



LOCKSS

Helping Libraries Build and Preserve Collections

LOCKSS (Lots of Copies Keep Stuff Safe) is an international program that provides libraries with the digital preservation tools and support to easily and inexpensively collect and preserve their own copies of authorized e-content. LOCKSS replicates the traditional model of libraries keeping physical copies of books, journals, and other materials in their collections. Libraries that join the LOCKSS program house and preserve digital content for the long-term. The content becomes a part of their collections. Because the content is housed on-site, each participating library is ensured post-cancellation and perpetual access.

Access

- When content is not available from the publisher's site, libraries can access their LOCKSS preserved copy.
- Members have continual, perpetual access to their preserved materials.

Business Model

- LOCKSS offers libraries worldwide a low-cost, sustainable digital preservation option. LOCKSS Alliance membership dues start at US\$1,080 and have not increased since 2004. There is no fee for publishers.
- LOCKSS makes it possible for libraries to preserve not only the publications they subscribe to but also other important content including Open Access materials, websites, and blogs.

History

- The LOCKSS initiative was founded by Stanford University Libraries in 1998 with support from the National Science Foundation, the Mellon Foundation, the Soros Foundation, and the Library of Congress.
- Approximately 400 publishers have committed more than 2,700 titles to the LOCKSS system.

How LOCKSS Works

- The LOCKSS approach manages preservation by analyzing the publisher's content in order to tailor the ingest process. Once the content has been ingested, it is audited to ensure it is an authoritative copy. The archived content is preserved via a continuous and automated process that checks and repairs, if needed, the fragile digital bits and bytes.

How LOCKSS is Used

- Working together, librarians are using LOCKSS to build distributed digital preservation networks and leveraging them to house and preserve two types of digital collections:
 - General Collections: materials of interest to the wider community.
 - Special Collections: archival materials, digitized collections, government documents, databases, public records, and more. Special collections are typically preserved on LOCKSS networks called PLNs (Private LOCKSS Networks).