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The Universal Library: Atlantis 1.0

H.G. Wells, a prominent science-fiction novelist who wrote many of the most formative novels of the 20th century, namely the famous *War of the Worlds*, which was later immortalized by its performance, which caused mass hysteria as it was performed, as if it were a news broadcast, on live radio in 1938, by the lauded film director and actor Orson Welles. The same H.G. Wells, in 1921, wrote a novel called *The Salvaging of Civilization*, wherein he describes a philosopher named Comenius, who established a need for a, "common book, a book of history, science and wisdom, which should form the basis and framework for the thoughts and imaginations of every citizen in the world."[1] He describes a world wrought with war, and destruction, as, "the Thirty Years War in Central Europe was in its closing, most dreadful stages of famine and plunder. In France the crown and the nobles were striving desperately for ascendancy in the War of the Fronde. The Turk threatened Vienna. Nowhere in Western Europe did there remain any secure and settled political arrangements. Everywhere there was disorder, everywhere it seemed that anything might happen, and it is just those disordered and indeterminate times that are most fruitful of bold religious and social and political and educational speculations and initiatives."[2] As we are living in a time of extreme conflict, with

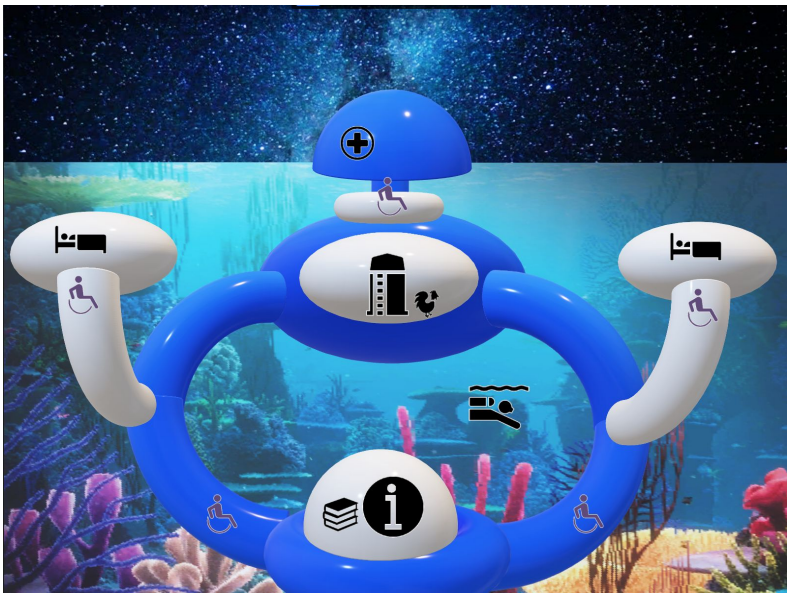
[1] *The Salvaging of Civilization,* H.G. Wells
[2] Ibid.

few reputable sources of information, and even fewer people who desire to seek the truth, we sought to create an institution for safeguarding information and scholars, which would be protected by the vast ocean in which it should be stationed. This aquatic universal library, barricaded by miles of ocean, it will also function as living quarters for those who need shelter and for those who are researching within the library. Combining current patent ideas for subsea bunkers with sci-fi aesthetics, we believe that if a doomsday situation was to come to fruition, we would need to have a location that would store and protect information for generations to come. An undersea structure located far from mainland targets of Nuclear War would keep information safe and provide as a hideout in the case of an end of the world scenario. Our designs and ideas include the resource hub, the sustainability of such a bunker, the living quarters, and transportation to the bunker.

The Atlantis Information Hub and Security Bunker, or whichever name it will have, will function primarily as a digital library in the event of a doomsday scenario. Our goal is for the Atlantis to be similar to a time capsule but with an additional ability to sustain life for a brief period of time. Similar to the Voyager Golden Records, the Atlantis will contain a digital database and a physical library of information concerning human history, scientific research, and art. Of course, creating a library with this level of data will be difficult, but there are many researchers and companies attempting to create universal libraries. The hardest part of creating a digital library is making a dependable searching method for finding relevant information, but many universal library projects are considering the problem of keywords and how to search for imagery and sounds.

