Using the Internet Archive

The Internet Archive is a non-profit online library with millions of free books, film and music recordings, and software. It also runs the Wayback Machine, letting you view older versions of websites.

Its main website is https://archive.org/

For books, start at
## https://archive.org/details/books

- Everything in the Internet Archive is free; this means that you will see lots of older and academic works in the public domain

- Finding something that you want can be tricky without knowing how to search

- Use the search bar to look for a title, author, or a subject

You can sort searches by relevance, popularity, title, date created, or author

- For example, a search for "pirates" returns over 2,000 results; the default sorting is by relevance

- This means that the Internet Archive tries to find the closest match to your actual search

- You can also sort by different criteria by clicking the various "**SORT BY**" buttons

- Click the same button again to go back to the default results order
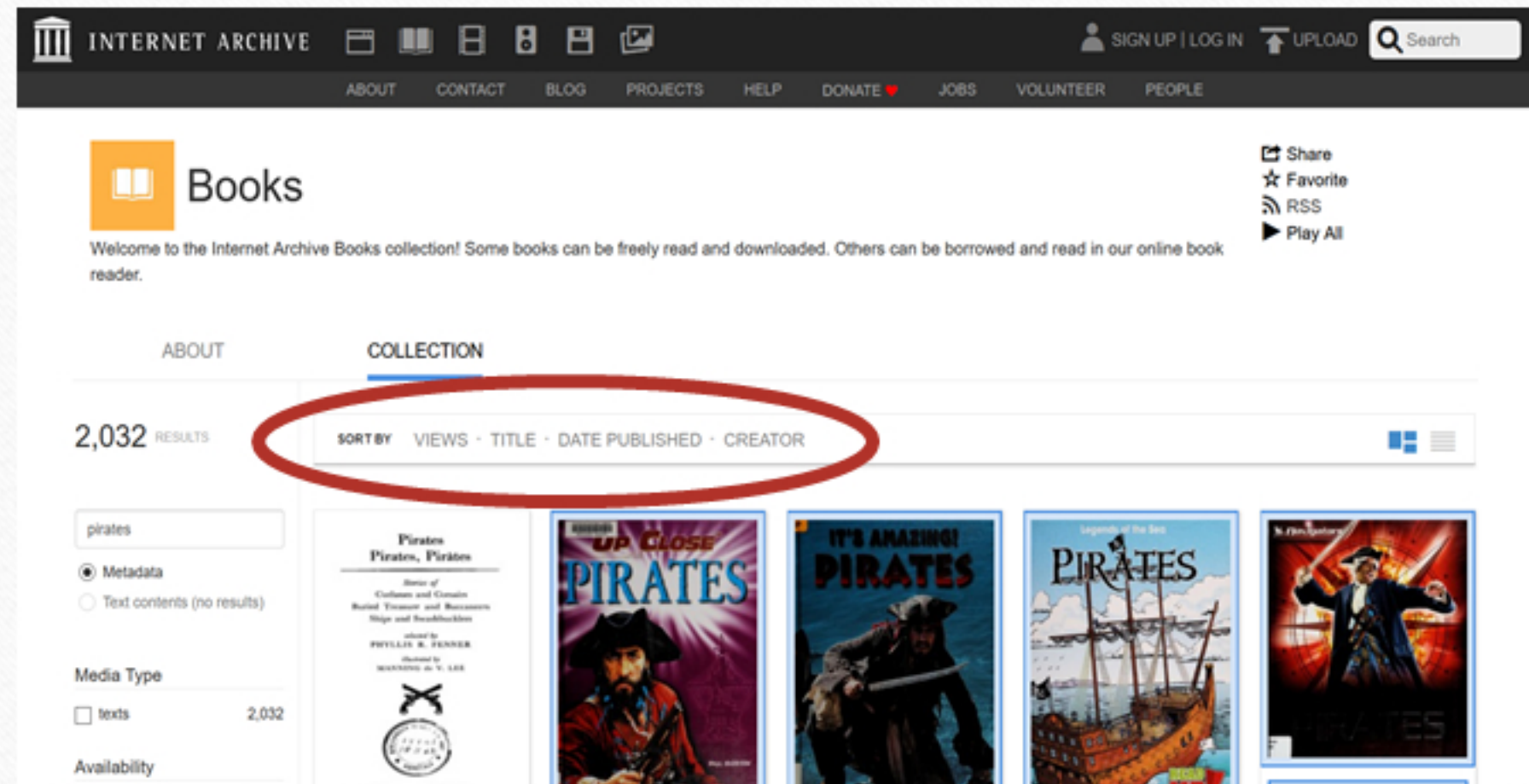
The top results change when you sort by "VIEWS"

