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# Information and documentation — Document storage requirements for archive and library materials

*Information et documentation — Exigences pour le stockage des  
documents d'archives et de bibliothèques*

**ISO 11799**

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**Third edition  
2024-09**



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This document was prepared by Technical Committee ISO/TC 46, *Information and documentation* Subcommittee SC 10, *Requirements for document storage and conditions for preservation*.

This third edition cancels and replaces the second edition (ISO 11799:2015), which has been technically revised.

The main changes are as follows:

- updated content to reflect ISO standards/technical reports published after the second edition, including ISO/TR 19814 and ISO/TR 19815;
- increased detail and guidance on facility requirements and considerations.

Any feedback or questions on this document should be directed to the user's national standards body. A complete listing of these bodies can be found at [www.iso.org/members.html](http://www.iso.org/members.html).

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Archives and libraries are institutions established to collect, preserve and make materials intended for consultation available.

Archive and library collections, wherever they are stored, normally contain a wide variety of materials and formats. These are mainly documents on paper, parchment, palm leaves, papyrus and generally also include photographic, audio-visual documents and digital formats on diverse types of carriers (mechanical, photographic, magnetic, optical). All these materials ideally require specific storage conditions to ensure their long-term preservation and access. Note that separation by media type is rarely possible in archive and library storage settings, and that most collections will include a variety of materials.

NOTE See ISO 18934<sup>[3]</sup> and ISO 18911<sup>[4]</sup> on storage of specific materials.

In a number of fields, national or local building regulations can encompass such matters as construction, safety and security for public buildings and buildings in which valuable objects are stored (fire precautions, emergency exits, security against earthquakes, theft, burglary, terrorist acts, etc.), as well as services and equipment in professional use. This document therefore avoids detailed rules and regulations in these fields, except when recommending what can be added to these requirements.

This document presents some facts and general rules to be considered when a purpose-built repository is designed, when an old building originally designed for another use is converted, or when a building already in use as repository is renovated, with respect to energy efficiency and sustainable development. The same applies for underground storage facilities which are intended to function as or are already in use as storage facilities.

This document applies to the long-term storage of archive and library materials. It takes into account that the materials are stored and must allow active usage as well. Note that this document is about the design and construction requirements for archive and libraries storage spaces. ISO/TR 19814<sup>[7]</sup> and ISO/TR 19815<sup>[8]</sup> serve as companion documents which guide program activities and operations once the physical structure of the store is in place. As such, this document also does not specifically address the design or construction requirements of support spaces to collections storage areas (e.g. supplies storage, receiving areas, and quarantine spaces). Throughout this document, the term “repository” is used to refer specifically to a collection’s storage space, as opposed to a broader facility which may include a repository as well as other support spaces.

Depending on the climate and economic situation of individual institutions, it can be difficult to create and maintain optimal conditions for the long-term storage of archive and library materials. In these cases, it is expected that the institution will choose a path that meets the most appropriate compromise given needs and resources. Information that factors into these decisions should be documented with overall project documentation (see 5.3) to inform future professionals as to the decisions made and why.