

Importance of Tangible Formats

FDLP Academy

Susanne Caro

May 26th, 2021

A rectangular sign with a vibrant rainbow gradient background, transitioning from purple at the top to red, orange, yellow, green, and blue at the bottom. The sign is mounted on a white background with four silver screws at the corners. The text "Electronic is beautiful!" is written in a bold, white, stylized font. The sign is held in place by four tan-colored corner mounts.

**Electronic is
beautiful!**

Improving access

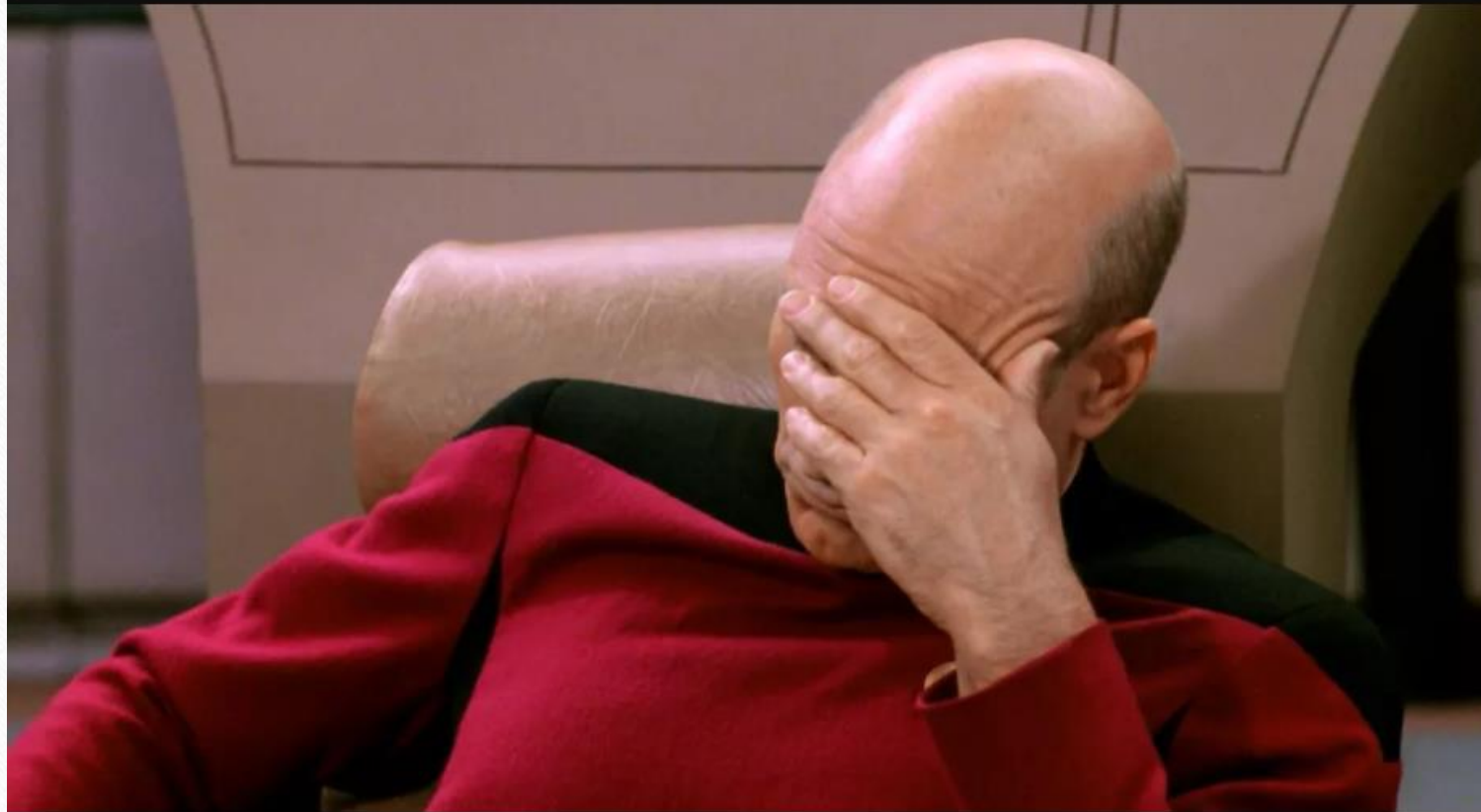
- Government Printing Office Electronic Information Access Enhancement Act of 1993, signed June 8, 1994
- E-Government Act of 2002
- Multiple digitization efforts

What to consider when considering format

- It's all online
- Unreported publications
- Legal issues
- Quality
- Reproducibility/ease of use
- Copyright
- The Abyss
- Items as artifacts
- To weed or not to weed?



When someone says



"everything is online"

Agency	PURL	No PURL
Department of Defense	10,450	58,275
Agriculture	18,283	68,103
EPA	7,780	16,106
Commerce	18,796	44,657
NASA	10,474	45,388
War	74	1126

Thank you Stephen Kharfen!
Sud=x AND/NOT wur=http?

Digitized content

Great databases- can you afford them?

- Readex Congressional Serial Set: \$70,000 purchase plus annual fee
- HineOnline: \$3750.00 year

Free sites

- HathiTrust
- Internet Archive
- Library of Congress
- National Archives
- Some agency

We're experiencing technical difficulties.

But we're working on it and we should be back soon. Please try again in a few minutes.



