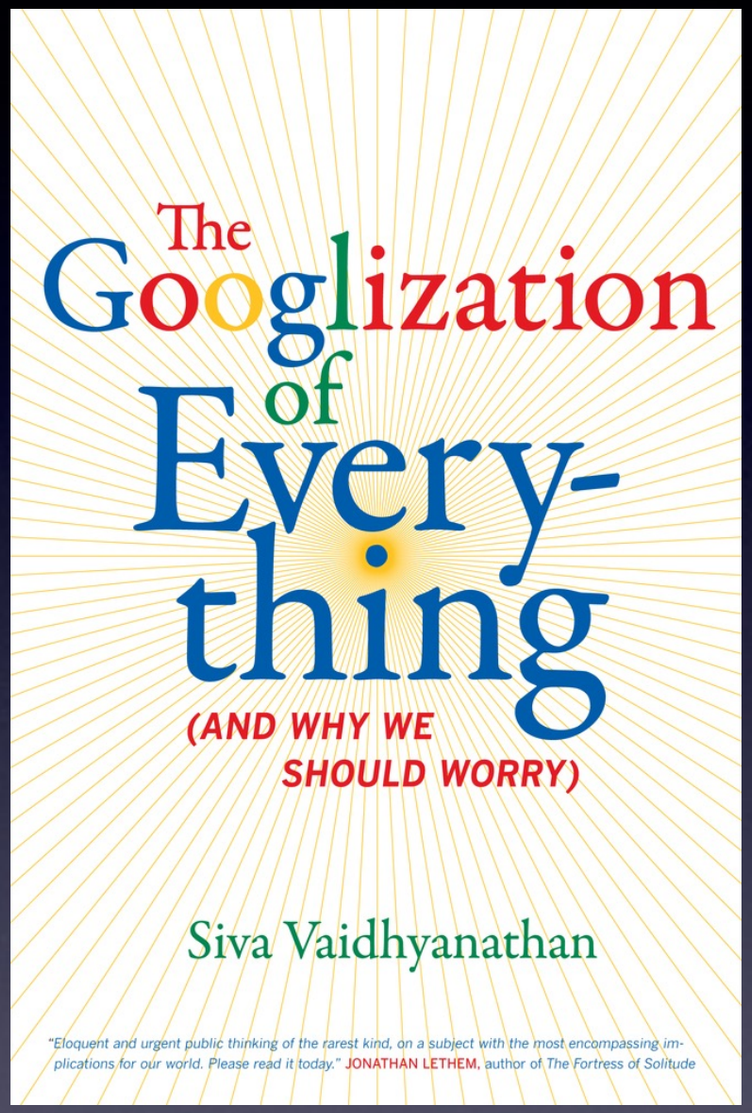
The Human Knowledge Project

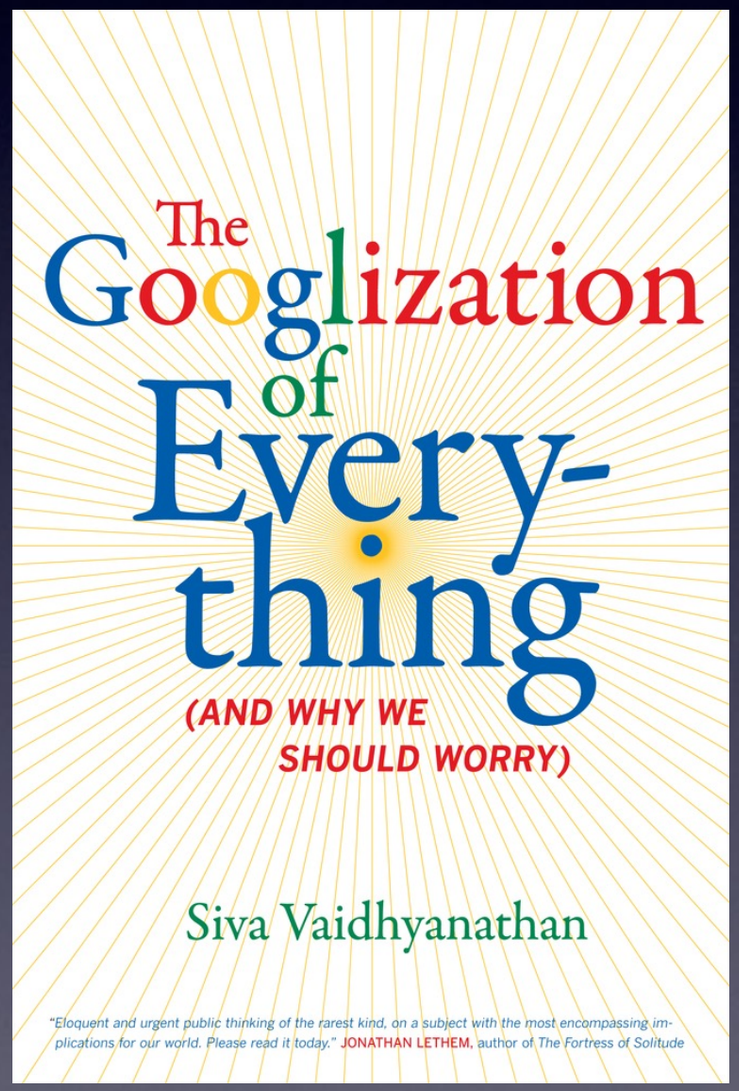


A Presentation by Siva Vaidhyanathan

@sivavaid

sivav@virginia.edu

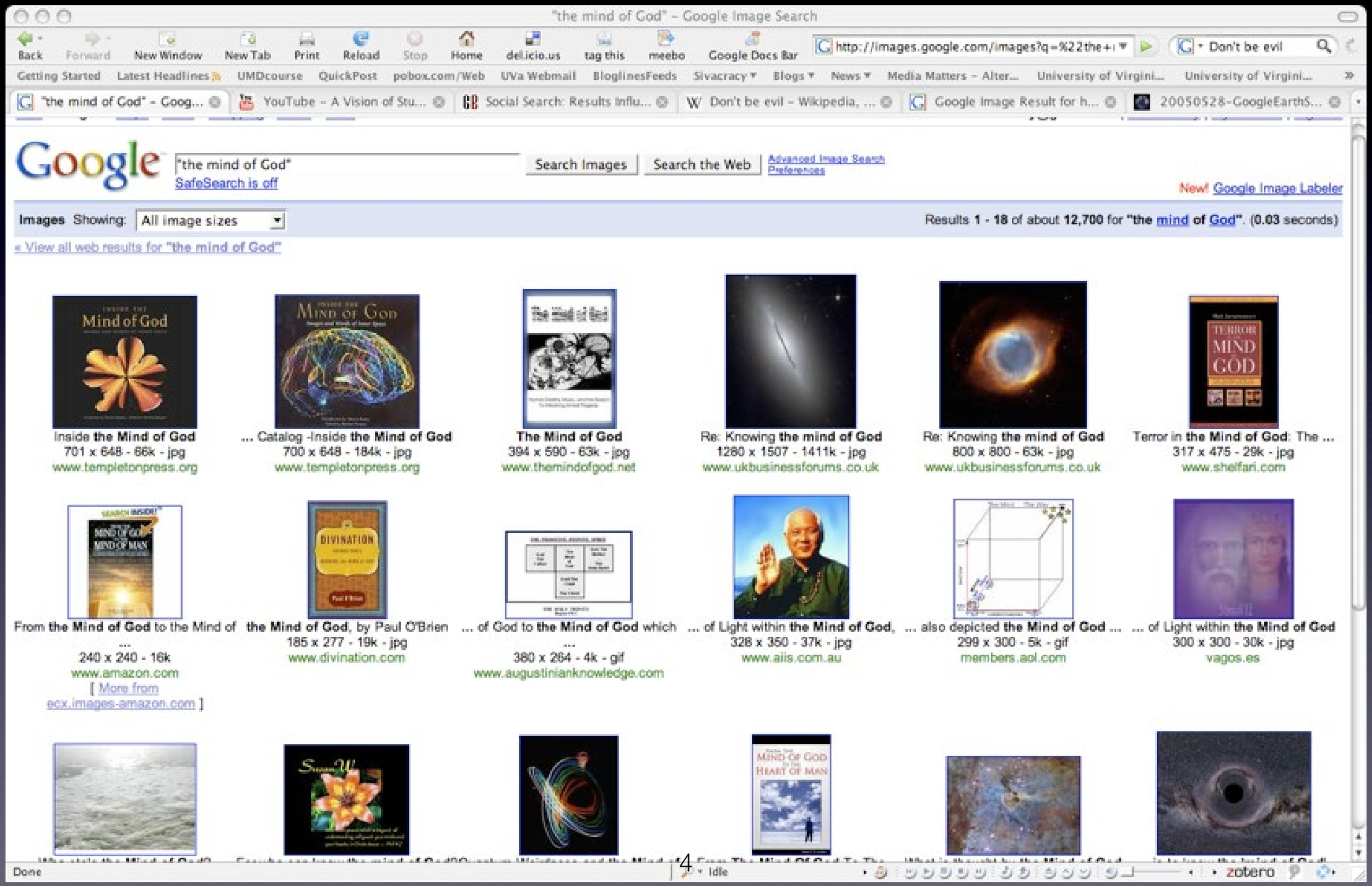
