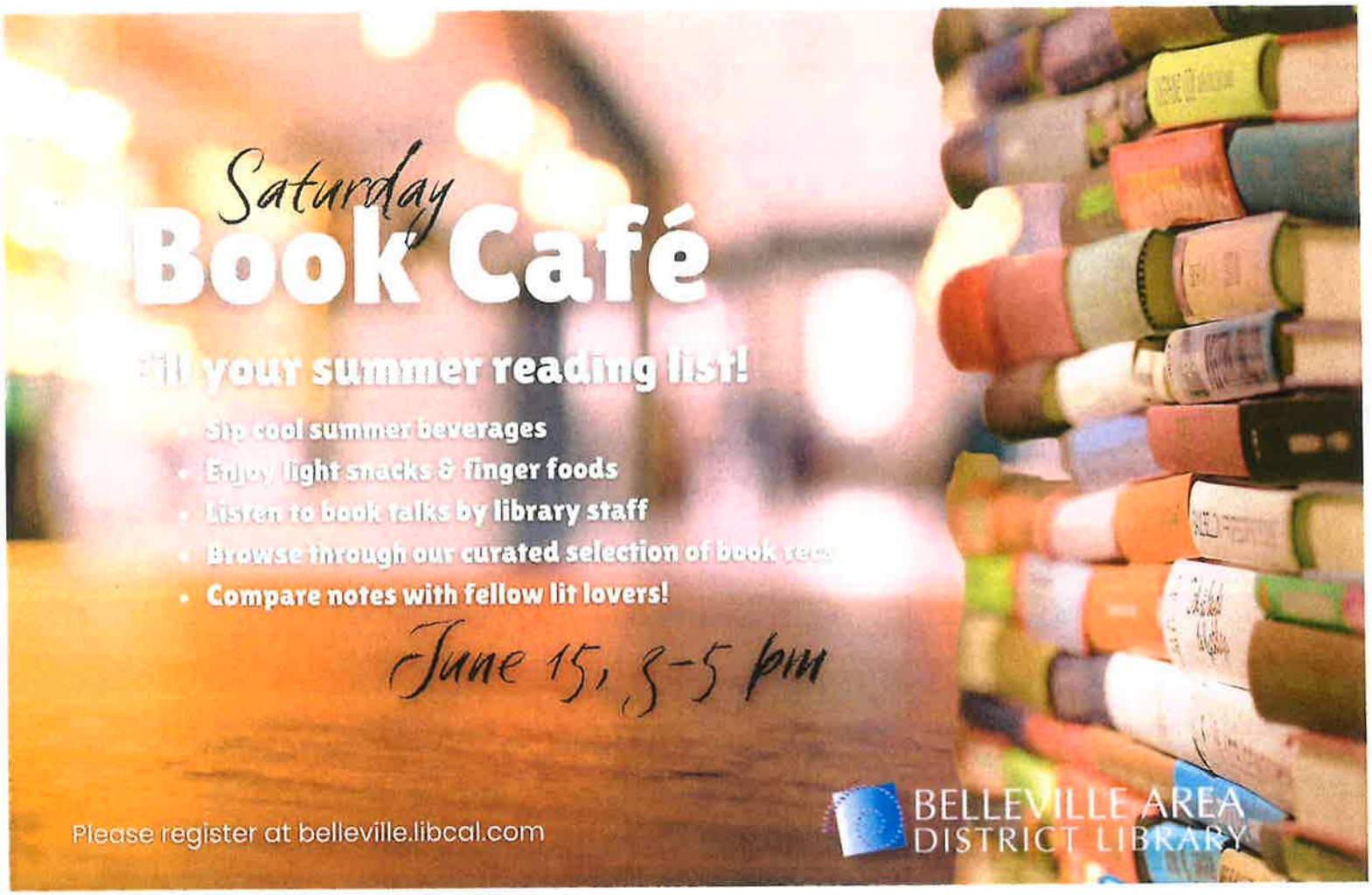
MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
1	2	3	4 **LIBRARY CLOSED: HAPPY 4TH OF JULY!**	5	6
8	9 **Cirque Amongus Show** 11 am, All Ages	10	11		13 **T(w)een Movie** 2 pm, Ages 9-18 Movie TBD
15 **Teen Candy Sushi** 6 pm, Ages 12-18 *please register	16 **Drummunity** 11 am, All Ages	17	18 **Littles' Storytime** 11 am, Ages 4 & under	19	20 **Pirate's Life** 11 am, All Ages
22	23 **Indiana Joel's Magic Show** 6 pm, All Ages	24	25 **Littles' Music & Movement** 11 am, Ages 4 & under	26 **T(w)een Movie** 2 pm, Ages 9-18 Movie TBD	27 **Tween Art Party** 11 am, Ages 9-12 *please register
29	30 **Cold-Blooded Creatures with the Metropark** 11 am & 6 pm All Ages *Please attend one	31 **LAST DAY TO RECORD READING**			

Make any time learning time! TALK Scan to learn more

VISIT OUR EVENTS PAGE HERE FOR MORE INFORMATION

Huge thank you to the Friends!

