



FREE KNOWLEDGE LIBRARY

PRESERVE. PROTECT. SHARE.

ALPHA

ALPHA PRESERVATION PROPOSAL

A Permanent Public Reading Room for Endangered Political Thought

Preserve the source. Protect the record. Share the context.

THE PROPOSAL

A seed-stage plan for building the Free Knowledge Library into a durable nonprofit archive: viewpoint-neutral preservation, AI-assisted ingestion, human review, and verifiable source integrity.

Prepared for early supporters and preservation partners

FREE KNOWLEDGE LIBRARY | 2026



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Inside This Proposal

DOCUMENT: ALPHA PRESERVATION PROPOSAL

BOOKPLATE

Prepared for early supporters, preservation partners, and readers who believe a free society should be able to inspect its own ideas without fear or favor.

STATUS: ALPHA

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Preserving a text is not the same as endorsing it.



A personal appeal for a permanent record

FROM NEAL GILLESPIE, FOUNDER

Dear Friend,

My name is Neal Gillespie, and I am writing to you as a passionate free speech absolutist who has spent the last several years supporting alternative education movements in the U.S.

Since 2019, I have devoted my career to a simple conviction: **ideas shape the world, no matter where they come from**. What people read, see, and hear influences how they understand reality, and how they understand reality determines how they act within it.

Over the years, I have seen how a single digital essay, or even a PDF pamphlet, can redirect the course of a student's life. I have also watched online influencers and ideologues quietly shape the thinking of policymakers, business leaders, and some of the most powerful people in the world. Those experiences have convinced me that the battle over ideas is ultimately the battle over the future.

That is why the problem I am about to describe keeps me up at night, and why I am writing to ask for your help.

Most of us assume that once something has been published on the internet, it will be there forever. The opposite is closer to the truth. The web is one of the most fragile archives humanity has ever built. Websites are abandoned, companies collapse, domains expire, and the instant a server is switched off, everything that lives on it can vanish without a trace.

This is not a worry invented by anxious activists. It has been measured carefully by some of the most respected research institutions in the world. The Pew Research Center found that nearly **40 percent** of the webpages that **existed in 2013** had disappeared **within a single decade**.

Researchers at Harvard examined the footnotes of the **United States Supreme Court opinions page**, and found that **roughly half of the links no longer led anywhere at all**. Consider what that really means. Even the most carefully documented rulings of the highest court in the country are slowly dissolving into dead ends. If the Supreme Court cannot keep its own citations alive, the rest of us have very little chance without a deliberate effort to save them.

Librarians have a quiet and unglamorous name for this phenomenon. They call it **link rot**, and it is erasing our shared history one broken link at a time. What makes it so dangerous is precisely that it is **invisible**. There is no dramatic book burning to rally against and no censor to name and shame. A text simply slips out of existence **while no one is paying attention**, and by the time someone finally goes looking for it, there is nothing left to find.

LETTER CONTINUES NEXT PAGE



If that sounds abstract, it becomes very concrete the moment you look at how often it has already happened to **material of real historical importance**. During the Syrian civil war, ordinary citizens and activists turned YouTube into a kind of ‘public evidence locker,’ uploading hundreds of thousands of videos that documented bombings, chemical attacks, and atrocities **as they were happening**. In 2017, YouTube rolled out an automated system meant to remove terrorist propaganda from its platform. The system could not tell the difference between propaganda and documentation, and within days it deleted more than 400,000 of those videos, **erasing evidence that human rights investigators had been relying on for future war crimes trials**. A small group of archivists rushed to recover what they could, but a great deal of it was gone for good.

Something very similar nearly befell one of the most consequential collections of documents of our lifetime. When Edward Snowden exposed the enormous scope of government mass surveillance, the archive of leaked material was entrusted to a major news organization to examine and report on. **In 2019, that organization chose to shut down access to the archive and let go of the team responsible for maintaining it.**

The most important intelligence leak of the century came within a hair of vanishing from public reach, and it survived only because a couple of journalists happened to have kept their own private copies. Preservation that depends on luck is not really preservation at all. Nor is this only a story about private institutions.

In 2025, federal agencies quietly pulled thousands of public web pages and datasets offline in a matter of weeks. Much of it was ordinary, essential information that doctors, researchers, and journalists had depended on for years, including public health and disease data, census and demographic research, and environmental records gathered over decades. **Administrations of both parties have done versions of this**, which is precisely why the **survival** of the **public record** cannot be **left to whoever happens to hold power**. There was no official plan to preserve any of it. Instead, a scattered army of volunteer librarians and university archivists raced the clock to copy and rehost whatever they could before it disappeared. They managed to save a great deal. They could not possibly save it all.