What do I mean by "The Googlization of Everything?"

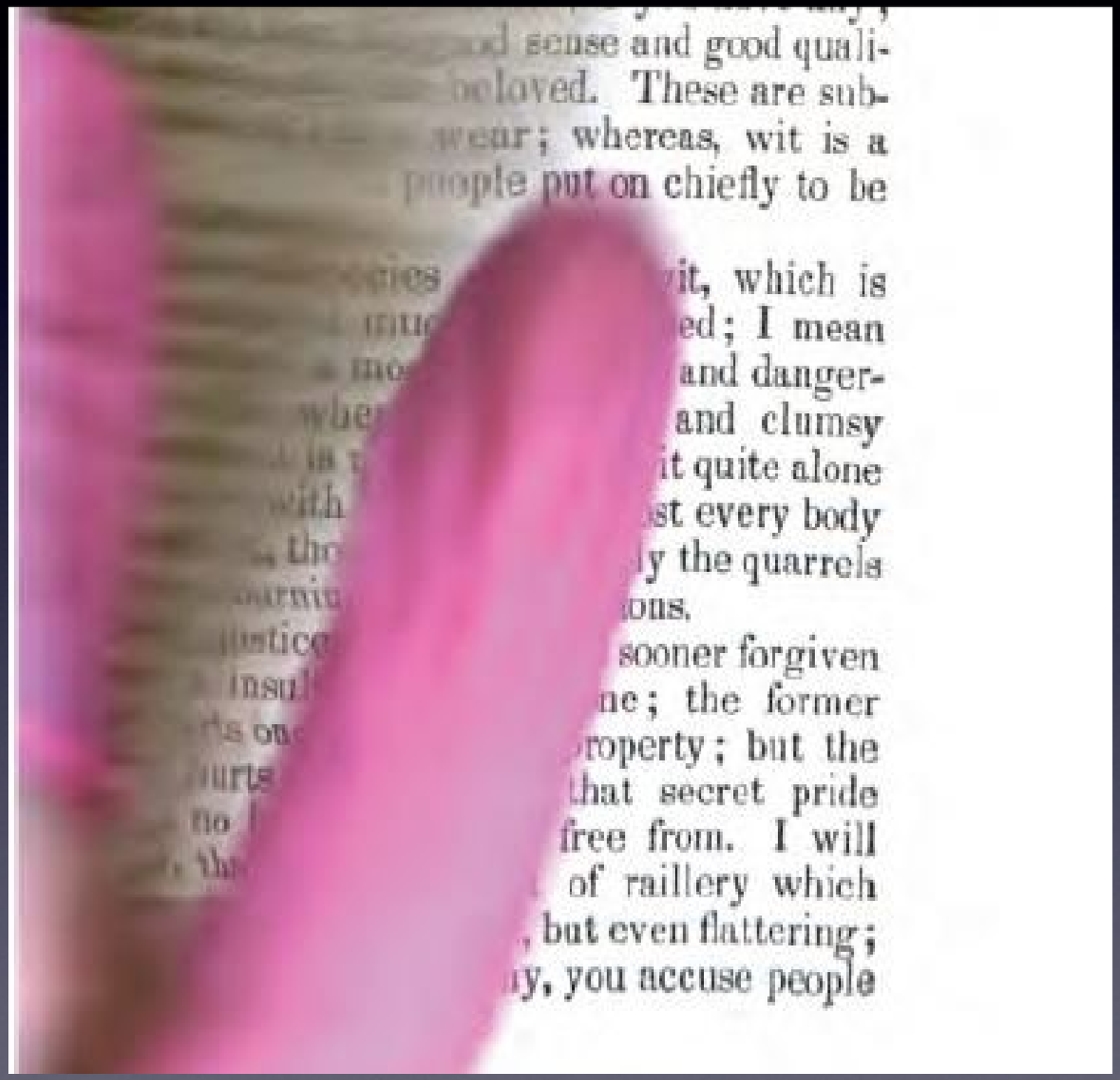


- The Googlization of communication
- The Googlization of knowledge
- The Googlization of us