- Notice how *Treasure Island* appears near the top even though it doesn't have "pirates" in the title

- This is because we are sorting by the most popular books relating to "pirates"

- The "**VIEWS**" sort is valuable for avoiding obscure books

You can also add search facets to further control your results

- As you scroll further down the results page, you will see additional options to filter them on the left sidebar

- One facet to keep in mind is "**Availability**"

- Books that are still under copyright can only be borrowed if the Internet Archive has an available copy

- Books in the public domain are always available

When your click on an available title, you go to that book's main page
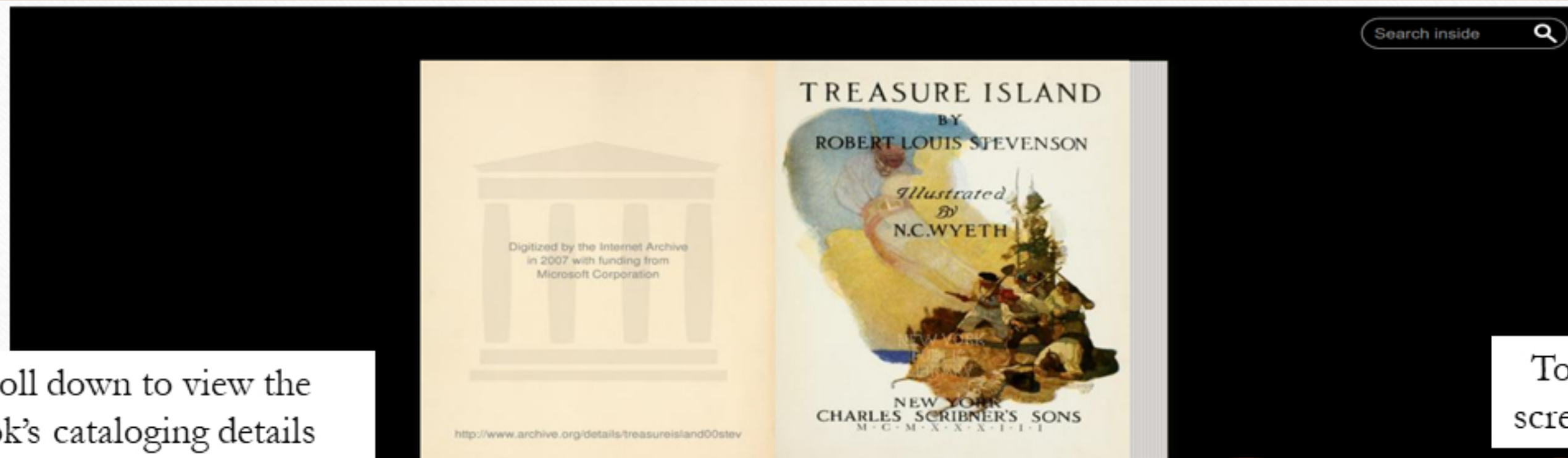
Scroll down to view the book's cataloging details

Toggle full screen reader

Flip the pages left and right (or use your arrow keys)

You will need an Internet Archive account to borrow a book with limited availability

- Only one person at a time can read one of the Internet Archive's copies of a book under copyright