Repairing government trucks [...] garage (1937)

Harris & Ewing, photographer

Unreported publications

- State/federal hybrid
 - EPA
 - Army Corps Engineers
 - Transportation
- Operation animal mutilation : report of the district attorney first judicial district, state of New Mexico Kenneth M. Rommel

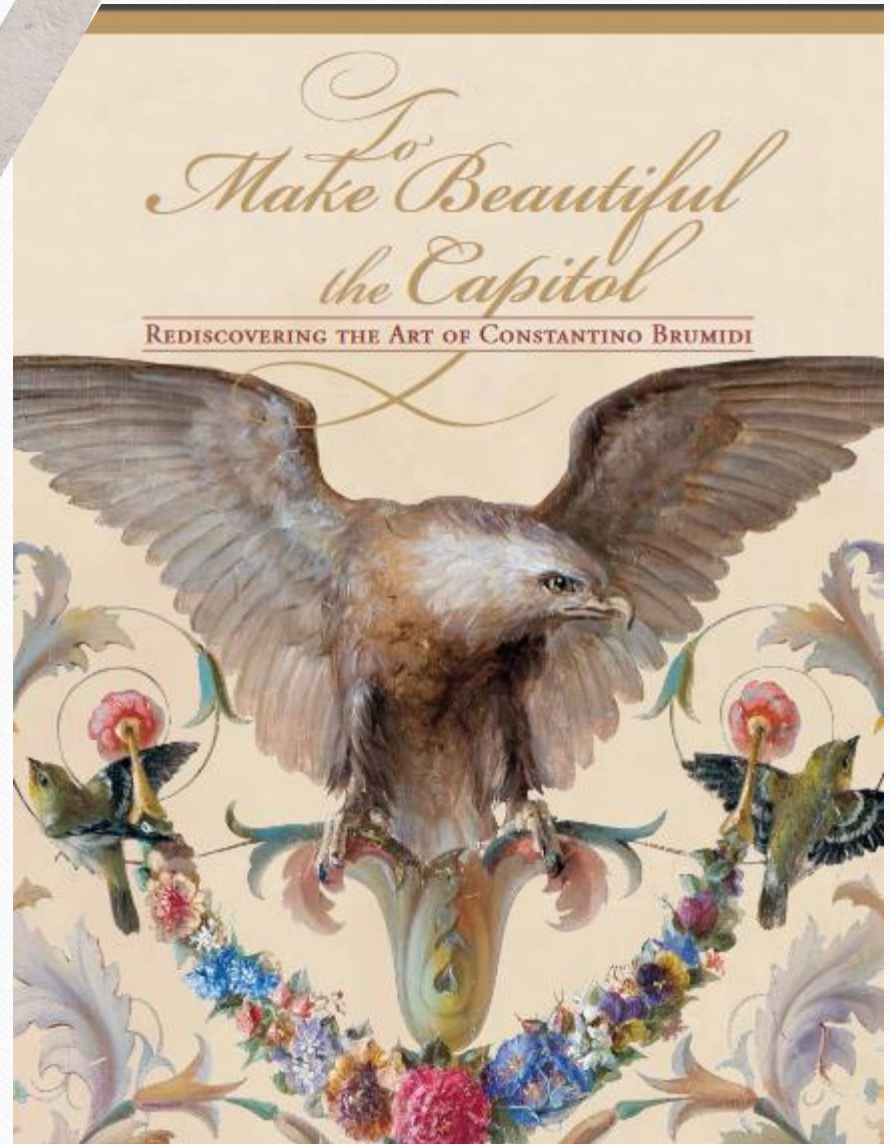
Legal*

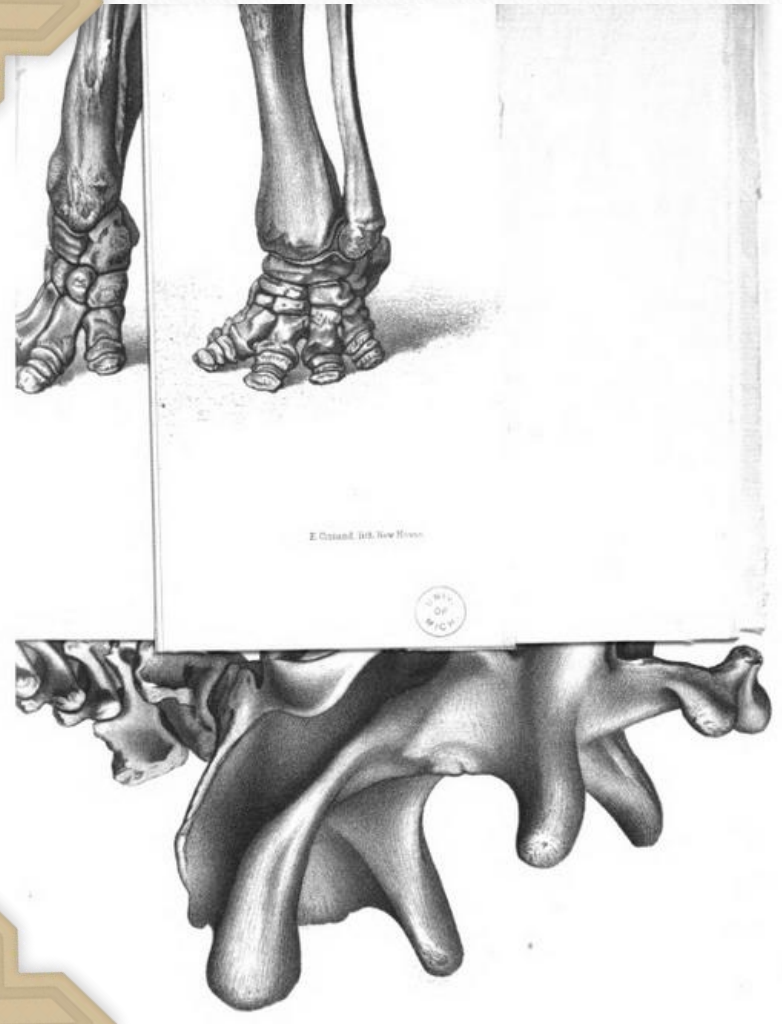
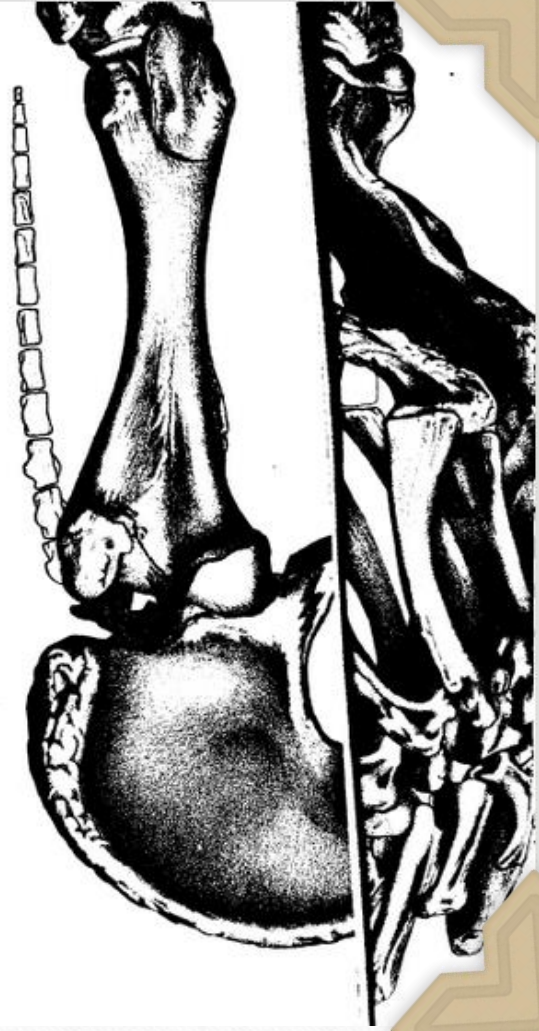
- PACER
- U.S. Reports
- United States Code
- United States Statutes at Large