“To Organize the World’s Information and Make it Universally Accessible”

“It would be like the Mind of God”





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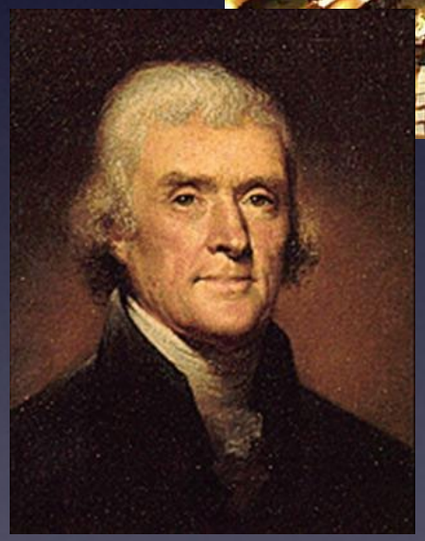
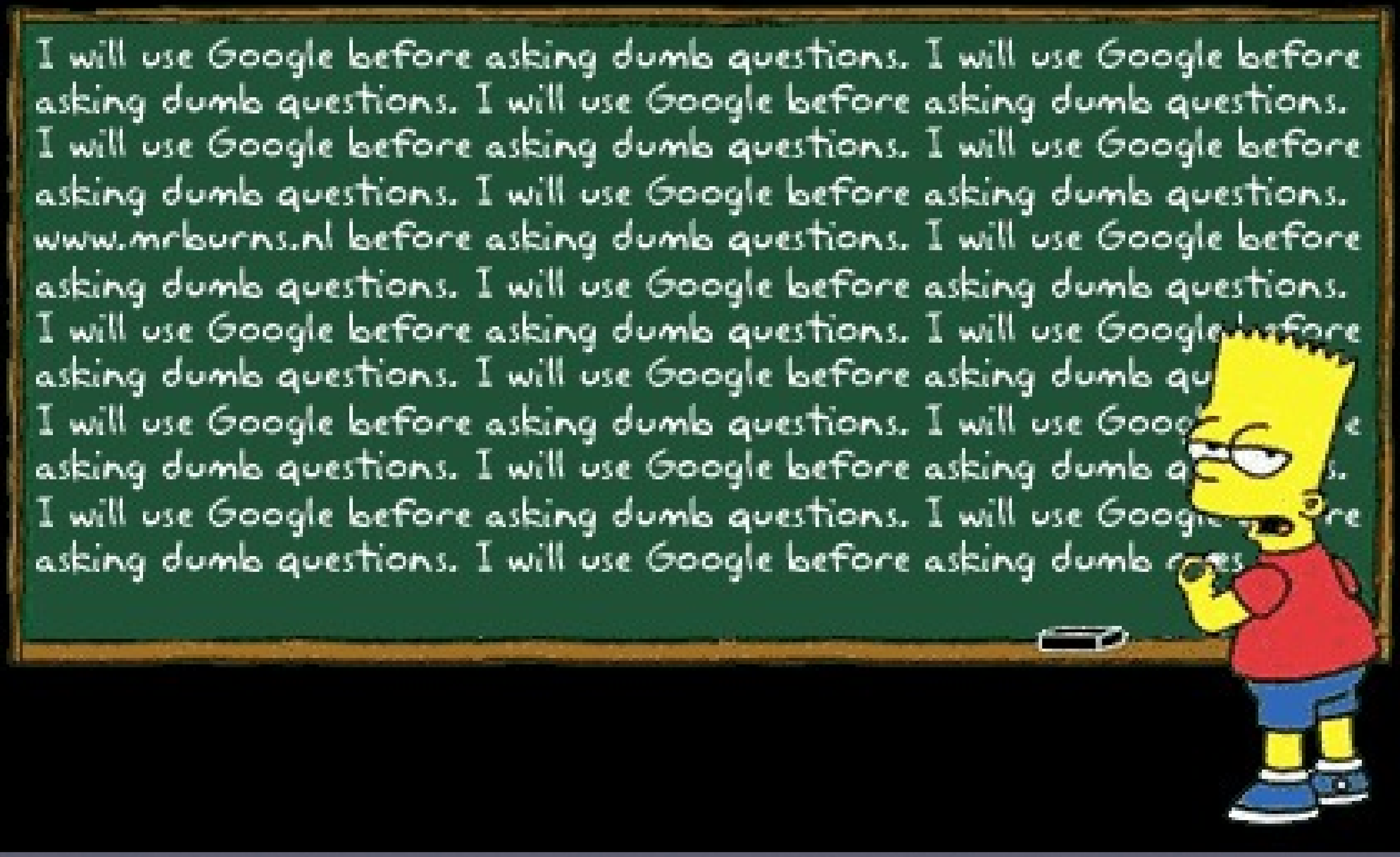
Benevolence

Dream of Universal Access to Comprehensive Knowledge

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Is this the best we can do?

- The shopping mall, the Wisdom of the Crowds and the Googlization of Everything?
- What about the wisdom of expertise? Patience? Quality? Stability?

