Searching the City's Historical Web

What we'll cover

This course will walk through how to use two Seattle Municipal Archives search tools to find City web and social media content, even if it is no longer available on the internet.

Why preserve websites?

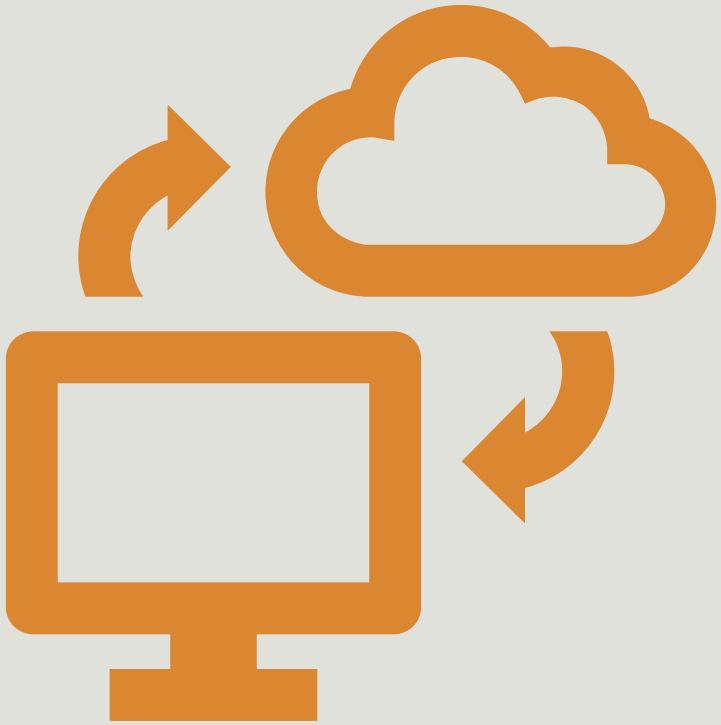
Websites are ephemeral and always changing. Capturing snapshots allows us to see what was published at various points in time.

City websites and social media document outreach and interactions with citizens.

Some information on websites may not have been shared anywhere else.

The Seattle Municipal Archives (SMA) has two search tools for the historical web:

Both are linked from the Digital Archives page on our website.

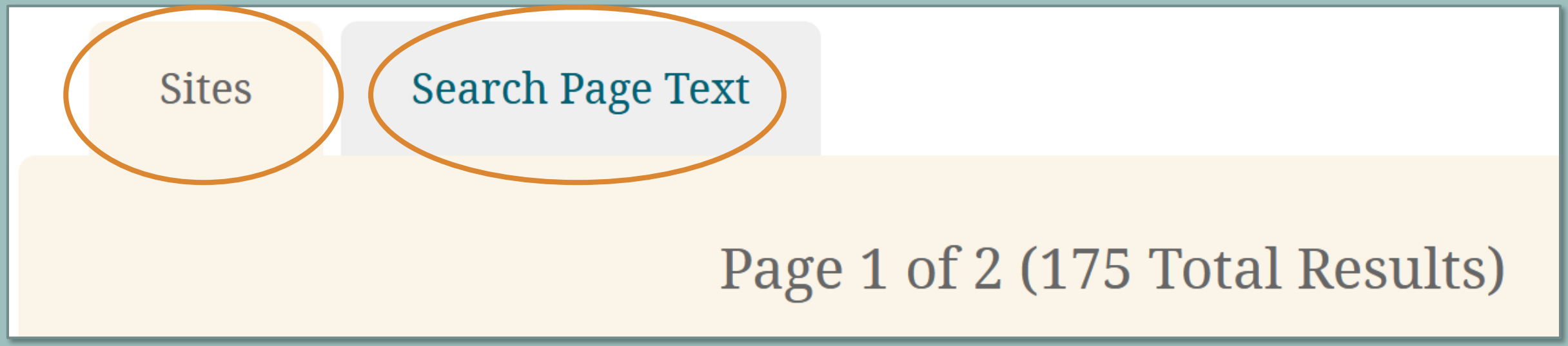


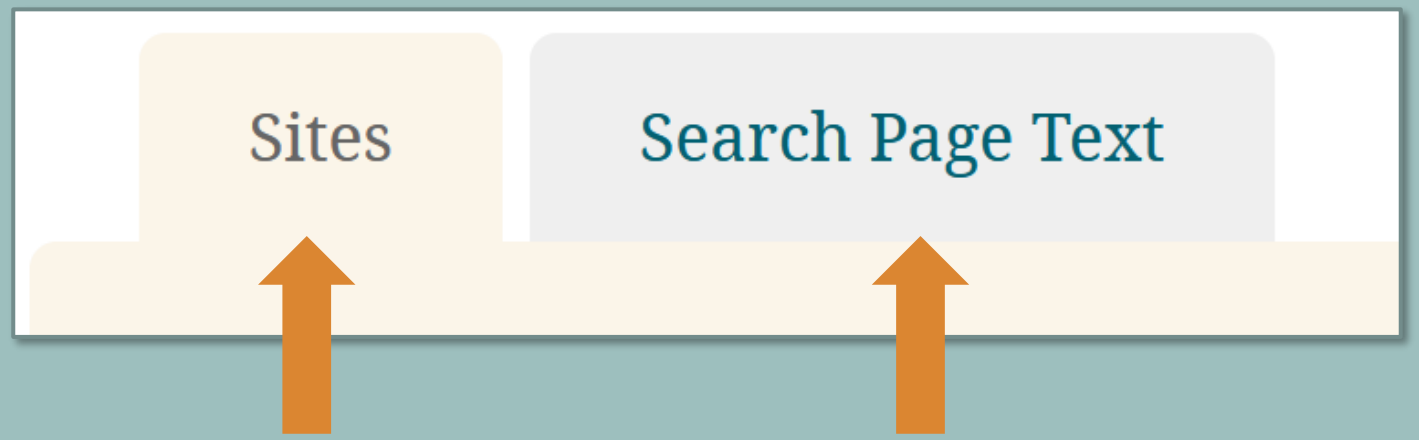
Archive-It

City of Seattle websites have been harvested quarterly since 2012 and are publicly available through Archive-It.

