

Publisher's denial of Digital Ownership vs Decentralization

Mega Publishers v Internet Archive

Brewster Kahle
Founder, Internet Archive



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Publishers Are Taking the Internet to Court

In a lawsuit against the Internet Archive, the largest corporations in publishing want to change what it means to own a book.

By Maria Bustillos 

SEPTEMBER 10, 2020

<https://www.thenation.com/article/society/publishers-are-taking-the-internet-to-court/>



HarperCollins Publishers

Owned by Rupert
Murdoch
\$8billion

 hachette
BOOK GROUP

Lagardere SA
\$2billion



Penguin
Random
House

Division of
Bertelsmann
\$20billion

WILEY

Education tech
\$2billion

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Publishing

• This article is more than 2 months old

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Educational publisher's move into non-fungible tokens is intended to claw back some of the income lost to secondhand sales



Lucy Knight

Tue 2 Aug 2022 16.37 BST



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<https://www.theguardian.com/books/2022/aug/02/pearson-plans-to-sell-its-textbooks-as-nfts>

Some Authors Fight for Libraries



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Copyright

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3 minute read · September 29, 2022 10:29 AM PDT · Last Updated 5 hours ago



Author coalition blasts publishers in legal fight with Internet Archive

(Reuters) - A group of more than 300 authors including Neil Gaiman and Naomi Klein issued a letter Thursday criticizing lawsuits from major publishing companies over the lending of digital books.

<https://www.reuters.com/legal/litigation/author-coalition-blasts-publishers-legal-fight-with-internet-archive-2022-09-29/>

Digital Ownership at issue

Not Dead Yet



Universal Access to All Knowledge



790,000 Software Titles



A black and white photograph showing a large, dense crowd of people, likely spectators at a sports event. The view is from an elevated position, looking down onto the stands. Many individuals are wearing hats and dark clothing. The seating area consists of multiple rows of tiered bleachers.

