The Digital Future of the Past and Present

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Outline

- Preserving the past
- Traditional vs. digital preservation
- The dilemma of modern media
- Challenges
- The way forward

Preserving the Past

The Dempsey Paradox

The Internet has reversed information seeking from:

- Time rich / information poor
- Information rich / time poor

Source: http://library.web.cern.ch/library/ailis/pdf/lst09law.pdf

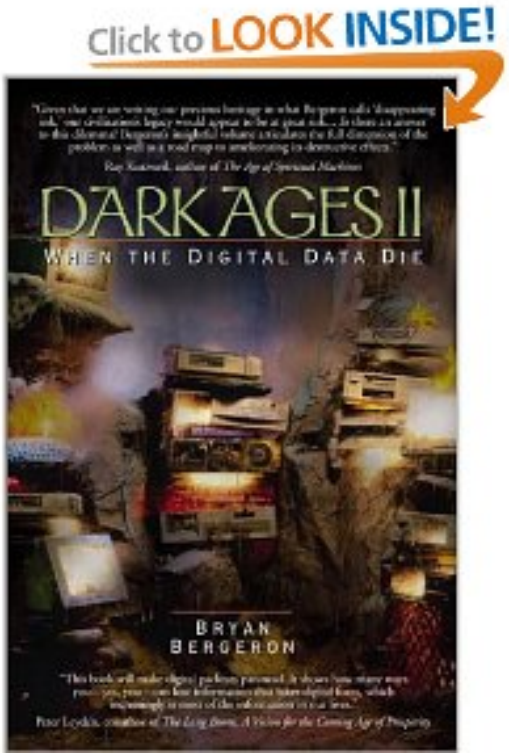
The New Trend . . .

"What is not online, does not exist !”

Preserving Digital Heritage

- As a society we are “becoming increasingly dependent on digital artifacts to represent our cultural and artistic heritage”.
- Yet, as Jeff Rothenberg puts it, “Digital documents last forever – or five years, whichever comes first”.

Digital Dark Ages



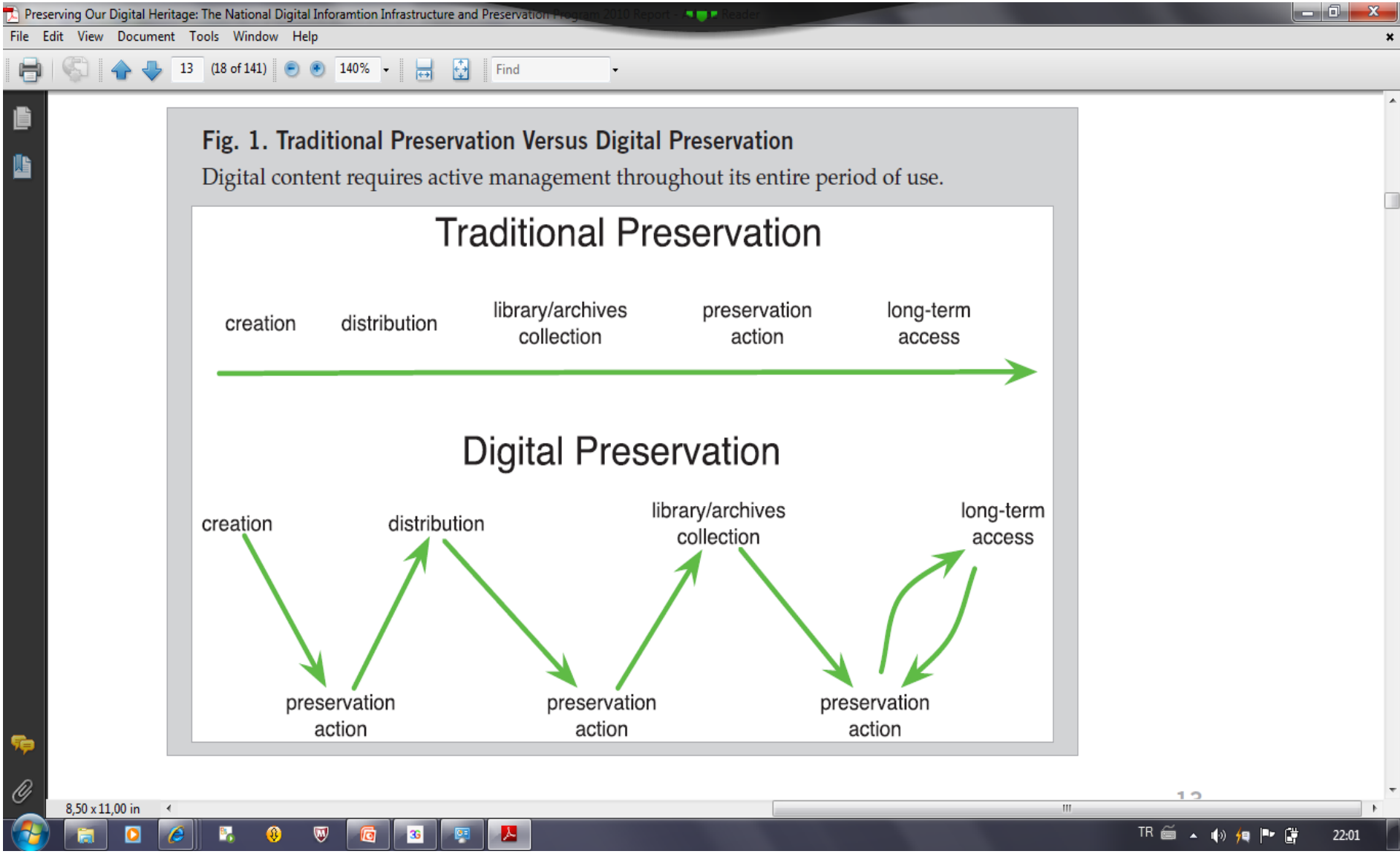
"Though we have developed traditions of which organizations . . . should take responsibility for preserving . . . analog material . . . , no such traditions exist yet for digital material. As a result of this, much current material originating in digital form falls through the cracks, and is unlikely to be accessible to future generations." (Besser, 2001)

“Preservation through Neglect”

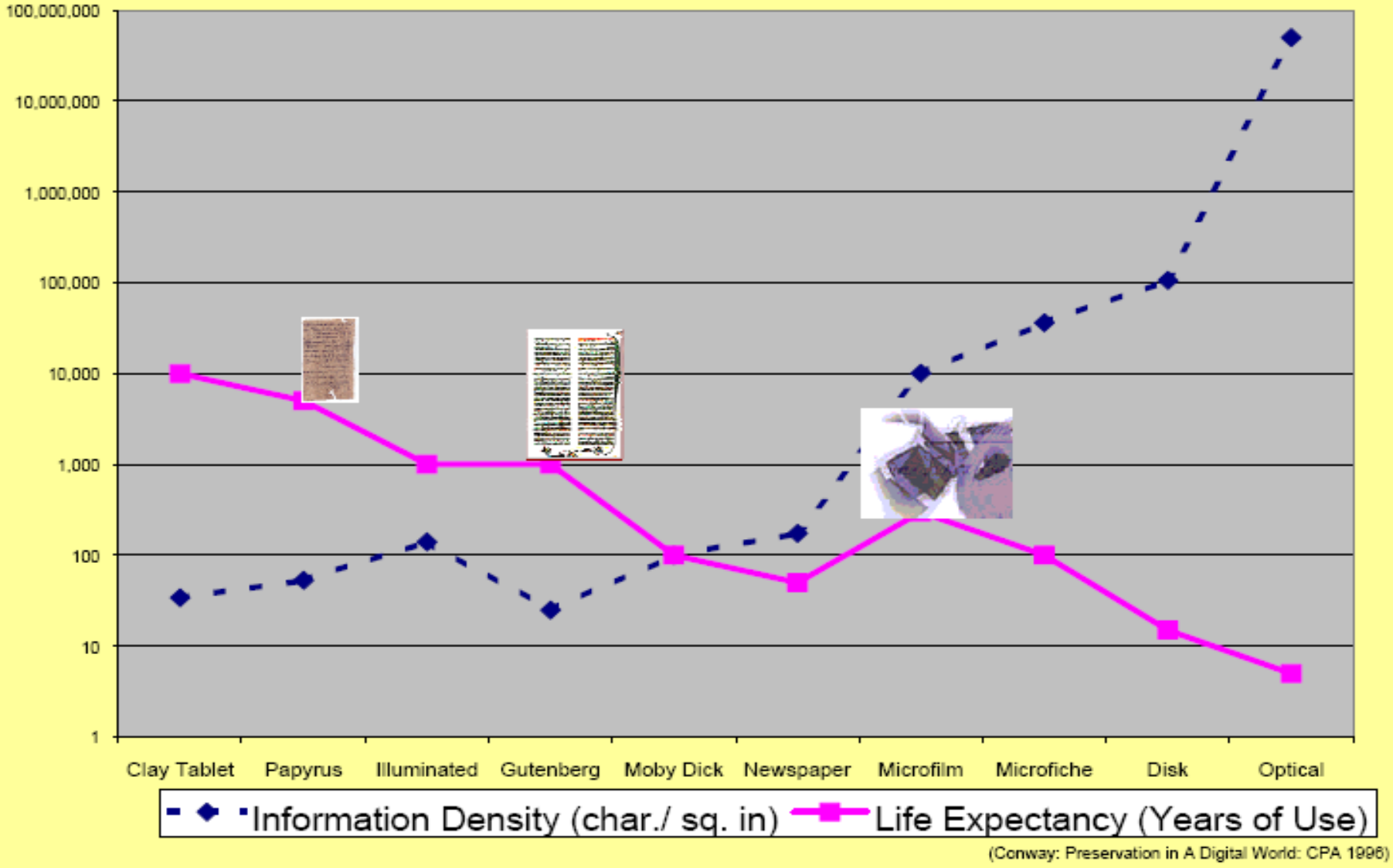
- “archivists have often operated on the principle of "preservation through neglect," which has meant that materials that lasted fifty or one hundred years found their way into an archive, library, or museum. The difference with digital data is that it appears that if we wait twenty-five years, it may be too late--we could have nothing rather than, say, 10 percent of the data.”

http://www.historycooperative.org/phorum/read.php?14,373,388#msg-388

Traditional vs. Digital Preservation



The Dilemma of Modern Media



(Conway: Preservation in A Digital World: CPA 1996)