From the City's main Archive-It page, you can search for specific departments, topics, people, programs, or other keywords. Search results will display all dates for which captures are available.

Archive-It results are displayed in two tabs.

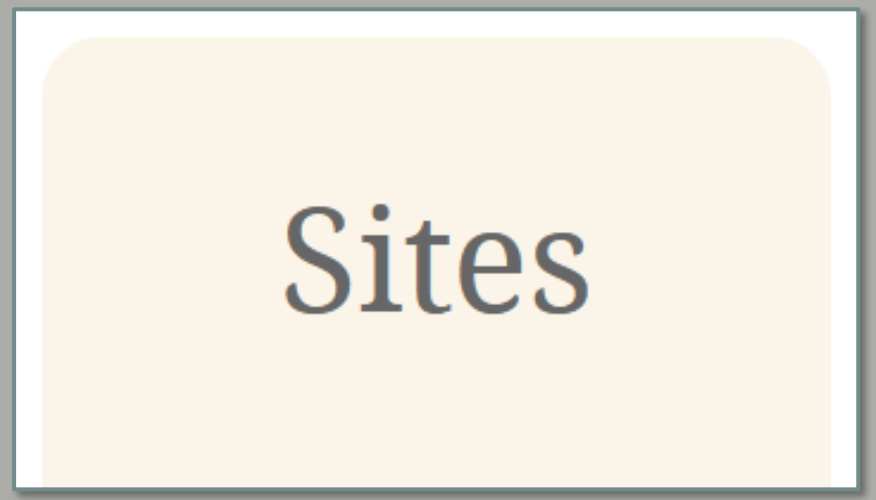




Use **Sites** if you want to see what a City website looked like at particular points in time

Use **Search Page Text** if you're looking for information found on a City website no matter where it appeared

In the SITES tab, you will see results listed with:



- Title
- URL
- The number of times and dates when the site was captured
- Any existing videos
- Group, creator, notes (if applicable)

Example:

Title: Parkways: Seattle Parks and Recreation news and events

URL: https://parkways.seattle.gov/

Description: Seattle Parks and Recreation public blog including news and information.
Captured 264 times between July 26, 2012 and January 30, 2026
Videos: 567 Videos Captured
Subject: PARKS, **PARKS-DEPARTMENT**, RECREATIONAL-FACILITIES
Creator: Seattle Parks and Recreation
Date: 2012-

Title: Seattle Parks and Recreation - Parks | seattle.gov

URL: http://www.seattle.gov/parks/

Description: Parks and Recreation page for the city of Seattle.
Captured 582 times between July 26, 2012 and February 01, 2026
Videos: 655 Videos Captured
Subject: DEPARTMENT-OF-PARKS-AND-RECREATION, **PARKS-DEPARTMENT**
Creator: Seattle Parks and Recreation
Date: 2012-

When you select a result, you'll have the option to choose which capture date to see.

Found 48 Captures between Jul 26, 2012 - Feb 4, 2021

2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
7 pages	4 pages	5 pages	3 pages	6 pages	11 pages
Mar 19, 2014 *	Apr 16, 2015 *	Mar 29, 2016 *	Mar 7, 2017 *	Jan 23, 2018 *	Mar 7, 2019 *
Mar 21, 2014 *	May 14, 2015 *	Mar 29, 2016 *	Oct 31, 2017 *	Jan 23, 2018	Apr 15, 2019 *
Jun 23, 2014 *	Sep 29, 2015 *	Jul 12, 2016 *	Dec 7, 2017 *	May 4, 2018 *	Apr 17, 2019 *
Aug 6, 2014 *	Dec 30, 2015 *	Aug 9, 2016 *		May 4, 2018 *	Apr 25, 2019 *
Sep 25, 2014 *		Dec 29, 2016 *		Jun 13, 2018 *	Apr 25, 2019 *
Sep 25, 2014				Oct 24, 2018 *	May 1, 2019 *
Dec 15, 2014 *					May 1, 2019 *
					Nov 21, 2019 *
					Dec 12, 2019 *
					Dec 12, 2019
					Dec 19, 2019 *

You are viewing an archived web page, collected at the request of City of Seattle Municipal Archives using Archive-It. This page was captured on 20:47:28 Dec 12, 2019, and is part of the City of Seattle Websites collection. The information on this web page may be out of date. See All versions of this archived page. Found 0 archived media items out of 0 total on this page.

Seattle.gov

Building Connections

Seattle Department of Construction & Inspections

Visit our Website

Search

CATEGORIES

Select Category

ARCHIVES

After choosing the date, you'll see the page as it was on that date along with the Archive-It header letting you know this is an archival capture and not a live site.

Search Page Text

To find specific text on archived websites, you can use the quick search box in SEARCH PAGE TEXT or use the advanced search to narrow by host, date, and other options.

In the SEARCH PAGE TEXT tab, you will see results listed with:

- Search term
- URL
- Capture date
- Text where search term was found
- Content size
- More results from that host

Example:

stormwater

URL: https://artbeat.seattle.gov/tag/stormwater/
This text was captured on Dec 31, 2022 **Show All Captures**
Filed Under: Art Beat , News , Public Art Tagged With: performance , Stokley Towles , **stormwater** , **stormwater** : life in the gutter , temporary artwork Catch Stokley Towles' performance on **stormwater** this
Content: text/html Size: 70 KB
More Results from **artbeat.seattle.gov**

stormwater code

URL: https://buildingconnections.seattle.gov/tag/stormwater-code/
This text was captured on Jul 15, 2024 **Show All Captures**
2016 **Stormwater** Code Public Hearing and **Stormwater** Manual Public Meeting September 1, 2015 by SDCI Community Engagement Want to let us know what you think about the 2016 **Stormwater** Manual?
Content: text/html Size: 58 KB
More Results from **buildingconnections.seattle.gov**

Green Stormwater Infrastructure - Utilities | seattle.gov

URL: http://www.seattle.gov/utilities/your-services/sewer-and-drainage/green-stormwater-infrastructure
This text was captured on Jul 01, 2022 **Show All Captures**
Home Your Services Sewer & Drainage Green **Stormwater** Infrastructure Together, we can use Green **Stormwater** Infrastructure (GSI) to collect, slow, and treat rain once it hits the earth and becomes **stormwater**
Content: application/xhtml+xml Size: 232 KB
More Results from **www.seattle.gov**

You are viewing an archived web page, collected at the request of City of Seattle Municipal Archives using Archive-It. This page was captured on 22:54:59 Jun 20, 2020, and is part of the City of Seattle Websites collection. The information on this web page may be out of date. See All versions of this archived page. Found 0 archived media items out of 0 total on this page.