> “Another approach to gleaning useful results from many different kinds of libraries is to analyze context as well as search for keywords. At Microsoft Research, Susan Dumais's language

processing group is using statistical models to analyze how often words occur together in documents as a means of drawing inferences about what a document says, rather than just the words it contains. Schatz's team has taken a similar approach to create searchable concepts within the 10 million items in the National Library of Medicine's MEDLINE database of biomedical literature. Ultimately, the universal search engine will probably comprise several task-specific information seekers—one for images, another for video, a third for music, perhaps several for text—that will find all relevant knowledge to satisfy a particular query."[3]


Model by: Daryl Pazer

We have envisioned the bunker and information hub to be a flexible or stationary oceanic structure that houses multiple living facilities, a sustainable agricultural wing, and a digital universal library, similar to the conceptualized Sub-Biosphere 2.[4] We have also envisioned the alternative structures to possibly be located under a lake or ocean floor to protect against radiation in the water. The facility will be entered either through an elevator entrance shaft (this

[3] http://science.sciencemag.org/content/281/5384/1784

[4] "Noted." *Civil Engineering (08857024)*, vol. 83, no. 12, Dec. 2013, pp. 38–39. *EBSCOhost*, login.libproxy.newschool.edu/login?url=https://search.ebscohost.com/login.aspx?direct=true&db=bth&AN=94709352&site=ehost-live&scope=site.

limits the depth of the facility) or through entrance hatches that are only accessible via diving. Either entry decision severely limits the depth of the structure or the accessibility of the facility.[5] Another option for the facility is for it to be autonomous and similar to a submarine. The reason for choosing an aquatic bunker is because we wish to avoid having the structure located near any major cities or countries that would be the target of a nuclear attack. Additionally, we believe that with ocean levels rising, aquatic structures are reasonable to inquire about. Our greatest questions concerning the structure are questions of accessibility, energy, and safety. To answer these questions we look to a patent idea from the 1970's by Edward E. Horton and current designs for aquatic structures.

> "A protective, oil leak sensitive, subsea well bunker and template construction adapted to be floated, carried, barged or transported to a proposed well site and lowered to a sea floor without special equipment. The bunker construction provides an enclosed chamber for well equipment, the well chamber being adapted to be filled with liquid for maintaining subsurface ambient pressures, and treated for reducing and inhibiting marine life and corrosion, and to provide a selected environment within the well chamber different than the environmental conditions without the chamber to facilitate and enhance working and service conditions within the chamber. The bunker construction includes means for sensing the presence and absence of oil in the chamber."[6]