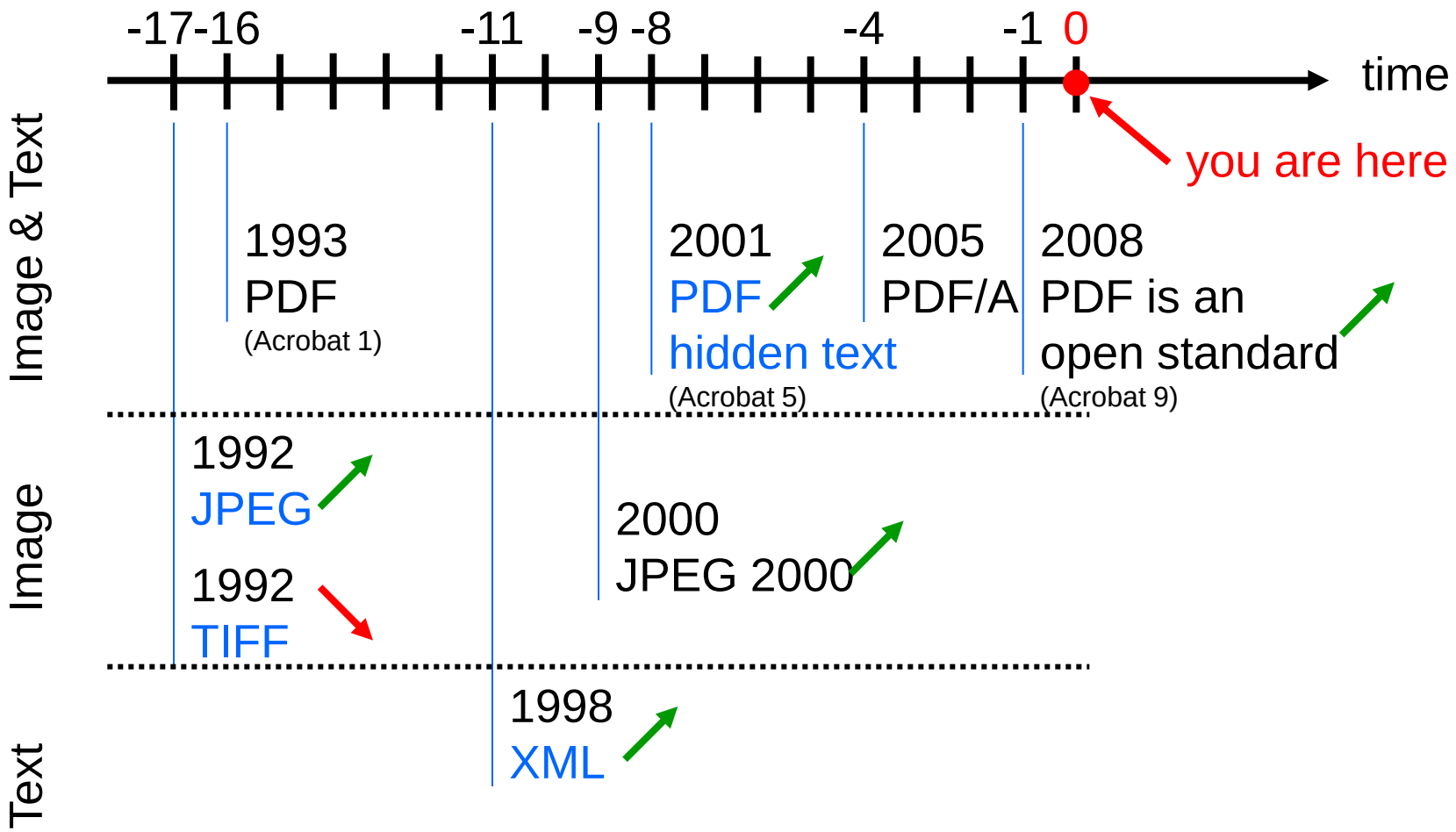
- "'Our capacity to record information has increased exponentially over time while the longevity of the media used to store the information has decreased equivalently.'[2] Archivists and librarians always had to contend with various frailties of the material in their care. Papyrus and paper, parchment and film, are all vulnerable to the ravages of time, and precious information can be lost to decay and destruction."

Source: http://www.historians.org/Perspectives/issues/1998/9804/9804FIL2.CFM

Challenges of Obsolescence

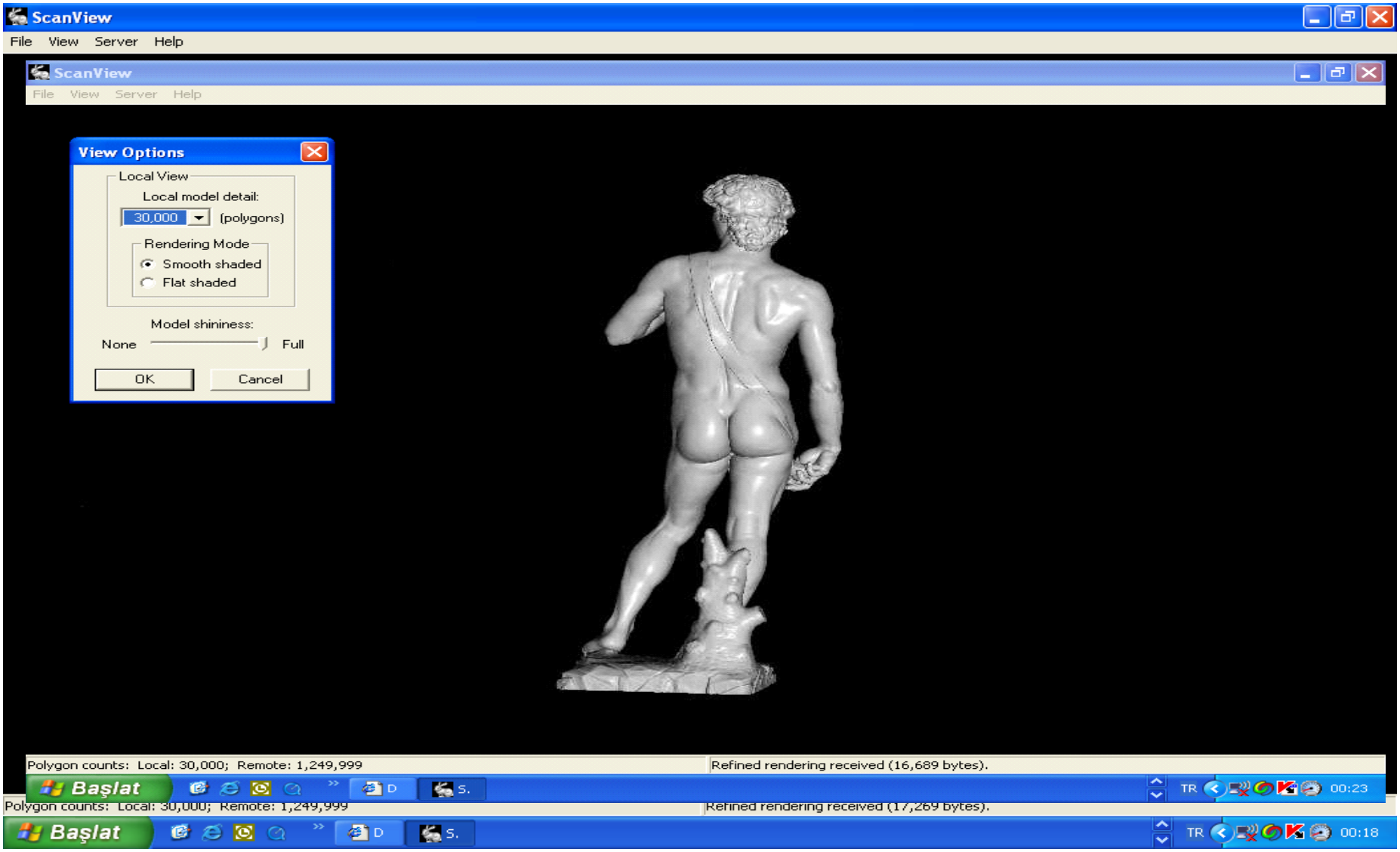
- Hardware
- Software

Challenges of File Formats



Source: Ivo Iossiger , Which formats will survive ? - The most popular and widely spread

