



# Merrilee Proffitt

| DIRECTOR, DEMOCRACY'S LIBRARY US  
INTERNET ARCHIVE  
[merrilee@archive.org](mailto:merrilee@archive.org)

A black and white photograph of a grand classical building facade. The image features a series of tall, fluted columns supporting a heavy entablature. Above the columns are three arched doorways, each with a decorative pediment. The building is flanked by ornate balustrades with urns. The overall style is neoclassical, reminiscent of the British Museum or a similar institutional building. A semi-transparent white banner is overlaid across the middle of the image, containing the text "Universal Access to All Knowledge".

# **Universal Access to All Knowledge**



**210,000,000,000,000,000+ Bytes Archived**

(210+ PetaBytes)



# What is Democracy's Library?

**Preserving Public Records** Government documents, reports, and web pages — digitally available and permanently accessible, even after removal.

**Built on Internet Archive** Leveraging Wayback Machine web harvesting, ArchiveIt, and unique scanning capabilities and library partnerships.

**Federal Depository Library** Designated 2025 by the US GPO — part of 1100+ FDLP libraries providing free digital access to US government documents.

# The Democracy's Library Team

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**Merrilee Proffitt**

Director, Democracy's Library US



**Robin Fay**

Project Manager, Democracy's Library US



**Kelly Doyle Kim**

Program Coordinator, ATLAS



**Antoine McGrath**

FDLP Coordinator



**Andrea Mills**

Executive Director, Internet Archive Canada



**Loren Fantin**

Special Projects & Strategic Initiatives Lead

# How we keep public documents accessible



01

## Wayback Machine

451 billion web pages captured — journalists rely on it to track government page edits and removals over time.

02

## Archivelt

Collaborative web harvesting of government sites with library partners nationwide, including federal, state/province and local domains.

03

## Digitizing the Published Public Record

Supreme Court Records & Briefs, ERIC education documents, NOAA libraries — physical media converted to searchable digital formats.

04

## Community Uploads

Citizens, researchers, and librarians upload directly to archive.org. "If you see something, save something."

# Who uses Democracy's Library?

Government information belongs to everyone

## Legal & Government

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- Precedent research: understanding prior laws and cases
- Tracking policy changes and legislative history
- Official reports used to draft new legislation

## Journalists & Researchers

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- Wayback Machine: verify original page content
- Government reports for investigative research
- Academic access to ERIC and federal study data

## Curious Citizens

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- Genealogy: census records reveal who lived where & when
- Property & neighborhood history via tract maps
- Building codes & city planning documents



# End of Term Web Archive

*Archiving Democracy at Every Presidential Transition*

**Participating since 2004** Internet Archive and partner institutions capture US government websites at every presidential transition — preserving civic memory at critical moments of democratic change.

**2024/2025 crawl: unprecedented scope** Petabytes of material now available, including two million videos captured at this scale for the first time. Documented removal of pages across education, health, science, and entire agencies like USAID.

**1,000+ news articles cited this work** Valuable for journalism.

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*We have seen the evidence and value of this work reflected in what has become a national conversation when so much material was removed from public access starting in January 2025.*

— Mark Graham, Director, Wayback Machine

## Petabytes

of material from the 2024/2025 crawl

## 2,000,000

videos captured for the first time at this scale

## 700+

government accounts on X archived before deletion

## 1,000+

news articles citing End of Term work

# US Supreme Court Records and Briefs

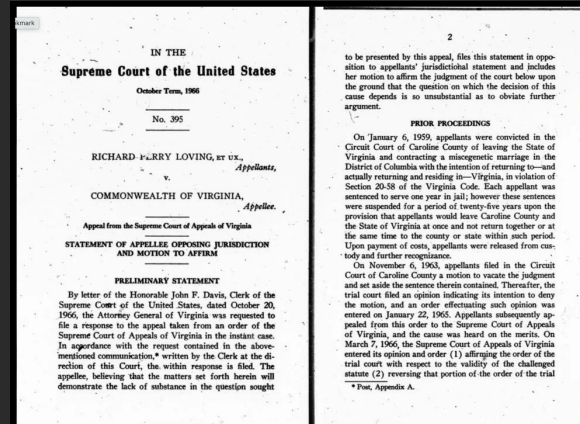
Donated by Wolf Law Library, College of William and Mary

Over 125,000 historical documents (1830-2022) including lower court records, materials submitted to the courts and opinions (when available)

**High interest and impact collection** Supreme Court shapes the law of the land in a significant way, and the changing nature of the court heightens interest in historic materials

**Previously only commercially available** Now public information is available to anyone.

[archive.org/details/us-supreme-court](https://archive.org/details/us-supreme-court)



10,000



# NOAA Collection

*Internet Archive × NOAA Library*

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**Partnership since 2022** NOAA has donated physical materials; IA digitizes and hosts them in Democracy's Library. Weather, fisheries, deep-sea exploration, and more.

**Two sets of superpowers** NOAA's deep scientific collections + IA's digitization at scale and physical archiving — together extending reach far beyond any single library.