- If you have an account, you can log in to borrow it

- It is free and easy to create an account; all you need is an email address

- Borrowed books are available for 14 days; you can read them online or load them into most ereaders during that time
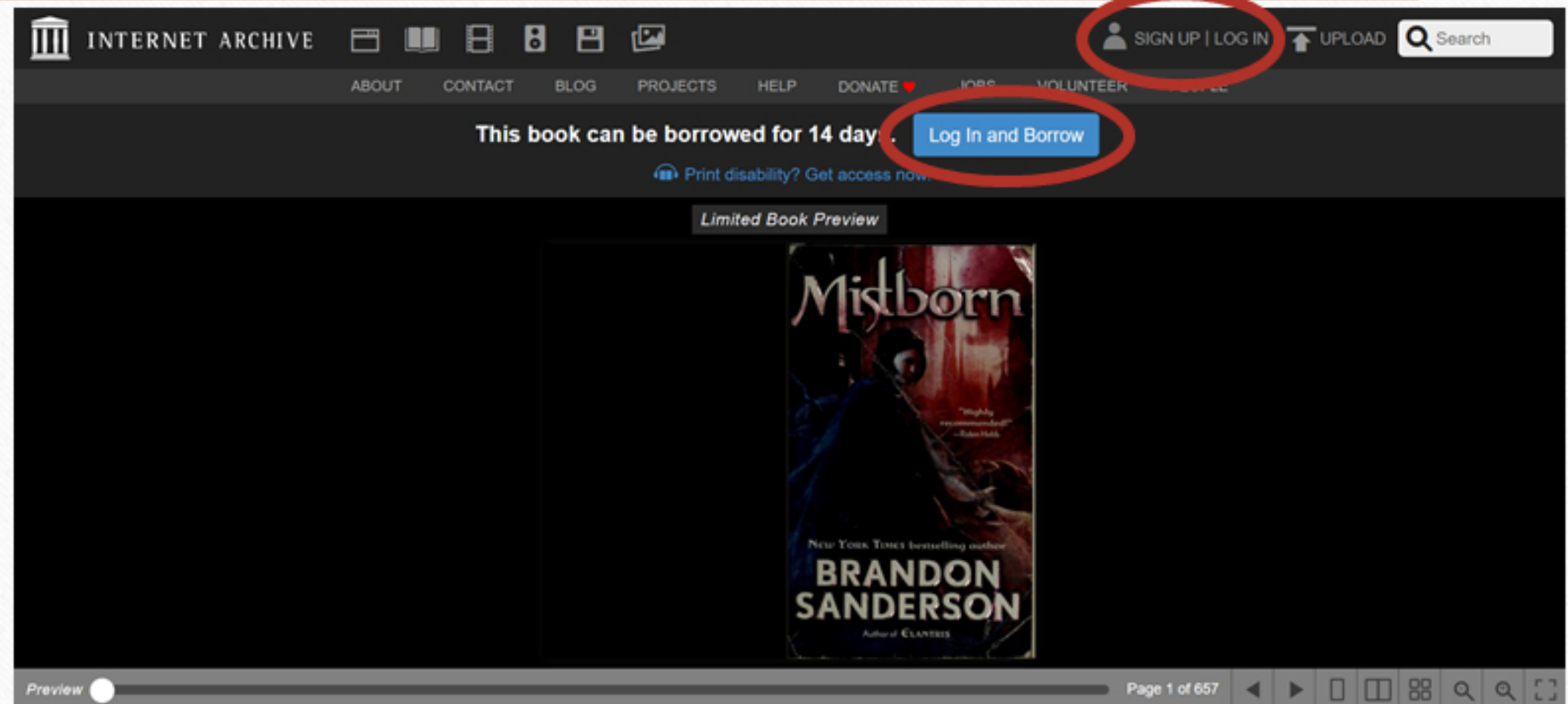
Anyone can sign up for an account

- You can access the Sign Up page anywhere on the site with the top banner
- You just need to enter your email address, choose a screen name (you might need to pick another one if your first choice is already used by someone else), and choose a password
- Remember to practice good computer security; try not to reuse the same password on different websites and avoid common, easily guessable passwords
- You can uncheck both boxes in order to not get any emails from the Internet Archive; agreeing to receive announcements is not required to create an account
- Once you have an account, your borrowed books will appear there

Sign up for an account

Get your virtual library card! Already have one? Log In!

Enter email address Up to 127 characters

Choose a screen name (this is how others will see you) 3 to 127 characters

Choose a password 3 to 100 characters

Announcements
☑ Send me general announcements from the Internet Archive (approx. two per month)
☐ Send me announcements about Internet Archive events in the San Francisco Bay Area

By signing up, you agree to the Internet Archive's Terms of Service.

