STANFORD UNIVERSITY LIBRARIES

Rethinking Web Archiving Quality Assurance for Impact, Scalability, and Sustainability

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Archives 2016
209 - Balancing Quality of Life and Quality Assurance
August 4, 2016

QA panelists

Lori Donovan
Internet Archive / Archive-It

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Government Publishing Office

Dallas Pillen
Bentley Historical Library

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Columbia University Libraries

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balancing QA + quality of life?

overheard re: QA @ SAA 2015

we set and forget; I'm just glad we're doing something

did more QA at the beginning but, well, I don't really look at the reports any more

steady, ongoing QA is challenging

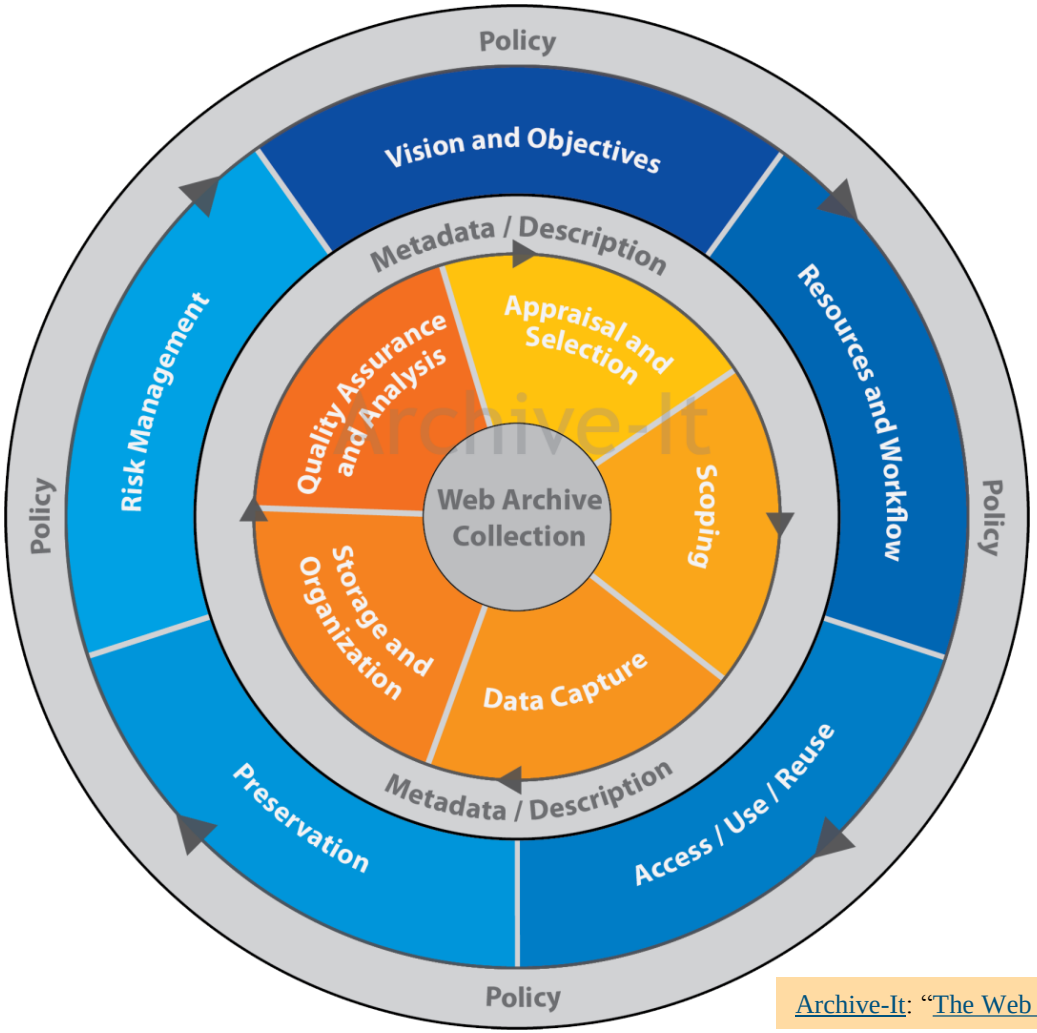
occasionally I set aside a lunch hour to do some QA

my strategy right now is to let the big schools figure it out

2015 SAA WebArchRT discussion

- if you could only apply 3 QA practices to your web archives, which 3?
- do you apply different QA practices to web archives created for different use cases?
- how do you ensure that staff time allocated to QA is best spent?

