

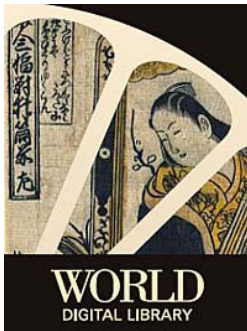


The John Carter Brown Library

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News Release

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Today at the Paris headquarters of UNESCO, the World Digital Library was launched, with the participation of many of the world's great libraries. The JCB was proud to be one of the WDL's original partner institutions. This project, an important step forward for global access to rare documents, draws on the treasures of libraries around the world. Located at www.wdl.org, the online digital library will provide unrestricted public access, free of charge, to this material.

The WDL was developed by a team at the Library of Congress and supported by UNESCO. Technical assistance was provided by the *Bibliotheca Alexandrina* of Alexandria, Egypt. Institutions contributing content and expertise to the WDL include national libraries and cultural and educational institutions in Brazil, Egypt, China, France, Iraq, Israel, Japan, Mali, Mexico, Morocco, the Netherlands, Qatar, the Russian Federation, Saudi Arabia, Serbia, Slovakia, South Africa, Sweden, Uganda, the United Kingdom, and the United States.

Examples of treasures that will be featured on the WDL from the John Carter Brown Library include the first illustrated edition of Christopher Columbus's letter to the Spanish monarchy, the author's edition of the first book printed in what is now the United States, Samuel de Champlain's first book about New France, one of the first maps ever to identify the new world as "America," and the only known edition (and second oldest imprint) of a book printed in a Jesuit mission in Paraguay, among others.

The John Carter Brown Library is a private, non-profit, independently funded and administered institution for advanced research in history and the humanities, founded in 1846 and located at Brown University since 1901.

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