Sign up

Pay attention to the featured collections

- Click the book symbol on the top banner to bring up the featured collections

- You can go directly to a particular collection or see special projects

- This applies to all the other symbols (such as websites, films, audio recordings, software and games, and photographs) on the top banner
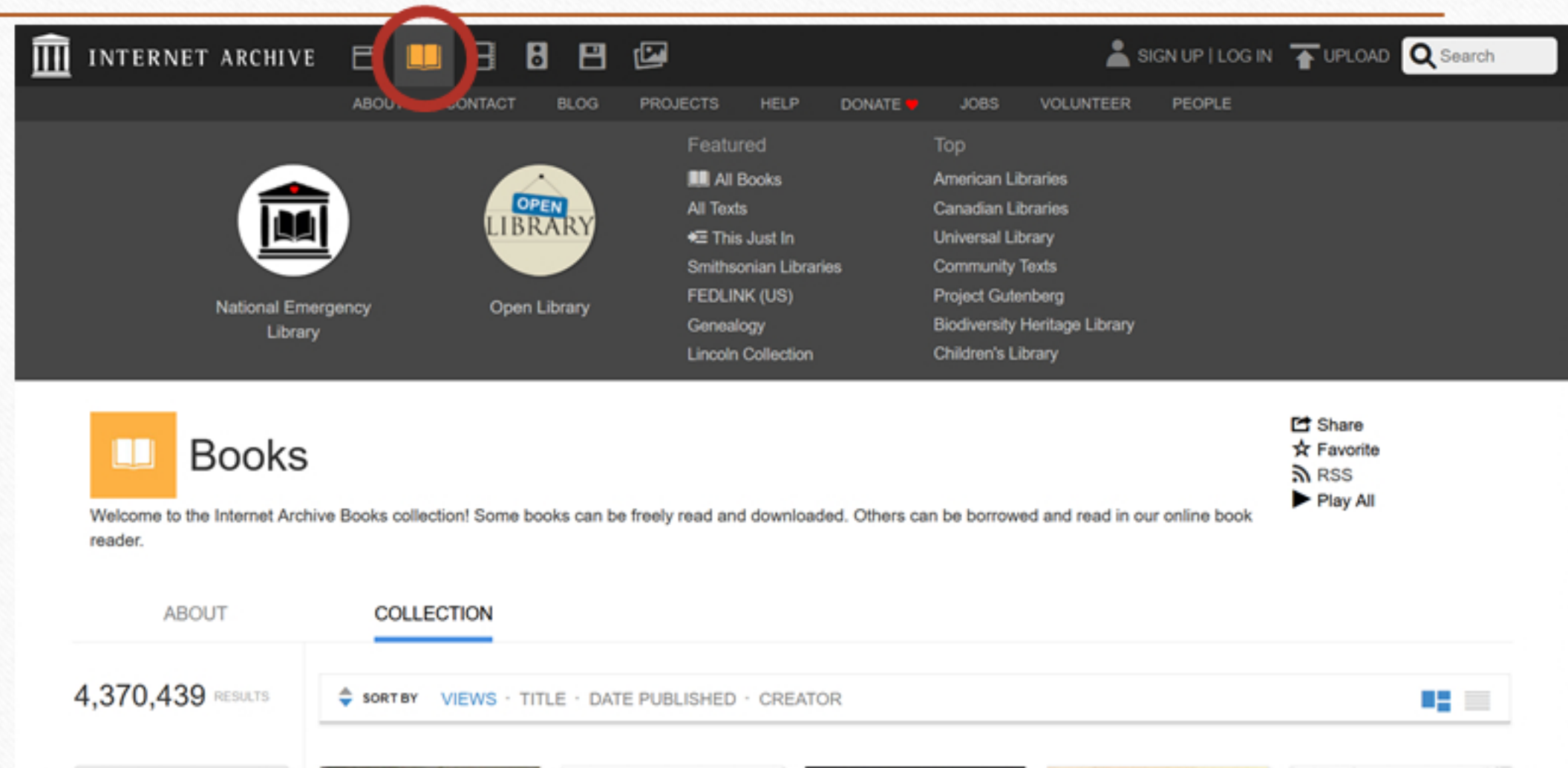
Open Library is a companion project to the Internet Archive

- You can get there by going to https://openlibrary.org/

- Your Internet Archive username and password also work in Open Library

- Open Library features a more curated interface where you can search by different subject or age groups