Notice the pattern running through every one of these stories. The material survived only because someone happened to catch it in time, and even then they usually **salvaged a fraction of what was lost**. Now ask yourself whose words tend to disappear first. It is almost never the bestselling books, because those are backed by publishers and rest safely on the shelves of thousands of libraries.

The writing that vanishes is the writing that only ever existed in one place, on one small website or one personal account. And that is exactly where the most influential political ideas of our time tend to live.

LETTER CONTINUES NEXT PAGE



Consider two figures who could not be more relevant. **Alexander Dugin** is a Russian political philosopher whose nationalist and imperial worldview has **profoundly shaped Vladimir Putin's thinking**, and by extension a war that has reshaped Europe.

Curtis Yarvin is an American writer whose provocative attacks on democracy have steadily gained a following among people who now hold genuine influence at **the highest levels of American government**.

Whatever you happen to think of either man, you simply cannot **understand the forces shaping our politics** without being able to read what they *actually* wrote. Not a screenshot passed around on social media, and not a hostile summary written by someone determined to discredit them, **but the real text**, preserved faithfully and available to anyone who wishes to judge it honestly for themselves.

This is the entire purpose of the Free Knowledge Library. We preserve political writing from across the whole ideological spectrum before it can disappear, whether it comes from the left or the right, and whether it is celebrated or despised. I have made a deliberate choice to preserve all of it, because I hold to an old and increasingly unfashionable belief that the honest way to defeat a bad idea is to understand it completely, and that you cannot meaningfully answer an argument you were never permitted to read.

Let me be very clear about what this does and does not mean, because the distinction is everything. Preserving a text is not the same as endorsing it. **The Library never tells you what to think.** It tells you what a document is, where it came from, and where to find the strongest arguments against it, and then it **trusts you to reach your own conclusions.**

People often ask me why any of this is necessary when the Internet Archive already exists, and it is a fair question that deserves a direct answer. Those large 'general-purpose' archives do genuinely valuable work, but they honor takedown requests, which means that **controversial** and **contested** material is usually the **first thing** to be removed. They are also a **single point of failure**, and at this very moment they are defending themselves in lawsuits that could shut them down entirely.

The oldest principle in the field of preservation holds that lots of copies keep knowledge safe (LOCKKS). A second independent library devoted to this mission is not a redundancy. It is an **insurance policy** against the day the safety net **finally tears.**

Now I want to tell you about the part of this project that excites me the most, because I believe it has the potential to **genuinely transform how the world preserves knowledge.** At the heart of the Library is an AI archival operator. You give it a link, a document, or a block of text, and it captures the original exactly as it is, down to the very last character. It then produces a clean and readable version so that anyone can actually engage with the material, while the untouched original remains safely preserved beside it. It organizes each record with accurate and purely factual information so that the work can be found and cited by researchers for generations, and a human archivist carefully, but promptly, reviews everything before it is ever published.

LETTER CONTINUES NEXT PAGE



For almost all of history, preservation of this kind demanded trained specialists and well funded institutions. This tool places that same power directly into the hands of an ordinary reader, who can now rescue an endangered text in a matter of minutes. I am convinced that this represents a **new model** for digital preservation, one that will revolutionize the practice of archiving itself, and no one is building anything like it for the world of **political thought**.

There is one promise I have to make good on above all others, so let me address it head on. How can you be certain that we are not quietly altering these texts to suit our own preferences? The answer is that you never have to take our word for it. **Every document in the Library carries a cryptographic fingerprint**, generated by the same family of technology that secures Bitcoin. If even a single character of a text were changed, that fingerprint would change completely and unmistakably. This means that anyone, anywhere, at any point in the future, can verify for themselves that the version they are reading is precisely the original we preserved. You do not have to trust me, because you can prove it. For a library devoted to preserving **dangerous** and **disputed** ideas with **total honesty**, that guarantee is the foundation on which everything else rests.

The Free Knowledge Library is already live, but it is young, and for now it runs on little more than the conviction of a very small team. I am raising a seed round of **\$20,000** to give it a lasting foundation. That support will pay for secure and redundant storage, so that nothing we save can ever be lost a second time. It will strengthen the AI operator that makes the whole project possible. It will sustain the human archivists who keep every record accurate and lawful. And it will allow us to establish a proper nonprofit, so that we can accept your generosity and account for every dollar of it transparently over the long term.

I will not pretend that my ambition is a modest one. I want to build the **largest and most complete record of political thought anywhere in the world**.

I want the Free Knowledge Library to become the institution that a free society trusts to remember its own ideas, all of them, without fear and without favor. I am not asking you to fund a website. **I am asking you to help me build the place that will remember precisely what everyone else allows to disappear.**

If this mission moves you even a fraction as much as it moves me, it would be a true honor to have you standing beside us at the very beginning.