Friends of the BELLEVILLE AREA DISTRICT LIBRARY


Saturday
Book Café
your summer reading list!
Sip cool summer beverages
Enjoy light snacks & finger foods
Listen to book talks by library staff
Browse through our curated selection of book
Compare notes with fellow lit lovers!
June 15, 3-5 pm
Please register at belleville.libcal.com
BELLEVILLE AREA
DISTRICT LIBRARY

Belleville Area District Library

Date: 06/03/2024
Time: 12:55 PM
Page: 1

Operating:

Check Date	Vendor Namne	Check Description	Amount
05/14/2024	AMAZON CAPITAL SERVICES	Music CD's; Library of Things	681.79
05/14/2024	AMERICAN LIBRARY ASSOCIATION	Membership	224.00
05/14/2024	APPLIED INNOVATION	Printer/Copier Usage	799.87
05/14/2024	BLUE CROSS BLUE SHIELD OF MICH	Dental	1,013.20
05/14/2024	CLEAR RATE COMMUNICATIONS	Fax Service	296.24
05/14/2024	DC LAWN & SNOW	Lawn Service April	168.00
05/14/2024	DTE ENERGY	Gas/Electric Sumpter	162.75
05/14/2024	FISH WINDOW CLEANING	Window Cleaning	3,114.00
05/14/2024	FOSTER, SWIFT, COLLINS & SMITH	Legal Services	367.50
05/14/2024	FRIENDS OF THE BELLEVILLE AREA	April Payout	552.30
05/14/2024	GA BUSINESS PURCHASER LLC	Alarm Service/Sumpter	52.05
05/14/2024	HOWELL NATURE CENTER	Library Program 6/25/24	351.96
05/14/2024	JEFF POLLOCK	Library Program May 23	150.00
05/14/2024	JENNIFER RICHARDSON	Program Supplies	179.65
05/14/2024	MICHIGAN LIBRARY ASSOCIATION	Membeership Renewal	85.00
05/14/2024	NAKENYA LEWIS YARBROUGH	ALA Membership Dues	162.00
05/14/2024	ODP BUSINESS SOLULTIONS LLC	Office & Bldg. Supplies	993.72
05/14/2024	SPRINGSHARE LLC	Lib-Cal 5, Consulting	2,499.00
05/14/2024	UNIQUE MANAGEMENT SERVICES INC	April Placements	48.60
05/14/2024	WASTE MANAGEMENT OF MI, INC	Dumpster Service	447.09
05/14/2024	WILCOX BROS.	Spring Service	195.19
05/14/2024	AMAZON CAPITAL SERVICES	Books	511.81
05/14/2024	MICHIGAN WEBS	Library Program May 16	275.00
05/14/2024	PHILLIP HALE	Library Program May 29	100.00
05/28/2024	ALLEGION ACCESS TECH LLC	PM Contract	813.75
05/28/2024	AMAZON CAPITAL SERVICES	Program Supplies & Books	1,651.15
05/28/2024	AMERICAN LIBRARY ASSOCIATION	Membership	247.00
05/28/2024	ARBOR INSPECTION SERVICES LLC	Inspection/Service	4,036.00
05/28/2024	BRODART CO.	Library Supplies	166.61
05/28/2024	CHASE CARDMEMBER SERVICE	Books,Supplies	995.59
05/28/2024	DEMCO	Library Supplies	52.40
05/28/2024	DTE ENERGY	Gas/ 4th Street	627.04
05/28/2024	DTE ENERGY	Electric Service 4th St	3,694.66
05/28/2024	GA BUSINESS PURCHASER LLC	Alarm Service Sumpter	50.00
05/28/2024	GARDEN FANTASY GREENHOUSES	Spring Plantings	250.00
05/28/2024	JRS ENTERPRISES, INC.	Program Supplies	187.30
05/28/2024	LONG MECHANICAL SERVICE	CSD-1 Tests	525.00
05/28/2024	MERMAID MOLLY ENTERTAINMENT LL	Library Program	150.00
05/28/2024	ODP BUSINESS SOLULTIONS LLC	Office Supplies	167.43
05/28/2024	OTIS ELEVATOR COMPANY	Maintenance Contract	1,298.19
05/28/2024	OVERDRIVE, INC	Overdrive Content	2,731.72
05/28/2024	SHARON DUCKWORTH, CPA	Financial Services May	1,025.00
05/28/2024	STANDARD INSURANCE COMPANY	Long/Short Term Disability Plan	698.87
05/28/2024	THE LIBRARY NETWORK	April Bookbilling & Telephone	20,230.75
05/28/2024	THE STORYTELLERS	Library Program	450.00
05/28/2024	UNIFIRST CORP	Maintenance/Mats	143.32
05/28/2024	UNITED HEALTHCARE	Health Insurance	16,580.35
05/28/2024	AMAZON CAPITAL SERVICES	Supplies & Books	533.39
05/29/2024	MICHELE MONTOUR	Spring Newsletter	475.00

49	**Checks Total:**	**71,211.24**
49	**Bank Total:**	**71,211.24**
49	**Grand Total:**	**71,211.24**