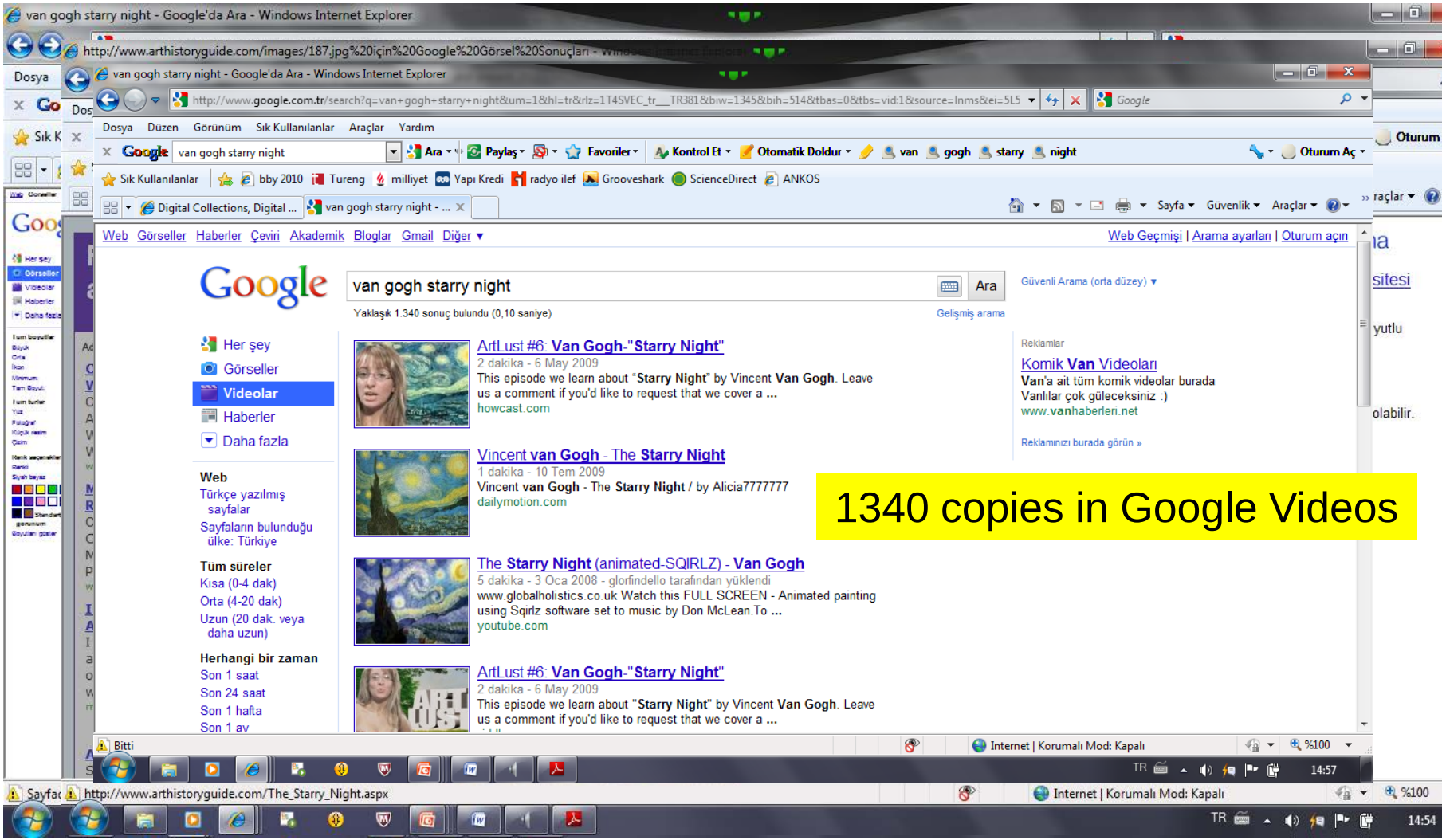
The 3D Digital Michelangelo Project



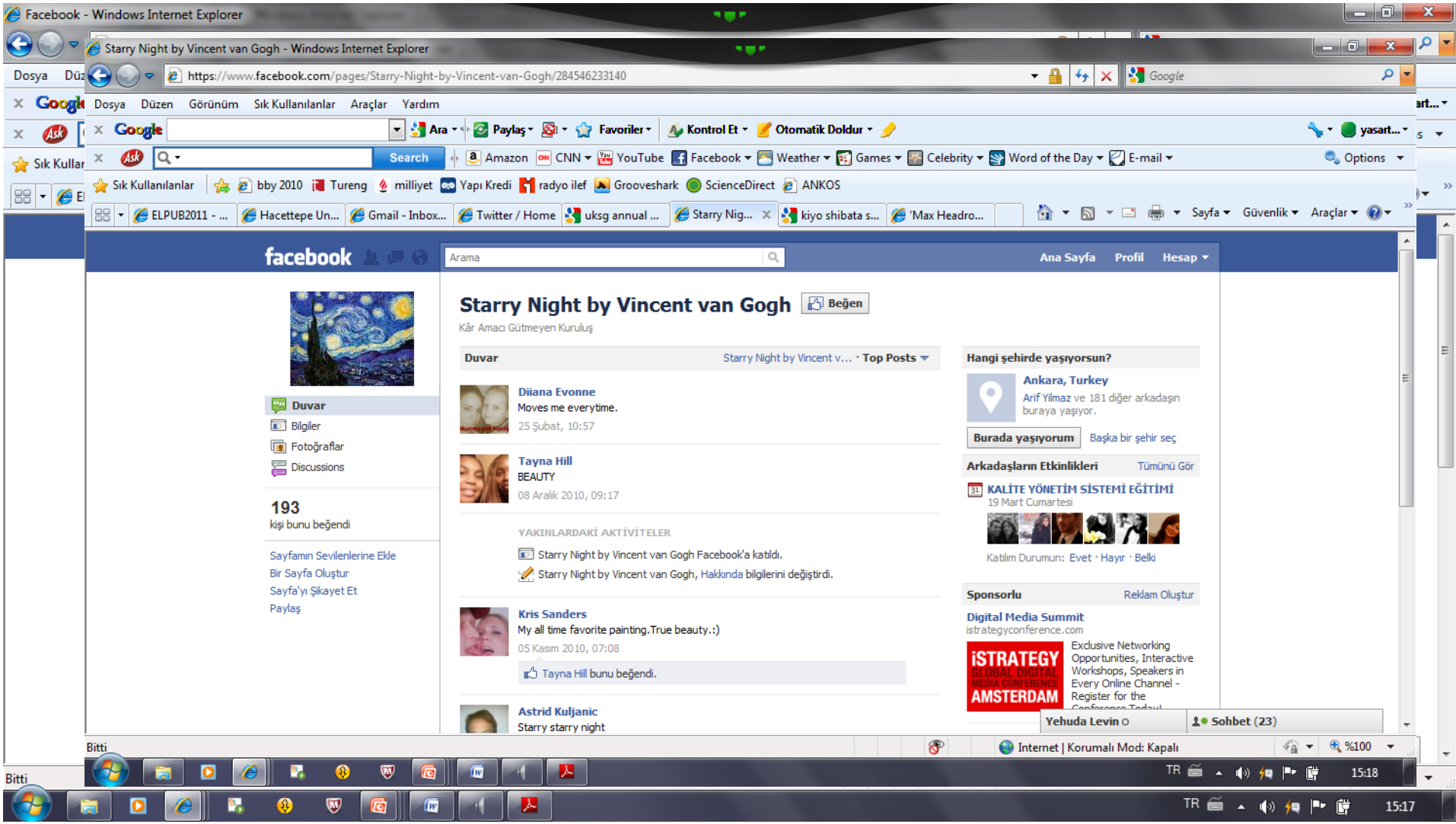
Preserving Personalized Digital Objects

Vincent Van Gogh's *Starry Night*

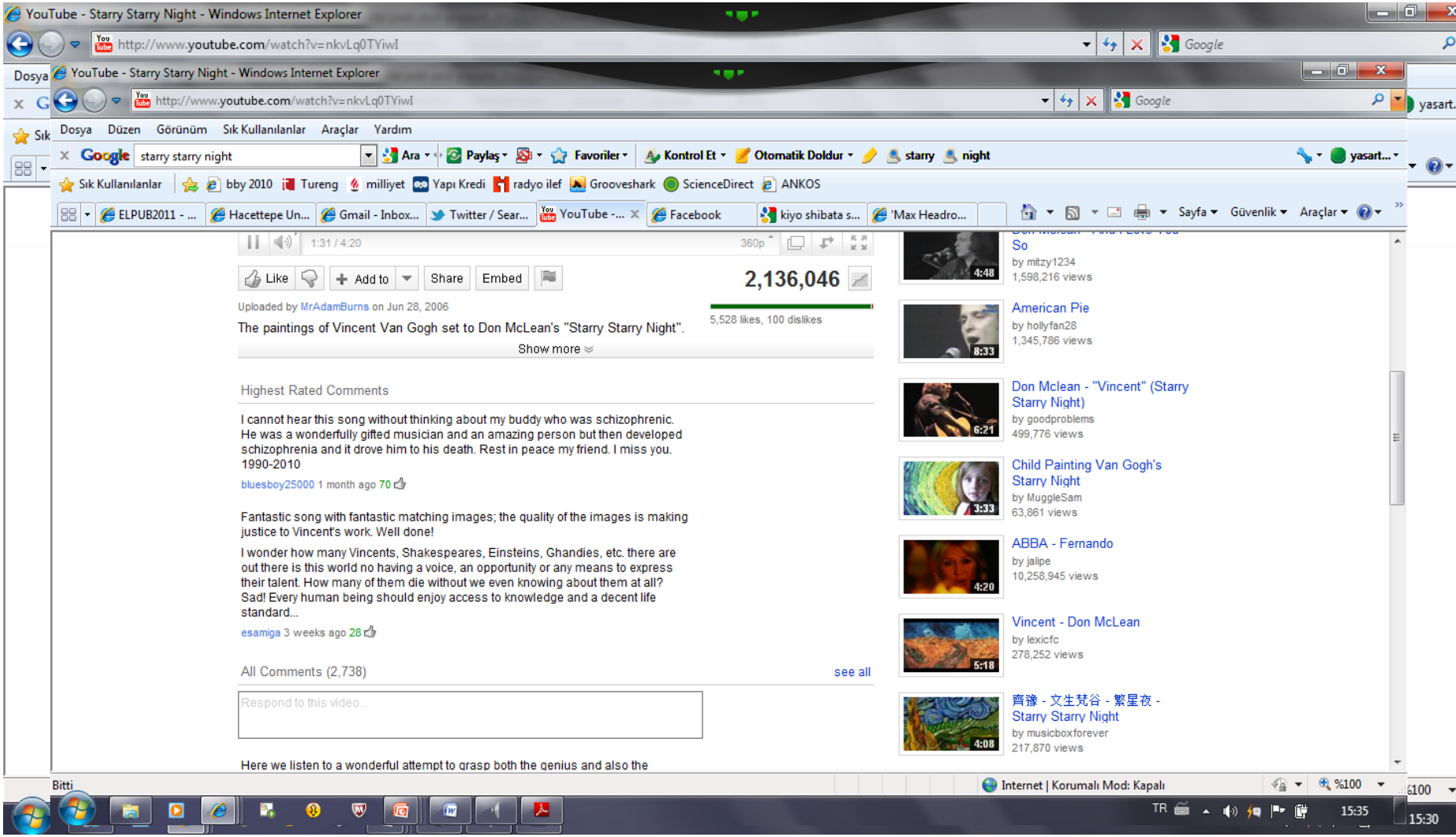
Starry Night on Google



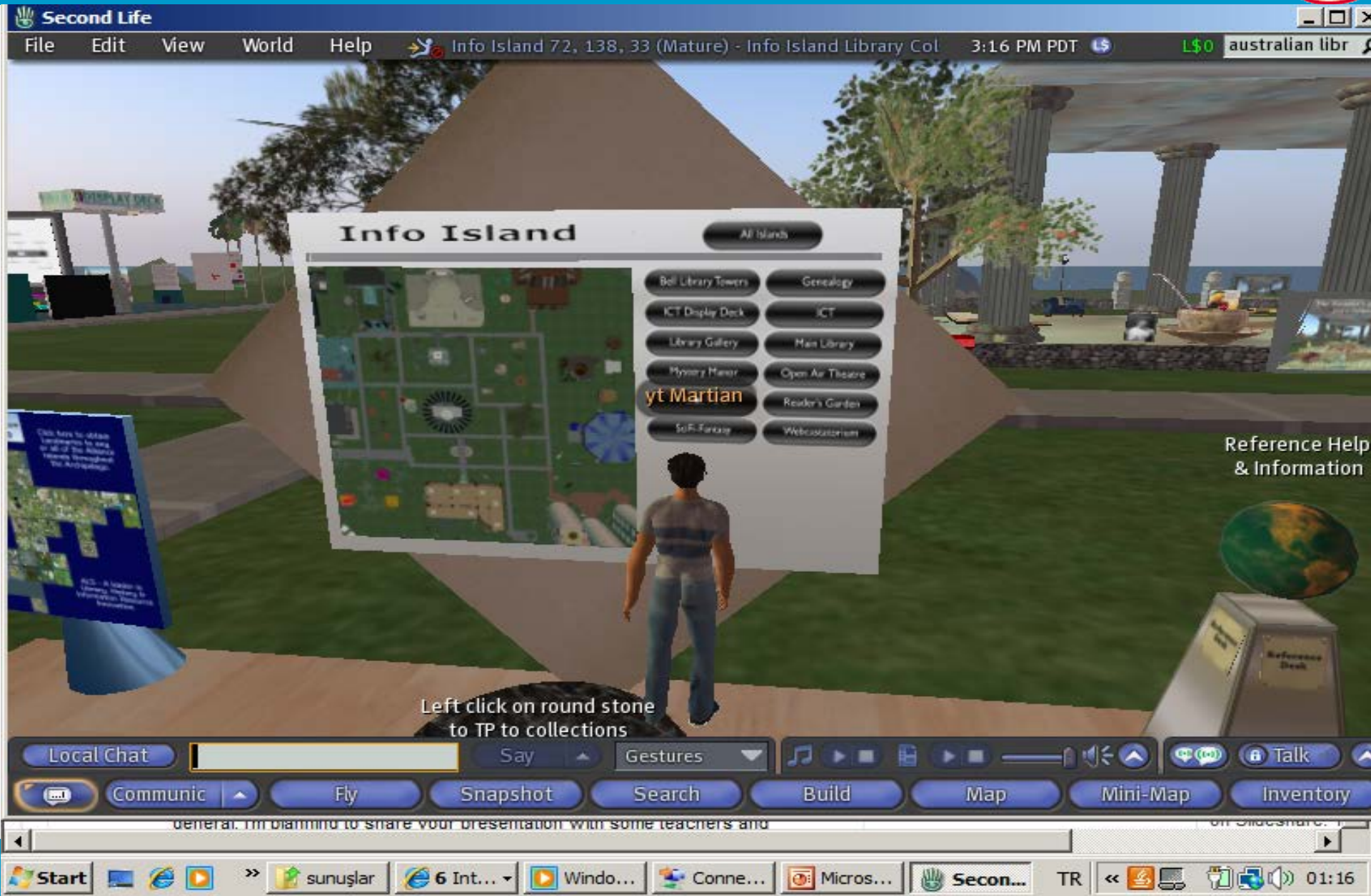
Starry Night on Facebook



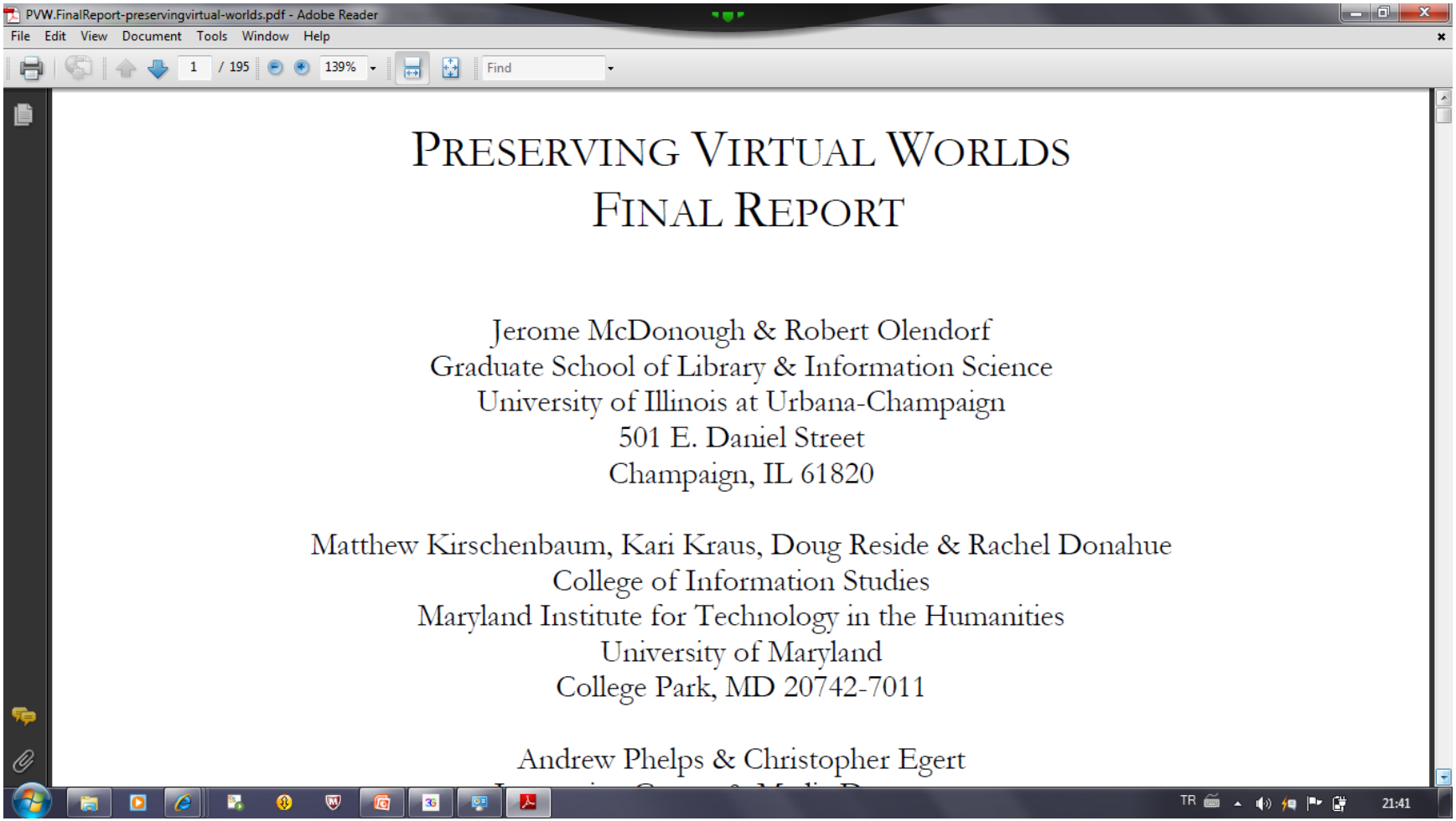
Starry Starry Night on YouTube



Second Life “Info Island”