Adam Kuby's artwork at celebration for new Madison Valley Stormwater Project, May 22

May 16, 2013 by Tamara Childress — Leave a Comment

Visit our Website

Search

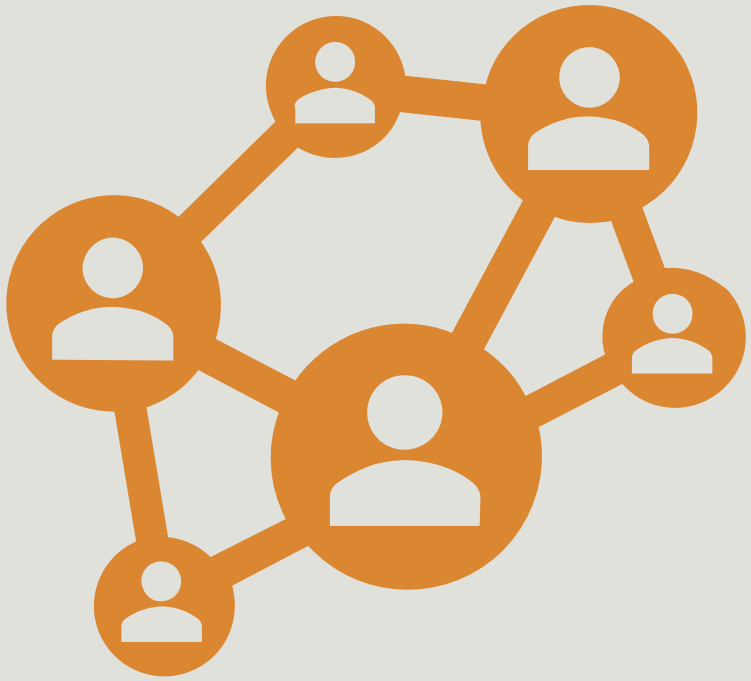
CATEGORIES

Select Category

ARCHIVES

Clicking on a result will take you directly to the captured page.

A select number of social media sites that were no longer available for capture as of 2020 can be found in Archive-It. However, the best place to start a search for archived social media sites is on ArchiveSocial.



ArchiveSocial

ArchiveSocial captures official City social media accounts (Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, and others), as well as some older legacy accounts.

All posts and comments back to the beginning of the account are searchable.

ArchiveSocial has tabs for quick search and advanced search. The advanced search allows you to narrow in several ways.

