

Libraries and archives provide services that:

- Preserve and make available historical records and publications to enable understanding of the past and inform the future.
- Support scientific research and development that nurtures innovation and facilitates successful enterprise.
- Support economic development by helping people to learn new skills and find jobs.
- Bridge the digital divide by providing computers and access to the Internet, and teaching how to use it.
- Enable people with disabilities to access content.
- Enrich the lives of people by introducing them to creative works and new ideas, and to discover their past through history and genealogy.
- Inspire a love of reading in children and develop literacy, an essential life skill.
- Improve the well-being of individuals and communities by providing health information services and support to medical researchers.
- Facilitate a democratic society by helping people to document and exercise their civil, political and socio-economic rights.

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LIBRARIES AND ARCHIVES
ENRICH THE LIVES OF
INDIVIDUALS AND SOCIETIES



Over 750,000 professional librarians and archivists worldwide manage library and archive services.

Libraries and archives support education and research by providing access to quality information resources, essential for teaching and learning.

Library and archive collections include a wide range of formats including written, photographic, moving image, and sound in diverse digital and analogue formats.

Libraries and archives respond to the particular questions and needs of individuals.

Libraries spend over \$23 billion each year on books, journals, audio-visual, and digital content.

Every day, libraries and archives in all parts of the world help hundreds of millions of people meet their work, study, research, and leisure needs. Their services enrich people's lives and support important public policy goals such as literacy, education, scientific research, employability, and health awareness. By collecting and providing access to information libraries and archives support society in general and the cultural and scientific sectors in particular. They foster the sharing and spreading of ideas, while stimulating and enabling creativity around the world.

WHAT IS A LIBRARY?

Libraries are usually supported by public funds and are commonly grouped into five categories: academic and research libraries, national libraries, public libraries, school libraries, and special libraries.

Academic and research libraries are essential for supporting higher education and research. They contain collections in specific academic disciplines, offer students new perspectives, and facilitate innovative research projects.

National libraries are funded by national governments to maintain comprehensive collections of the written documentary resources of the nation and thus, contribute to its culture and heritage. Most serve as legal depositories.

Public libraries enrich communities' quality of life by helping people to learn new things and stay connected. They support the development of literacy skills, and provide access to books, journals, films and music.

School libraries offer a full range of learning resources to serve the information needs of students and the curriculum needs of teachers and staff.

Special libraries provide vital information services to people in support of their work, such as policy makers, or the non-profit, private and corporate sectors. The scope of the collection is usually limited to the interests of the host organisation.

WHAT IS AN ARCHIVE?

Archives hold print and digital collections including manuscripts, text, maps, photographs and moving images. They effectively preserve and manage documents, and as such are an irreplaceable witness to past events, underpinning democracy, the identity of individuals and communities, and human rights.

Archivists ensure that an authentic record of knowledge created and accumulated by past and present generations be selected, preserved and made available. With this record, citizens and researchers may understand what governments and other bodies have done on their behalf and may construct a new body of knowledge to build an informed and better future for the world at large.



Over one billion registered library users turn to their local library to discover knowledge and learn new skills, participate in events, and to borrow or use books, music and films.

Libraries and archives are the memory of society, preserving and providing access to our cultural, scientific and historical record.

Libraries and archives enable intellectual freedom, vital to democratic and open societies, by providing access to information, ideas, and works of imagination to all members of society.

Libraries and archives encourage creativity and innovation by enabling authors and creators to create new works, innovate and expand local and global knowledge.