quality assurance in the lifecycle



Archive-It: "The Web Archiving Life Cycle Model"

quality assurance, expansively

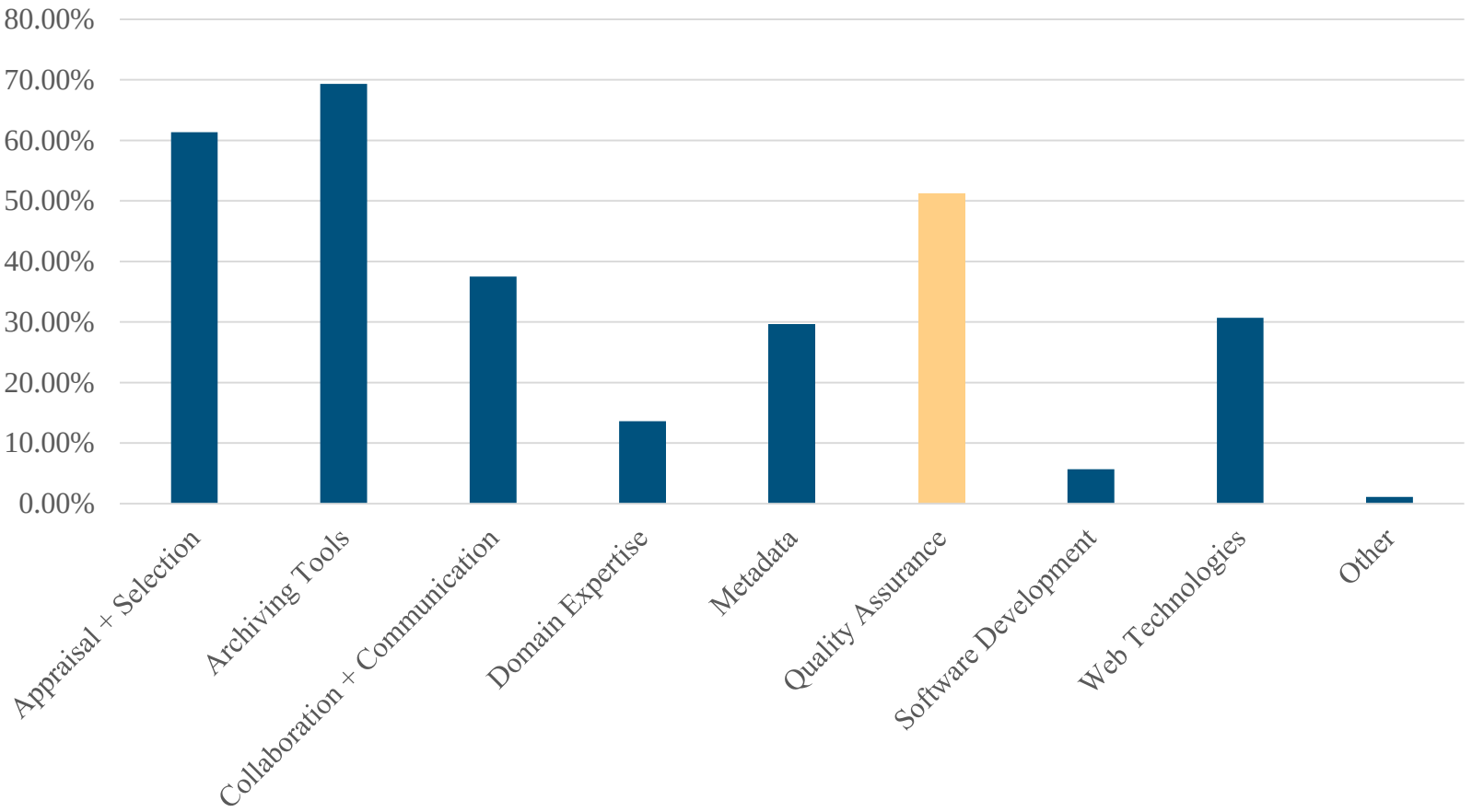
typical QA

- parsing robots.txt
- scoping rules
- object count limits
- test crawling
- inspecting archived site
- reviewing reports
- patch crawling