Preserving Virtual Worlds



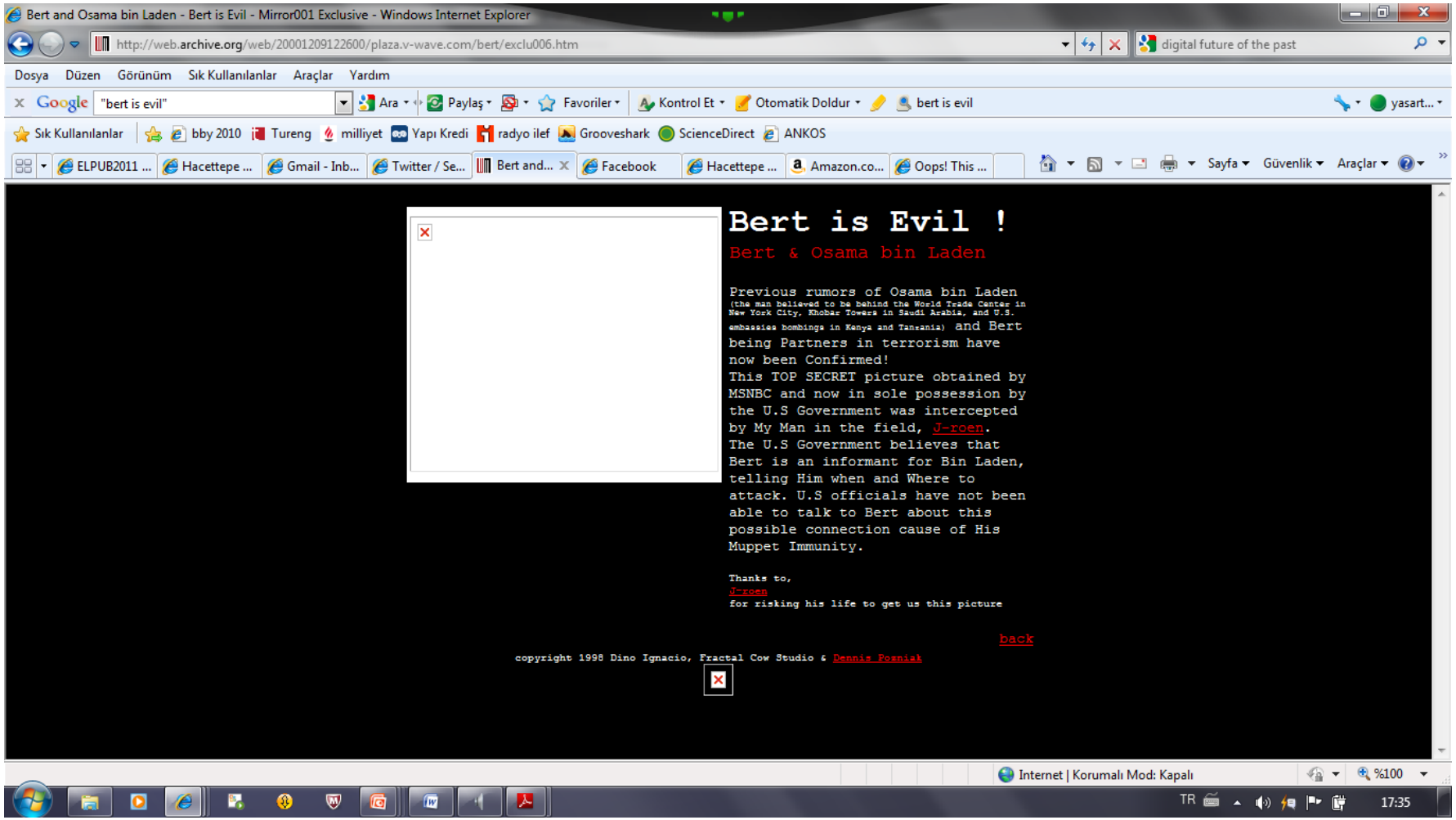
Not Just Technical Difficulties . . .

- “While these technical difficulties are immense, the social, economic, legal, and organizational problems are worse. Digital documents—precisely because they are in a new medium—have disrupted long-evolved systems of trust and authenticity, ownership, and preservation. Reestablishing those systems or inventing new ones is more difficult than coming up with a long-lived storage mechanism.”

Source: Rosenzweig, 2011

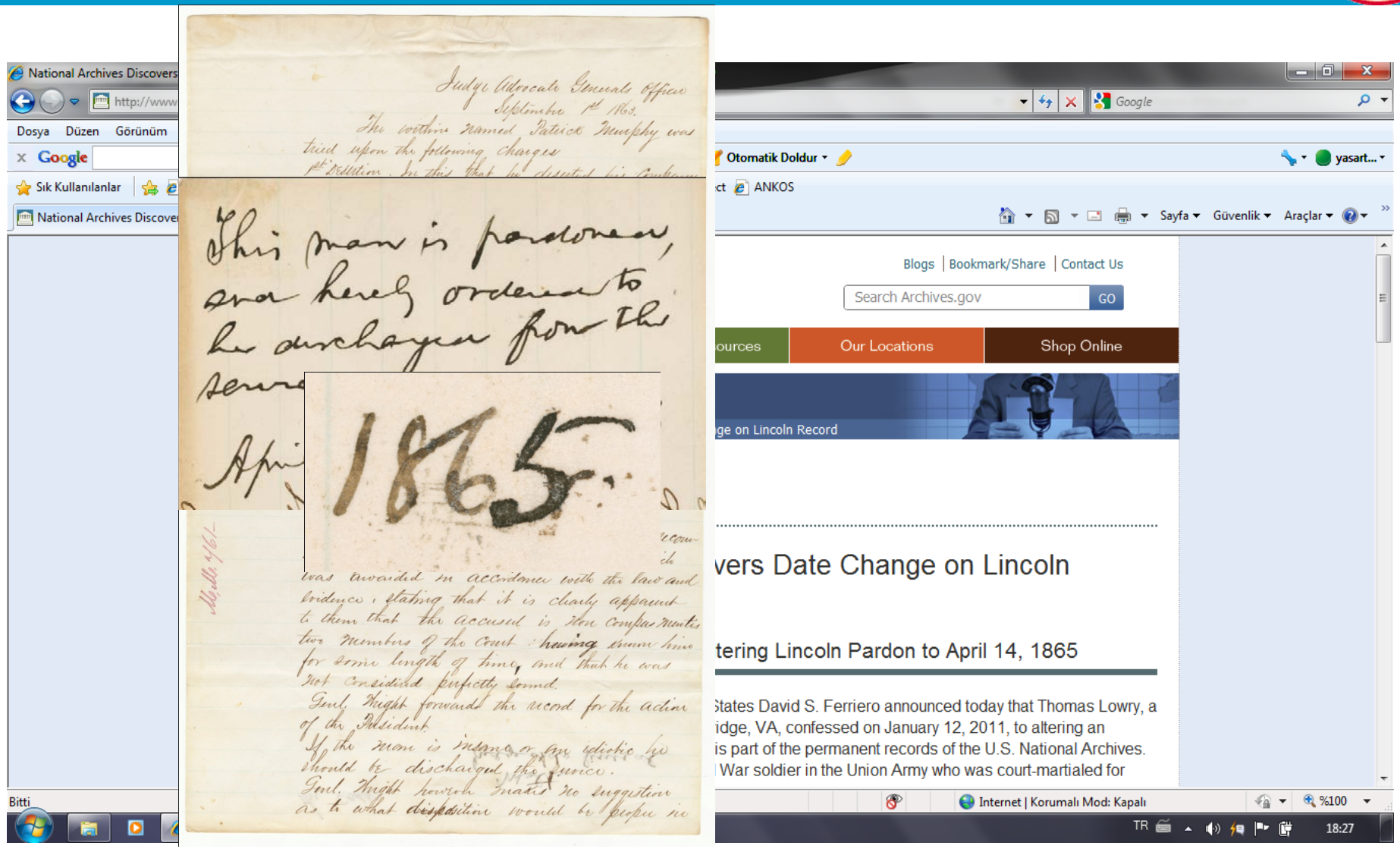
The Future of the Past in the Digital Age

“Bert is Evil!” is gone!

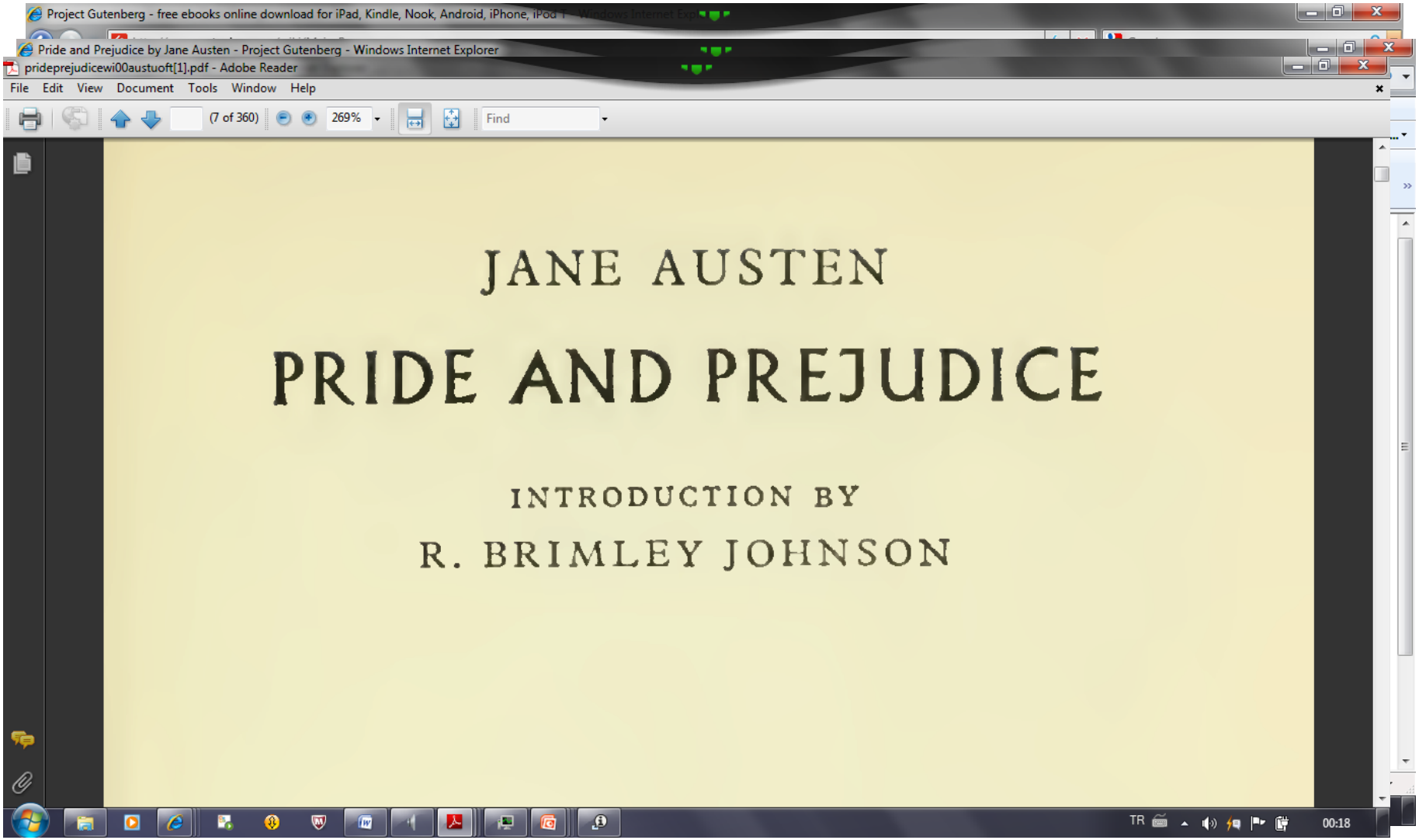


- “Not only are ephemera like Bert and government records made vulnerable by digitization but so are traditional works – books, journals and film– that are increasingly being born digitally. As yet, no one has figured out how to ensure that the digital present will be available to the future’s historians.” (Rosenzweig, 2011, p. 5).