*Depends on the requirements of the specific court



Online ≠ quality





E. Cassell del. New York

W. D. W. 1871

PLATE LVI.

DINOCERATA.

Restoration of *TINOCERAS INGENS*, Marsh.

Oes-16th Natural Size.

Page
165

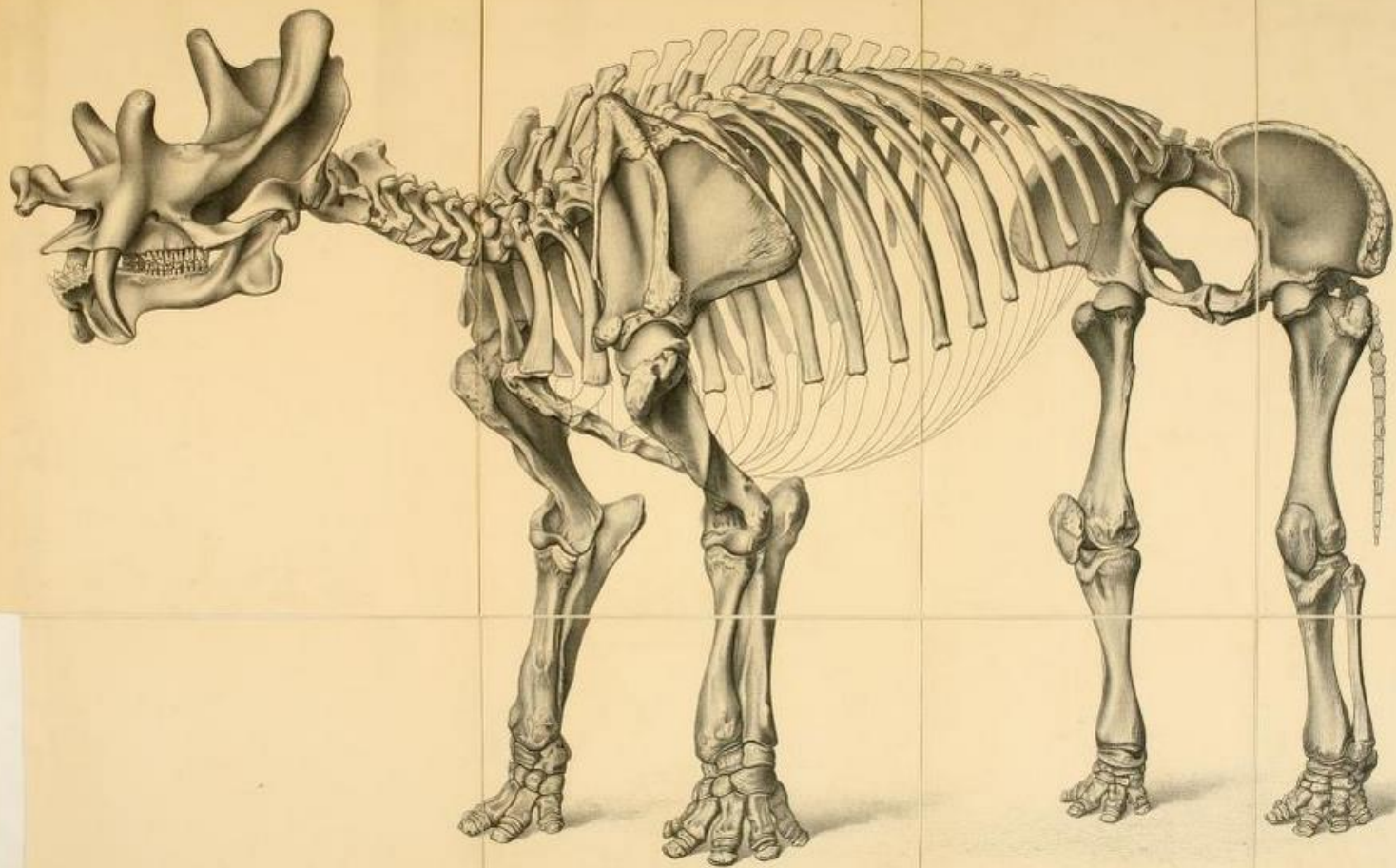
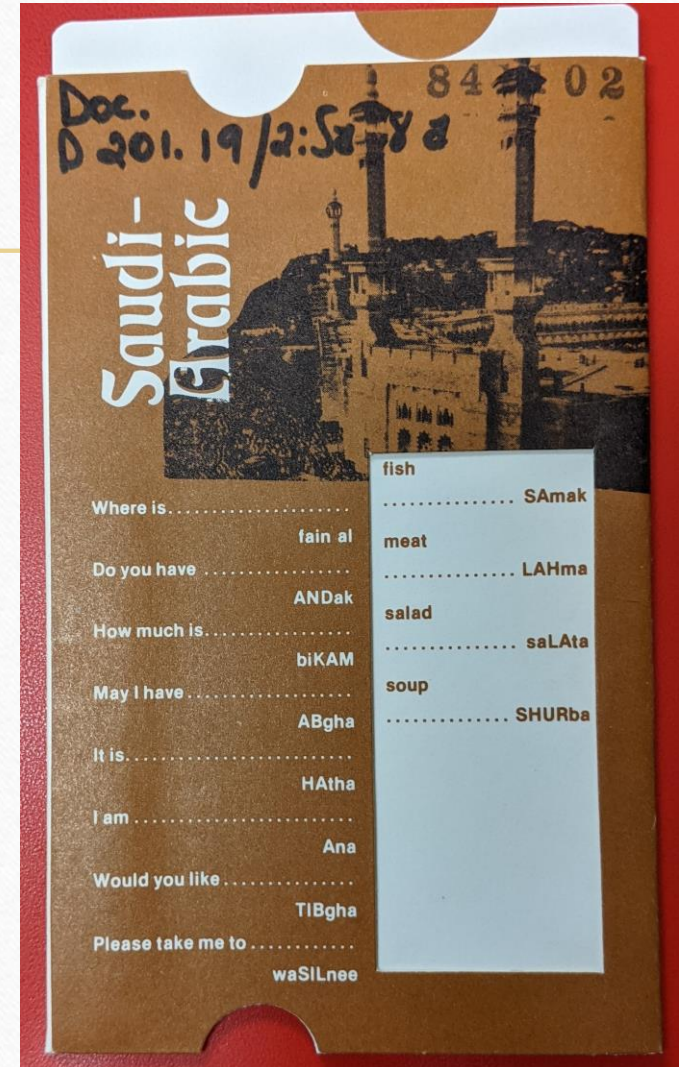