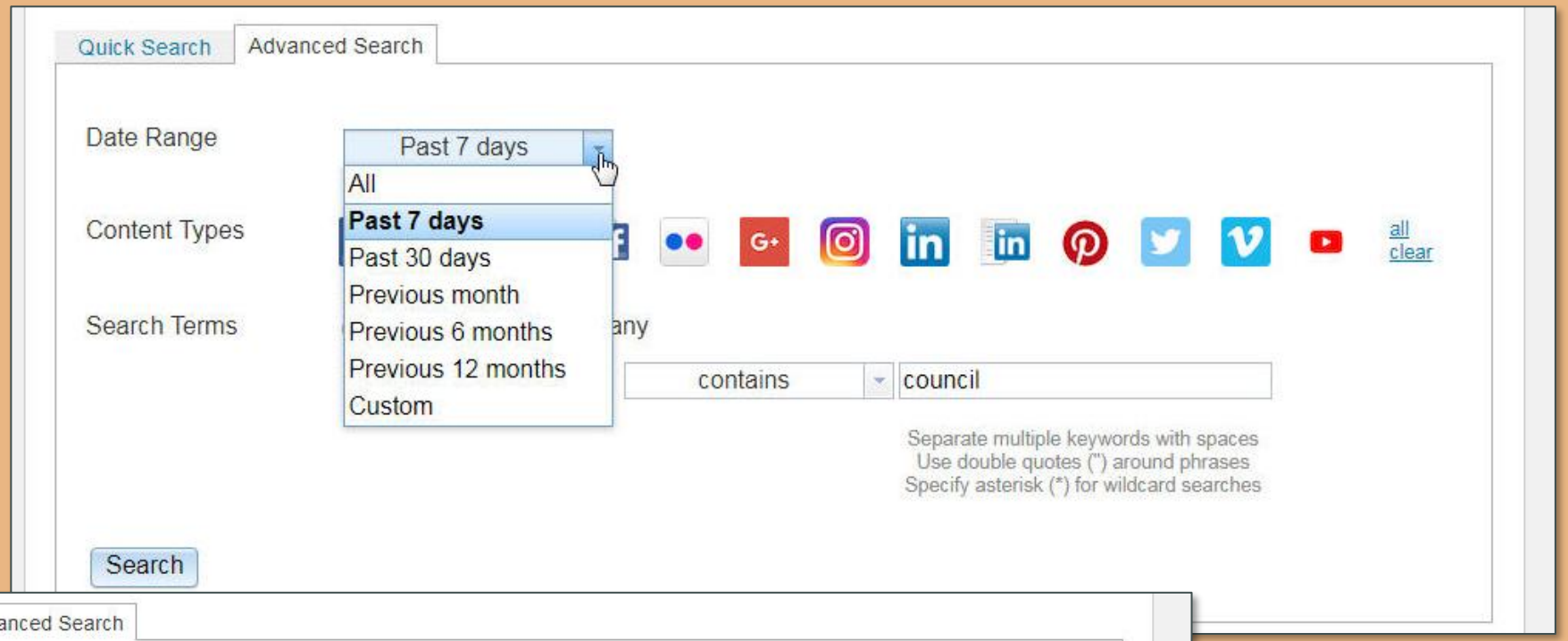
DATE RANGE

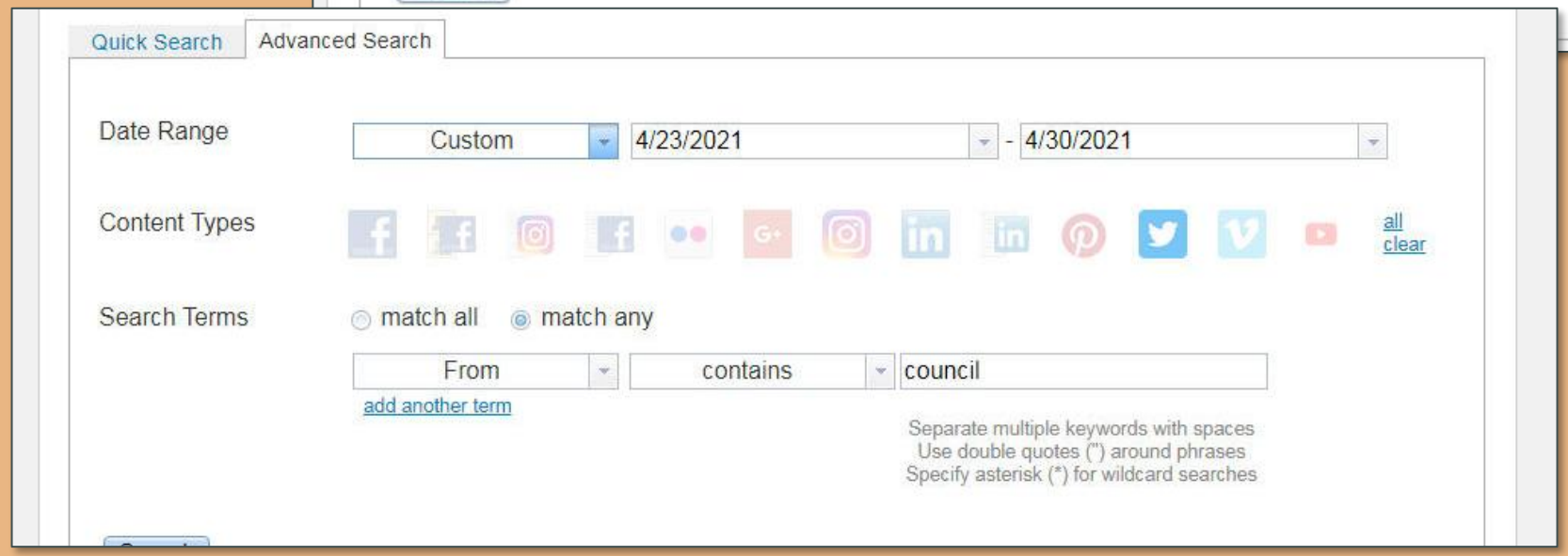
CONTENT TYPE

MATCHING SEARCH TERMS

