

InfoPreserver: Project Overview (Rebuild Ladder–Aligned)

InfoPreserver is a distributed, redundant knowledge preservation system designed to support human recovery after regional or global civilizational collapse. It is not an academic archive, nor an attempt to preserve modern civilization in amber. It is a **recovery system**, built around the preservation of *capability* rather than history, prestige, or completeness.

The organizing principle of InfoPreserver is simple:

given the state a society has fallen to, what knowledge is actionable now—and what knowledge enables the next step up?

Capability Over Comprehensiveness

InfoPreserver assumes that institutions, infrastructure, and supply chains may fail partially or entirely. Knowledge is therefore organized not by discipline or era, but by *recoverability*. This philosophy is encoded structurally through the **Rebuild Ladder (A0–A5)**, a capability-based taxonomy that defines minimum viable states of civilization.

Each document in the repository is classified at the *lowest level where it becomes genuinely useful*:

- **A0 – Survival Baseline:** Knowledge that keeps humans alive.
- **A1 – Stabilized Community:** Knowledge that enables sustainable local living.
- **A2 – Industrial Seed:** Knowledge that allows communities to bootstrap power, materials, and industry—the critical inflection point.
- **A3 – Infrastructure Recovery:** Knowledge that enables scaling beyond a single settlement.
- **A4 – Advanced Industry & Science:** Knowledge that restores precision, optimization, and research capacity.
- **A5 – Leapfrogs & Frontier:** High-dependency systems preserved for future societies that may reach them faster than expected.

This ladder is **not a historical timeline**. Advanced knowledge is not always late, and early recovery does not imply primitiveness. Capability—not chronology—governs placement.

Culture as Emergent, Not Prescribed

A foundational philosophical constraint of InfoPreserver is restraint. The system does not attempt to preserve or impose specific cultural outputs, artistic styles, or musical

traditions. Instead, it preserves the *tools* and enabling knowledge of culture—materials, techniques, social practices, and psychological resilience.

The assumption is explicit: if humans possess the means, they will create culture for themselves. Attempting to encode or mandate cultural outcomes risks reproducing the very systemic failures that may have contributed to collapse. Culture is therefore treated as *emergent*, not archived.

The Infostery Model

InfoPreserver is designed to exist as many independent steward nodes, called **infosteries**. Each infostery maintains a complete copy of the repository in two complementary forms:

1. **Digital**, paired with some means of electrical generation and display.
2. **Hardcopy**, intended for long-term survival independent of electronics.

Hardcopy implementations vary by resources and intent. Some infosteries may print the entire repository; others may curate critical subsets. Physical formats may range from archival paper to laser-etched metal plates. This diversity is a feature, not a flaw: resilience emerges from heterogeneity.

Deliberate Format Constraints

To remain useful across all ladder levels and collapse severities, InfoPreserver is deliberately constrained in format.

- All documents are stored as **printable PDFs**
- Audio and video media are excluded
- All content must remain usable with or without electricity

PDF was selected for its platform agnosticism, print fidelity, and long-term accessibility. A free reader can be included directly in the repository. Current estimates suggest the full system can be contained within approximately **1 TB of digital storage**, enabling rapid duplication, concealment, and transport.

Hardcopy storage is more resource-intensive but far more temporally resilient. InfoPreserver treats digital density and physical durability as complementary survival strategies.

Distributed Recovery, Not Centralized Survival

InfoPreserver is not designed around a single vault, authority, or sanctuary. Its strength lies in **multiplicity**. With many infosteries distributed geographically and culturally, recovery

can occur in parallel rather than sequentially. Knowledge loss becomes localized rather than global.

In this sense, InfoPreserver is less a library than a **capability seed bank**. It preserves the minimum conditions required for societies to rebuild themselves—on their own terms—when they are ready.