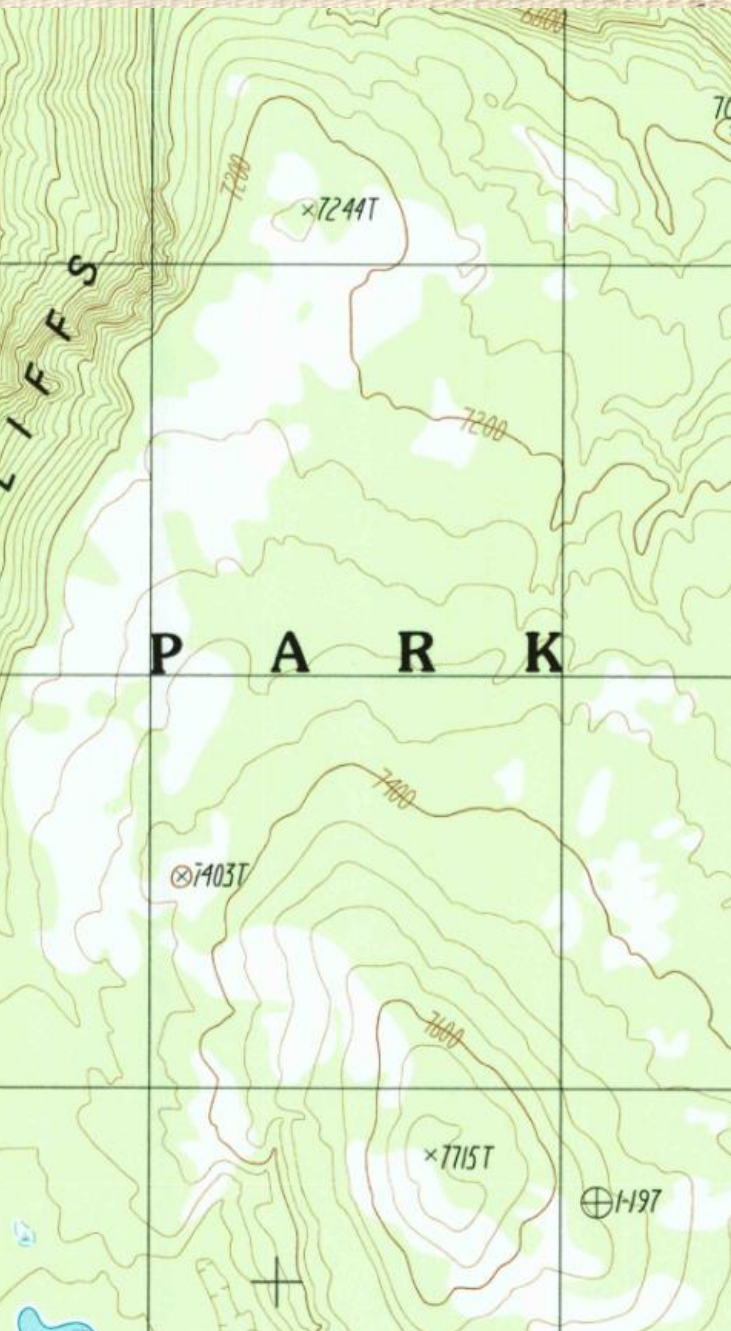
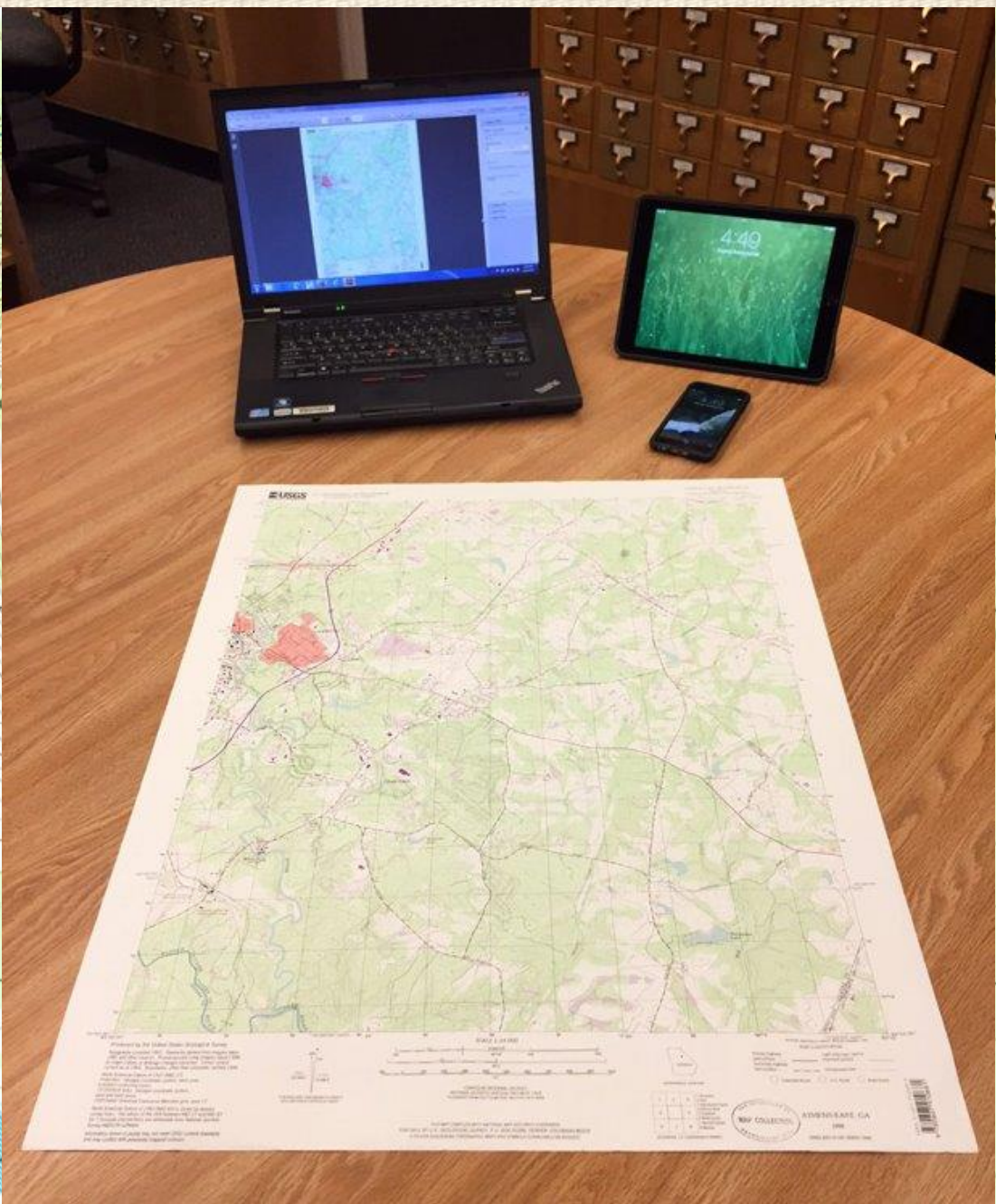
