

I've Come to Look for America: Using Digital Libraries on the Internet to Explore American Culture

Thursdays @ Maxwell

Thursday, July 27, 2017

Summary

In the 1960s we hopped on our motorcycles and rode from town to town, following hints and rumors that promised interesting information or events that would help us find ...

In the early days of the Web we surfed from site to site, following links that promised interesting side information from one page to the next in search of ...

In this month's tech program we'll see what some of the country's cultural institutions make available on the Internet. Digital collections allow museums, galleries, archives, libraries, and similar organizations to share rare or unique items with the world. These items can be historical photos or other works of static visual art, film clips, maps, music scores, manuscripts, pamphlets, books, and more.

Join us as we surf around in the digital collections of some of the US's cultural institutions in a search for America.

[Internet Archive](https://archive.org)

<https://archive.org>

Description from the site:

Internet Archive is a non-profit digital library offering free universal access to books, movies & music, as well as 299 billion archived web pages.

[Wayback Machine](https://web.archive.org)

<https://web.archive.org>

Makes periodic copies of Websites so that in the future there is a record of what that site had on it at that time.

[Digital Public Library of America \(DPLA\)](https://dp.la/)

<https://dp.la/>

Description from the site:

DPLA connects people to the riches held within America's libraries, archives, museums, and other cultural heritage institutions. All of the materials found through DPLA — photographs, books, maps, news footage, oral histories, personal letters, museum objects, artwork, government documents, and so much more — are free and immediately available in digital format. The cultural institutions participating in DPLA represent the richness and diversity of America itself, from the smallest local history museum to our nation's largest cultural institutions. Our core work includes bringing new collections and partners into DPLA, building our technology, and managing projects that further our mission through curation, education, and community building.

[Project Gutenberg](https://www.gutenberg.org)

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Description from the site:

Project Gutenberg offers over 54,000 free eBooks: Choose among free epub books, free kindle books, download them or read them online. You will find the world's great literature here, especially older works for which copyright has expired. We digitized and diligently proofread them with the help of thousands of volunteers.

[NYPL Digital Collections](https://digitalcollections.nypl.org/)

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Description from the site:

Explore 719,419 items digitized from The New York Public Library's collections.

This site is a living database with new materials added every day, featuring prints, photographs, maps, manuscripts, streaming video, and more.