Click Here for More Information

Daily Dodo • News

Library Waives Fee For Destroyed Books If You Show Them The Culprit

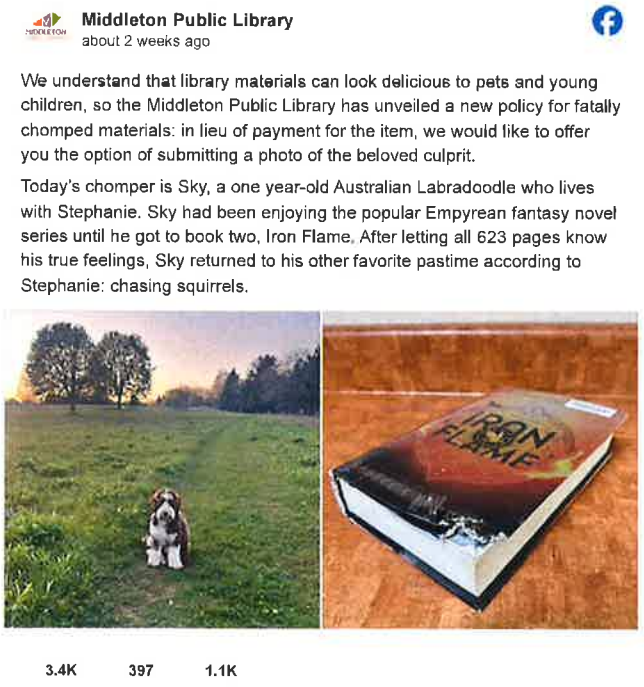
"I look forward to the diversity of animals we may see."

By Caitlin Jill Anders

Published on May 24, 2024 at 7:00 AM

Several times a month, the Middleton Public Library in Wisconsin receives returned library books that have been damaged by overeager family pups. They used to charge a fee for lost or damaged books — but decided to start a special program specifically in honor of these book chompers.

The library decided they would no longer charge for books damaged by dogs — as long as they received a photo of the offender in question.

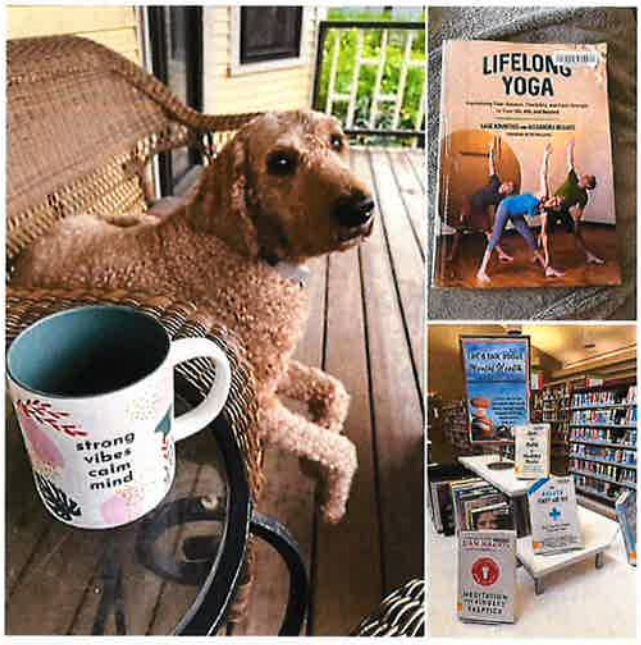


"We were heavily inspired by the Worcester, MA, Public Library, who recently offered the opportunity to waive fines by showing staff a picture of a cat," Rebecca Light, support services librarian at the Middleton Public Library, told The Dodo. "While the Middleton Public Library no longer has late fees for overdue materials, we do charge for lost or damaged materials. Quickly the conversation turned to the frequency of materials actually damaged by our furry friends, and we thought it would be fun to adapt this fine forgiveness program to showcase these 'offenders.'"

Middleton Public Library
May 7 at 9:48 AM ·

We understand that library materials can look delicious to pets and young children, so the Middleton Public Library has unveiled a new policy for fatally chomped materials: in lieu of payment for the item, we would like to offer you the option of submitting a photo of the beloved culprit.

Today's defendant is Ward, who lives with Jean. Ward is a Goldendoodle who is looking for "strong vibes and a calm mind," but he finds yoga a bit frustrating. No problem, Ward! We have plenty of relevant books on display this May for Mental Health Awareness Month. You're sure to find something that works for you!



99 3 comments 8 shares

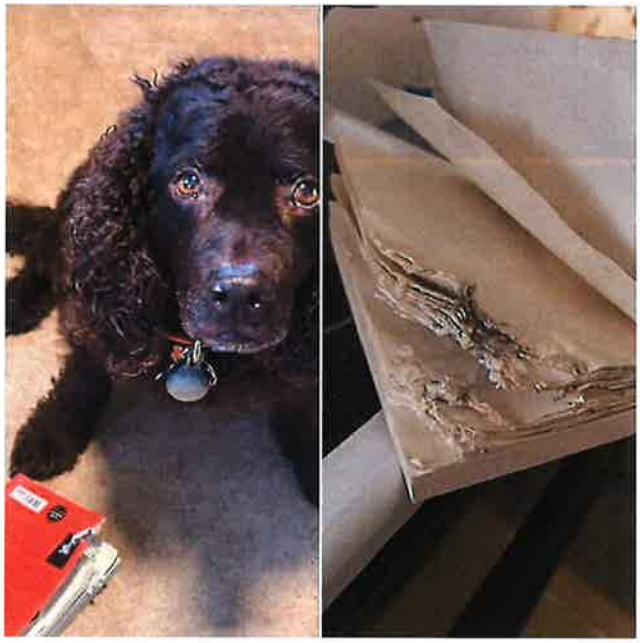
They decided to post photos of each offender on their social media — and almost immediately, the new forgiveness program was a huge success.