The Human Knowledge Project

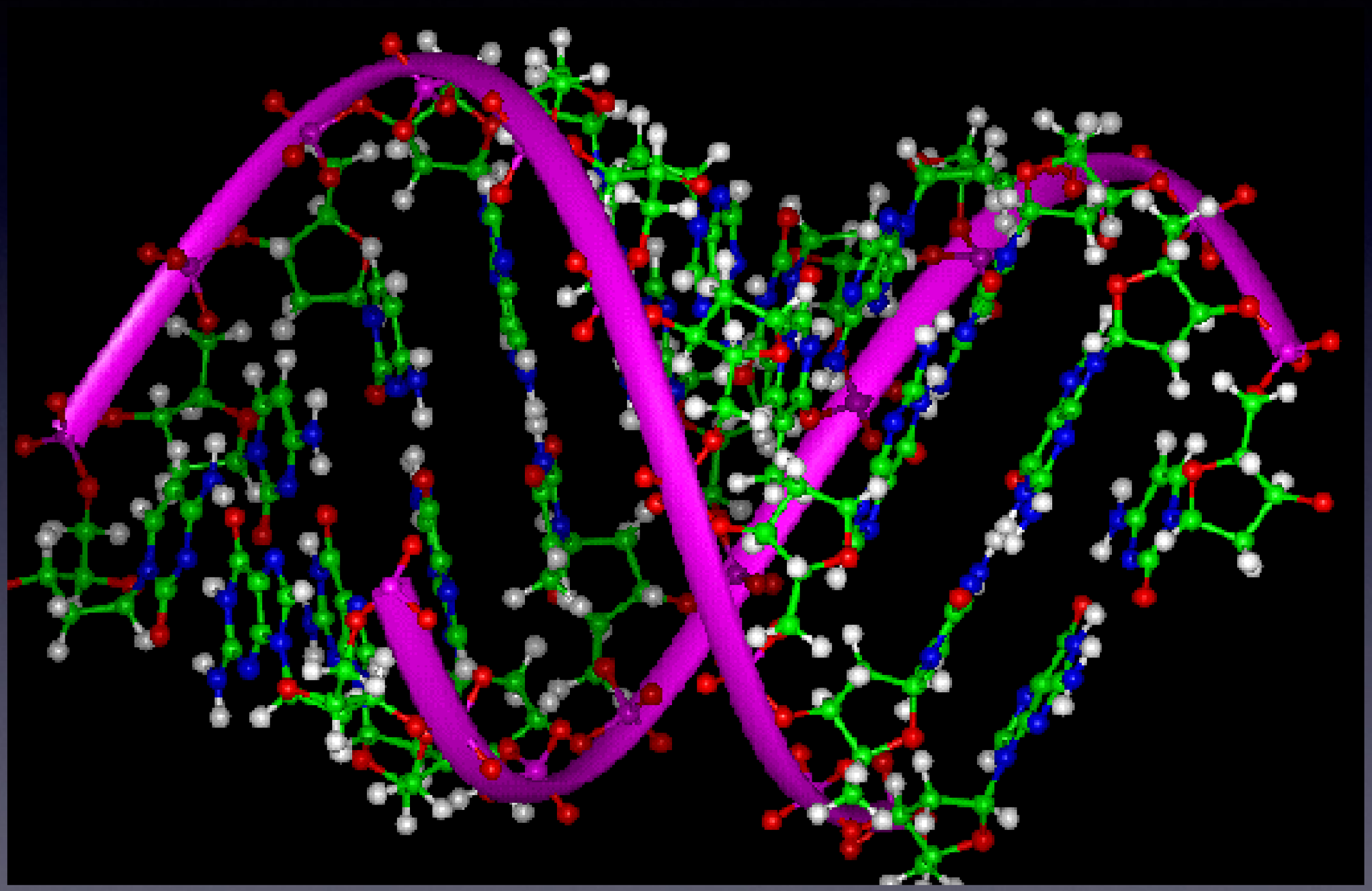
When should we build it?

- Starting now but taking our time.
- Quality and utility should trump quantity and expediency

Coordination and Competition

- Information producers are more than "vendors."
- Library users are more than a "market."

Model: The Human Genome Project



More than a collection of digital books

Goals and Values

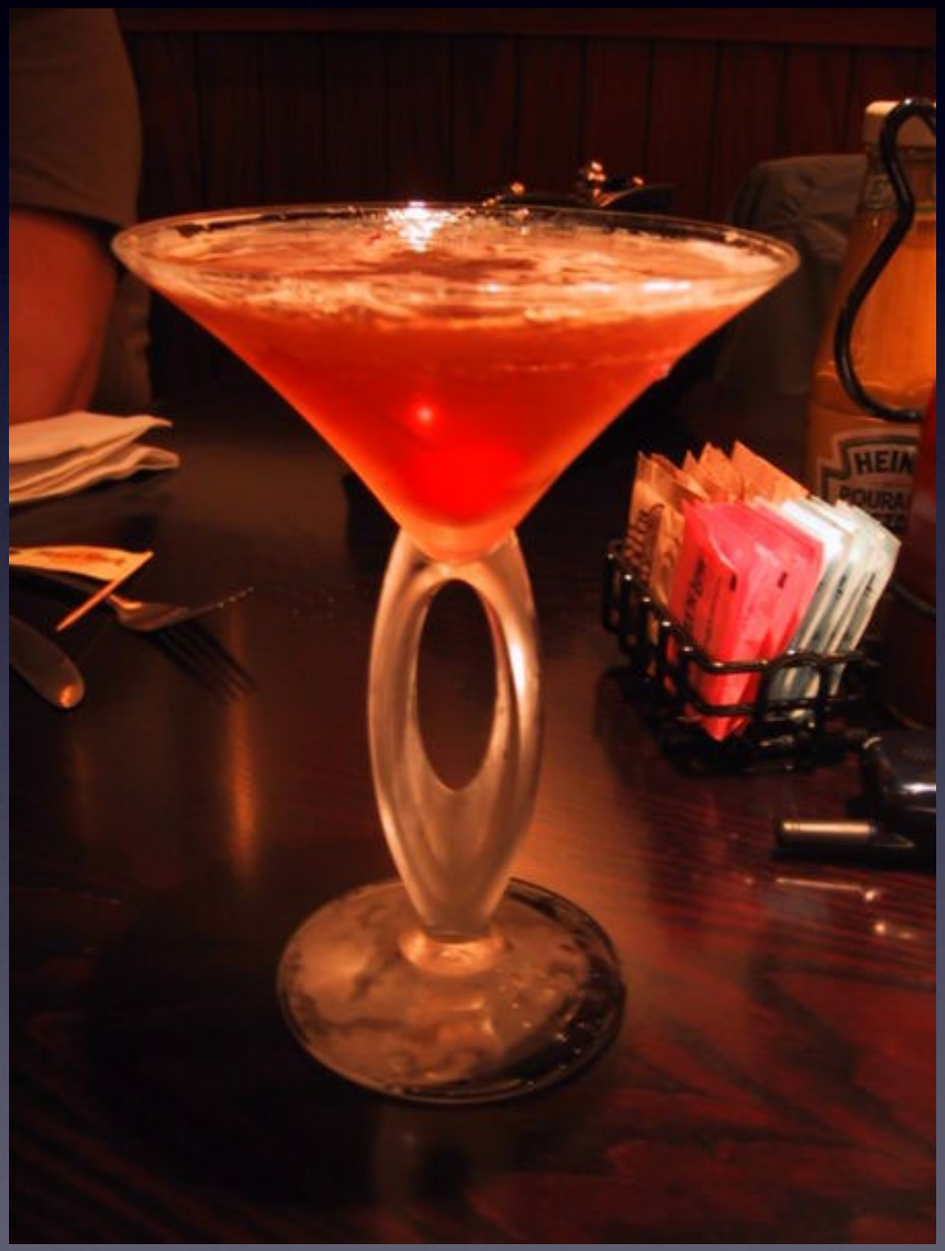
- Multilingual
- Networked and linked
- Accessible (i.e. free as in free beer)
- Multimedia
- Malleable (i.e. free as in free speech)
- Stable and preserved
- Dependable (reflects consensus or describes difference)
- Protect privacy and confidentiality

Players

- UNESCO
- Major national libraries
- Major academic libraries
- Major municipal libraries
- Foundations
- Private firms

Collapsing the Distance

- The Library becomes the conversation and the conversation becomes the library
- Library moves from being republican to cosmopolitan



Libraries are not virtual

- Place matters
- Space matters
- Face-to-face matters

Trove

Find and get over 403,095,972 Australian and online resources: books, images, historic newspapers, maps, music, archives and more

26,265 searches this hour

Search

Available online | Australian content | In my libraries

Advanced search

Learn about Trove

- A guide to Trove
- How to correct newspaper text
- How to order a copy of an item

Contribute

Join the community that's organising and improving this information resource.

