**About the Internet Archive**

**https://archive.org/about/**

The Internet Archive, a 501(c)(3) non-profit, is building a digital library of Internet sites and other cultural artifacts in digital form. Like a paper library, we provide free access to researchers, historians, scholars, the print disabled, and the general public. Our mission is to provide Universal Access to All Knowledge.

We began in 1996 by archiving the Internet itself, a medium that was just beginning to grow in use. Like newspapers, the content published on the web was ephemeral - but unlike newspapers, no one was saving it. Today we have 20+ years of web history accessible through the [Wayback Machine](https://archive.org/web/) and we work with 450+ library and other partners through our [Archive-It](https://archive-it.org/) program to identify important web pages.

As our web archive grew, so did our commitment to providing digital versions of other published works. Today our archive contains:

* 279 billion [web pages](http://archive.org/web/)
* 11 million [books and texts](https://archive.org/details/texts)
* 4 million [audio recordings](https://archive.org/details/audio) (including 160,000 [live concerts](https://archive.org/details/etree))
* 3 million [videos](https://archive.org/details/movies) (including 1 million [Television News programs](https://archive.org/details/tv))
* 1 million [images](https://archive.org/details/image)
* 100,000 [software programs](https://archive.org/details/software)

Anyone with a [free account](https://archive.org/account/login.createaccount.php) can [upload media](https://archive.org/upload/) to the Internet Archive. We work with thousands of partners globally to save copies of their work into special collections.

Because we are a library, we pay special attention to books. Not everyone has access to a public or academic library with a good collection, so to provide universal access we need to provide digital versions of books. We began a program to digitize books in 2005 and today we scan 1,000 books per day in 28 locations around the world. Books published prior to 1923 are available for download, and hundreds of thousands of [modern books can be borrowed](https://openlibrary.org/subjects/in_library#ebooks=true&sort=edition_count) through our [Open Library](https://openlibrary.org/) site. Some of our digitized books are only available to the [print disabled](https://openlibrary.org/subjects/protected_daisy#ebooks=true&sort=edition_count).

Like the Internet, television is also an ephemeral medium. We began archiving television programs in late 2000, and our first public TV project was an archive of [TV news surrounding the events of September 11, 2001](https://archive.org/details/911/day/20010911). In 2009 we began to make selected U.S. television news broadcasts searchable by captions in our [TV News Archive](https://archive.org/details/tv). This service allows researchers and the public to use television as a citable and sharable reference.

The Internet Archive serves millions of people each day and is one of the top 300 web sites in the world. A single copy of the Internet Archive library collection occupies 30+ Petabytes of server space (and we store at least 2 copies of everything). We are funded through [donations](https://archive.org/donate), grants, and by providing web archiving and book digitization services for our partners. As with most libraries we value the [privacy of our patrons](http://blog.archive.org/2013/10/25/reader-privacy-at-the-internet-archive/), so we avoid keeping the IP (Internet Protocol) addresses of our readers and offer our site in https (secure) protocol.

You can find information about our projects on our [blog](http://blog.archive.org/) (including important [announcements](http://blog.archive.org/category/announcements/)), [contact us](https://archive.org/about/contact.php), buy swag in our [store](https://store.archive.org/), and follow us on [Twitter](https://twitter.com/internetarchive) and [Facebook](https://www.facebook.com/internetnetarchive/). Welcome to the library!

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