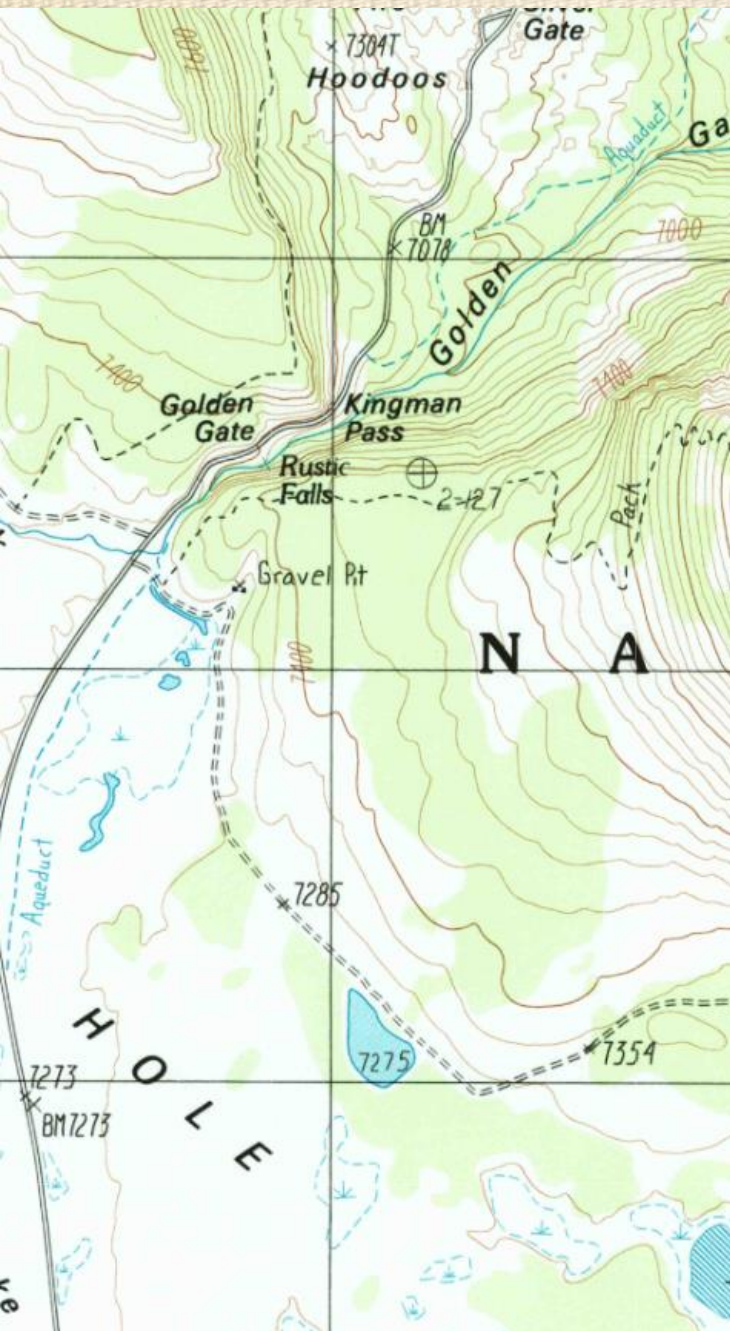
PLATE LVI