790,000 Software Titles
5,000,000 Moving Images



580,000

5,000,000

14,000,000

Software Titles

Moving Images

Audio Recordings



790,000

Software Titles

5,000,000

Moving Images

14,000,000

Audio Recordings

2,200,000

Television News Programs

790,000 Software Titles

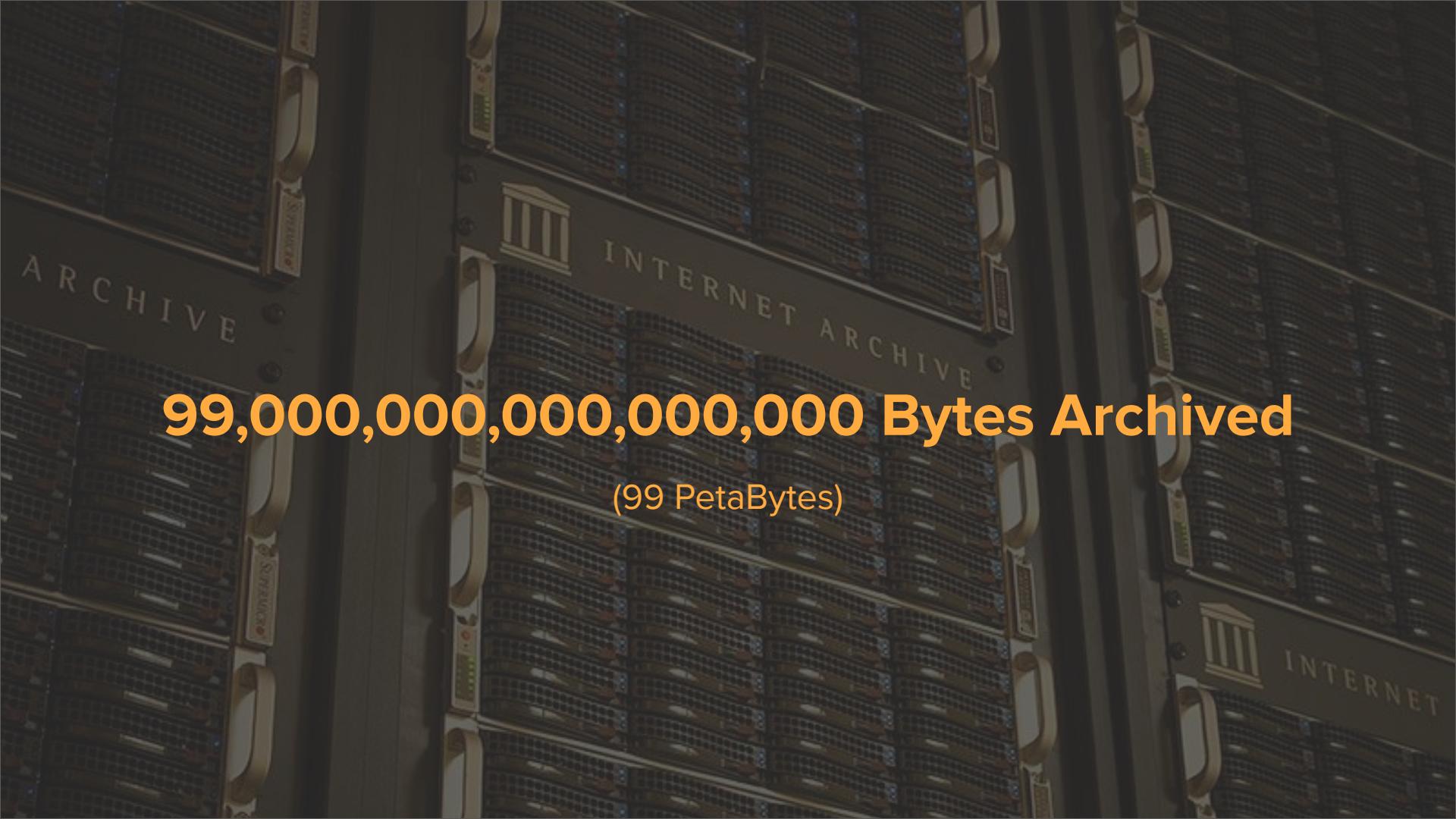
5,000,000 Moving Images

14,000,000 Audio Recordings

2,200,000 Hours of Television

6,000,000 eBooks

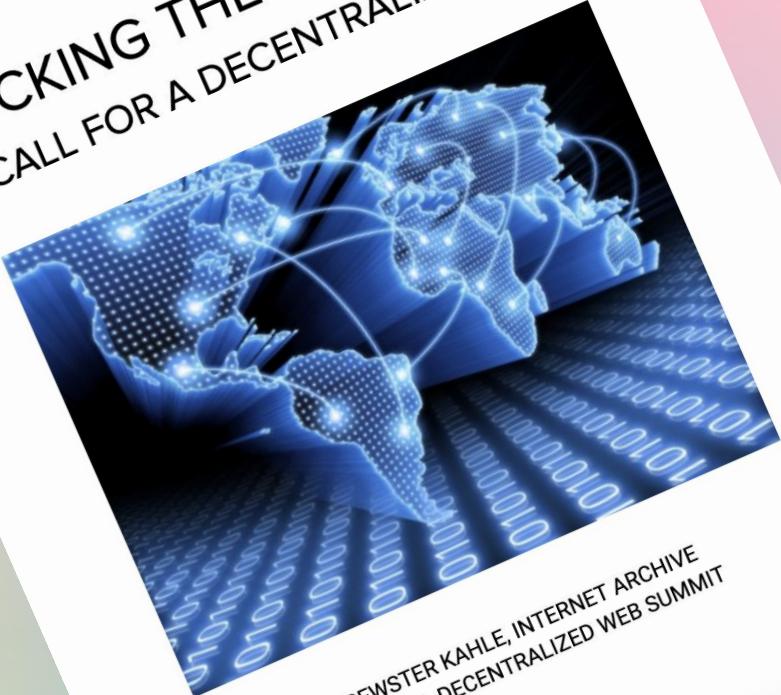
790,000	Software Titles
5,000,000	Moving Images
14,000,000	Audio Recordings
2,200,000	Hours of Television
6,000,000	eBooks
625,000,000,000	Web Pages

A dark server rack is shown from a low angle, filled with numerous hard drives. The words "INTERNET ARCHIVE" are printed diagonally across the front panel of the rack.

99,000,000,000,000,000 Bytes Archived

(99 PetaBytes)

LOCKING THE WEB OPEN: A CALL FOR A DECENTRALIZED WEB



BREWSTER KAHLE, INTERNET ARCHIVE
JUNE 2016, DECENTRALIZED WEB SUMMIT

INTERNET ARCHIVE



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<http://>

BROWSE HISTORY

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what happens if corporations license rather than sell digital things?