Date Range

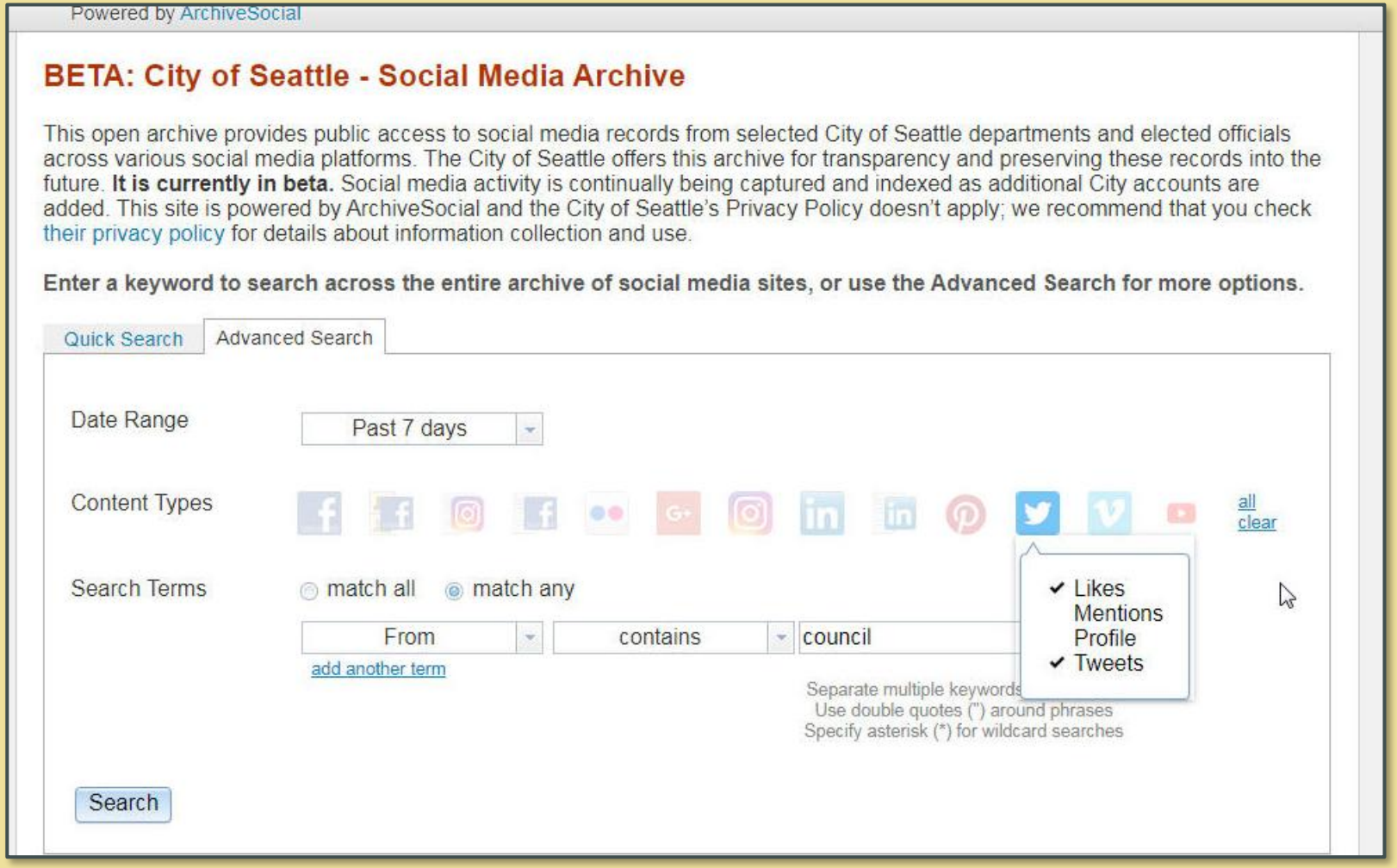
Choose from set date ranges or enter custom dates.