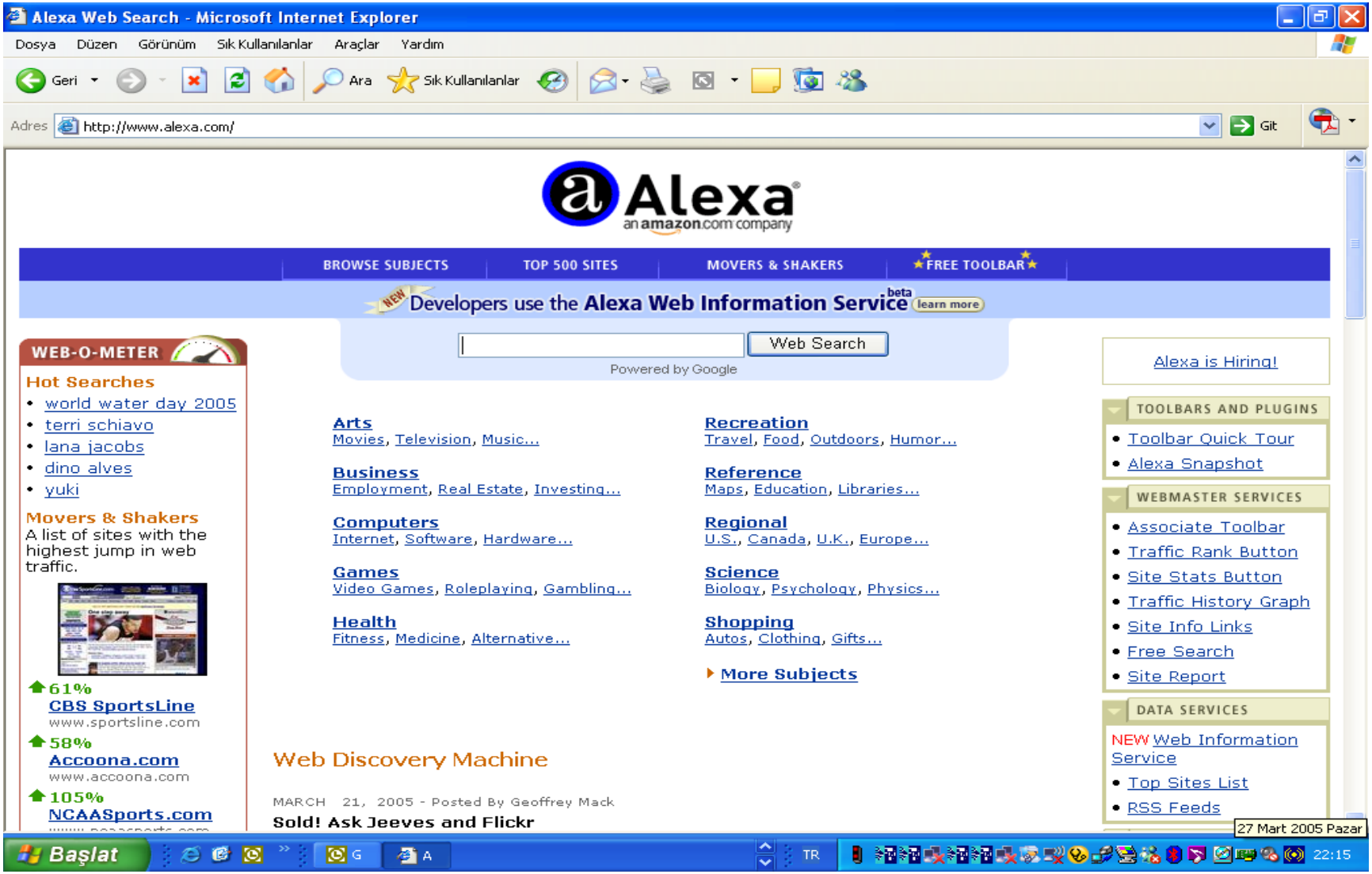
Tampering with the Originals



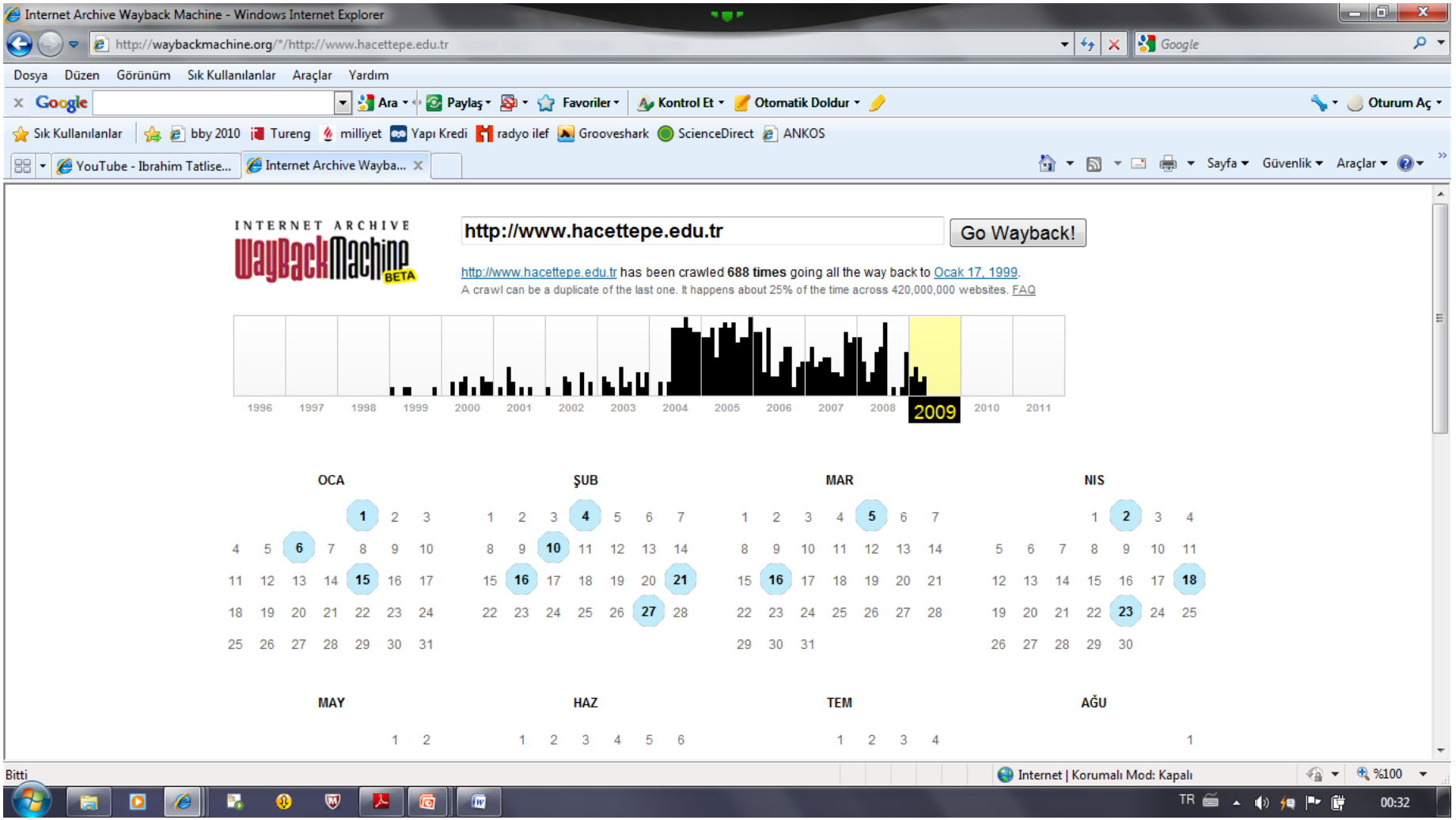
Current Digitization Initiatives



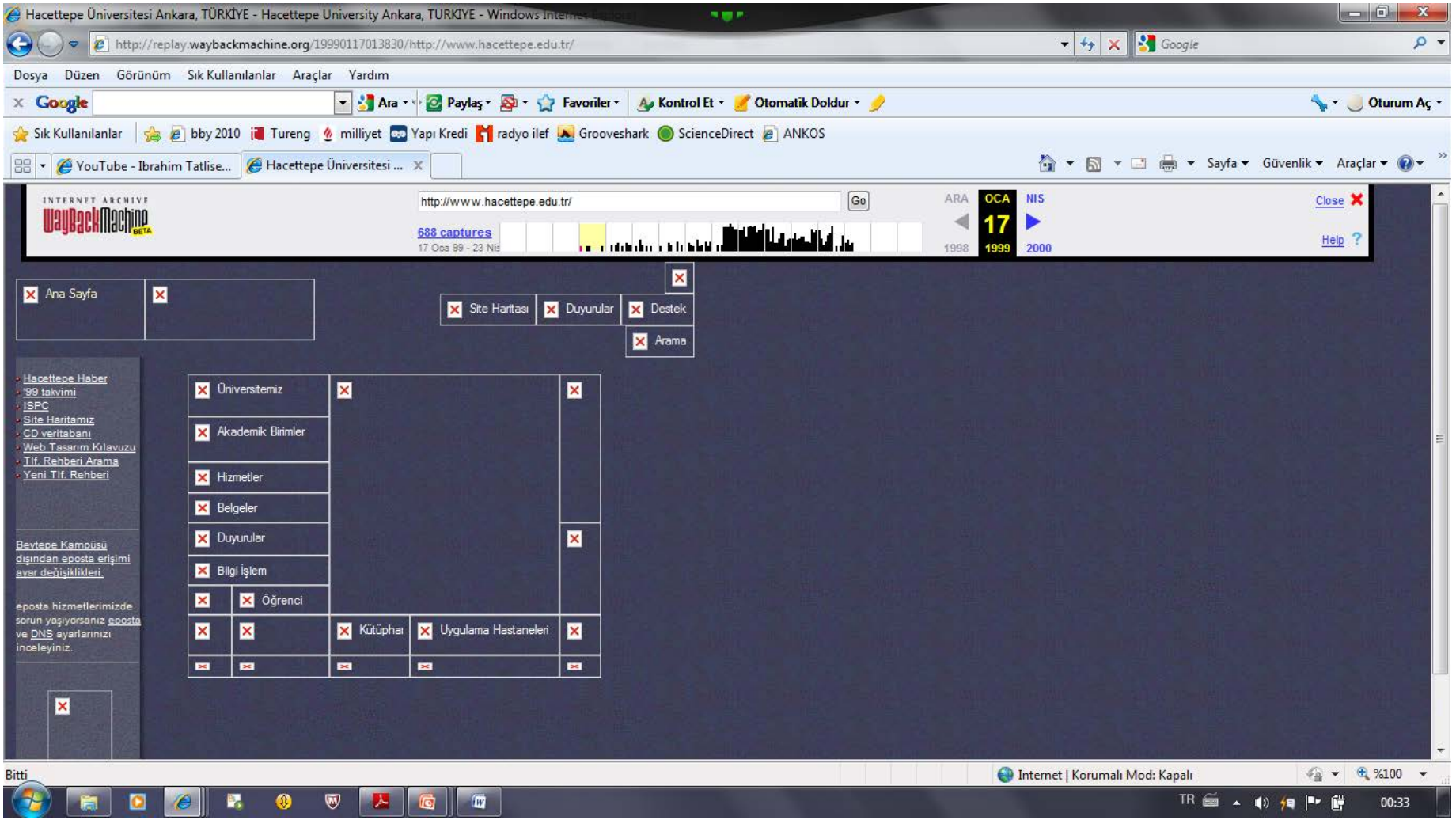
Alexa


Alexa Web Search - Microsoft Internet Explorer
Dosya Düzen Görünüm Sık Kullanılanlar Araçlar Yardım
Geri Ara Sık Kullanılanlar
Adres http://www.alexa.com/
Git
Alexa
an amazon.com company
BROWSE SUBJECTS
TOP 500 SITES
MOVERS & SHAKERS
FREE TOOLBAR
Developers use the Alexa Web Information Service beta learn more
Web Search
Powered by Google
WEB-O-METER
Hot Searches
world water day 2005
terri schiavo
lana jacobs
dino alves
yuki
Movers & Shakers
A list of sites with the highest jump in web traffic.
61%
CBS SportsLine
www.sportsline.com
58%
Accoona.com
www.accoona.com
105%
NCAASports.com
Arts
Movies, Television, Music...
Business
Employment, Real Estate, Investing...
Computers
Internet, Software, Hardware...
Games
Video Games, Roleplaying, Gambling...
Health
Fitness, Medicine, Alternative...
Recreation
Travel, Food, Outdoors, Humor...
Reference
Maps, Education, Libraries...
Regional
U.S., Canada, U.K., Europe...
Science
Biology, Psychology, Physics...
Shopping
Autos, Clothing, Gifts...
More Subjects
Alexa is Hiring!
TOOLBARS AND PLUGINS
Toolbar Quick Tour
Alexa Snapshot
WEBMASTER SERVICES
Associate Toolbar
Traffic Rank Button
Site Stats Button
Traffic History Graph
Site Info Links
Free Search
Site Report
DATA SERVICES
NEW Web Information Service
Top Sites List
RSS Feeds
Web Discovery Machine
MARCH 21, 2005 - Posted By Geoffrey Mack
Sold! Ask Jeeves and Flickr
27 Mart 2005 Pazar
Başlat
TR
22:15