TINOCERAS INGENS, Marsh.

Reproducibility /Ease of use

- Level of detail - does it translate?
- Intended purpose?
- Is the online version easier to use?
 - Congressional Record Indexes

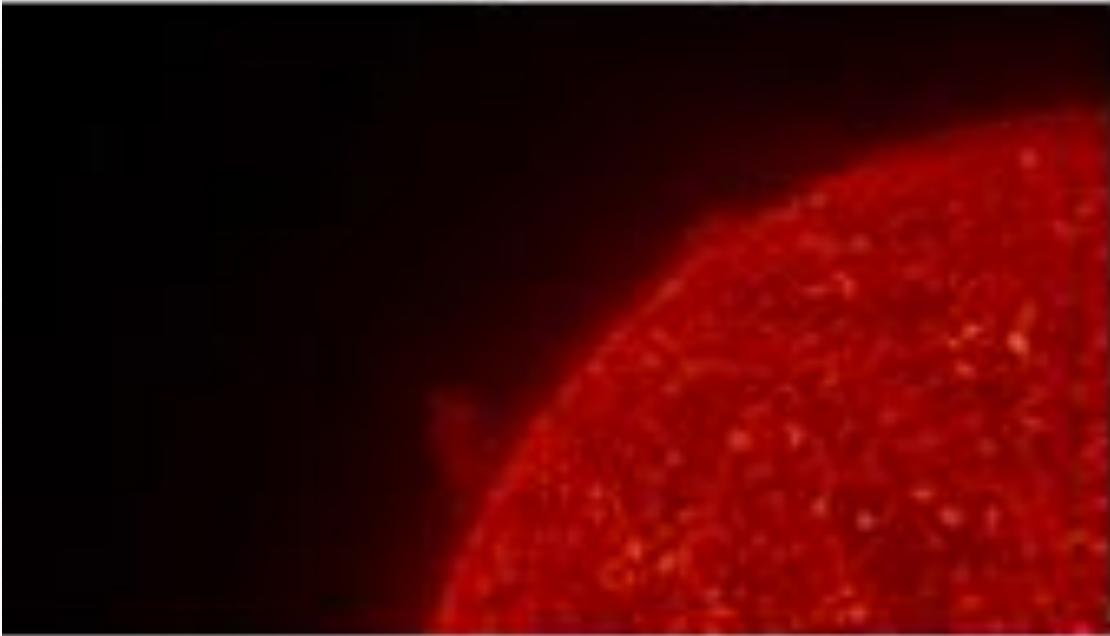




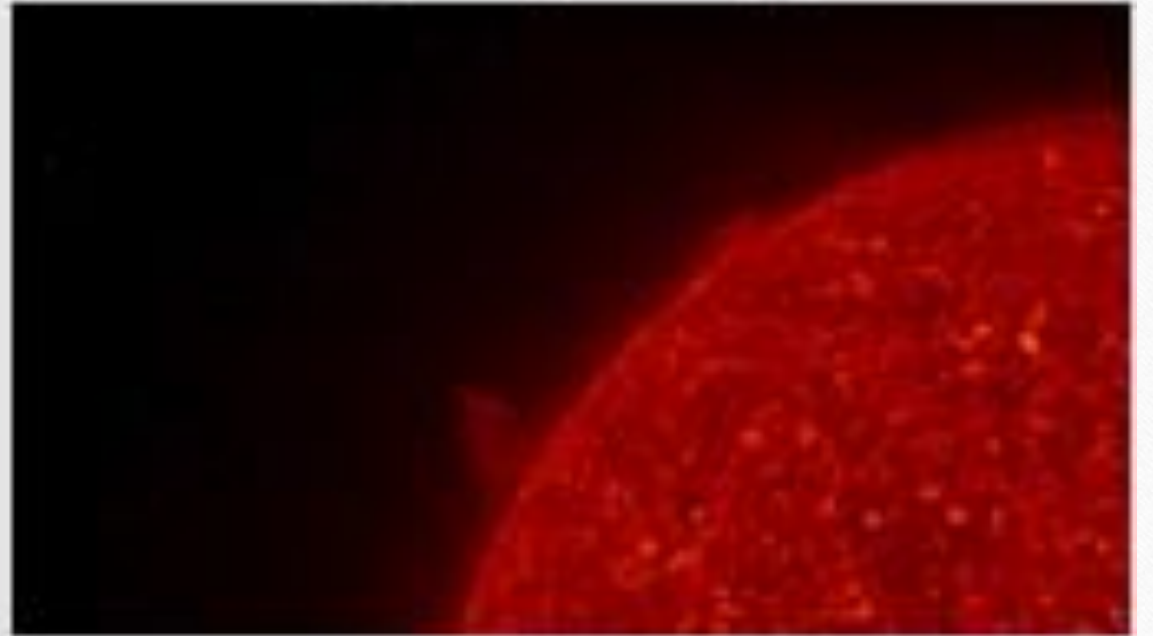