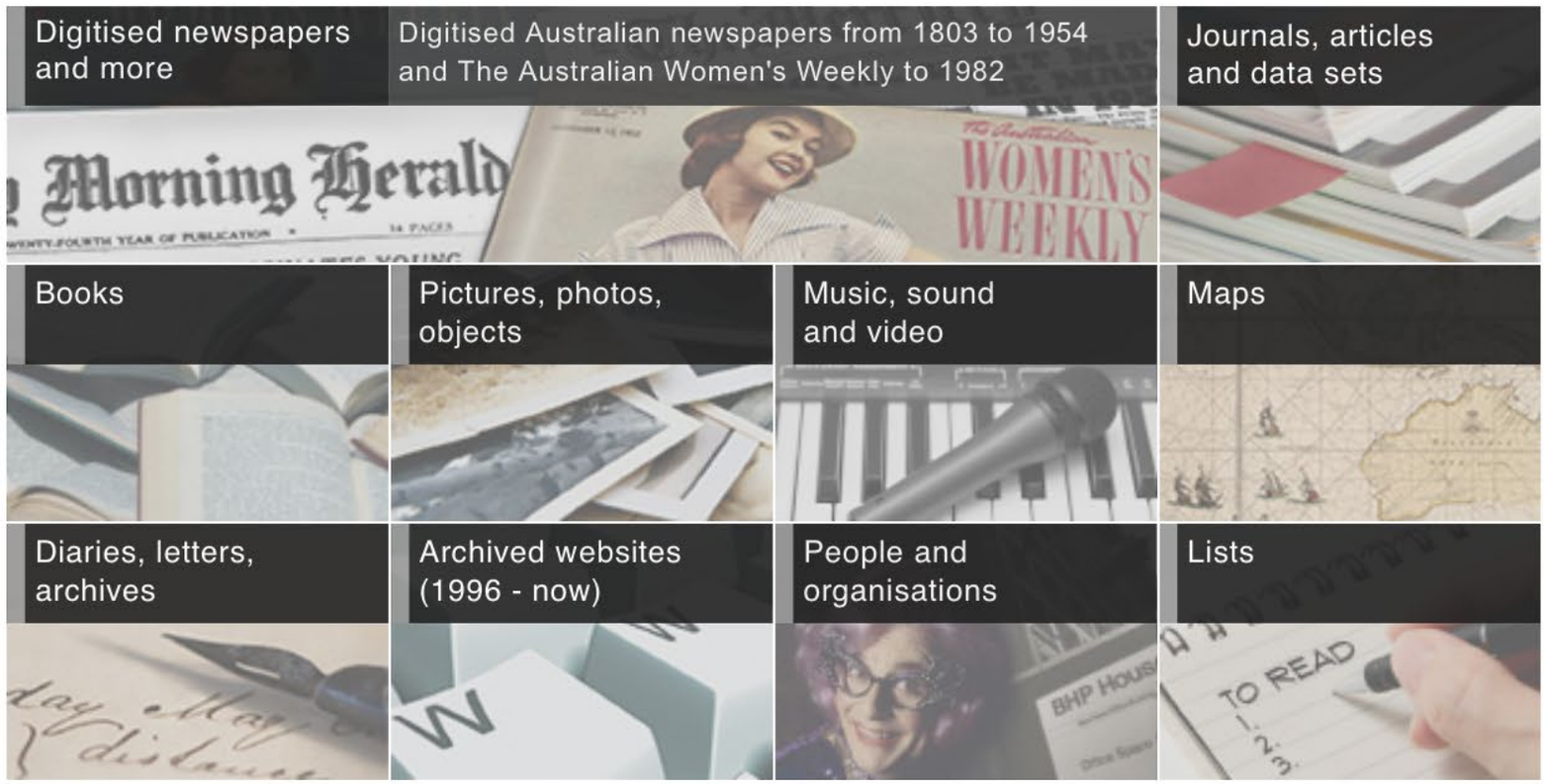
- 55,201 newspaper text corrections today
- 6,396 images from users this month
- 16,355 items tagged this week
- 1,973 comments added this month
- 91 works merged or split this month
- 1,102 lists this month

Connect to others with similar interests on the Trove forum

News

- Recent additions to Trove's digitised newspapers
- Australian visits to Trove for December 2014

Follow Trove on



Trove spotlight: The Australian WOMEN'S WEEKLY 1933 – 1982

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A **PORTAL** FOR DISCOVERY

A **PLATFORM** TO BUILD UPON

A STRONG **PUBLIC OPTION**

A PORTAL FOR DISCOVERY

DPLA DIGITAL PUBLIC LIBRARY OF AMERICA

Home Exhibitions Map Timeline Apps

A

A Wealth of Knowledge

from libraries, archives, and museums

Search the Library

Exhibitions

View all »

Explore by Place

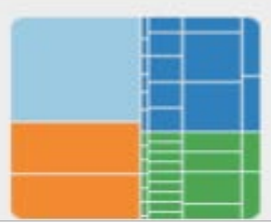
Map »

Explore by Date

Timeline »

Apps

The DPLA is a platform. Developers make apps that use the library's data in many different ways. Here are just a few. App Library »