and more

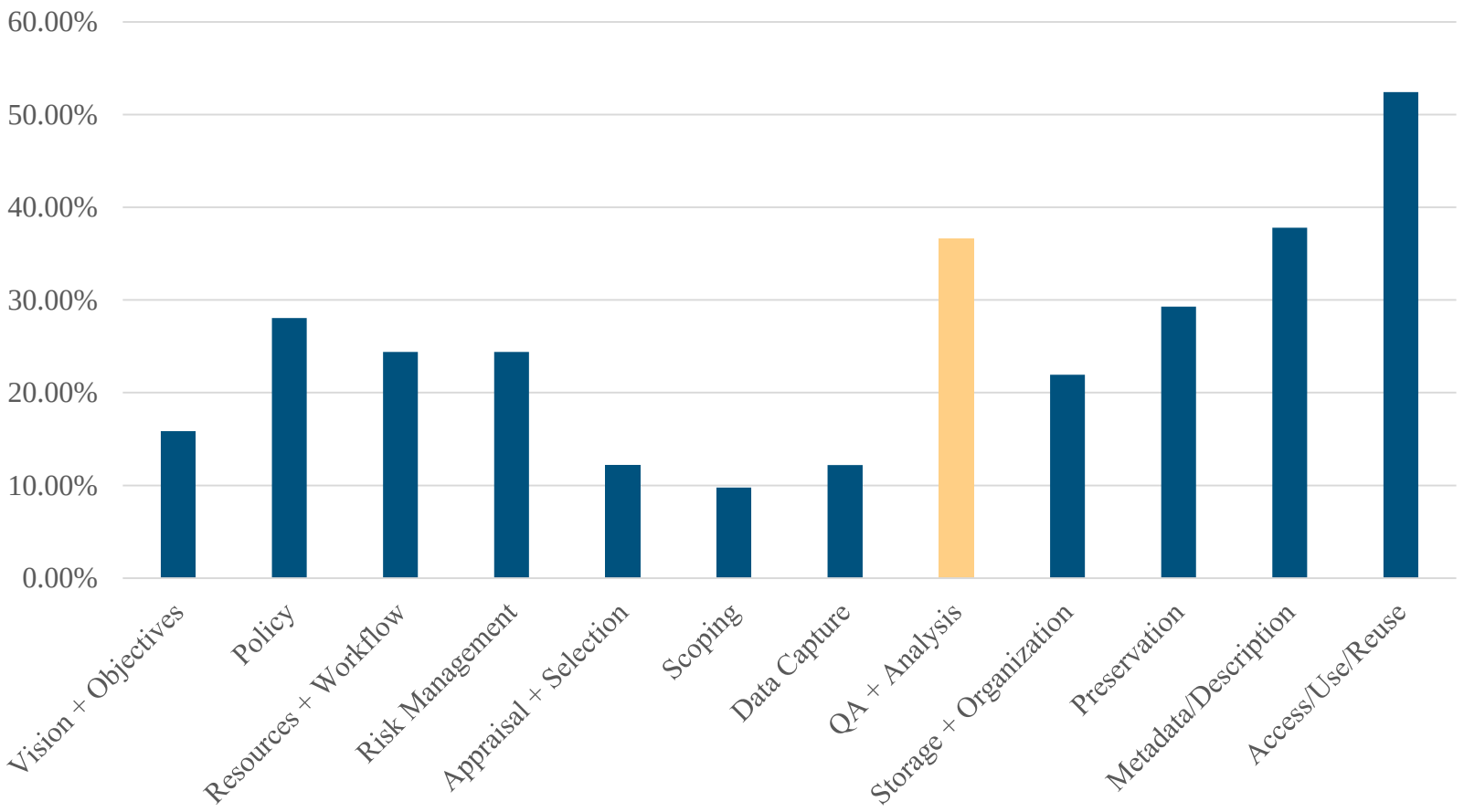
- seed selection
- assessing live site
- capture tool selection
- crawl scheduling
- crawl duration limits
- monitoring crawl
- archivability advocacy
- training