With deep gratitude and conviction,

Neal Gillespie

Founder, Free Knowledge Library

PROPOSAL CONTINUES NEXT PAGE



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FREE SPEECH LIBRARY

The Ideas the Internet Is Deleting

Preserve. Protect. Share.

Ideas are disappearing from human history

Quietly, permanently, right now.

THE WEB IS NOT PERMANENT

Not censored in the loud way. Erased in the silent way: one dead link, one expired domain, one deleted account at a time - until no one alive can find the original text anymore. And almost no one is stopping it.

38%

of webpages that existed in 2013 were gone by 2023; a quarter of the last decade's web has vanished.

PEW RESEARCH CENTER, 2024

~ 50%

Roughly half of U.S. Supreme Court opinion links no longer work; over 70% in Harvard Law Review are dead.

HARVARD LAW REVIEW, 2014

1 in 5

One in five scholarly articles already suffers reference rot: dead links or content that silently changed.

PLOS ONE, 2014

WHAT FREE KNOWLEDGE LIBRARY PRESERVES

We are a digital library that preserves political writing from across the entire spectrum - right, left, libertarian, authoritarian - before it disappears. We keep the source text itself, not the screenshot or rumor, so readers can always return to what was actually written.

Preservation is not agreement. Classification is not censorship. Access is the starting point.

Sources: Pew Research Center, "When Online Content Disappears" (2024); Zittrain, Albert & Lessig, "Perma," Harvard Law Review (2014); Klein et al., "Scholarly Context Not Found," PLOS ONE (2014).



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THIS ALREADY HAPPENED

Survival Cannot Be Left to Luck

Deleted at scale. Preserved only when someone caught it.

The pattern is already visible

Significant material gets deleted at scale, and it survives only if someone happened to archive it in time - usually saving just a fraction.

SYRIA, 2017

400,000 videos gone in days

An automated YouTube filter meant to purge extremist propaganda also erased activist channels documenting the war itself - footage of chemical attacks and atrocities that human-rights lawyers considered potential war-crimes evidence.

NSA LEAKS, 2019

One budget decision from darkness

The organization holding Edward Snowden's archive shut down access and laid off the team maintaining it. The trove survived because journalists kept private copies: redundancy by luck, not design.

WASHINGTON, 2025

Thousands of records pulled offline

Federal agencies removed datasets and pages from public view. Librarians launched emergency rescues. Governments of every party do this, so the record cannot live in government hands alone.

WHY POLITICAL IDEAS ARE UNIQUELY FRAGILE

Public life is increasingly shaped by writers and theorists who exist almost entirely online - figures like Alexander Dugin and Curtis Yarvin, whose ideas reach the highest levels of government. A mainstream book has publishers, libraries, and a thousand copies. A movement's founding essay often lives on one blog, on one server, one deleted account away from oblivion.



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WHAT FKL IS

A Specialized Archive for Political Thought

Viewpoint-neutral preservation for the unstable web.

A permanent public reading room

Free Knowledge Library is built on a principle older than the internet: the answer to ideas you fear is not to erase them, but to understand them. We preserve the full spectrum of political thought so anyone can read it, cite it, and judge it for themselves.

The Library does not tell you what to think. It tells you what the text is, where it came from, and where to find the argument about it.

DOESN'T THE INTERNET ARCHIVE ALREADY DO THIS?

- [] General-purpose archives are strongest on the ordinary middle of the web.
- [] They honor takedown requests, so contested political texts are often the first to vanish.
- [] They are a single point of failure. LOCKSS means lots of copies keep stuff safe.

VERIFY US, DON'T TRUST US

Every preserved text carries a cryptographic fingerprint: SHA-256, the same family of technology used by Bitcoin and software downloads. Anyone can confirm the copy is the exact, unaltered original we preserved. Change one character and the fingerprint shatters. You can verify us.

THE NICHE

A second, independent, specialized library is not redundancy. It is resilience. FKL exists for the material the general safety net is designed to drop: controversial, single-copy, actively targeted political texts no one else will save.



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HOW IT WORKS

The Archival Operator

AI cataloging, human review, original integrity.

From fragile source to durable record

The engine of the Library is a guided workflow that turns a fragile link, PDF, or pasted text into a permanent preservation record - and makes anyone, not just professional archivists, a preservation partner.

01 COLLECT

A contributor submits a URL, PDF, document, or raw text.

02 CAPTURE

The original is preserved bit-for-bit and fingerprinted with SHA-256. This canonical copy is never altered.

03 EXTRACT

A separate, clearly labeled reading copy is generated with clean headers and structure. The original remains untouched beside it.

04 DESCRIBE

Transparent factual metadata: title, author, date, source, movement, and shelf. No opinions. No verdicts.