"The reaction has been wild," Light said. "The second post featuring the dog Quik really took off."

Middleton Public Library
about a month ago

We understand that library materials can look delicious to pets and young children, so the Middleton Public Library has unveiled a new policy for fatally chomped materials: in lieu of payment for the item, we would like to offer you the option of submitting a photo of the beloved culprit.

Today's offender is Quik, an American Water Spaniel who lives with Jeff. Did you know that the American Water Spaniel is the Wisconsin state dog, and is known as a "versatile hunter skilled at bringing in a variety of game?" (Wikipedia). Great job nabbing this book, Quik!



6.6K 548 1.8K

ADVERTISEMENT

POWERED BY CONCERT

While the program was designed with dogs in mind, the library is open to accepting photos from all kinds of furry offenders.

"So far we've featured four dog chompers, but I look forward to the diversity of animals we may see," Light said.

Sky, Ward, Quik and Daisy weren't looking for fame when they decided to chow down on their parents' library books. They were just looking to enjoy a nice snack — and thanks to this new program, everyone gets to share in their joy.

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Which food should I feed my dog?

See what the pet experts recommend...

Pet Name

Pet Name

What breed do you have?

Start typing or select breed

Age

Select

See my results

petco NOM NOM ROYAL CANIN chewy Ollie the dodo DogFoodAdvisor

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Pew Research Center

FOR RELEASE MAY 17, 2024

When Online Content Disappears

38% of webpages that existed in 2013 are no longer accessible a decade later

BY *Athena Chapekis, Samuel Bestvater, Emma Remy and Gonzalo Rivero*

FOR MEDIA OR OTHER INQUIRIES:

Aaron Smith, Director, Data Labs
Sogand Afkari, Communications Manager

202.419.4372

www.pewresearch.org

RECOMMENDED CITATION

Pew Research Center, May 2024, "When Online Content Disappears"

How we did this

Pew Research Center conducted the analysis to examine how often online content that once existed becomes inaccessible. One part of the study looks at a representative sample of webpages that existed over the past decade to see how many are still accessible today. For this analysis, we collected a sample of pages from the Common Crawl web repository for each year from 2013 to 2023. We then tried to access those pages to see how many still exist.

A second part of the study looks at the links on existing webpages to see how many of those links are still functional. We did this by collecting a large sample of pages from government websites, news websites and the online encyclopedia Wikipedia.

We identified relevant news domains using data from the audience metrics company comScore and relevant government domains (at multiple levels of government) using data from get.gov, the official administrator for the .gov domain. We collected the news and government pages via Common Crawl and the Wikipedia pages from an archive maintained by the Wikimedia Foundation. For each collection, we identified the links on those pages and followed them to their destination to see what share of those links point to sites that are no longer accessible.

A third part of the study looks at how often individual posts on social media sites are deleted or otherwise removed from public view. We did this by collecting a large sample of public tweets on the social media platform X (then known as Twitter) in real time using the Twitter Streaming API. We then tracked the status of those tweets for a period of three months using the Twitter Search API to monitor how many were still publicly available.

Refer to the report methodology for more details.

When Online Content Disappears

38% of webpages that existed in 2013 are no longer accessible a decade later

The internet is an unimaginably vast repository of modern life, with hundreds of billions of indexed webpages. But even as users across the world rely on the web to access books, images, news articles and other resources, this content sometimes disappears from view.

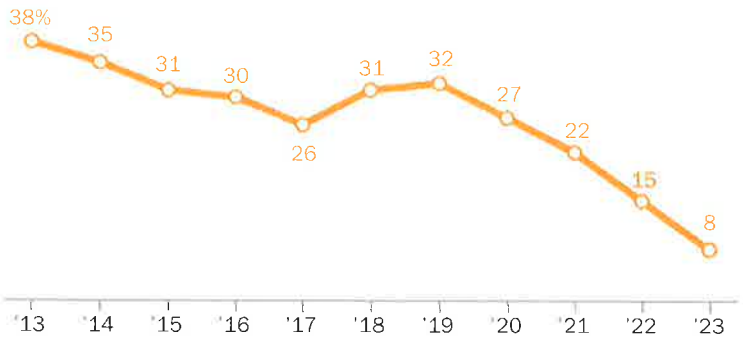
A new Pew Research Center analysis shows just how fleeting online content actually is:

- **A quarter of all webpages that existed at one point between 2013 and 2023 are no longer accessible,** as of October 2023. In most cases, this is because an individual page was deleted or removed on an otherwise functional website.

- **For older content, this trend is even starker.** Some 38% of webpages that existed in 2013 are not available today, compared with 8% of pages that existed in 2023.

38% of webpages from 2013 are no longer accessible

% of links from each year that are no longer accessible as of October 2023



Source: Pew Research Center analysis of a random selection of URLs collected by the Common Crawl web repository (n=999,989) and checked using page and DNS response codes. Web pages defined as inaccessible if they returned a status code of 204, 400, 404, 410, 500, 501, 502, 503, 523 or did not return a valid status code.
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This "digital decay" occurs in many different online spaces. We examined the links that appear on government and news websites, as well as in the "References" section of Wikipedia pages as of spring 2023. This analysis found that:

- **23% of news webpages contain at least one broken link, as do 21% of webpages from government sites.** News sites with a high level of site traffic and those with less are about equally likely to contain broken links. Local-level government webpages (those belonging to city governments) are especially likely to have broken links.