[archive.org/details/noaa](https://archive.org/details/noaa)

*Libraries are at their best when they combine stewardship with access.*

— Ben Hope, Director, NOAA Library

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*Our partnership has blossomed over years of collaboration with wonderful NOAA librarians, and we are excited to be bringing broader digital access to their unique collections.*

— Liz Rosenberg, Internet Archive



# IGS LoCAL Digitization Project

*Institute of Governmental Studies · UC Berkeley*

A groundbreaking multi-year effort funded by the State of California to digitize over 10,000 local government publications from cities, counties, and regional agencies across California.

**Democratize access** Free, publicly archived collection on [archive.org](https://archive.org) — searchable by researchers, residents, and policymakers.

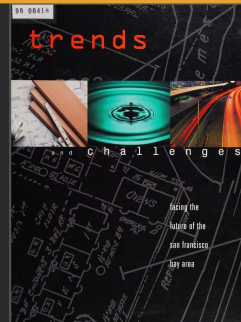
**10,000+ publications** California Cities, counties, and regional agencies — land use, planning, policy over time.

**Partnership** IGS Library + CA State Library + UCLA Young Research Library, in partnership with Internet Archive.

[archive.org/details/igscalocalgovdocs](https://archive.org/details/igscalocalgovdocs)

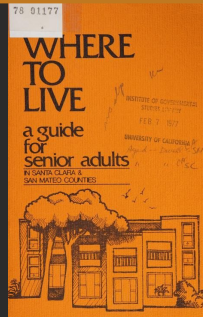
## FEATURED DOCUMENTS

### Regional Planning



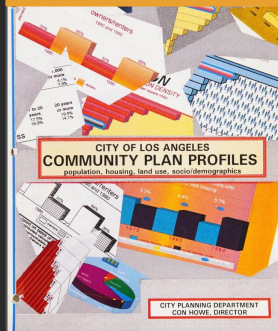
Trends & Challenges:  
San Francisco Bay Area

### Senior Services



Where to Live: A Guide for  
Senior Adults

### City Reports



Community Plan  
Profiles: Los Angeles

### Transportation



Modoc County 1994  
Regional Transportation  
Plan

10,000+ publications · freely available · [archive.org](https://archive.org)

# Canadian Government Publications Portal

The Canadian Government Documents Portal brings together collections that have been digitized by Internet Archive Canada and by our Canadian partners. Beginning in 2004, Internet Archive Canada began to digitize material from the Library and Archives of Canada.

**Partnerships:** Projects sponsored by: Ontario Digitization Initiative, Legislative Assembly of Ontario, Ontario Council of University Libraries, University of Ottawa, University of Alberta, University of Toronto, and many others.

**43.8 TB (in 2,549,899 files) , over 104,000 items**



<https://archive.org/details/governmentpublications>



DEMOCRACY'S  
LIBRARY

# Information Stewardship Forum 2026

*Hosted by Internet Archive · March 2026*

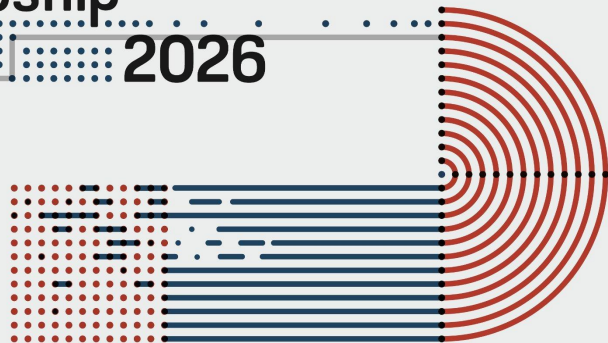
**Fragmentation, not just loss** Libraries, archivists, technologists, and advocates are all doing meaningful work — but no one has a full picture of what exists, what is preserved, and what is missing.

**Preservation is more than storage** If information cannot be found, trusted, or reused, much of its public value is lost. Metadata, documentation, and sustained human expertise are all part of preservation.

**A civic, not just technical, challenge** Government information stewardship is bound up with power, memory, and public accountability. Openness and accessibility are democratic requirements, not optional extras.

## Information Stewardship Forum 2026

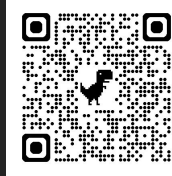
Building Shared  
Practices for the  
Preservation and  
Access of  
Government  
Information



### KEY OUTCOME

## Preservation of Government Information: A Call to Action

A manifesto for the field — establishing that public access to government information cannot be left to chance, that archive-ready publication should become a norm, and that preserving public information must be treated as a civic obligation. **Read. Sign. Share!**





**ATLAS is a national program from the Internet Archive to preserve and expand access to local and state government information - the public record that documents how government works.**



## What ATLAS Does

- ATLAS is a nation-wide digital preservation and web archiving program that helps government organizations capture, preserve, and provide access to government records and websites — the public information that documents how local and state government works.
- It provides training and two years of free access to Archive-It and Vault, ongoing help desk support, a shared discovery portal, plus a practical toolkit to build expertise across the field and offers increased transparency for researchers and the public.



## Who It's For

- ATLAS is built for state and local government agencies and their partner institutions
- 100 organizations will receive direct training and ongoing support over the next 2 years
- There is no cost associated with the program



## Timeline & What's Next

- The first national ATLAS cohort will launch in January 2027
- More details and ways to participate to come
- Reach out at [atlasteam@archive.org](mailto:atlasteam@archive.org) or see [archive-it.org/programs/atlas](https://archive-it.org/programs/atlas)
- Help us build this program by taking our survey → → →

