

**THE FOLLOWING MESSAGE IS NOT AN ADVERTISEMENT.**

# It's time to launch our "Intergalactic Archive!"

(After the meteor hits it will be too late to make a backup copy of our civilization.)

What if our worst nightmare comes true and a huge meteor smashes into our tiny blue bubble. Unquestionably, the enormous loss of human and animal life would be a catastrophe beyond anyone's comprehension. Yet, as terrible as the end of the world would be, there is another tragedy that would unequivocally compound the immense loss of life -NOBODY MADE A BACKUP COPY OF OUR CIVILIZATION! That's right, in one cataclysmic moment, all the great science, art, music, literature, and inventions created throughout human history – GONE! Yes, there are a few underground archive sites throughout the world that house huge databases, but the majority of these analog and digital repositories are sites specifically created for government and business institutions. Unfortunately, because of legitimate copyright and royalty issues, all the great works of art and science can't be loaded onto one huge hard drive and stored underground.

So, how do we save all the great works of art and science from vanishing for all eternity? If we are to preserve the history and accomplishments of our civilization two things must happen: First, a digital copy from a selection of our greatest books, photos, paintings, sculptures, movies, radio and TV programs must be *donated*, compiled, and then archived to the state-of-the-art digital storage medium. The ability to record this huge volume of historical data is not a major technology issue. In fact, about 15 years ago *Popular Science* magazine had an article describing a new Digital Optical Storage Device capable of storing 100,000 Gigabytes of digital information on *one* reel of tape. That's enough storage space to record every word in every book ever printed and still have room for a photo or two of Britney Spears.

Next, we need to build at least eight archive capsules and launch them towards the eight galaxies most likely to have planets circling stars like our sun. Yes, there are a few logistical, technical, and financial problems to overcome before we can send this huge "email attachment" to some alien civilization in the next galaxy. The problems may seem overwhelming, but ask yourself this question:

**What does it cost us and the universe if the history and accomplishments of our civilization vanishes forever?**

Imagine, the great works of Michelangelo, Shakespeare, Mozart, Rembrandt, Newton, Pasteur, Watson and Crick, Edison, Tesla, Curie, Einstein, Darwin, and the thousands of other great men and women who made our world a better place to live, snuffed out of existence forever! What a miscarriage of forethought it would be if other civilizations in the universe were denied the record of our existence simply because we didn't spend the time or money to make a "backup copy" of our lives and store it "off site" (space).

Therefore, I propose the following:

- that we write a letter to NASA (see form below) and request that they place an **Intergalactic Archive** mission at the top of the list of planned space missions.
- that we set up a fund to finance the **Intergalactic Archive** program.
- that we use the internet and the internet community as resources to manage, research, design, and build the **Intergalactic Archive** in order to reduce cost.
- that the project take no more than five years to complete.

If you're as concerned as I am about preserving the history and accomplishments of our civilization you can email me at [rsecura@ix.netcom.com](mailto:rsecura@ix.netcom.com)

**"May the lives and accomplishments of all who walked this earth be remembered for eternity!"**  
Roger D. Secura

**NASA Administrator**  
**NASA Headquarters**  
**Washington, DC 20546-0001**

Dear Administrator:

I am well aware of the fact that the possibility of a large meteor, giant solar flare, or a worldwide plague ending all life on this planet is extremely remote. Furthermore, please be assured that I am not a fatalist and believe that the sky is falling. Nevertheless, should the ultimate disaster befall our civilization, it would be an even greater tragedy to lose the great works of art, literature, science, and technology for all time simply because we failed to make a "backup copy" of our civilization and store it "off-site" (space). Imagine what a profound thrill and revelation it would be to find a spaceship from an extinct civilization circling our planet. I'm sure the builders of such a craft would have wished for some intelligent life in another galaxy to preserve their culture and history. In turn, had they survived, would do the same for our civilization. There's only one problem...we don't have a ship traveling through space carrying the recorded history of our civilization.

**Therefore, I believe we not only owe it to humanity but to the whole intergalactic community to start building our own "Intergalactic Archive!" I can't think of a more important space mission for mankind than to archive a large sample of our accomplishments and send this "email attachment" sailing through space to the far corners of the universe. The real tragedy would be to do nothing, thereby denying other civilizations in the universe a record of our existence.**

I implore you to place the "**Intergalactic Archive**" mission at the top of the list of planned space missions. Remember, just one large undetected meteor headed towards our planet would "close the window" on any evidence of our existence. Regardless of what the future holds for us, we should still send the story of our lives to other civilizations not only to preserve our history, but to also let them know that they are not alone in the universe.

Thank you for your time and consideration,

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_