

→ **Fast Facts**

→ **Vanishing archives**

The Information Security Oversight Office of the U.S. National Archives and Records Administration performed an audit of all re-review efforts undertaken since 1995 by various government agencies. The audit found that of more than 25,000 historical documents withdrawn from public access, more than a third did not contain sensitive information justifying their classification. In a significant number of cases, agencies reclassified records that had been previously declassified properly. The Air Force accounted for 17,702 of the 25,315 documents withdrawn from public access.

"Audit of the Withdrawal of Records from Public Access at the National Archives and Records Administration for Classification Purposes," The U.S. National Archives and Records Administration, April 26, 2006. www.archives.gov/isoo/reports/2006-audit-report.html. May 1, 2006

→ **U.S. book production**

Book output in the United States in 2005 decreased by more than 18,000 to 172,000 new titles and editions. This is the first decline in U.S. title output since 1999, and only the tenth downturn recorded in the last 50 years. This decline follows immediately on the heels of the record increase of more than 19,000 new books in 2004. Great Britain, long the world's per capita leader in the publication of new books in any language, now replaces the United States as the publisher of most new books in English. 206,000 new books were published in the U.K. in 2005, representing an increase of some 45,000 (28%) over 2004.

Bowker, "U.S. Book Production Plummetts 18K in 2005; Smaller Publishers Show the Largest Drop in New Titles," May 9, 2006, www.bowker.com/press/bowker/2006_0509_bowker.htm. May 9, 2006.

→ **Digital technology and the printed book**

According to a recent article in the *New York Times*, from the days of Sumerian clay tablets till now, humans have published at least 32 million books, 750 million articles and essays, 25 million songs, 500 million images, 500,000 movies, 3 million videos, TV shows and short films and 100 billion public Web pages. All this material is currently contained in all the libraries and archives of the world. When fully digitized, the whole lot could be compressed (at current technological rates) onto 50 petabyte hard disks. Today you need a building about the size of a small-town library to house 50 petabytes. With tomorrow's technology, it will all fit onto your iPod.

Kevin Kelly, "Scan This Book!" *New York Times*, May 14, 2006, www.nytimes.com/2006/05/14/magazine/14publishing.html. May 14, 2006

→ **Google Co-op**

Google Co-op is a community-based search results refinement tool. It allows users to get personalized search results based on subscriptions to various content providers. The content providers contribute labels and subscribed links that users can add to their Google search results. This is Google's entry into the social bookmarking and tagging arena pioneered by other Web sites such, as del.icio.us. It is currently only in its beginning stages.

"Google Co-op," www.google.com/coop. May 11, 2006

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