3rd highest desired skill



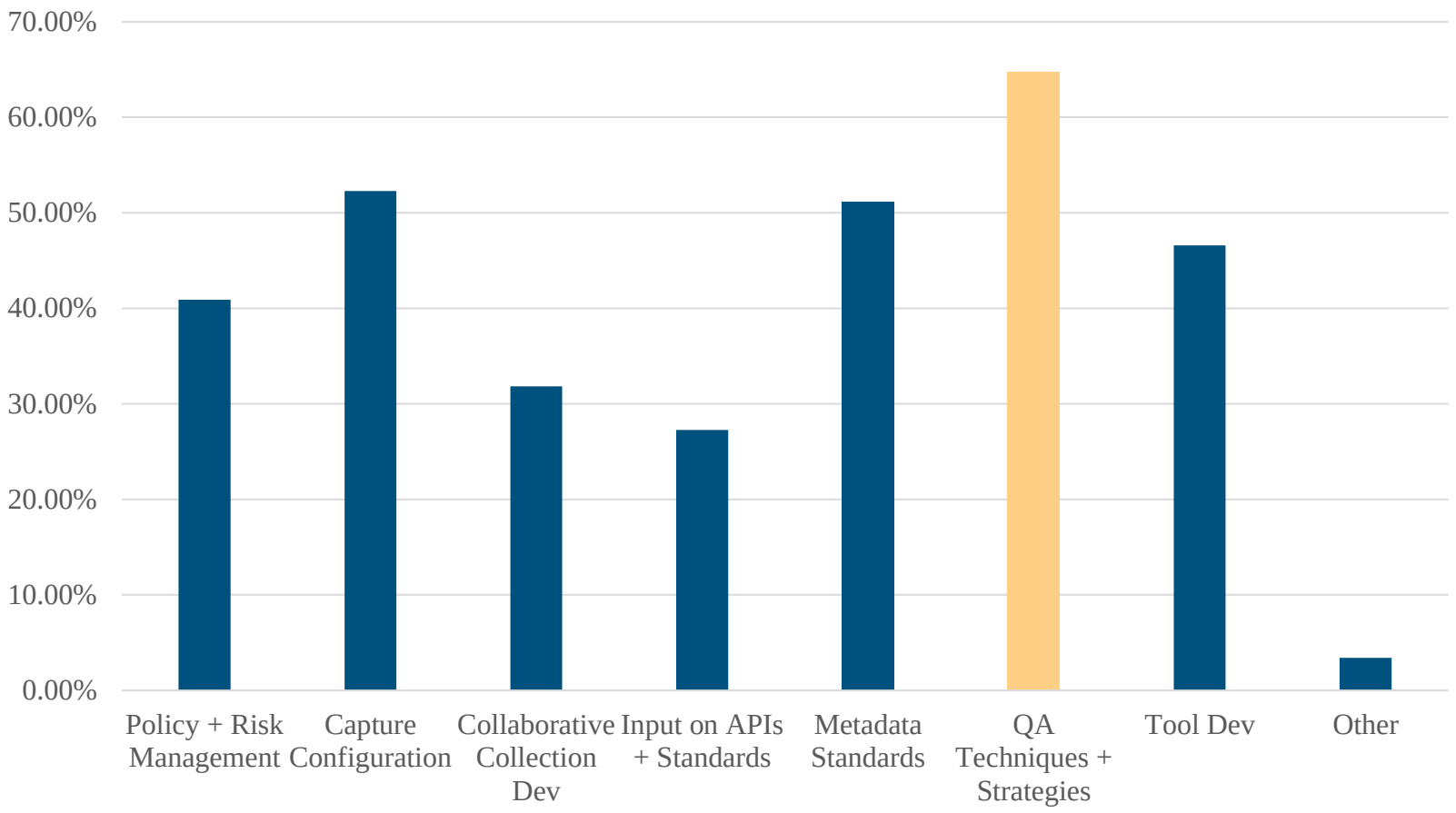
NDSA: "2015 NDSA Web Archiving Survey"

