

## **Archive on the Moon**

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This paper continues to develop and advocate the idea of establishing a lunar archive of civilization's knowledge and wisdom.

Putting copies of important data in a safe place is a well-established concept on Earth. Providing long-term protection by means of storage in the Moon's cold, constant subsurface environment is clearly technically feasible, but any plan for doing so raises interesting questions, both technical and social.

For example, how can we assure that the stored data may be reliably recovered after a worldwide disaster on Earth? Who decides which information should be stored and with what priority? Apart from its disaster-recovery function, how can a lunar archive best serve the future information needs of a lunar settlement?

These questions have been examined in a preliminary way for several years. The purpose of this paper is to give them wider exposure and to energize discussion of practical next steps toward creating an evolving, expanding store of humanity's vital information on the Moon.