- The project's overall goal is to create an open source, public library catalog for every book ever published
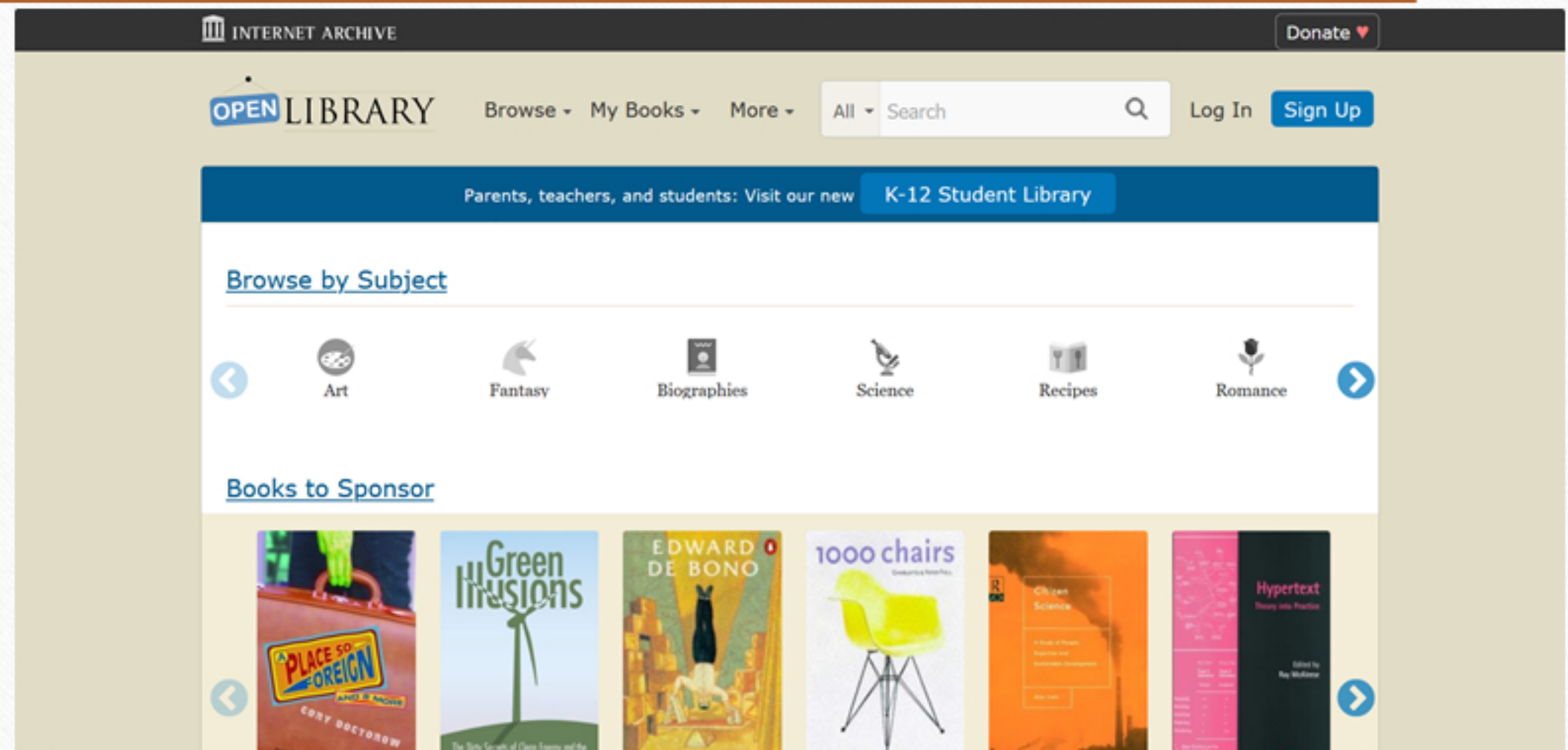
The National Emergency Library is a temporary collection to support students and researchers while schools and libraries are closed

- You can get there by going to https://archive.org/details/nationalemergencylibrary

- This collection eliminates the use of waitlists while the national emergency due to COVID-19 continues