low perceived programmatic progress



NDSA: "2015 NDSA Web Archiving Survey"

greatest collaboration interest



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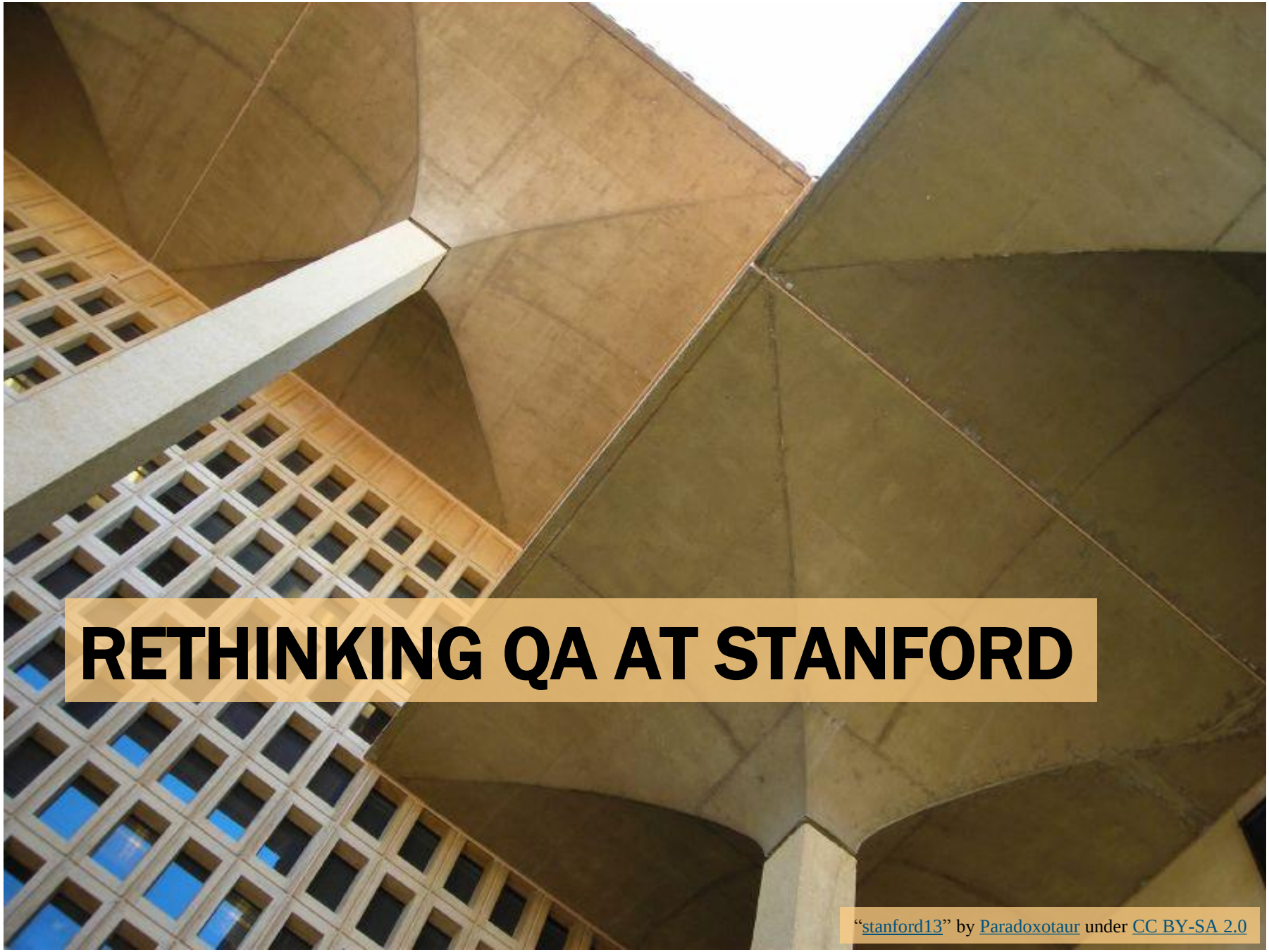
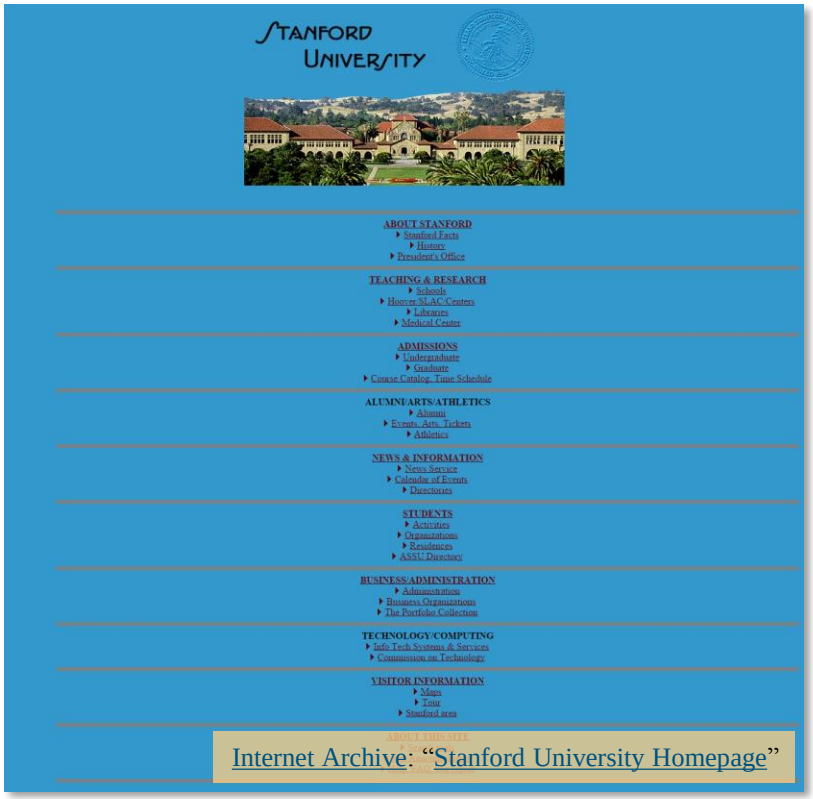