- **54% of Wikipedia pages contain at least one link in their "References" section that points to a page that no longer exists.**

To see how digital decay plays out on social media, we also collected a real-time sample of tweets during spring 2023 on the social media platform X (then known as Twitter) and followed them for three months. We found that:

- **Nearly one-in-five tweets are no longer publicly visible on the site just months after being posted.** In 60% of these cases, the account that originally posted the tweet was made private, suspended or deleted entirely. In the other 40%, the account holder deleted the individual tweet, but the account itself still existed.

- **Certain types of tweets tend to go away more often than others.** More than 40% of tweets written in Turkish or Arabic are no longer visible on the site within three months of being posted. And tweets from accounts with the default profile settings are especially likely to disappear from public view.

How this report defines inaccessible links and webpages

There are many ways of defining whether something on the internet that used to exist is now inaccessible to people trying to reach it today. For instance, "inaccessible" could mean that:

- The page no longer exists on its host server, or the host server itself no longer exists. Someone visiting this type of page would typically receive a variation on the "404 Not Found" server error instead of the content they were looking for.
- The page address exists but its content has been changed – sometimes dramatically – from what it was originally.
- The page exists but certain users – such as those with blindness or other visual impairments – might find it difficult or impossible to read.

For this report, we focused on the first of these: pages that no longer exist. The other definitions of accessibility are beyond the scope of this research.

Our approach is a straightforward way of measuring whether something online is accessible or not. But even so, there is some ambiguity.

First, there are dozens of status codes indicating a problem that a user might encounter when they try to access a page. Not all of them definitively indicate whether the page is permanently defunct or just temporarily unavailable. Second, for security reasons, many sites actively try to prevent the sort of automated data collection that we used to test our full list of links.

For these reasons, we used the most conservative estimate possible for deciding whether a site was actually accessible or not. We counted pages as inaccessible only if they returned one of nine error codes that definitively indicate that the page and/or its host server no longer exist or have become nonfunctional – regardless of how they are being accessed, and by whom. The full list of error codes that we included in our definition are in the methodology.

Here are some of the findings from our analysis of digital decay in various online spaces.

Webpages from the last decade

To conduct this part of our analysis, we collected a random sample of just under 1 million webpages from the archives of Common Crawl, an internet archive service that periodically collects snapshots of the internet as it exists at different points in time. We sampled pages collected by Common Crawl each year from 2013 through 2023 (approximately 90,000 pages per year) and checked to see if those pages still exist today.

We found that 25% of all the pages we collected from 2013 through 2023 were no longer accessible as of October 2023. This figure is the sum of two different types of broken pages: 16% of pages are individually inaccessible but come from an otherwise functional root-level domain; the other 9% are inaccessible because their entire root domain is no longer functional.

Not surprisingly, the older snapshots in our collection had the largest share of inaccessible links. Of the pages collected from the 2013 snapshot, 38% were no longer accessible in 2023. But even for pages collected in the 2021 snapshot, about one-in-five were no longer accessible just two years later.

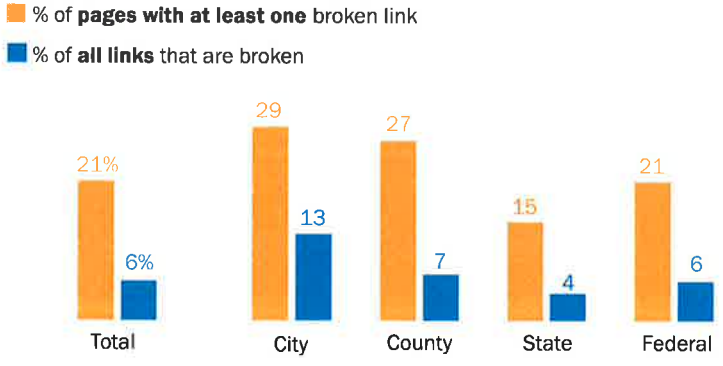
Links on government websites

We sampled around 500,000 pages from government websites using the Common Crawl March/April 2023 snapshot of the internet, including a mix of different levels of government (federal, state, local and others). We found every link on each page and followed a random selection of those links to their destination to see if the pages they refer to still exist.

Across the government websites we sampled, there

Around 1 in 5 government webpages contain at least one broken link

Broken links on government websites, by level of government



Note: Links are defined as broken if the root domain is not available in a DNS server, or if the site returned an error indicating the page is not available.
Source: Pew Research Center analysis of links on 500,000 government webpages collected from Common Crawl March/April 2023 crawl. 10% of the links on each page were sampled, for a total of n=4,200,000 links analyzed.
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were 42 million links. The vast majority of those links (86%) were internal, meaning they link to a different page on the same website. An explainer resource on the IRS website that links to other documents or forms on the IRS site would be an example of an internal link.

Around three-quarters of government webpages we sampled contained at least one on-page link. The typical (median) page contains 50 links, but many pages contain far more. A page in the 90th percentile contains 190 links, and a page in the 99th percentile (that is, the top 1% of pages by number of links) has 740 links.

Other facts about government webpage links:

- The vast majority go to secure HTTP pages (and have a URL starting with "https://")
- 6% go to a static file, like a PDF document
- 16% now redirect to a different URL than the one they originally pointed to

When we followed these links, we found that 6% point to pages that are no longer accessible. Similar shares of internal and external links are no longer functional.