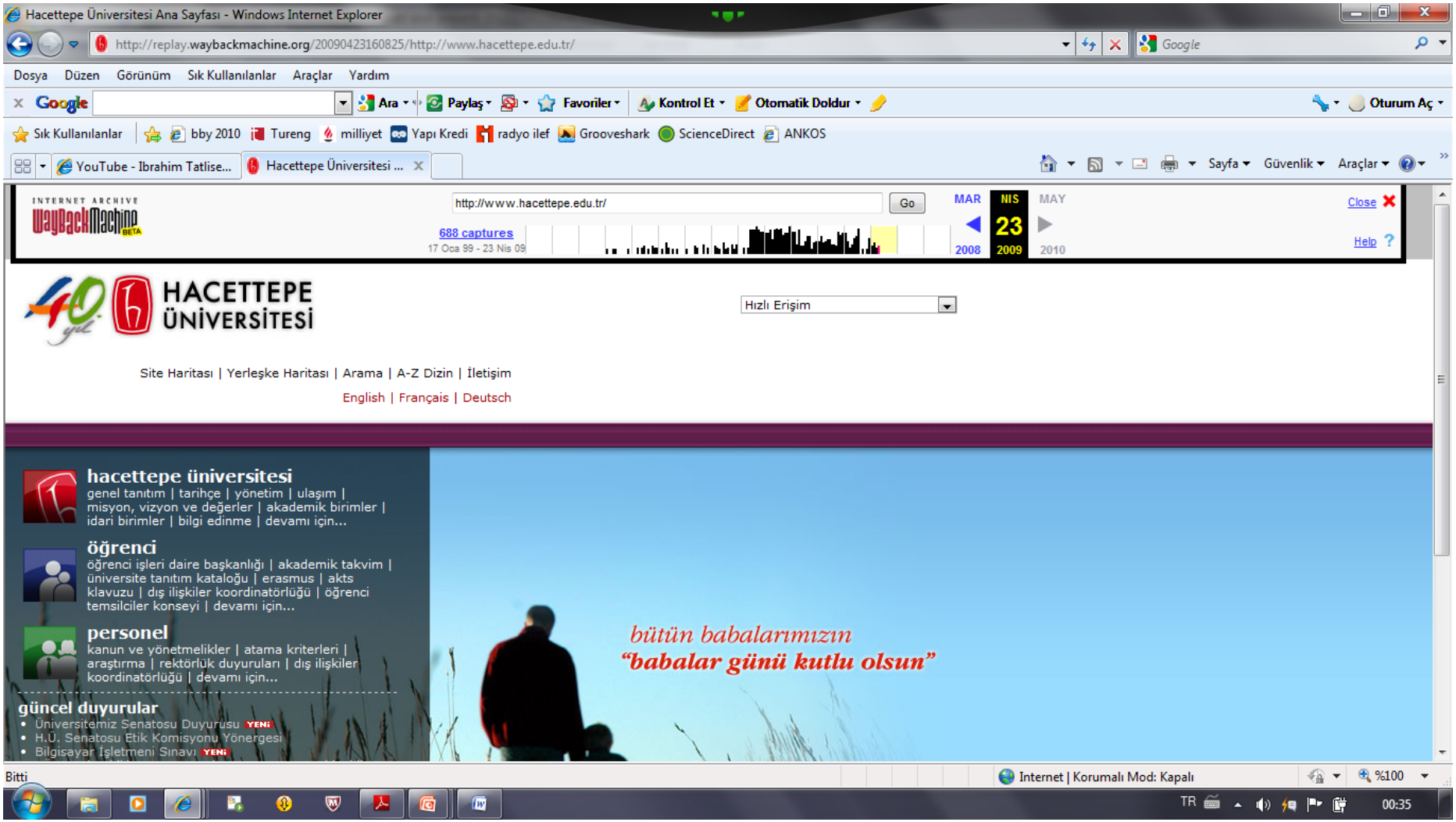
The Wayback Machine



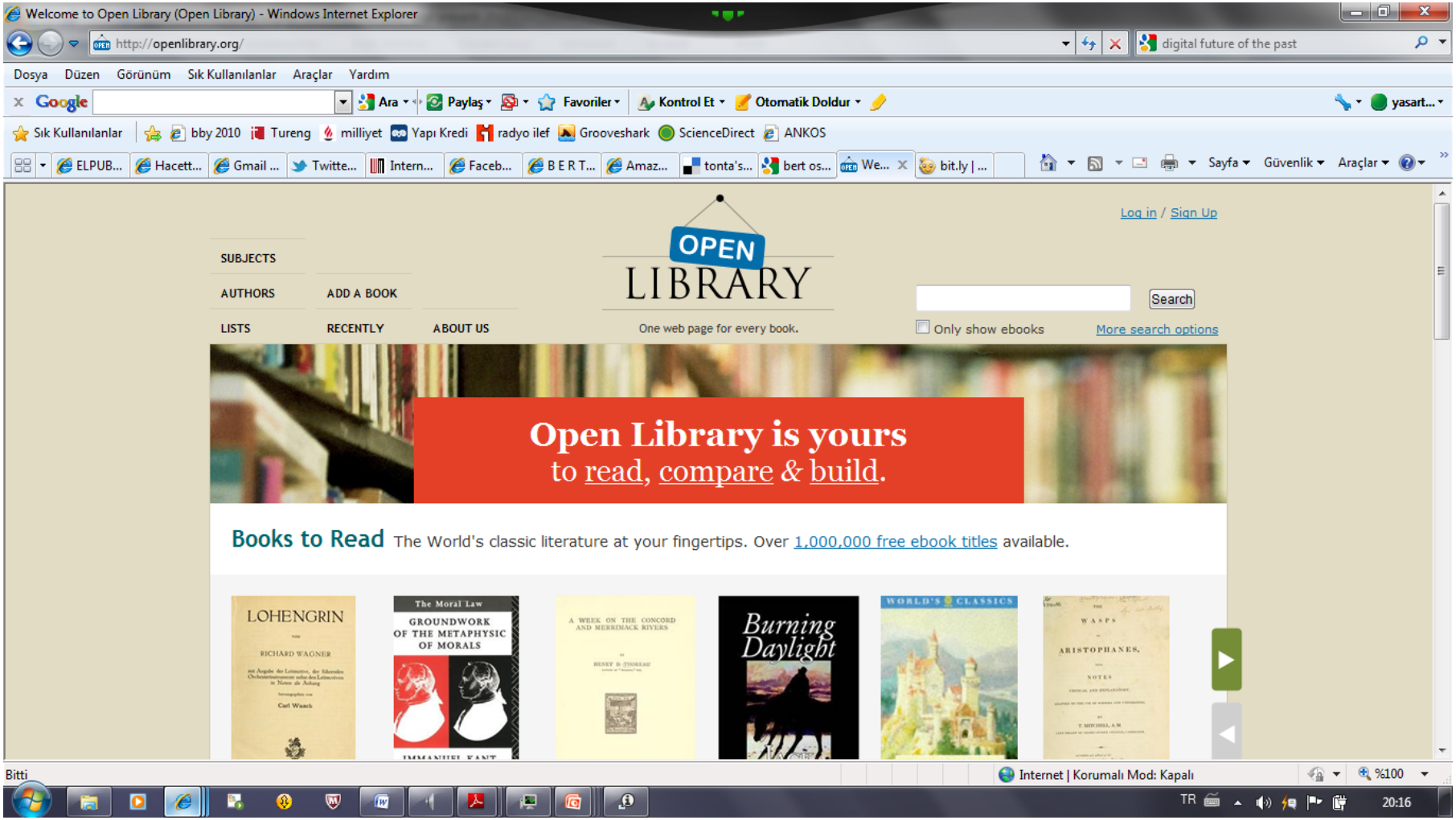
Hacettepe web site in 1999



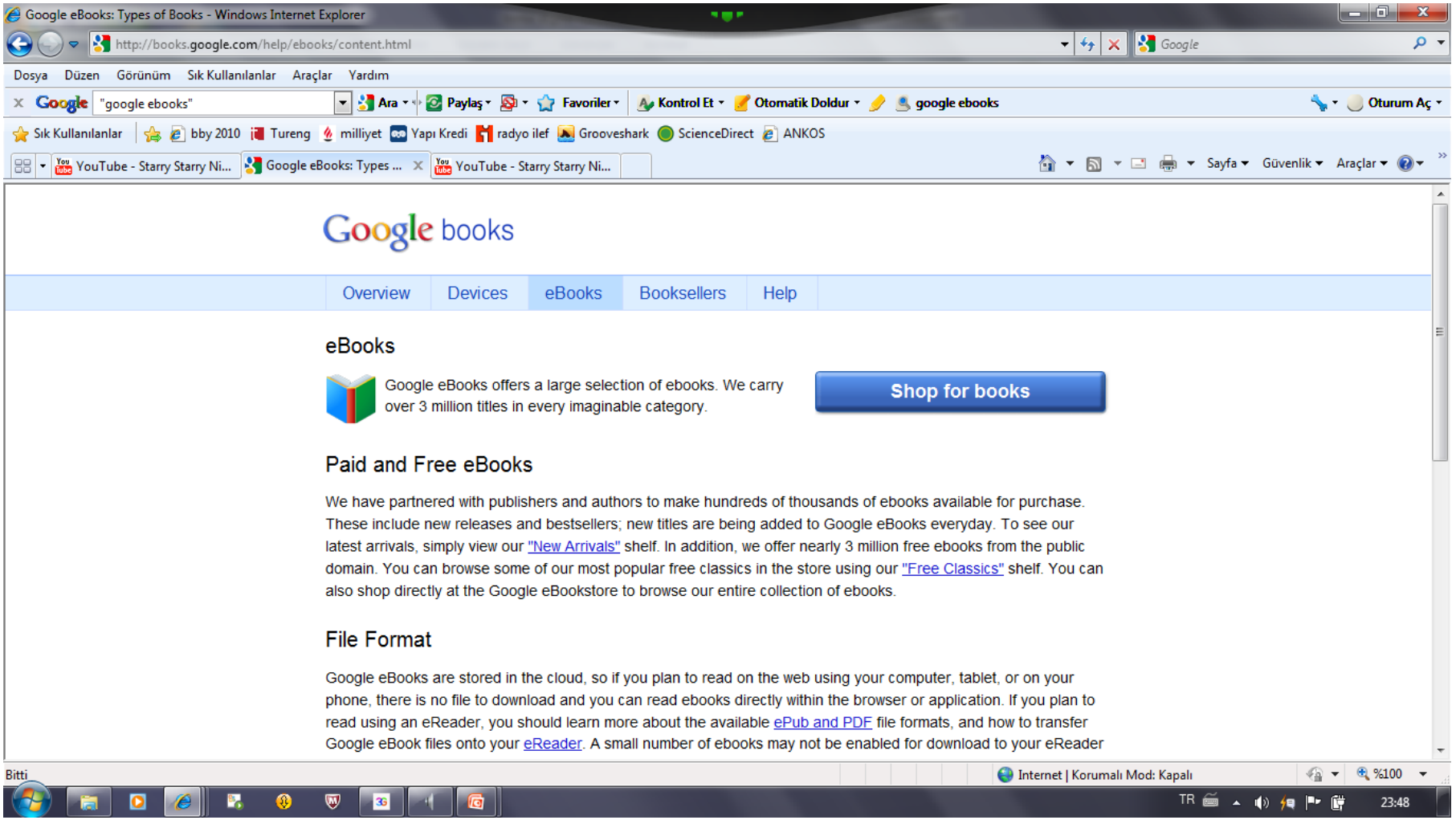
Hacettepe web site in 1999



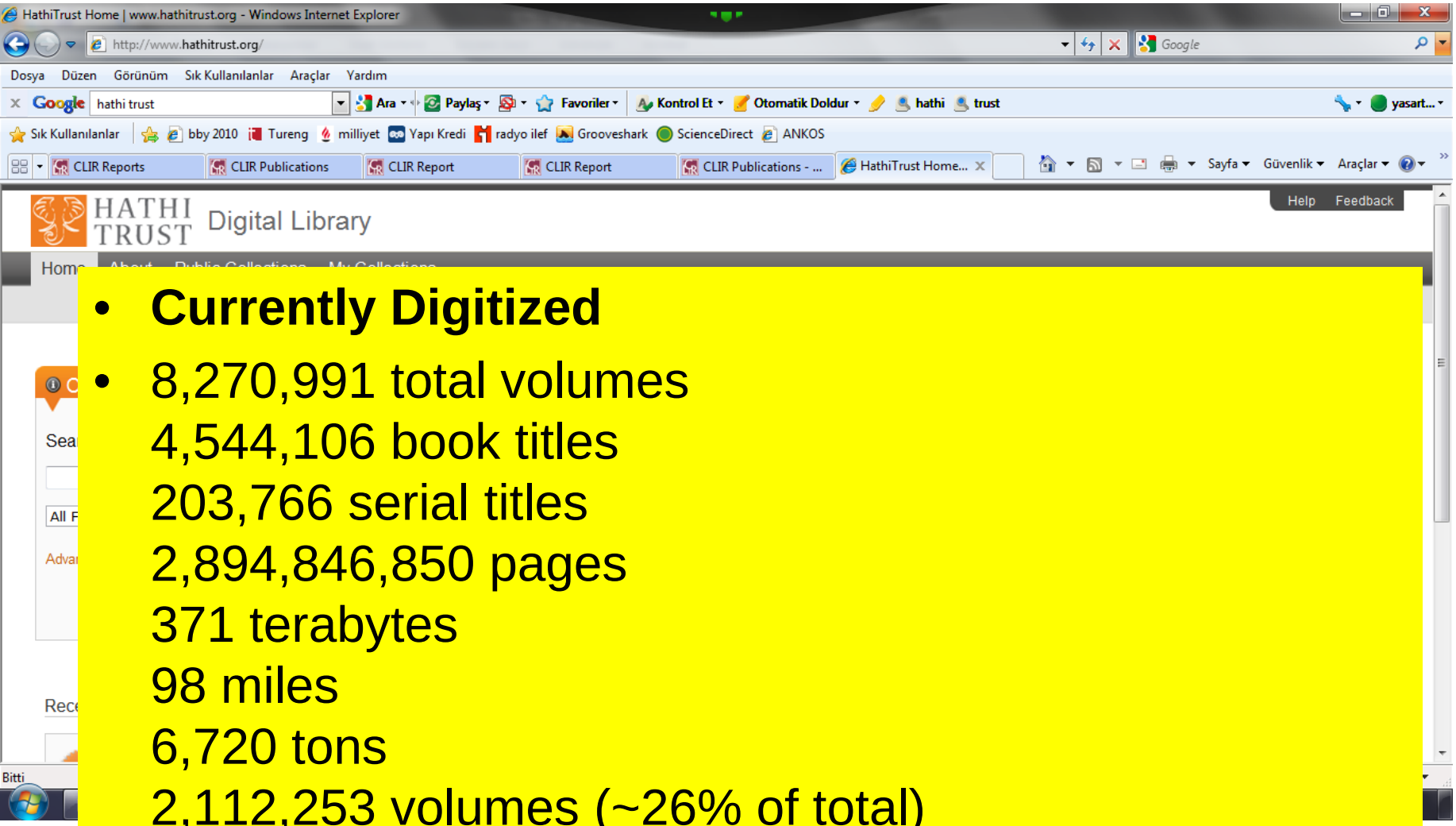
Open Library



Google eBooks

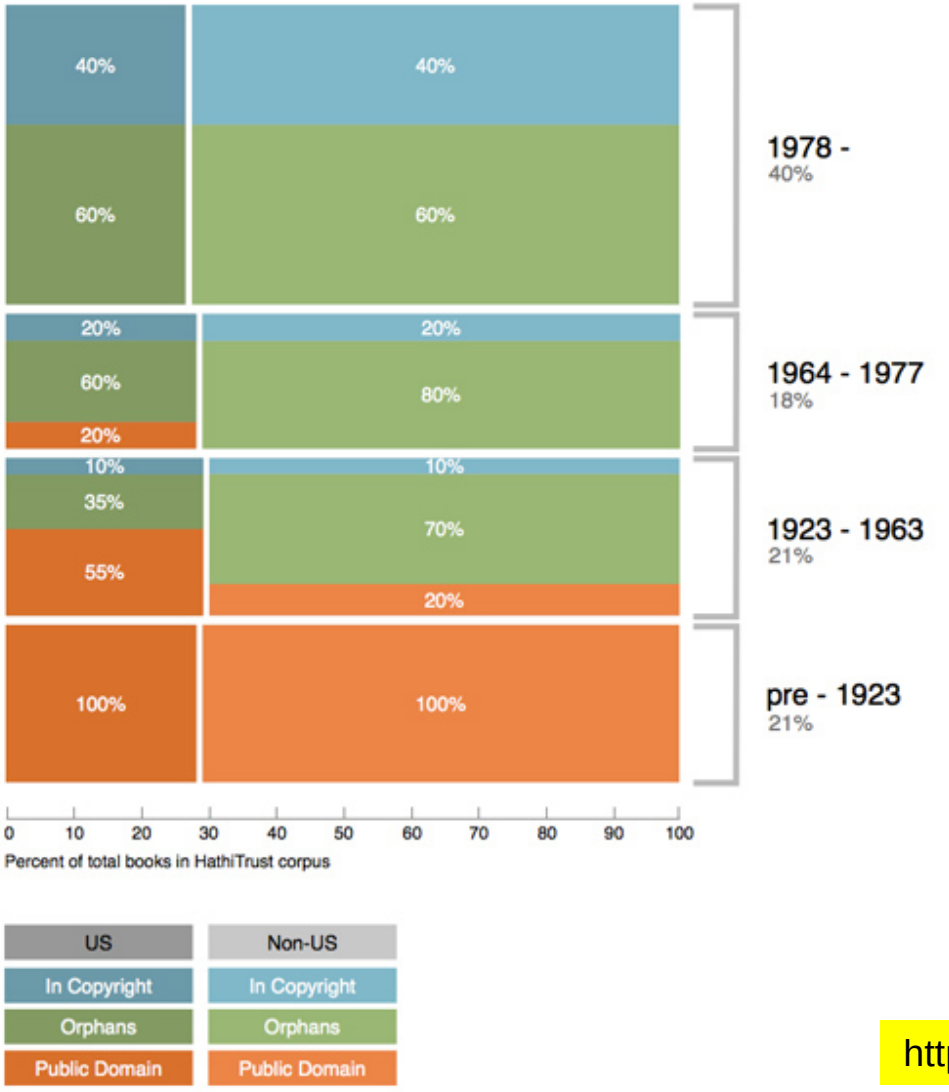