RETHINKING QA AT STANFORD

web archiving at Stanford

- 7 Archive-It accounts
- Heritrix, Webrecorder
- local preservation, discovery, access
- program manager, curators, students
- tens of collections
- thousands of seeds

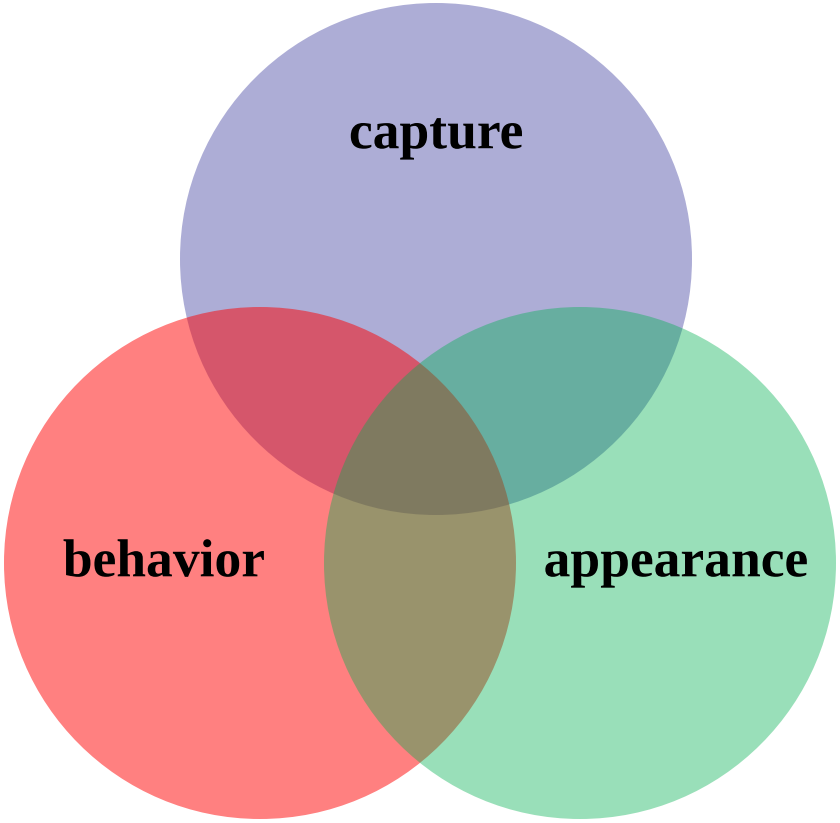


Internet Archive: "Stanford University Homepage"

quality assurance goals

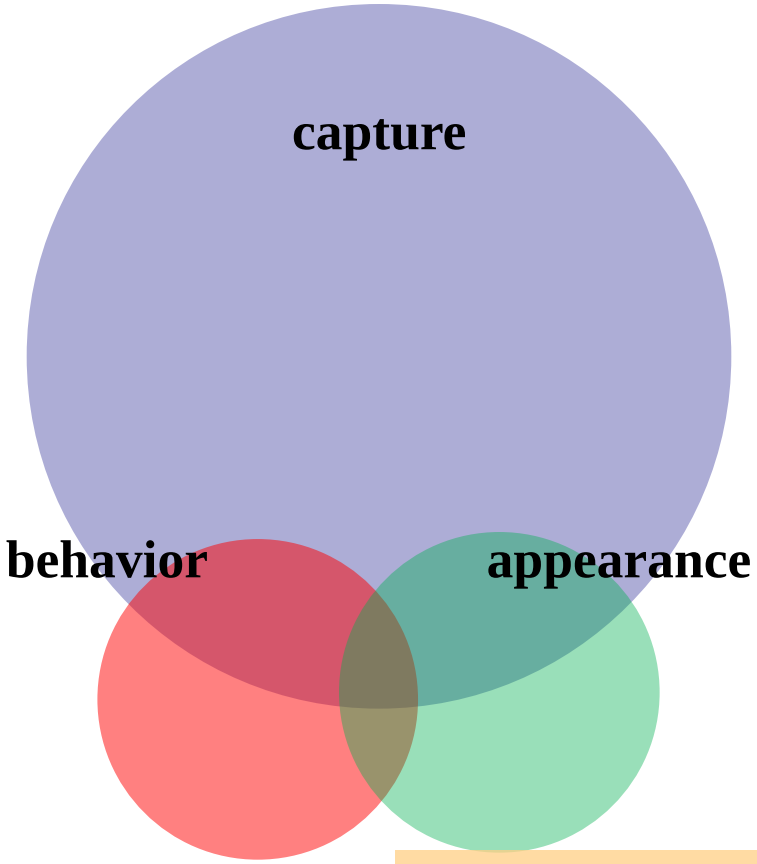
- maximize impact + efficiency of QA efforts
- enable diverse, distributed, + approachable contributions
- calibrate investments in quality based on tool capabilities

capture, behavior, appearance



NYARC: "I. Introduction - NYARC Documentation"

capture, behavior, appearance



NYARC: "I. Introduction - NYARC Documentation"

in practice

care more about...

- report data
- crawl finishing
- 4xx, 5xx, complete robots.txt block
- plausible duration
- plausible object counts
- scoping out extraneous content
- new seeds

care less about...

- visual inspection
- reviewing every capture
- appearance fidelity
- behavior fidelity
- partial content out of scope
- partial content blocked by robots.txt
- ongoing seeds

more next from Lori, Alex, Dallas, Dory