Library Observatory
metaLAB (at) Harvard

StackLife
Harvard Library Innovation Lab

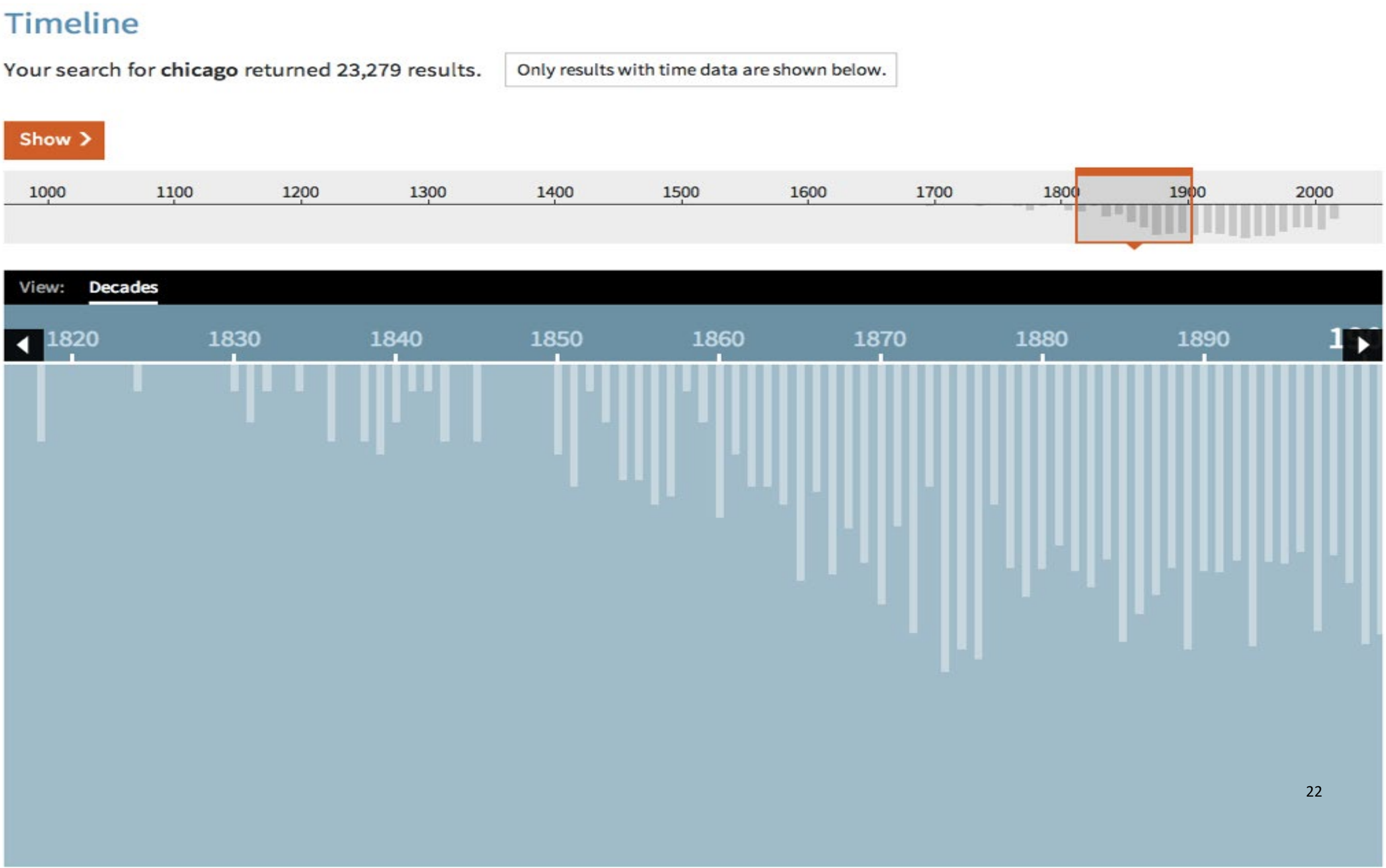
News

Weekly Press Roundup: May 17
May 17

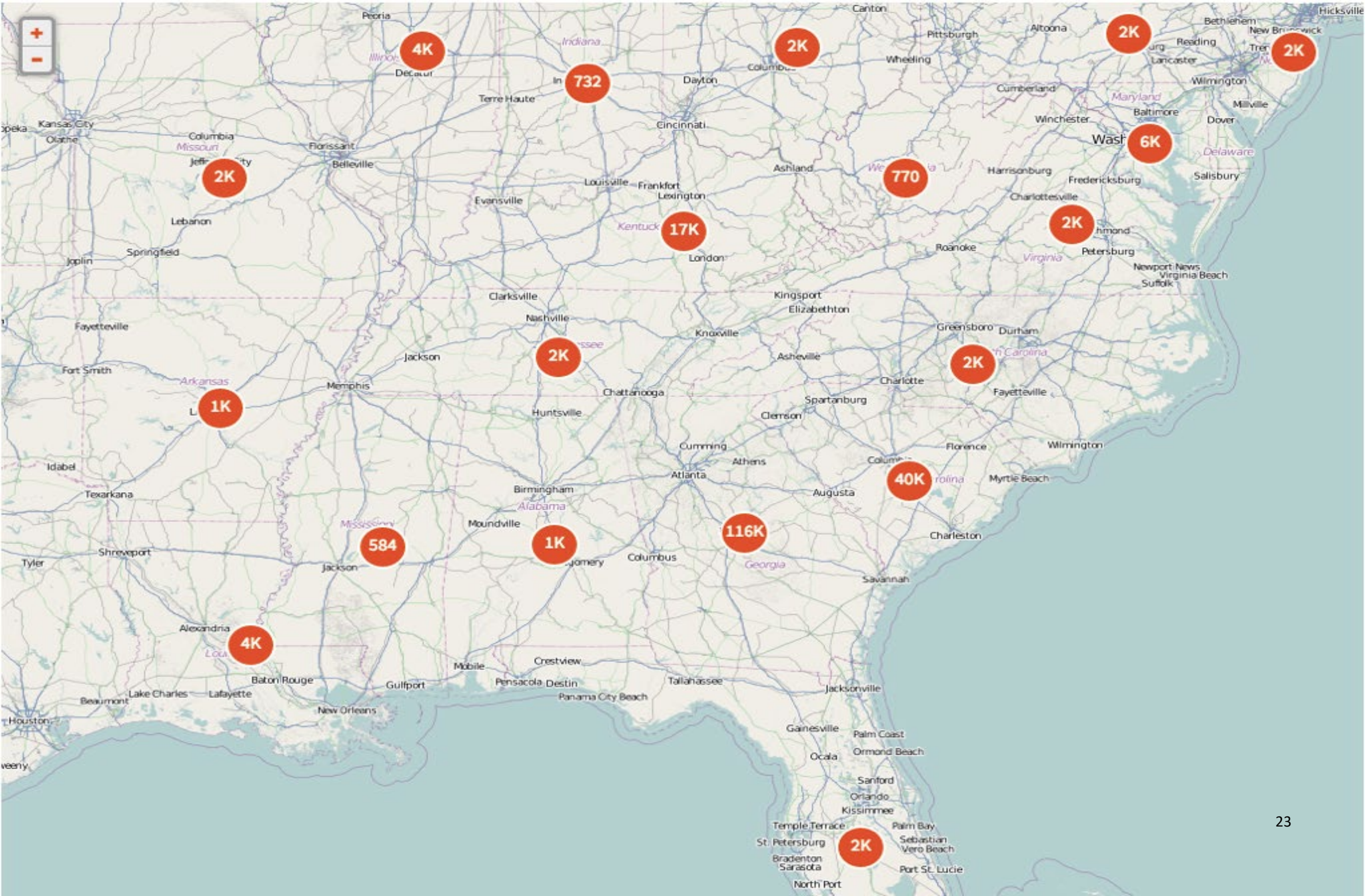
DPLA Participates in National Day of Civic Hacking, June 1 – 2, 2013
May 13