Hathi Trust Digital Library



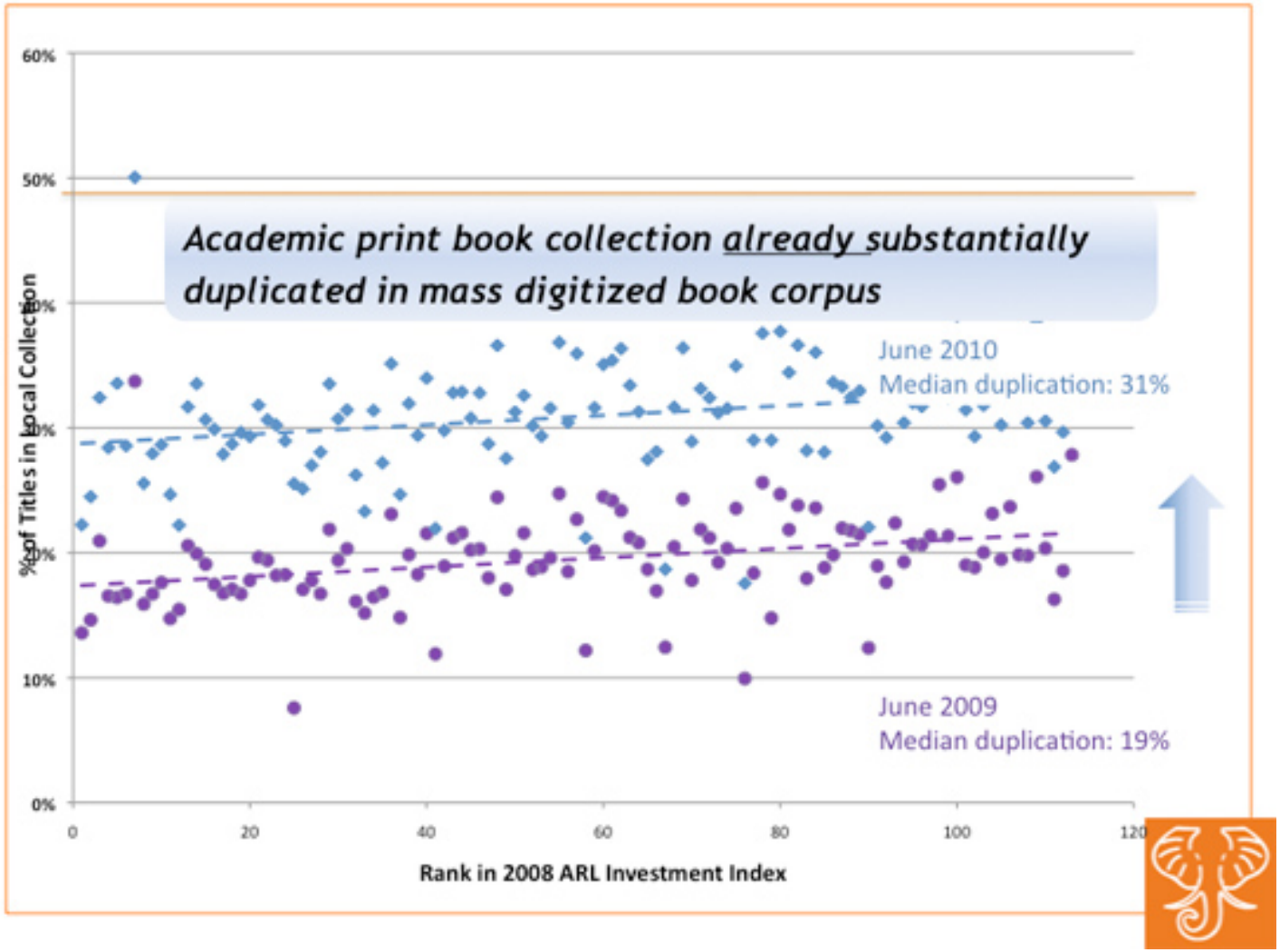
- **Currently Digitized**
- 8,270,991 total volumes
  4,544,106 book titles
  203,766 serial titles
  2,894,846,850 pages
  371 terabytes
  98 miles
  6,720 tons
  2,112,253 volumes (~26% of total)
  in the public domain

