

# Challenges in Constructing a Digital Microfilm Library

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There are approximately 2 million rolls of microfilm in the LDS Family History Library. This is a vast repository of family history knowledge that is only effectively available in a small number of physical locations around the world. This means that most family history research must occur outside of the home. If, however, all of that information was converted to digital form and made available over the Internet, the nature of family history research would fundamentally change.

Moore's law stipulates that computing capacity is doubling every 18 months. This means that the costs of digital storage of such a library are rapidly becoming practical. However, the creation of such a library is not simply a matter of scanning and storing images. There is a great deal of additional work that must be done to convert those images into a useful resource. This paper outlines the challenges and proposes a path from the present to a future with every home in the developed world having access to the entire library.