All News »

EXPLORE THROUGH TIME



BROWSE BY PLACE



EXPLORE CURATED EXHIBITS

Exhibitions

Share

Activism in the U.S.

America's Great Depression and Roosevelt's New Deal

Boston Sports Temples

Bread and Roses Strike of 1912: Two Months in Lawrence, Massachusetts, that Changed Labor History

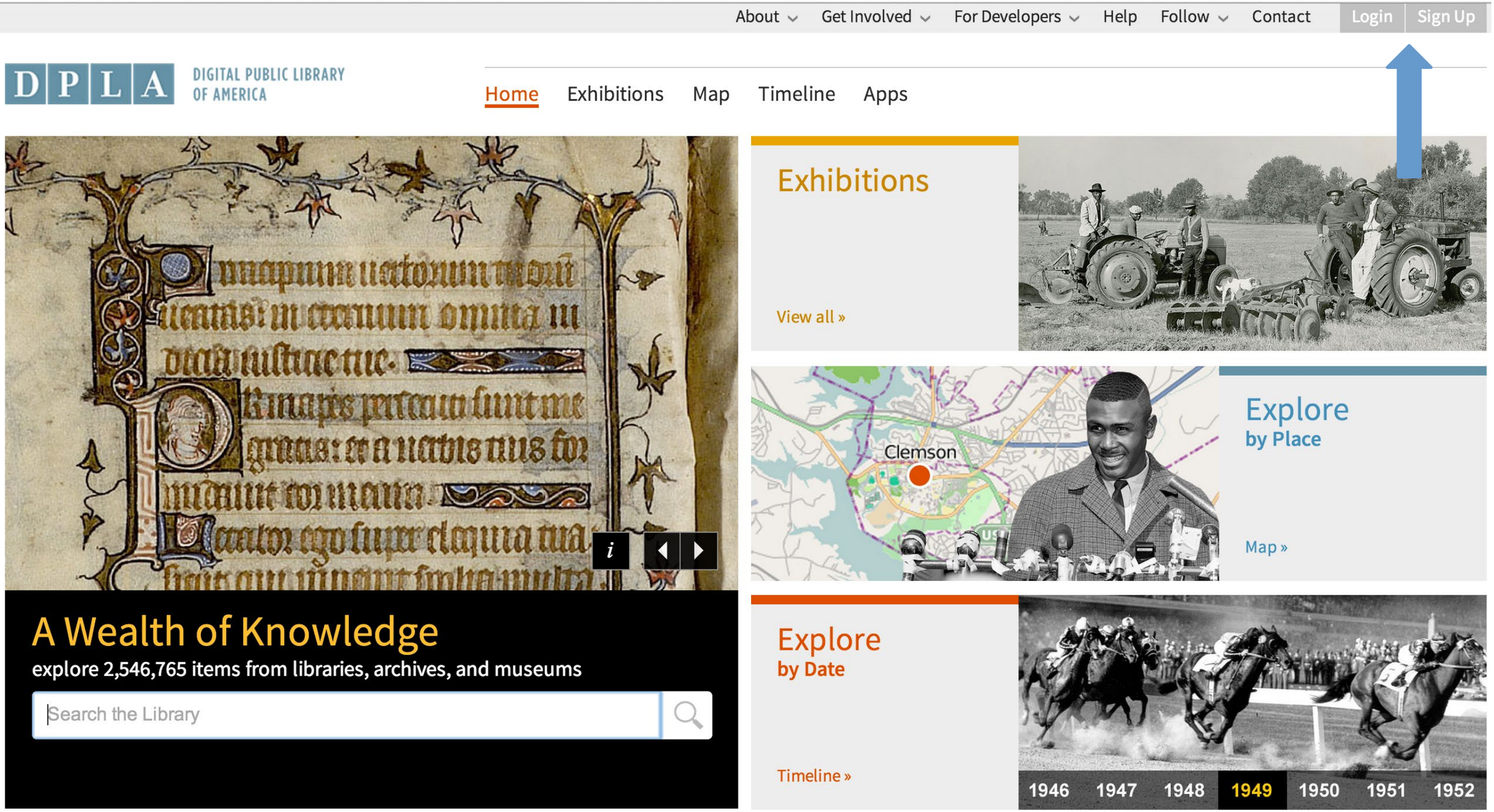
History of Survivance: Upper Midwest 19th Century Native American Narratives