Overall, 21% of all the government webpages we examined contained at least one broken link. Across every level of government we looked at, there were broken links on at least 14% of pages; city government pages had the highest rates of broken links.

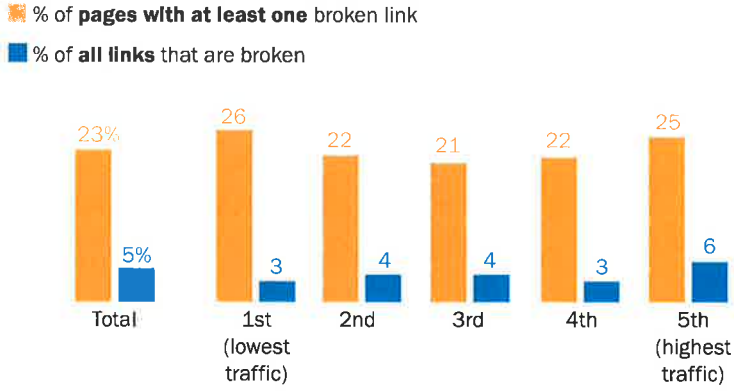
Links on news websites

For this analysis, we sampled 500,000 pages from 2,063 websites classified as "News/Information" by the audience metrics firm comScore. The pages were collected from the Common Crawl March/April 2023 snapshot of the internet.

Across the news sites sampled, this collection contained more than 14 million links pointing to an outside website.[1] Some 94% of these pages contain at least one external-facing link. The median page contains 20 links, and pages in the top 10% by link count have 56 links.

23% of news webpages have at least one broken link

Broken links on news websites, by site traffic ranking



Note: Links defined as broken if the root domain is not available in a DNS server, or if the site returned an error indicating the page is not available.
Source: Pew Research Center analysis of links on 500,000 news webpages (n=2,063) collected from Common Crawl March/April 2023 crawl. 50% of all links on these pages were sampled, for a total of n=7,089,514 links analyzed. Sites and traffic quintiles identified using data from comScore.
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Like government websites, the vast majority of these links go to secure HTTP pages (those with a URL beginning with "https://"). Around 12% of links on these news sites point to a static file, like a PDF document. And 32% of links on news sites redirected to a different URL than the one they originally pointed to – slightly less than the 39% of external links on government sites that redirect.

When we tracked these links to their destination, we found that 5% of all links on news site pages are no longer accessible. And 23% of all the pages we sampled contained at least one broken link.

Broken links are about as prevalent on the most-trafficked news websites as they are on the least-trafficked sites. Some 25% of pages on news websites in the top 20% by site traffic have at least one broken link. That is nearly identical to the 26% of sites in the bottom 20% by site traffic.

[1] For our analysis of news sites, we did not collect or check the functionality of internal-facing on-page links – those that point to another page on the same root domain.

Reference links on Wikipedia

For this analysis, we collected a random sample of 50,000 English-language Wikipedia pages and examined the links in their "References" section. The vast majority of these pages (82%) contain at least one reference link – that is, one that directs the reader to a webpage other than Wikipedia itself.

In total, there are just over 1 million reference links across all the pages we collected. The typical page has four reference links.

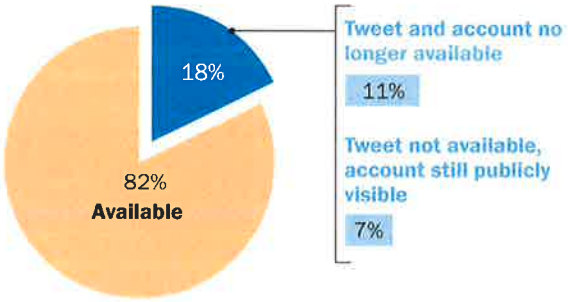
The analysis indicates that 11% of all references linked on Wikipedia are no longer accessible. On about 2% of source pages containing reference links, every link on the page was broken or otherwise inaccessible, while another 53% of pages contained at least one broken link.

Posts on Twitter

For this analysis, we collected nearly 5 million tweets posted from March 8 to April 27, 2023, on the social media platform X, which at the time was known as Twitter. We did this using Twitter's Streaming API, collecting 3,000 public tweets every 30 minutes in real time. This provided us with a representative sample of all tweets posted on the platform during that period. We monitored those tweets until June 15, 2023, and checked each day to see if they were still available on the site or not.

Around 1 in 5 tweets disappear from public view within months

% of tweets posted March 8-April 27, 2023, that were available/unavailable as of June 15, 2023



Source: Pew Research Center analysis of 4.8 million tweets posted March 8-April 23, 2023. Analysis of tweet- and account-level characteristics based on a random sample of those tweets (n=148,494). Tweets collected using Twitter Streaming API and monitored using Twitter Search API.
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At the end of the observation period, we found that **18% of the tweets from our initial collection window were no longer publicly visible on the site**. In a majority of cases, this was because the account that originally posted the tweet was made private, suspended or deleted entirely. For the remaining tweets, the account that posted the tweet was still visible on the site, but the individual tweet had been deleted.

Which tweets tend to disappear?