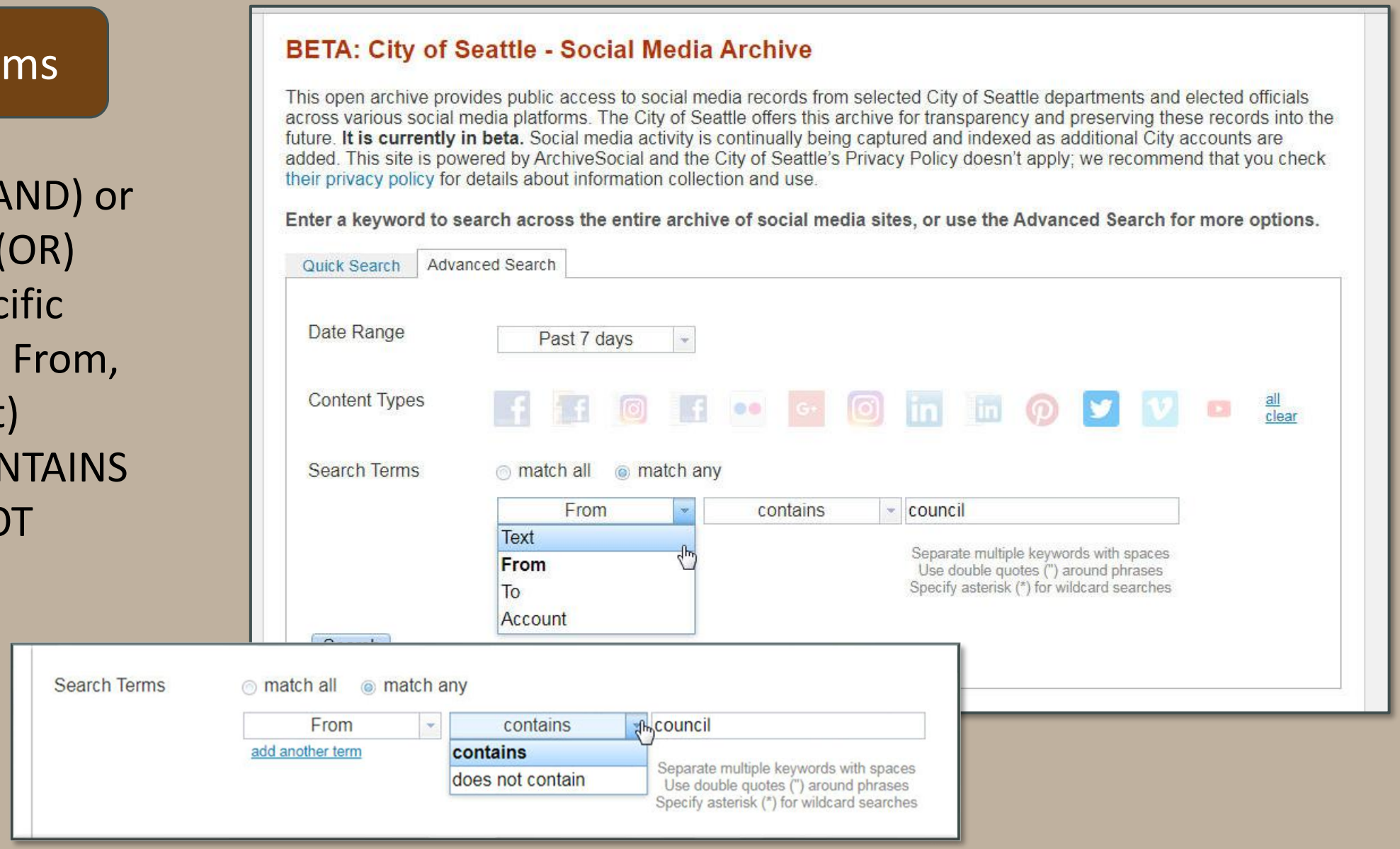
Content Type

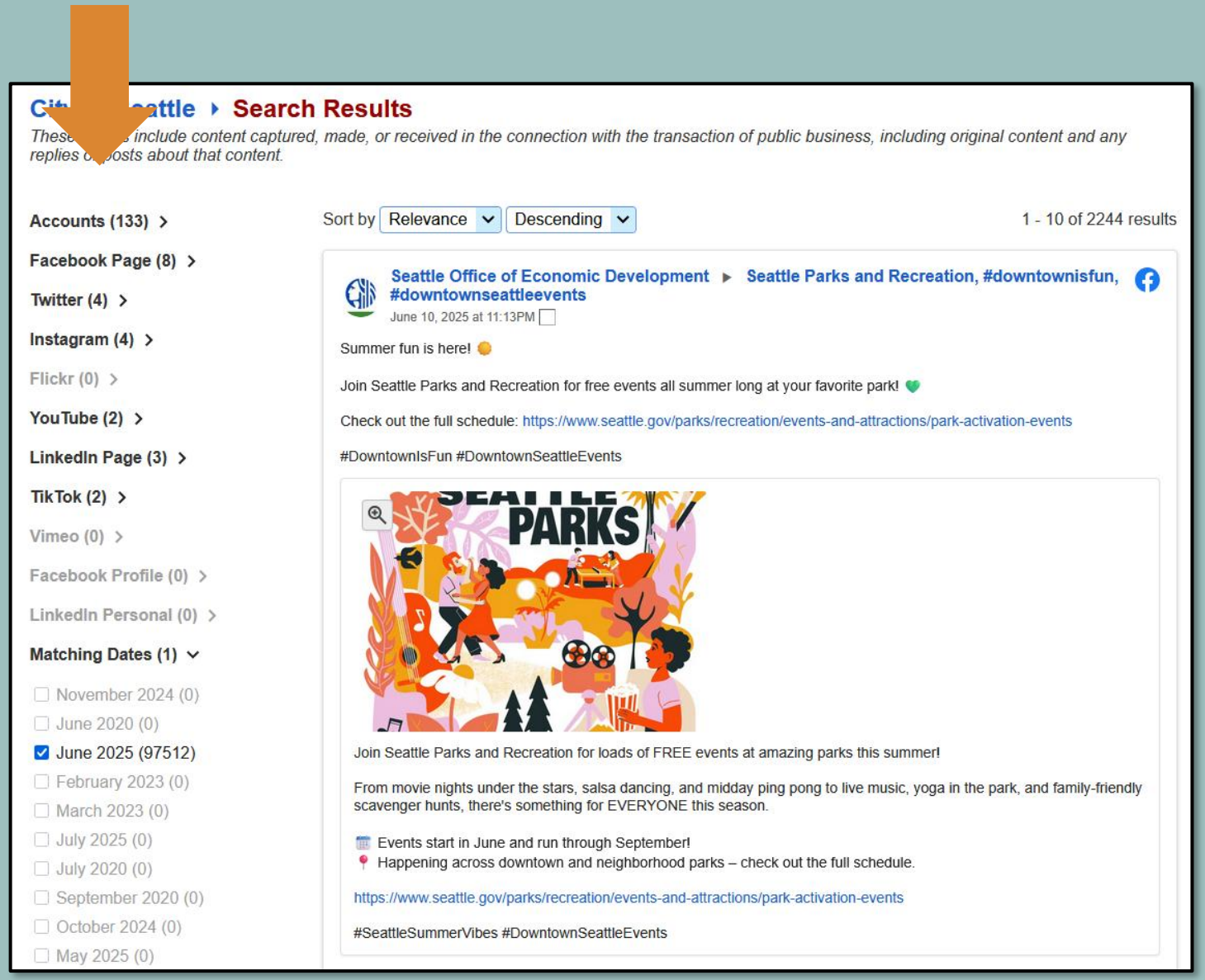
Limit search by type of social media. The default is to search all types. Use ALL or CLEAR on the right to select everything or clear all selections.



Search Terms

- Match all (AND) or match any (OR)
- Search specific fields (Text, From, To, Account)
- Choose CONTAINS or DOES NOT CONTAIN