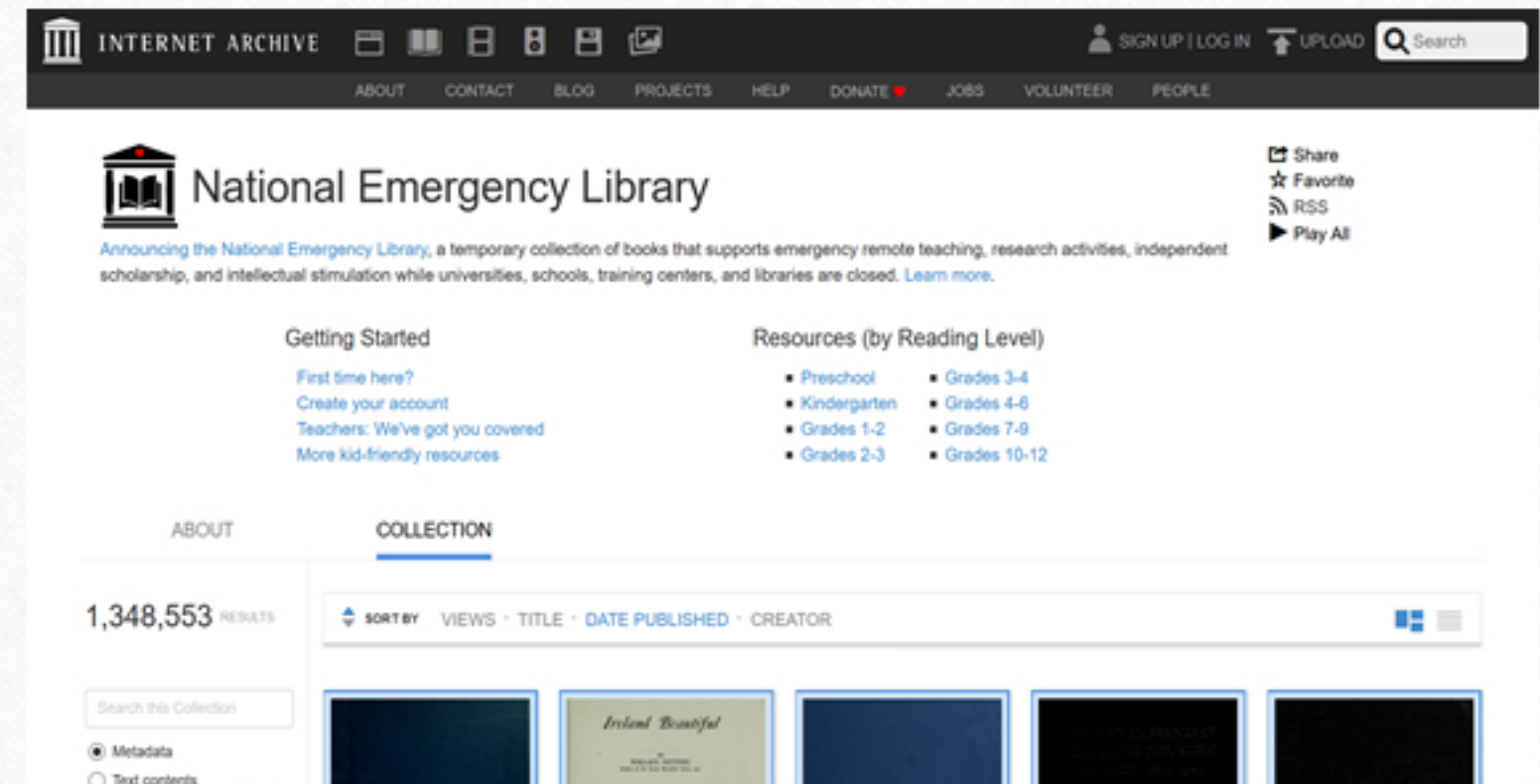- That means that as many people who want can borrow a book from the Internet Archive for 14 days

- This is a temporary measure while schools, libraries, and archives are closed; further, all books have standard technological protections to prevent people from making additional copies or distributing borrowed books

You're good to go!

- Instructions and troubleshooting advice for other specific databases and library services are forthcoming

- Loans from the Internet Archive automatically return themselves, so you don't need to worry about due dates

- You can use the Internet Archive to:

    - Read, download, and share public domain ebooks

    - Borrow recent and popular books

    - Use the Wayback Machine to find older versions of current websites or content that has since been lost

    - Browse photographs, music, film, and television recordings, including some older news broadcasts

- If you need additional help or reference assistance, please contact us at moffat@rcls.org – we will get back to you as quickly as possible