Thanks to Hallie Pritchett for the use of this image

Formats

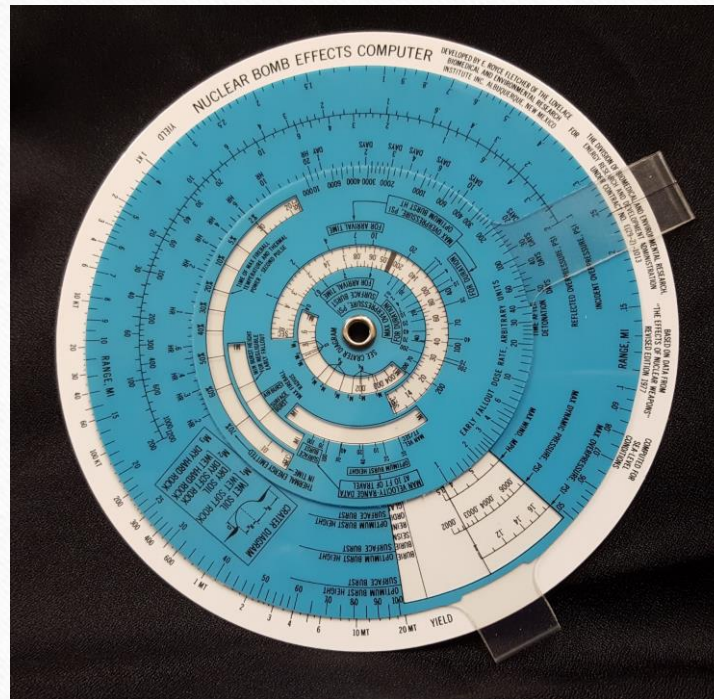
Left Eye Images



Right Eye Images



Formats



Is it the content you want?

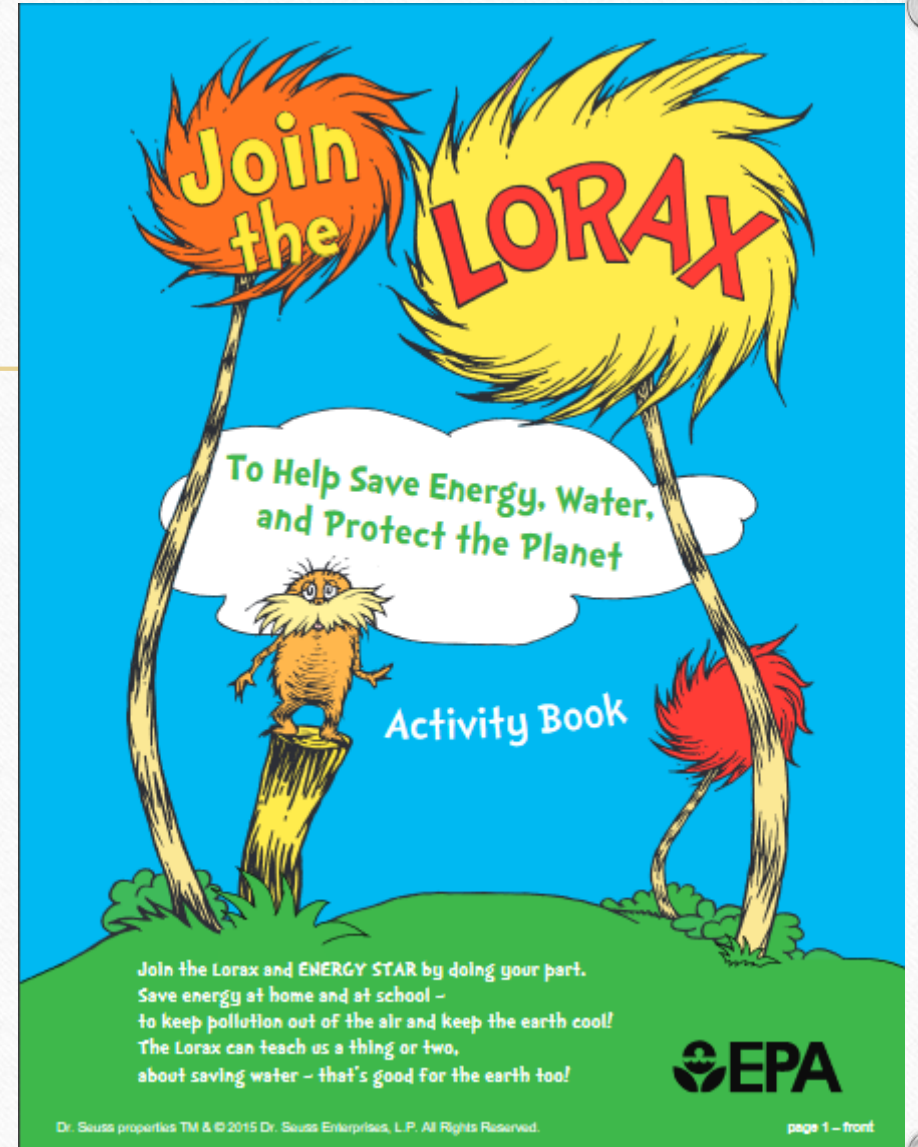
Editions:

