

Digitise, preserve, and share the past for the future

Iron Mountain Cultural Heritage and Archives solution

Challenge

Your collections are unique and priceless resources of history and culture. They may be stored in wide-ranging locations, including public and private libraries, archives, museums, galleries, colleges and universities, and media and entertainment. Preserving these historic assets is critical; it's how we as a society learn, use, research, and share our cultural heritage with today's generation, as well as with generations to come. But what is the best way to ensure access to these resources when they are both fragile and restricted to a physical location? The need to properly preserve cultural heritage and archives for future generations while still enabling access and usage with a broader audience over time is one that many companies, organisations, and governments are struggling to address.

Impact

A large percentage of cultural heritage assets and archives are at risk because they are stored in less-than-optimal conditions, which makes them far more susceptible to damage from handling and exposure to natural environmental conditions. Additionally, natural disasters like fires or floods, along with man-made disasters like wars or political unrest, can potentially put large collections at risk.

What if you could

Leverage unrivalled expertise and prevent further degradation

and damage to cultural heritage collections and archives. You could:

- Protect and preserve the past, making it available in perpetuity for future generations
- Transform precious physical collections into digital surrogates, preserving the original characteristics and value of an item
- Use digitisation to enhance accessibility and usage, and share digital assets to promote collections and engage with wider audiences



Industry fact

The European Union (EU) has allocated €10 billion to support the modernisation and digital transition of the culture and creative industries, which includes the preservation and digitisation of cultural heritage assets and collections.¹ Similar initiatives are also taking place outside of the EU.²



Iron Mountain Cultural Heritage and Archives solution

Iron Mountain Cultural Heritage and Archives solution is designed to protect and preserve original collections and archives from damage and deterioration. Through digitisation, digital surrogates can be created, managed, shared, and monetised and expand the reach of these cultural items. In fact, having a fully digitised collection removes many physical limitations, bringing unprecedented levels of accessibility to these valuable cultural heritage collections.

Unlike traditional methods of delivering access to cultural heritage collections, digitisation is a powerful strategy that minimises outside influences that could potentially damage or degrade assets over time. Our qualified team of professionals are trained to handle assets with

the utmost care to minimise risk of damage while handling in the digitisation process. Each digital surrogate delivers enhanced access, enabling an item to be examined exhaustively, yet remain physically safe to retain all the rich detail and value of the original item. And with the option to offer online access, institutions can consider alternative storage options, like the possibility to relocate original collections or archives to a more stable and less expensive storage facility, enabling onsite collections to grow, or even repurposing valuable space.

Just as every cultural heritage asset is unique, often one-of-a-kind, the approach that you require needs to be as unique as your collection. Our expert archivists provide this unprecedented level of end-to-end, hands-on service that is tailored to your collection's exacting demands. Our climate-controlled environments are specifically designed for storing

vital records, assets, high-value art, and other valuable items. Our proven history in consultation, project management, cultural heritage handling, transportation, preservation, image capture, and archiving makes Iron Mountain the natural choice for your organisation.

Once digitised, your collections can be shared online and utilised to promote your institution and enable remote researchers, breaking down both regional and cultural barriers whilst enjoying appreciation from a much larger global constituency.

Our industry-leading capabilities and archival expertise help protect what you value most, safeguarding your collections through your transformation, enabling secure and trusted transit, storage, and digitisation, and helping you to take care of your collections throughout the journey from physical to digital.

Iron Mountain Cultural Heritage and Archives solution can preserve a broad range of physical and digital cultural heritage and archival formats, including but not limited to:

Paper-based assets

- > Records
- > Manuscripts
- > Books and bound materials
- > Photographic prints
- > Large format documents
- > Drawings
- > Designs
- > Maps
- > Digital born documents

Media

- > Film
- > Video
- > Audio

Transmissive

- > Negatives and transparencies
- > Microfiche and microfilm
- > Aperture cards

Art and artefacts

- > Paintings
- > Sculptures
- > 3D art
- > Artefacts and objects



Clear business benefits

Your organisation will receive clear benefits through partnering with Iron Mountain and using our Cultural Heritage and Archives solution:

➤ **Protect and preserve the past for the future:** Our professional team can help your organisation to lay out a plan for the preservation of your one-of-a-kind collection or archive. By utilising our consultation, stabilisation, transportation, and storage services we can partner with you to manage the end-to-end process with a secure chain of custody throughout. Digitisation is handled with utmost care throughout the process by trained personnel in strict, environmentally controlled facilities to maintain the current state of original collections, free from further damage or deterioration.

➤ **Transform your physical collections:** Highly accurate digital surrogates created by our team of experts to the highest International standards and guidelines, become the springboard for many new opportunities to expand your collection's reach, globally, so that they can be accessed, managed, shared, reproduced, and even monetised. Rigorous quality controls will be in place for imaging accuracy during the digitisation process. We can also enhance and create descriptive metadata at scale using artificial intelligence (AI), to improve the visibility, interoperability, and availability of items across collections and to facilitate research. Lower resolution images can be generated for distribution through different channels. Digital surrogates of original assets can be stored on

Iron Mountain InSight® Digital Experience Platform (DXP) or the content repository of choice.

➤ **Make the most of digital collections and archives:** Once these valuable, cultural heritage assets are digitised, the sky is truly the limit for novel use cases. Digitisation is the basis for creating new, richly immersive experiences for your audiences, enabling them to engage with cultural heritage collections with unprecedented accessibility, all with zero risk to the physical asset's condition. The digital reproduction of an asset facilitates greater levels of cooperation, enabling users and researchers around the world to access and collaborate in new shared experiences that only digitisation can deliver while also providing full digital rights management and control over intellectual property.

Contact Iron Mountain to learn how we can help you transform and maximise your cultural heritage collections and archives, expanding your reach in new ways with better accessibility.

¹ European Commission, [Recovery and Resilience Scoreboard](#), 2022 April

² Heritage Fund, [Investment in digitisation: what the heritage sector wants](#), 2023 April

08445 60 70 80 | ironmountain.com/en-gb

About Iron Mountain

Iron Mountain Incorporated (NYSE: IRM), founded in 1951, is the global leader for storage and information management services. Trusted by more than 225,000 organisations around the world, and with a real estate network of more than 85 million square feet across more than 1,400 facilities in over 60 countries, Iron Mountain stores and protects billions of information assets, including critical business information, highly sensitive data, and cultural and historical artifacts. Providing solutions that include secure storage, information management, digital transformation, secure destruction, as well as data centres, art storage and logistics, and cloud services, Iron Mountain helps organizations to lower cost and risk, comply with regulations, recover from disaster, and enable a more digital way of working. Visit www.ironmountain.com for more information.

© 2024 Iron Mountain, Incorporated and/or its affiliates "Iron Mountain". All rights reserved. Information herein is proprietary and confidential to Iron Mountain and/or its licensors, does not represent or imply an invitation or offer, and may not be used for competitive analysis or building a competitive product or otherwise reproduced without Iron Mountain's written permission. Iron Mountain does not provide a commitment to any regional or future availability and does not represent an affiliation with or endorsement by any other party. Iron Mountain shall not be liable for any direct, indirect, consequential, punitive, special, or incidental damages arising out of the use or inability to use the information, which is subject to change, provided AS-IS with no representations or warranties with respect to the accuracy or completeness of the information provided or fitness for a particular purpose. "Iron Mountain" is a registered trademark of Iron Mountain in the United States and other countries, and Iron Mountain, the Iron Mountain logo, and combinations thereof, and other marks marked by © or TM are trademarks of Iron Mountain. All other trademarks may be trademarks of their respective owners.