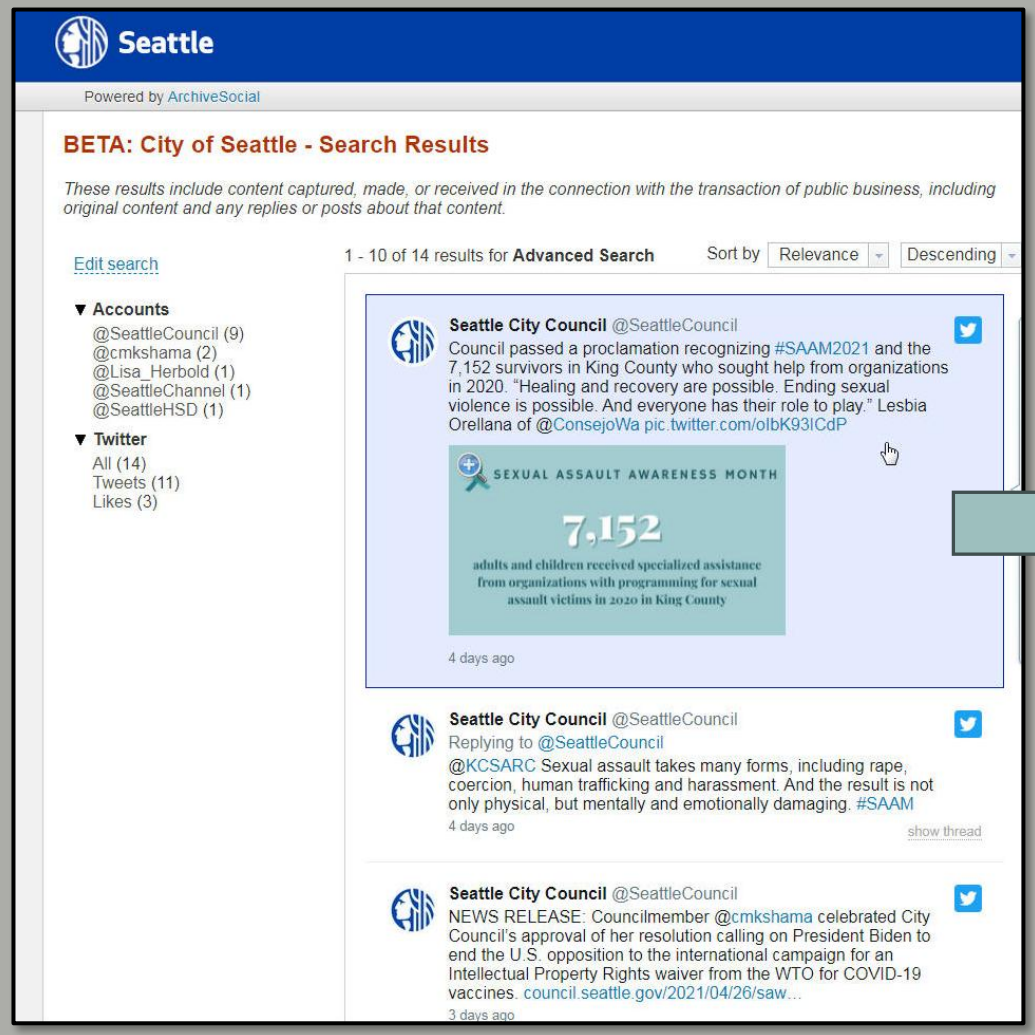


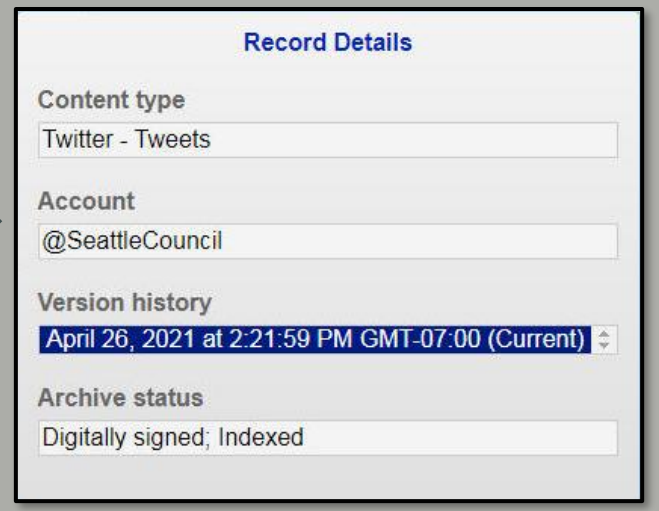
You can filter search results by:

- Account
- Type of social media
- Date

Give it a try – use the filter links on the left side of **this page** to narrow the search results.

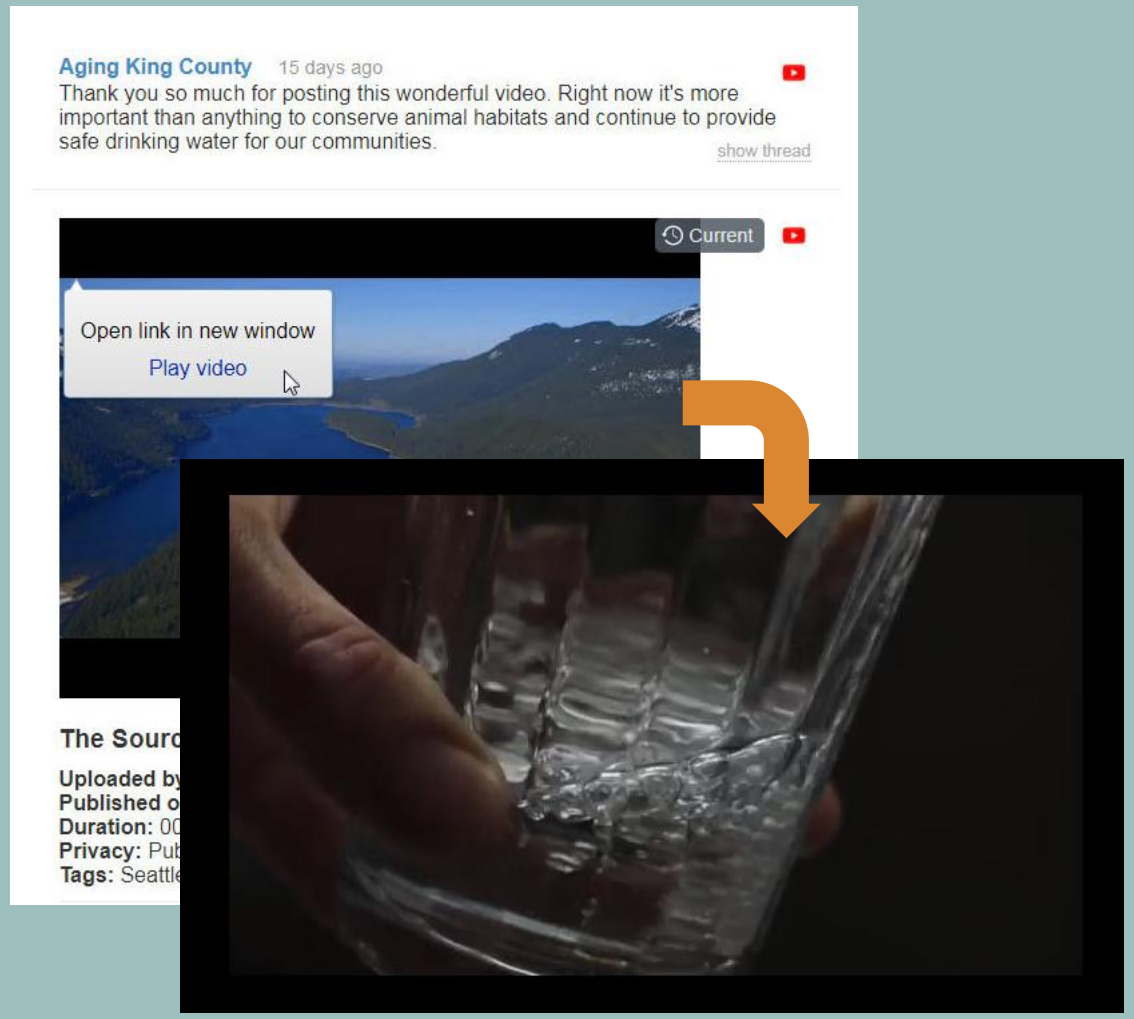
Clicking on a result will show the record details.