Congressional Record v Daily Digest

Revised publications

Copyright

- ERIC
- Congressional Record
- Special publications



The abyss

- Ephemeral
- Limited interest
- Uncommon/ missed
- Challenging medium

wyr=XXX? AND/NOT wur=http?

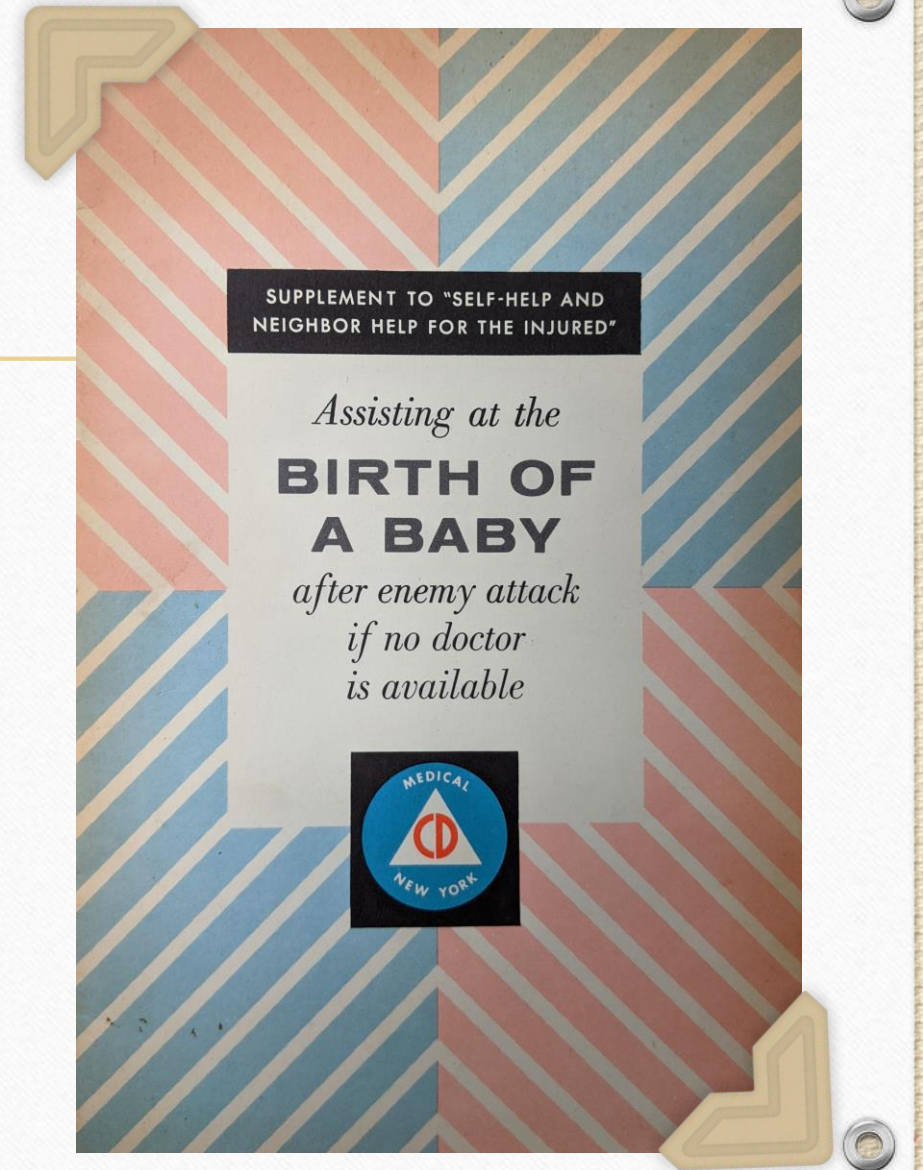
Includes later issues of microfiche, reprints

Catalog of Government Publications

Years	W/ URL	No URL	Total
1900-1909	530	18,829	19,359
1910-1919	778	4,632	5,410
1920-1929	844	5,764	14,425
1930-1939	2,861	11,564	14,425
1940-1949	1389	20,243	21,632
1950-1959	2,979	32,550	35529
1960-1969	5,215	49,748	54,963
1970-1979	8,866	138,366	147,232
1980-1989	15,801	196,411	21,2211
1990-1999	31,883	163,723	159,091
2000-2009	83,095	37,802	120,889
2010-2019	73,997	58,087	132,084

Item as artifact

- Items that are important to regional/local history
- Items with meaning beyond the content
- Materials for displays
- “cultural artifact”
 - Does the item connect the viewer/user to a time and place?



To weed or not to weed?

- Is it unique or uncommon?
- Can it be used in a digital format?
- Has it been digitized?
- Can you digitize?
- Does it fill a need?
- Are you likely to use it?
- Does it have value as an artifact?

Questions?

Thank you!

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