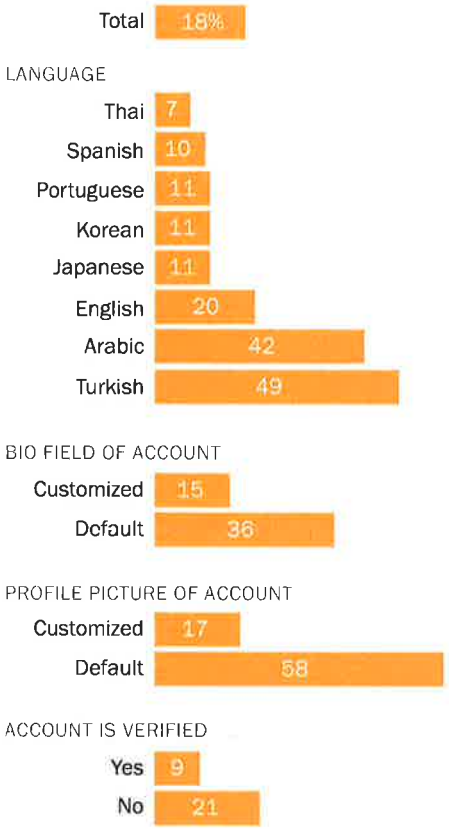
Tweets were especially likely to be deleted or removed over the course of our collection period if they were:

- **Written in certain languages.** Nearly half of all the Turkish-language tweets we collected – and a slightly smaller share of those written in Arabic – were no longer available at the end of the tracking period.
- **Posted by accounts using the site's default profile settings.** More than half of tweets from accounts using the default profile image were no longer available at the end of the tracking period, as were more than a third from accounts with a default bio field. Tweets from these accounts tend to disappear because the entire account has been deleted or made private, as opposed to the individual tweet being deleted.
- **Posted by unverified accounts.**

We also found that removed or deleted tweets tended to come from newer accounts with relatively few followers and modest activity on the site. On average, tweets that were no longer visible on the site were posted by accounts around eight months younger than those whose tweets stayed on the site.

Inaccessible tweets often come from accounts with default profile settings

*% of tweets posted March 8-April 27, 2023, that were **no longer publicly visible** on the site as of June 15, 2023*



Source: Pew Research Center analysis of 4.8 million tweets posted March 8-April 23, 2023. Analysis of tweet- and account-level characteristics based on a random sample of those tweets (n=148,494). Tweets collected using Twitter Streaming API and monitored using Twitter Search API.
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And when we analyzed the types of tweets that were no longer available, we found that retweets, quote tweets and original tweets did not differ much from the overall average. But replies were relatively unlikely to be removed – just 12% of replies were inaccessible at the end of our monitoring period.

Most tweets that are removed from the site tend to disappear soon after being posted. In addition to looking at how many tweets from our collection were still available at the end of our tracking period, we conducted a survival analysis to see how long these tweets tended to remain available. We found that:

- 1% of tweets are removed within one hour
- 3% within a day
- 10% within a week
- 15% within a month

Put another way: Half of tweets that are eventually removed from the platform are unavailable within the first six days of being posted. And 90% of these tweets are unavailable within 46 days.

Tweets don't always disappear forever, though. Some 6% of the tweets we collected disappeared and then became available again at a later point. This could be due to an account going private and then returning to public status, or to the account being suspended and later reinstated. Of those "reappeared" tweets, the vast majority (90%) were still accessible on Twitter at the end of the monitoring period.

Acknowledgments

This report is a collaborative effort based on the input and analysis of the following individuals:

Primary Researchers

Athena Chapekis, *Data Science Analyst*
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Emma Remy, *Former Data Science Analyst*
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Communications and Web Publishing

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Janakee Chavda, *Assistant Digital Producer*

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Methodology

Collection and analysis of Twitter data

Twitter analysis in this report is based on 4.8 million tweets collected from March 8 to April 27, 2023. This process involved collecting batches of 3,000 new tweets every 30 minutes over the duration of the collection period using the Twitter Streaming API. This resulted in a sample of tweets created at different times and days over a number of weeks.

We regularly monitored the status of those tweets starting March 15 and ending June 15, 2023. Each day during the monitoring period, we looked up all collected tweets using the Twitter Search API. We collected the most recent engagement metrics for those tweets, as well as a status code indicating whether each tweet was still publicly available on the site or not.

Tweets were classified as unavailable if they returned a status code of "Not Found" (indicating the tweet itself had been deleted) or "Authorization Error" (indicating it was inaccessible because the account itself had been deleted or made private by the user or suspended by Twitter itself). Because we monitored the status of all collected tweets over the duration of the monitoring period, we were able to identify tweets that became visible again after previously being unavailable.

In addition to examining attrition rates using the full sample of 4.8 million tweets, we selected tweets from a random sample of 100,000 users, resulting in a sample of 148,494 tweets from our original collection, and gathered detailed information about those tweets and the users who posted them. These included details such as the language the tweet was written in; whether the bio field or profile picture of the account had been updated from the site defaults; the age of the account; and whether the account is verified. This subsample is used in the analysis of what types of tweets tend to be removed from the site.

Data collection for World Wide Web websites, government websites and news websites

To examine attrition on the broader internet, we collected three samples of web crawl data from Common Crawl, a nonprofit organization that collects and maintains a large web archive. This data has been collected monthly starting in 2008. We used this archive to create a historical sample of URLs from the broader internet dating back to 2013, as well as contemporaneous snapshots of pages from government entities and news websites.