05 REVIEW

A human archivist checks every record before publication and applies the legal exclusion line.

06 PUBLISH

The record becomes searchable, citable, and built to survive with a visible source trail and links to existing debate.

LIBRARY VALUES, IN PRACTICE

- [] No paywalls. No hidden context. No quiet edits.
- [] Aligned with enduring public-library values of access, intellectual freedom, and preservation.
- [] Everyday readers become preservation partners, not passive consumers.



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THE ASK

Build the Institution Before the Next Erasure

Alpha now. Nonprofit infrastructure next.

The Free Knowledge Library is live today in Alpha

It works. What it needs now is the foundation to become permanent: durable infrastructure and a nonprofit home capable of stewarding this record for the long term. We are raising a seed round of \$20,000 to cross that line.

WHAT YOUR SUPPORT BUILDS

- [] Secure, redundant preservation storage: LOCKSS in practice.
- [] Hardening the Archival Operator for messy links, PDFs, and malformed pages.
- [] 501(c)(3) formation: governance, compliance, and donor systems.
- [] Archivist review to keep each published record trustworthy and lawful.

THE ROAD AHEAD

- [] Alpha now: stabilize the operator and archive workflow.
- [] Next: build nonprofit infrastructure, governance, and donor systems.
- [] Then: grow a verified, cross-ideological record of contemporary political thought.
- [] Long term: set a new standard for how a free society remembers its own ideas.

WHY NOW

Every year we wait, more of the record disappears for good. The texts that explain the future are often the easiest to delete in the present: inconvenient, obscure, unpopular, or stored on a site no institution thought to save.

Help us preserve the source, keep the record honest, and make sure no idea is erased simply because it was inconvenient, obscure, or unpopular.

Preserve. Protect. Share.

Reference framing: Pew Research Center (2024); Harvard Law Review (2014); PLOS ONE (2014); reporting on the 2017 YouTube/Syria deletions, the 2019 Snowden archive shutdown, and the 2025 federal data removals. FKL is not affiliated with the American Library Association.



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SUPPORT PRESERVATION

Three Ways to Give

Help turn the promise into a permanent institution.

Your support builds the Library

Your support is what turns the Free Knowledge Library from a promise into a permanent institution. Give online by scanning the code, use PayPal, or contribute by mail.

Preserve endangered sources. Strengthen the tools. Build the nonprofit foundation.

GIVE ONLINE

freeknowledge.net/donate

Make a one-time gift or set up a monthly contribution by card. It takes only a few minutes, and no account is required.

Prefer PayPal? **freeknowledge.net/paypal**

SCAN TO SUPPORT PRESERVATION



GIVE BY MAIL

Prefer to send a check?

Please make it payable to Neal Gillespie and write "For Free Knowledge Library" in the memo line.

After mailing a check, please email us so we can watch for it and confirm safe receipt.

MAIL TO

Free Knowledge Library
c/o Neal Gillespie
12800 Turtle Rock Road,
Unit 15204
Austin, TX 78729

EVERY GIFT GOES DIRECTLY TOWARD:

Secure preservation storage, archival tools, and establishing the Library as a formal nonprofit foundation.

CONTACT THE LIBRARY

Questions or donor coordination:

freeknowledgelibrary@proton.me

**Link Rot**

When web pages and links become permanently inaccessible over time - sites go offline, domains expire, or content is quietly removed. The core problem this Library exists to fight.

Content Drift

When a URL still loads but its content has silently changed, so a citation no longer reflects what was originally referenced.

Reference Rot

The combined effect of link rot and content drift on the sources a work depends on.

LOCKSS

Lots Of Copies Keep Stuff Safe - the preservation principle that many independent copies protect against loss.

Fixity / Checksum

A cryptographic fingerprint, such as SHA-256, that proves a preserved file has not been altered since it was captured.

Provenance

The documented origin and chain of custody of an archived item: where it came from and when it was captured.

Dark Archive

A preserved copy kept privately for integrity and backup, not shown publicly, until rights or circumstances allow access.

Primary Source

An original document or firsthand record, as opposed to later commentary or interpretation about it.

Viewpoint-Neutral

Preserving material from across the ideological spectrum without endorsing any of it. Preservation is not agreement.

Accession

The formal process by which an item is taken into the archive's permanent collection and given a record.



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REFERENCE

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Help Build the Place That Remembers

Not a website. A public memory institution.

THE CLOSING PROMISE

The Free Knowledge Library exists to preserve the full range of political thought, regardless of affiliation, background, movement, or popularity, so future readers can return to the original words and judge every idea in context.

Keep knowledge accessible. Keep it free. Keep it forever.

NEAL GILLESPIE

Founder, Free Knowledge Library



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