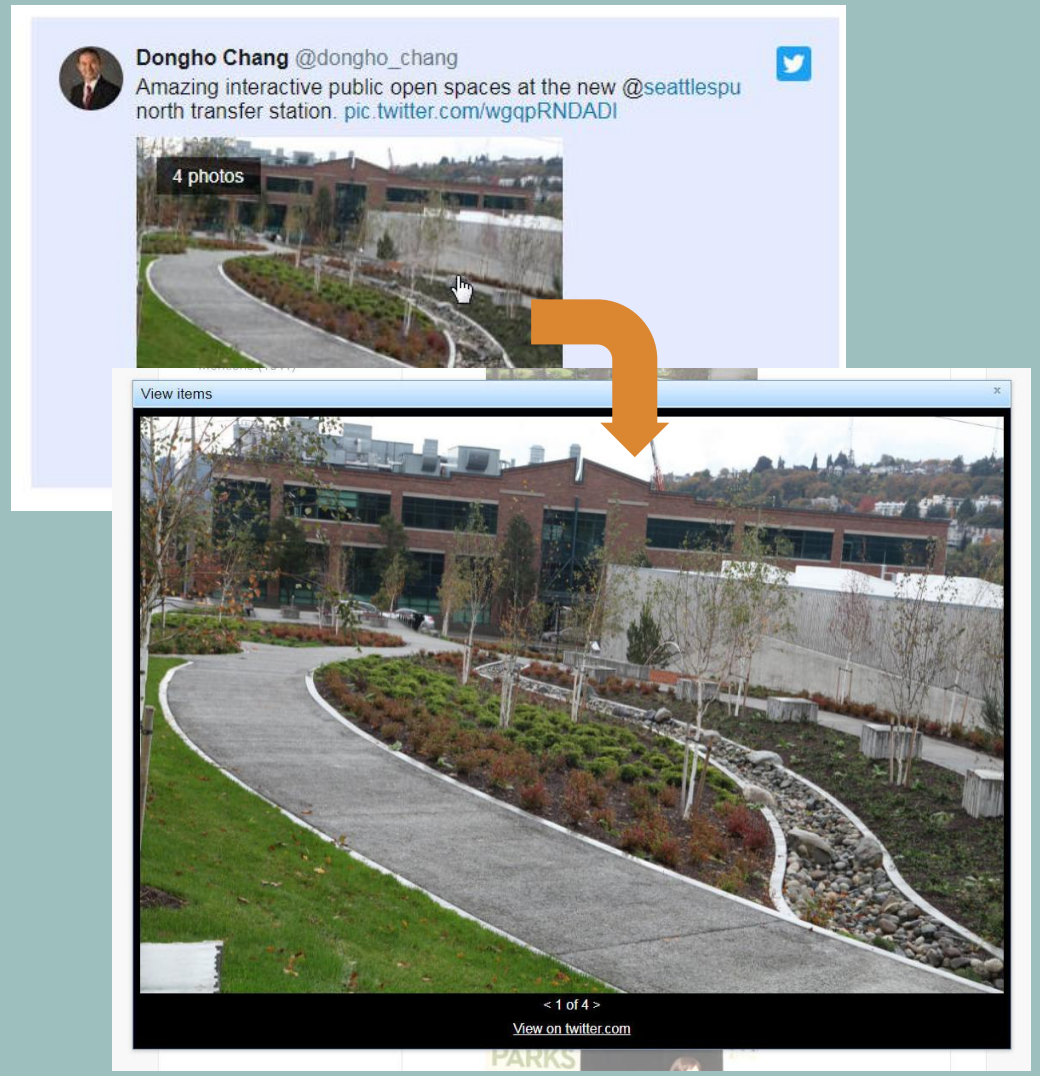


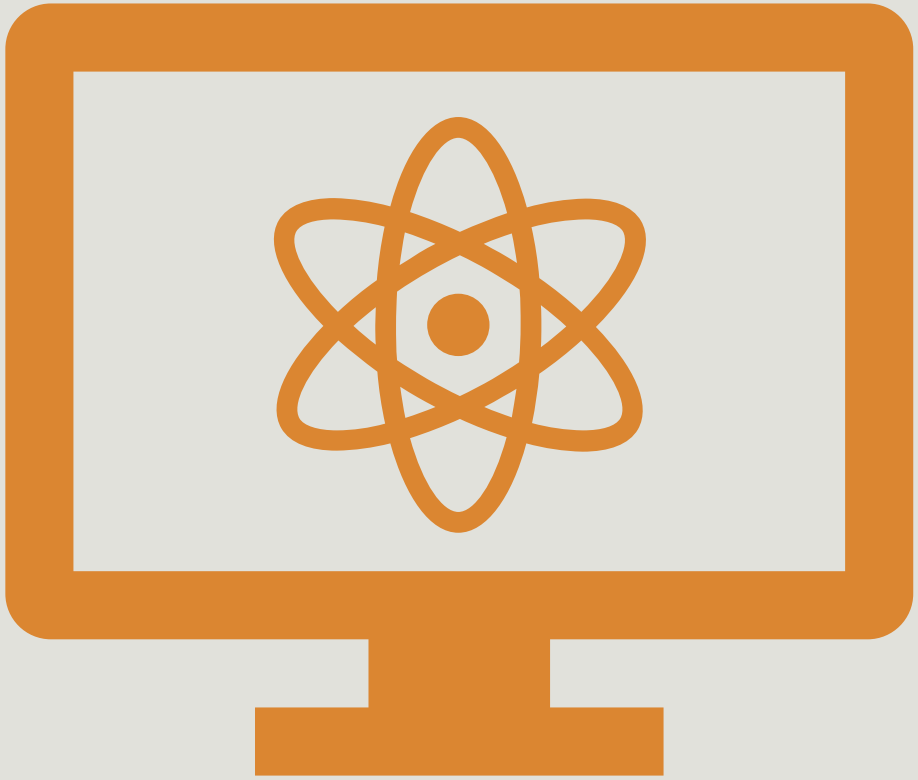


For posts with threads in the archive, you can click on SHOW THREAD to view.

For posts with video or photos, you can see the media in a larger view.







Both Archive-It and ArchiveSocial are accessible from anywhere and can be useful tools for research and discovery of web content, even when it is no longer available on the internet.

We welcome questions!

Contact us at archives@seattle.gov if you need assistance using these tools or locating other records in the archives.

Check out our other e-learning courses to learn more about searching and accessing our records.