Sample of URLs from the broader internet

This analysis is based on random samples of URLs from crawls conducted from 2013 to 2023, using year as a stratifying variable. We used the March/April crawl where possible and the closest available date range for years in which a March/April crawl was not conducted. This resulted in a full sample of 1 million pages – approximately 91,000 pages each year from 2013 to 2023 – that were known to have existed at the time they were collected by Common Crawl.

We then looked at whether these pages were still available in fall 2023 using the procedure described below. These checks were performed in several stages, running Oct. 12-Nov. 6, 2023.

Sample of government website URLs

This analysis is based on a random sample of 500,000 pages with a .gov domain, stratified by domain and level of government. We collected these pages from the Common Crawl MAIN-2023-14 crawl conducted March/April 2023.

Each page was assigned to a level of government (Federal – Executive; State; City; County; Federal – Legislative; Federal – Judicial; Tribal; Independent Intrastate; and Interstate) using https://get.gov, the official administrator for the .gov top-level domain. We retrieved the dataset used for this analysis Aug. 22, 2023.

This resulted in a sample with the following breakdown of domains and levels of government:

Sample of government website URLs

Level of government	Total domains	Total pages	Average pages per domain
Federal – Executive	659	137,717	209
State	579	93,956	162
City	2403	71,162	30
County	818	57,267	70
Federal – Legislative	49	45,686	932
Federal – Judicial	6	38,683	6,447
Tribal	108	28,926	268
Independent Intrastate	92	21,797	237
Interstate	16	4,806	300

Source: Pew Research Center analysis of links on 500,000 government webpages collected from Common Crawl March/April 2023 crawl.
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For each of the 500,000 pages collected, we selected a random sample of 10% of all links (internal as well as external) found on that page. This resulted in a total of 4,179,313 links. We then looked at whether the pages these links point to were still available.

Sample of news website URLs

The analysis of news websites is based on a list of 2,063 domains categorized as "News/Information" by the measurement and audience metrics company comScore. We divided these domains into quintiles based on comScore site traffic for Q4 2022 and sampled 500,000 total pages from these domains using site traffic quintiles as a stratifying variable.

This resulted in a sample with the following breakdown of domains:

Sample of news website URLs

Q4 2022 web traffic quintile	Total domains	Total pages	Average pages per domain
Quintile 1 (lowest traffic)	398	100,000	251
Quintile 2	405	100,000	247
Quintile 3	421	100,000	238
Quintile 4	423	100,000	236
Quintile 5 (highest traffic)	416	100,000	240

Source: Pew Research Center analysis of links on 500,000 news webpages (n=2,063) collected from Common Crawl March/April 2023 crawl. Sites and traffic quintiles identified using data from comScore.
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We selected a 50% simple random sample of all the 7,089,514 links that appeared on these pages, excluding any internal links (those that point within the same host domain). We then looked at whether the pages these links point to were still available.

Data collection for Wikipedia source links

We sampled 50,000 pages from the list of all titles in the English Wikipedia May 20, 2023, snapshot on Sept. 20, 2023. As some pages have multiple titles in the list of all titles, but refer to the same page (for instance, "UK" and "United Kingdom"), we followed redirects to eliminate duplicate titles for the same page. Between the snapshot and our collection, 50 pages were removed; our analysis is based on the remaining 49,950 pages.

Our analysis evaluated all external links (that is, links pointing to non-Wikipedia domains) from the "References" section of all the pages in the sample as of Oct. 10-11, 2023, using the same definition of link and procedure described above.

Evaluating the status of pages and links

We categorized links as alive or dead using the response code from the page. A page was classified as inaccessible if the domain was not available in a DNS server or if the server returned one of the following error codes indicating the content was not available:

- 204 No Content
- 400 Bad Request
- 404 Not Found
- 410 Gone
- 500 Internal Server Error
- 501 Not Implemented
- 502 Bad Gateway
- 503 Service Unavailable
- 523 Origin Is Unreachable

Pages were considered accessible in all other cases – including ambiguous situations in which we could not guarantee that the content exists, like soft 404 pages or timeouts not caused by the DNS.

We evaluated links in four rounds. In the first round (Oct. 12 to Oct. 15), we evaluated whether links were functional by following them using the requests library in Python, allowing for pages to timeout after one second. In this round, we recorded the initial status code and final status code after redirects, if applicable.

For the pages that did not return a 200 OK status code, we did a second round of evaluations (Oct. 16 to Oct. 17) in which we collected the status code using randomized browser headers from the library fake_headers.

A third round (Oct. 27 to Oct. 28) rechecked pages that did not successfully resolve to any status code and for pages that returned a 429 ("Too many requests") status code, with an additional timeout of three seconds.

In the final round (Nov. 6), we looked up the pages that did not return any result in a DNS server using the dnspython module in Python allowing for a three-second timeout.

Definition of links

We identified hyperlinks from the HTML code of the websites by looking at all <a> tags that included a href attribute. We limited our attention to hyperlinks that used the HTTP or HTTPS protocol. Pages frequently use relative links that do not include the specification of the scheme and domain of the site in the definition. In those cases, we restricted our attention to those that referred to subdomains or paths (i.e., that started with a backslash /) and discarded hyperlinks defined by anchors (i.e., that started with a pound sign #).

Whenever a page used a relative link, we tried reconstructing the absolute URL by prepending the domain information. In our analyses, these reconstructed URL were treated as any other URL during our analyses.