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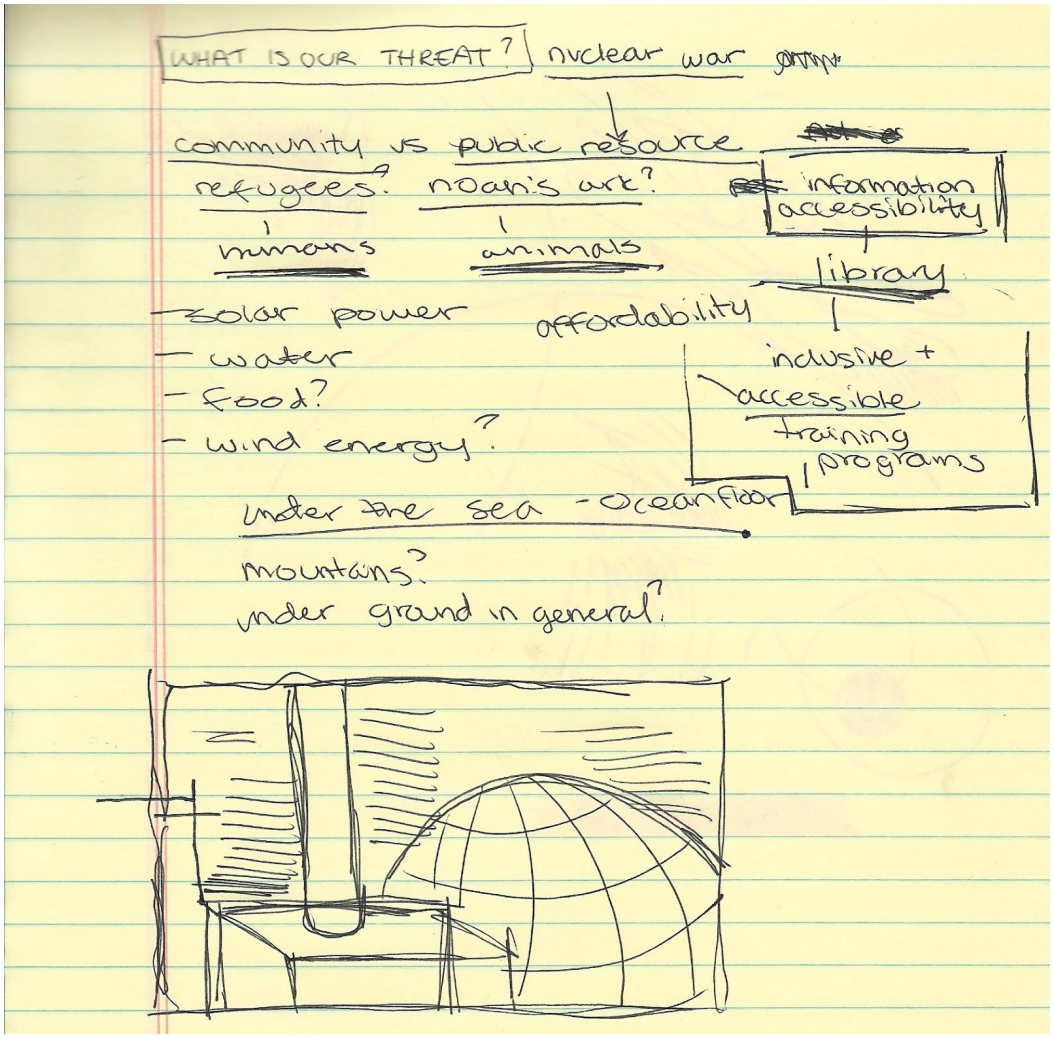
[5] See the options listed on https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Underwater_habitat#Technical_classification_and_description

[6] https://patents.google.com/patent/US3703207A/en

While this patent is dependent on oil for energy, the same considerations for marine life and corrosion apply to a renewable source of energy and to the general structure of the library and bunker. The structure will have to be able to supply and power enough energy to run the database searches and provide for basic human life support under the sea. The SeaOrbiter, a currently proposed undersea research vehicle, "would be powered by solar, wind, and wave energy but would be equipped with propellers as well. EADS—an international firm specializing in aerospace, defence, and related services—is said to be at work creating a biofuel for the vessel that would provide an alternative power source."[7] We envision a similar biofuel or renewable energy source for our structure.

[7] "Noted." *Civil Engineering (08857024)*, vol. 83, no. 12, Dec. 2013, pp. 38–39. *EBSCOhost*, login.libproxy.newschool.edu/login?url=https://search.ebscohost.com/login.aspx?direct=true&db=bth&AN=94709352&site=ehost-live&scope=site.



Brainstorming I

Brainstorming II: Under the Sea Floor

The idea of an underwater database and sustainable living facility is both ambitious and possibly not worth the effort. It would be more cost effective and accessible to build upon ideas and designs of underground bunkers which we already have. However, this does not mean that there are no reasons to look towards envisioning an aquatic escape from doomsday. Though our current technology is not quite at the level to handle our Atlantis-esque idea, we believe in the importance of preserving information and keeping a universal database for all of humanity.