

# Keeping the Community Media Archive Alive

*Distributing ownership of 2,100 collections and the pipeline that feeds them*

## What the work is, at a glance

2,100 YouTube & Vimeo channels → ~26,000 videos downloaded each month → batch processing → upload to collections on Archive.org.

Today this runs largely through one person. **The goal of this session is to spread it across many hands** so the archive outlives any single steward. You do not have to take the whole thing — the work breaks into pieces small enough to own one at a time.

## Five ways to help — pick what fits you

Role	What it involves	Good fit for
Channel Steward	Own a slice of the 2,100 source channels (by region, station, or topic). Watch for channels that move, rename, or go dark. No coding needed.	Most people — low barrier
Pipeline Operator	Run the batch download / processing scripts on a schedule. Comfortable with the command line and following a runbook.	Technical, trainable
Script Maintainer	Fix and adapt the scripts when YouTube or Vimeo changes. The rarest, highest-risk role.	Developers
Collection Curator	Govern metadata standards, what belongs in which Archive.org collection, and quality control.	Detail / metadata minded
Coordinator	Keep the distributed group aligned: track who owns what, run the email list, onboard newcomers.	Organizers / connectors

**Open question for the room:** *each of the 2,100 collections has its own directory, scripts, and metadata. How do we make that setup transferable to someone who isn't the original steward? That's the real succession challenge — bring your ideas.*

## A second path we're floating: an "Archive Corps"

*This one is an idea, not a plan — we're here to find out if it's worth building.* Instead of picking a role cold, you'd join a small training cohort first, then choose where to plug in once you've learned the craft.

A cohort would be 6–8 people learning together, covering three areas:

- **General digital archiving** — the why: provenance, preserving community media at volume, what "good enough" looks like.
- **Metadata principles** — the transferable craft: description, controlled vocabularies, why consistency makes 26,000 videos findable.
- **Internet Archive specifics** — item/collection structure, the metadata fields that drive search, and the mechanics of getting material in cleanly.

**Tentative shape (not fixed):** about 4 sessions over 6 weeks, adding more where needed. No prior archiving experience required — the cohort *is* the on-ramp. The hope: each cohort helps train the next, so the knowledge spreads instead of staying in one person's head.