

Demystifying the Three Big Free Digital Sites for Genealogists: The Internet Archive and Beyond!

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INTERNET LINKS

The Big Three:

The Internet Archive <https://archive.org>

The Wayback Machine <https://archive.org/web/>

The Wayback Machine General Information <https://help.archive.org/help/wayback-machine-general-information/>

Blog post: "If You See Something, Save Something: Six Ways to Save Pages in the Wayback Machine." <https://blog.archive.org/2017/01/25/see-something-save-something/>

The Internet Archive Democracy's Library: Government Publications for Everyone
<https://archive.org/details/democracys-library>

The Internet Archive Crash, Bark, Boom: the USC Sound Effects Library

<https://archive.org/details/usc-sound-effect-archive>

<https://blog.archive.org/2023/05/20/crash-bark-boom-the-usc-sound-effects-library/>

The Digital Commonwealth <https://www.digitalcommonwealth.org/>

The Digital Public Library of America <https://dp.la/>

DPLA Guides <https://dp.la/guides>

DPLA -The Family Research Guide to DPLA

<https://dp.la/guides/the-family-research-guide-to-dpla>

Other Favorites and Research Guides:

HathiTrust <https://www.hathitrust.org/>

Wikipedia <https://www.wikipedia.org/>

Google Books <https://books.google.com/>

The Open Library <https://openlibrary.org/>

Boston Public Library Libguides <https://guides.bpl.org/>

Genealogy Libguide (BPL) <https://guides.bpl.org/genealogymain>

Newspapers at the BPL Libguide <https://guides.bpl.org/newspapers>

Thomas MacEntee “Cheat Sheets:”

“10 Ways to Use Internet Archive for Genealogy” <https://tinyurl.com/SheetIA2>

The Ancestor Hunt Quick Reference Guide:

“16 Places Where You Can Find Genealogy and Family History Books”
<https://tinyurl.com/AncestryHuntBooks>

Creative Commons Licenses <https://creativecommons.org/about/cclicenses/>

Blog post: “Newspaper Digitization at the Boston Public Library” (inc. update 20 May 2022)
<https://blog.digitalcommonwealth.org/?p=2905>

Blog post: “Introducing Massachusetts Newspapers on Chronicling America” (27 June 2023)

BPL newspapers on Digital Commonwealth: <https://tinyurl.com/BPLNewsDC>

BPL newspapers on Chronicling America: <https://tinyurl.com/BPLNewsLOC>

BPL version of My Heritage newspaper list



MH BPL
Newspapers ALPHA.

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<https://web.law.duke.edu/cspd/publicdomainday/2023/>

Leong, Loren. “Celebrating A Treasure Trove: The Public Domain.” *The TedxVienna Magazine*, 24 Mar 2022, <https://magazine.tedxvienna.at/2022/03/24/celebrating-a-treasure-trove-the-public-domain>. Accessed 18 Nov 2022.

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“Tom Blake; Movers & Shakers 2014: Tech Leaders.” *Library Journal*, 12 Mar 2014, <https://www.libraryjournal.com/story/tom-blake-movers-shakers-2014-tech-leaders>. Accessed 5 Nov 2022.

OUR DIGITAL TIMELINE

- 1996 - The Internet Archive (IA), “**Big Three #1**,” was founded by Brewster Kahle as a non-profit American digital library to archive the Internet with the stated mission of “universal access to all knowledge.”
- 2000 - The Internet Archive began archiving TV programs with an archive of TV news surrounding the events of September 11, 2001 as the first public TV project.
- 2001 - The Internet Archive of web content became available to the public through the Wayback Machine.

Wikipedia was launched by Jimmy Wales and Larry Sanger with the goal to “democratize knowledge.”

- 2004 - Google’s Publisher Program, originally known as Google Print, was first introduced at the Frankfurt Book Fair in October 2004. The Google Books Library Project, which scans works in the collections of library partners and adds them to the digital inventory, was announced in December 2004.
- 2005 - The Internet Archive began its program to digitize books. The Boston Public Library (BPL) entered the program by beginning to digitize materials in Special Collections, genealogy and published family history books in the Public Domain published before 1923.
- 2006 - The Digital Commonwealth (DC), “**Big Three #2**,” was founded by the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

- The Internet Archive sponsored the beginning of the Open Library project to loan digital books, including those still under copyright protection and including books for the print disabled through the DAISY digital talking book format.

- 2008 - HathiTrust was founded. (If I had a “Big Four” this would be #4.)

The BPL established a Digital Services Department and appointed Tom Blake as Digital Projects Manager, the Library's first major commitment to continuing a digitization program.

- 2010 - The Digital Commonwealth was “relaunched” by the BPL with funding from the Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners, awarding the BPL two successive LSTA grants. This technological and policy upgrade allowed the BPL to offer its digitization services to any institution within the state that was willing to freely share their collections. (Note: There are currently over 500 partners collectively contributing over one million items to this statewide project!)
- 2011 - By this year, genealogy books ranked as the most-used category of digitized books at the BPL.
- 2013-2014 From 100 institutions, 75,000 objects had been digitized and were soon to be harvested to the DC. In 2013, the DC became a line item in the state budget.
- 2013 - The Digital Public Library of America (DPLA), “**Big Three #3**,” was founded.
- 2019 - Sonny Bono Copyright Term Extension Act, also known as the Copyright Term Extension Act, paved the way for materials published in 1923 to enter the public domain in 2019, followed each year by release of the next years' materials on January 1, 2020 etc. This would become **Public Domain Day** each year!