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This is what the Internet should be about
Thank you! This is wonderful, beautiful and extraordinary. You have given me and my children a marvelous gift.
I keep discovering more and more treasures of the world every time I come back to your site.
I felt as if I were in the world’s most interesting library as I wandered from continent to continent, exploring treasures.
What is it?
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• An international partnership led by the U.S. Library of Congress

• Project to digitize and make accessible online, for free, the most important cultural and historical documents from all countries.

• http://www.wdl.org launched in 2009
About the WDL website

The site (www.wdl.org) includes rare books, journals, manuscripts, maps, prints, photographs, films, sound, newspapers from partners around the world.

- Multilingualism
- High-quality metadata
- Curatorial interpretation
- Multiple methods of discovery
- Enhanced display, zoom
- Ability to share content
- Text-to-speech
What else?
The WDL is an effort to share knowledge and build capacity by:

- Establishing **digital conversion centers** (Egypt, Iraq, Uganda)

- **Encouraging digitization** where little or no digital content is being produced

- **Facilitating cooperation** between experienced institutions and those just getting started
Capacity building
Partners
Partners

- National libraries
- University libraries
- Public libraries
- Archives
- Museums
160 Partners
75 Countries
About WDL users
How many users?

420,000 visits per month in 2011
Where are they?
Top 20 countries in 2011

Spain: 21.4%
Mexico: 11.5%
Brazil: 9.9%
United States: 9.1%
Argentina: 7.0%
China: 3.9%
Colombia: 3.6%
Portugal: 2.9%
United Kingdom: 2.8%
Germany: 2.6%

Russian Federation: 2.1%
France: 1.9%
Peru: 1.9%
Iran: 1.6%
Venezuela: 1.5%
Chile: 1.3%
Canada: 0.9%
Uruguay: 0.8%
Sweden: 0.8%
Ukraine: 0.7%
Multilingualism
Site is available in 7 languages

- Arabic
- Chinese
- English
- French
- Portuguese
- Russian
- Spanish
Language of pages viewed in 2009

- Spanish: 33.1%
- English: 30.6%
- French: 11.3%
- Russian: 8.8%
- Portuguese: 7.7%
- Chinese: 6.5%
- Arabic: 2.0%
Language of pages viewed in 2011

- Spanish: 58.4%
- English: 17.1%
- Portuguese: 14.4%
- Russian: 4.0%
- French: 2.5%
- Chinese: 2.9%
- Arabic: 1.4%
Goals and next steps
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• **Add content.** Improve content preparation and transfer tools.

• Recruit **at least one partner from every country.** Enable more participation through capacity building.

• Expand and **engage wider audience.** Increase outreach and awareness efforts. Improve mobile user experience. Create more opportunities for user participation.
Comments from Twitter (WDLorg)

• I love what you’re doing. Keep up the good work! (United States)

• One of the best information and image galleries I have found in ages. (Djibouti)

• Thank you for this great site. Thank you for the treasure of knowledge. (Syria)

• For more awesome in your Monday, check out the World Digital Library. (Scotland)

• Absolutely beautiful. Thanks for sharing and for keeping things like this [Poema del Cid] so we can treasure them! (United States)

• Cool resource. Hope it continues to grow. (China)

• Totally accessible and for free! (Canada)

• Just found @WDLorg on Twitter. They have some incredible collections. Great website for students and faculty. (United States)

• A great discovery! (Spain)
Site demonstration