HathiTrust book corpus: Breakdown by US/non-US and rights status for all periods



http://www.clir.org/pubs/ruminations/01wilkin/wilkin.html

Overlap between HathiTrust and ARL libraries



http://www.clir.org/pubs/ruminations/01wilkin/wilkin.html

“Preserving Our Digital Heritage”

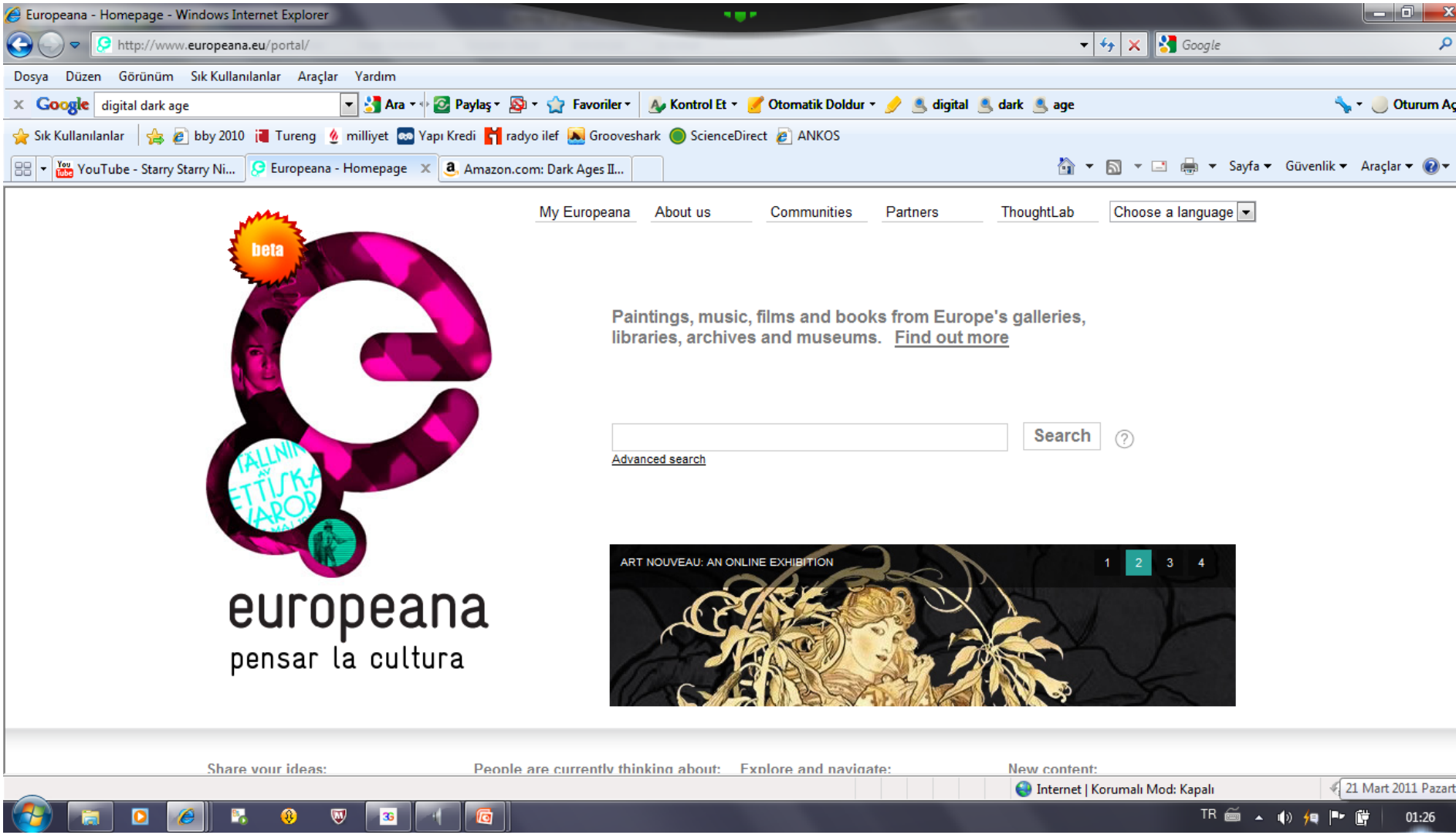
1. **Stewardship network:** Develop a growing national preservation network.
2. **National digital collection:** Develop a content collection plan that will seed a national collection and preserve important at-risk content.
3. **Technical infrastructure:** Build a shared technical platform for networked preservation.
4. **Public policy:** Develop recommendations to address copyright issues and to create a legal and regulatory environment that both encourages incentives and eliminates disincentives to preservation.

EC Recommendation: “Digitize once, distribute widely.

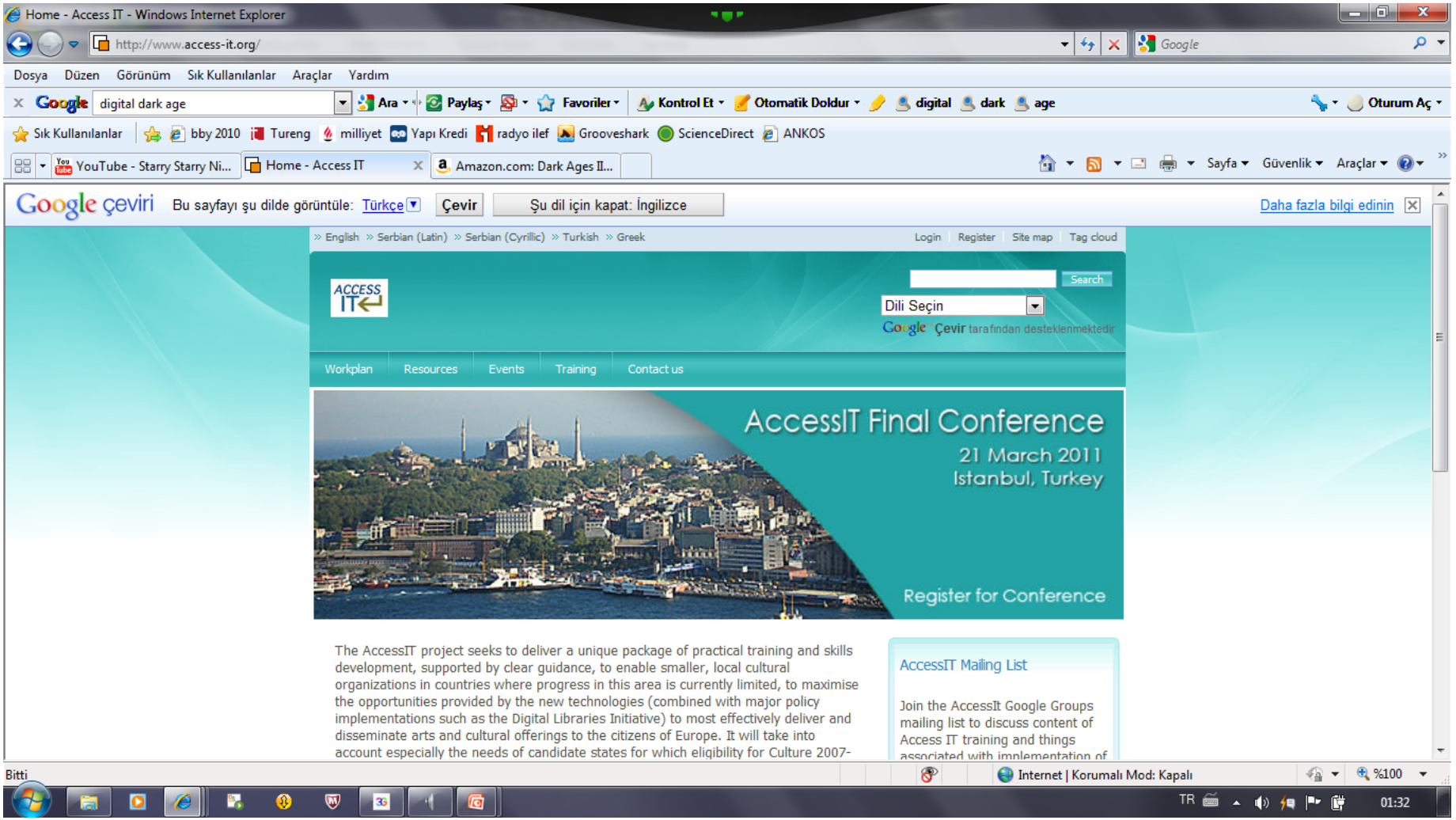
1) Digitization of content
   – by setting up large scale digitization facilities;
2) Online accessibility
   – by promoting the development of the European Digital Library as the multilingual access point to Europe’s cultural heritage; and
3) Digital preservation
   – by establishing national strategies and plans for the long-term preservation of and access to digital material.

–http://europa.eu.int/information_society/activities/digital_libraries/doc/recommendation/recommendation/en.pdf.

Europeana: think culture



AccessIT


Home - Access IT - Windows Internet Explorer
http://www.access-it.org/
Google çeviri
Bu sayfayı şu dilde görüntüle: Türkçe
Çevir
Şu dil için kapat: İngilizce
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AccessIT Final Conference
21 March 2011
Istanbul, Turkey
Register for Conference
The AccessIT project seeks to deliver a unique package of practical training and skills development, supported by clear guidance, to enable smaller, local cultural organizations in countries where progress in this area is currently limited, to maximise the opportunities provided by the new technologies (combined with major policy implementations such as the Digital Libraries Initiative) to most effectively deliver and disseminate arts and cultural offerings to the citizens of Europe. It will take into account especially the needs of candidate states for which eligibility for Culture 2007-
AccessIT Mailing List
Join the AccessIt Google Groups mailing list to discuss content of Access IT training and things
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The Way Forward

- National digitization/preservation networks are not in place in many countries
- Not all cultures are represented in the European Digital Library
- The digital future of nations' past and present should be secured by investing in digitization efforts, by public as well as private and non-profit institutions
- All stakeholders should be involved

“The Future is the Past”

- The future constantly becomes the present and the present constantly becomes the past. Hence, “the future is the past”. (Jackson Jackson)
- “Who controls the past controls the future. Who controls the present controls the past.” (George Orwell, *Nineteen Eighty-Four*, 1949)
- Securing the digital future of the past means securing the future.

The Digital Future of the Past and Present

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