**what happens if corporations license
rather than sell digital things?**

they get to hold onto them, forever.

**what happens if corporations license
rather than sell digital things?**

and they can decide what can be done with them, forever.

**what happens if corporations license
rather than sell digital things?**

and they can take them away at any time.

Consider Digital Books...

if you can not buy one, but only lease it, then...



**...then every reading event will
be permissioned**

...every page is tracked by the publisher

change a book at any time,

and no libraries will own digital books,

Corporations and Governments can change history.

**and no amount of digital currency or
copyright law changes will stop it:**

... the ‘miracle’ of license agreements

and there will be fewer and fewer publishers



**Sounds bad, but...
is it happening?**



**Yes—
unless we win our lawsuit**

Disappearing books? Yes



The LIBRARY ASSOCIATION of IRELAND
Cumann Leabharlann na hÉireann

0

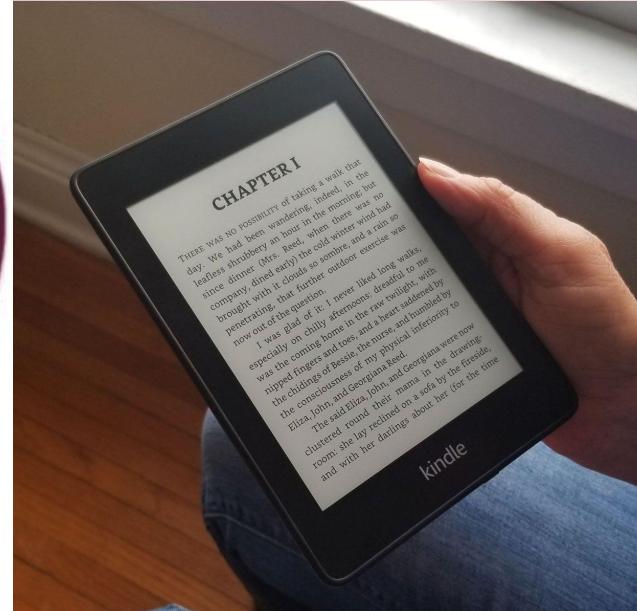


Irish Librarians condemn publisher Wiley's removal of hundreds of titles from ebook collections

NEWS

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Watching every page? Yes



Book Banning? Yes

Texas has banned more books than any other state, new report shows

Across the country, more books have been challenged and removed as religious and conservative groups target LGBTQ and race issues.

BY **BRIAN LOPEZ** SEPT. 19, 2022 5 AM CENTRAL



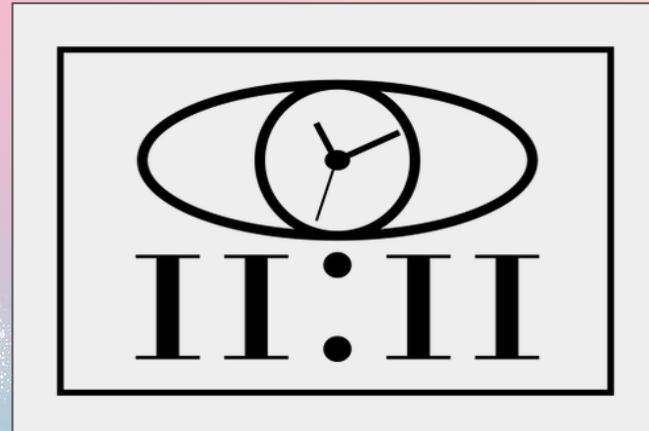
COPY LINK



What should we do?



Support indie publishers who sell books



Support AntiTrust; block mergers

Great Resignation | Inflation | Supply Chains | Leadership

RETAIL · BOOK PUBLISHING

Antitrust trial puts book publishing industry in the dock as Justice Department attempts to block merger of Penguin Random House, Simon & Schuster

BY HILLEL ITALIE AND THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

August 6, 2022 at 6:55 AM PDT

And, Support the Internet Archive + Libraries that own collections



Thank you!

Brewster Kahle

Founder, Internet Archive
brewster@archive.org



@brewster_kahle