9th May 2017

To Whom It May Concern:

We are writing on behalf of the Trinity College Dublin Centre for Digital Humanities. The field of Digital Humanities deals with the complex intersection and interaction between Humanities disciplines, such as Social Science, History, Classics, etc., and digital content and processes. This field observes and helps to understand the transformative impact digital content has on many human activities. With so much contemporary content being ‘born digital’, i.e. being created digitally and often only existing in a digital form, it is of fundamental importance that this content is captured and preserved.

Therefore, the policy of collecting, preserving and making available the published output of the nation for the benefit of the public should be extended to include all contemporary publication formats of Irish interest including online digital formats e.g., .ie websites.

Enacting such a policy will help to limit the growing hole in Ireland’s national memory, as so much of our national discourse now manifests online. Such a policy would bring Ireland in line with best practice from other countries, which have legislation for capturing their country’s web domain content. Norway is a world-leading example in this practice. Currently, no-one is systematically capturing the ‘.ie’ web domain. This loss of memory will seriously affect the future understanding of Ireland’s contemporary society.

It is imperative that an effective policy is enacted to ensure that no more of Ireland’s unique online presence and activity is lost.

Sincerely,

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