Indomitable Spirits: Prohibition in the United States

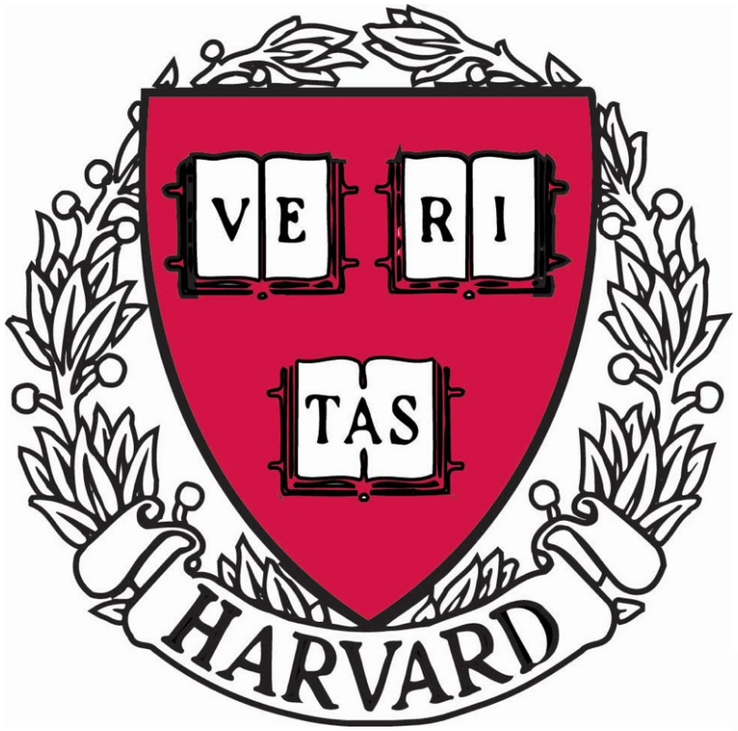
Leaving Europe: A new life in America

This Land Is Your Land: Parks and Public Spaces

SAVE SEARCHES, CREATE LISTS



CONTENT HUBS



SERVICE HUBS

MINNESOTA **DIGITAL LIBRARY**
minnesota reflections

Lake Superior, Minnesota North Shore

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Minnesota Reflections

All Collections

American Swedish Institute

The American Swedish Institute, a historic
the celebration of Swedish culture, is hom
history of Swedish immigration to the Unit
immigration to Minnesota, Swedish-Ameri
the history and culture of Sweden as it ha
America. The... more...

Amherst H. Wilder Foundation

The Amherst H. Wilder Foundation is a no
human services organization founded by a
businessman, Amherst H. Wilder and his f
100 years, Wilder has combined direct se
community development to address the n
vulnerable people in greater Saint... more

Anoka County Historical Society

The Anoka County Historical Society, in A
photographs, printed materials and artifac
County. The society supports genealogica
range of historical resources. Images Ano
Society contributed to *Minnesota Reflectio*
scenes, business... more...

Baptist General Conference History Cente

The work of the Baptist General Conferen
established in 1898. Located on the camp
the BGCHC collects, preserves and dissem
significant to Swedish Baptist institutional,
immigration history; the Baptist General C
University. The images... more...

Goodhue County Historical Society

GCHS Photo Album

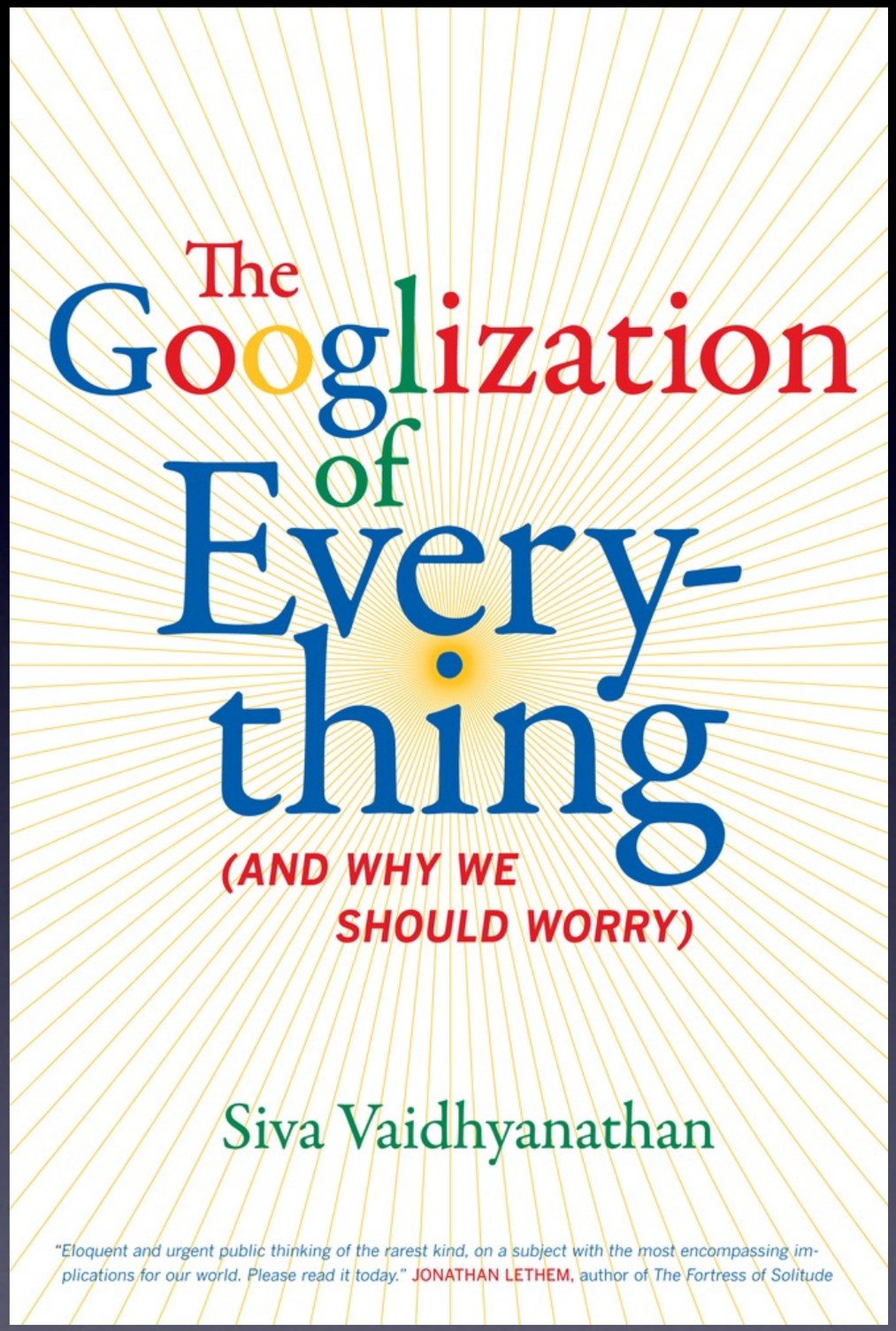
The Goodhue County Historical Society has an extensive photograph collection. Here are a few examples for you to enjoy. We also invite you to come to the history center to see these and other photographs first hand. Most photographs are in the archives, but we have copies available for anyone to examine. There are also many photographs on view in the exhibits throughout the history center.

Early County Photos	Discontinued Post Offices and Ghost Towns	Schools
Sports and Recreation	Summer Time	Barns

PONDS → LAKES → **OCEAN**

A **PLATFORM** TO BUILD UPON

NATIONAL NETWORK, **LOCAL** IMPACT, **GLOBAL** REACH


The Googlization of Everything
(AND WHY WE SHOULD WORRY)
Siva Vaidhyanathan
"Eloquent and urgent public thinking of the rarest kind, on a subject with the most encompassing implications for our world. Please read it today." JONATHAN LETHEM, author of The Fortress of Solitude

@sivavaid