

# ESA: Archiving a Scientific and Technical Legacy in Space

---

Pierre Kirchner

27/06/2023

# What Does ESA Do?



**ALL OF THIS IS POSSIBLE THANKS TO THE COLLABORATION OF MEMBER STATES**

**ESA is active across every area of the space sector**

**World leader in science and technology**

**Over 80 satellites developed, tested, and operated since 1975**

**More than 220 launches from Europe's Spaceport in Kourou**



# 1989 Birth of ESA Archives

- **1989:** The deposit contract between ESA and HAEC/EUI introduces the « ESA Archives » in ESA and also the idea of « ESA Historical Archives »
- 1998: IRC specifies the access rules of 15/30-40 years to open ESA Historical Archives to the public
- **2002:** ECSR opens for ESA technical documentation
- 2017: Moving of HQ-ESA Archives from HQ-Nikis to ESRIN
- **2020:** Moving of ESOC Archives to ECSR  
ESA/HAEU/EUI deposit agreement revised and amended
- **2023:** ESA Archives portal <https://historicalarchives.esa.int/>

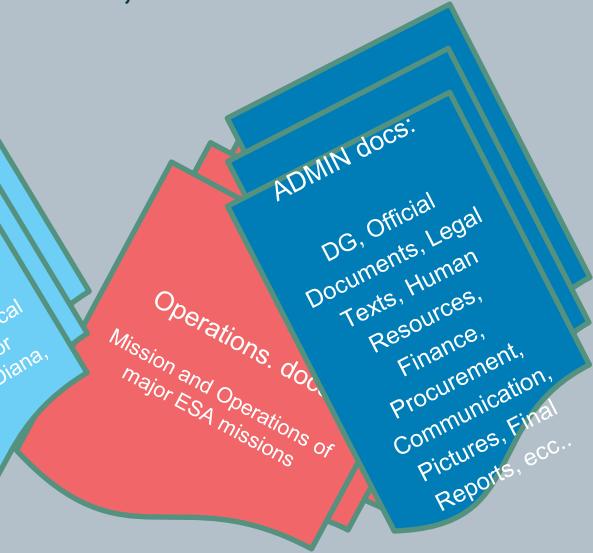


# ECSR: European Centre for Space Records 2002-2023



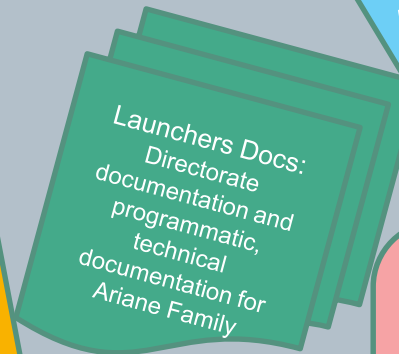
ECSR created in 2002 to host technical records from ESTEC projects and missions information, started with:

- Envisat
- ERS-1 & ERS-2
- SOHO
- XMM
- Meteosat



Increase of the capacity of ECSR in 20 years, hosting:

- Rosetta
- Ariane
- MSG and METOP
- Cluster
- Artemis



Administration: 40%  
Programmes: 60%

ECSR-ESRIN: 5500 Im  
ECSR-deposit: 2800 Im  
Total in 2023: 8300Im





- EDAS: European Digital Agenda for Space
- ESA Archives team adopts the digital agenda to preserve the ESA legacy
- Acquisition of 2 IT tools for ESA Archives: OMNES and SHIP with FITS format, Dublin Core metadata and IIIF
- ESA Archives digitisation strategy
- 3 technical series digitised in 2019 as pilots
- Frame contract in 2021 to « digitise ECSR »
- Opening of ESA Portal and SHIP for external and internal users

# Digitised collections in OMNES

From 2019, 13 collections have digitised and ingested. Collections require curation before opening

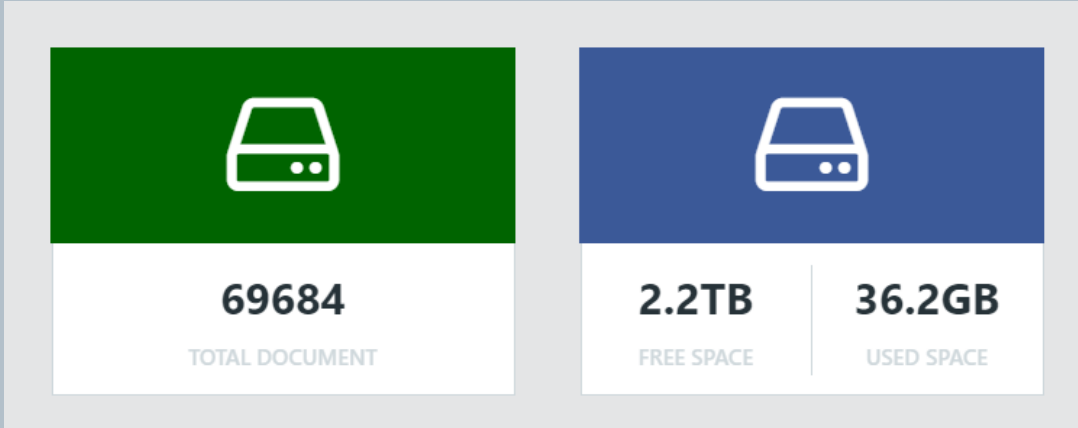
## Administration:

- DG 80% digitised
- Inspector General 100 % digitised
- Legal on-going (60% digitised)
- Publications on-going (estimation: 40% digitised)
- Pictures all contact sheets
- Contracts on-going (60% digitised)

## Programmes:

- ERS 100% digitised
- SOHO 100% digitised
- HSF 100% digitised
- Frequency 100% digitised
- Contracts Final Reports 100% digitised
- COS-B 100% digitised
- ISEE-B.... 100% digitised
- Envisat (Partial digitisation planned for 2023)

2023: Approx. 1800 Im in digital formats



# ESA Archives portal: <https://historicalarchives.esa.int/>



Promote the ESA Archives

Opening: 25 January 2023

IIF experience: <https://ship.esa.int/ISS/>

Socials allow us to communicate for each new opening: [https://twitter.com/ESA\\_History](https://twitter.com/ESA_History)

Home / News / Archives in action for International Archives week: from rubbish bin to Archives mascot

## Celebrating International Archives week: from rubbish bin to Archives mascot

Fri, 09/06/2023 - 08:44

Did you know that 9 June is International Archives Day? This date was chosen in 2007 to commemorate the date on which the International Council for Archives was created, under the auspices of UNESCO, in 1948.

Since 2019, it has become part of the ICA's *International Archives Week*, where professionals in the archival community from around the world come together to promote the role of archives for accountability, transparency, democracy, heritage, memory and society.

To celebrate this week, and to play our part in raising awareness of the importance of archival preservation and access, we have taken the opportunity to investigate a rather special object held in the European Centre for Space Records: the story of Willfried, our Archives mascot, begins with the production of a prototype spacesuit, but also perfectly encapsulates the role of Archives in safeguarding our sometimes fragile heritage and telling its stories.

**Developing a European space suit**

The first ESA astronauts carried out spacewalks (extra-vehicular activity or EVA) using the space suits of their international partners.

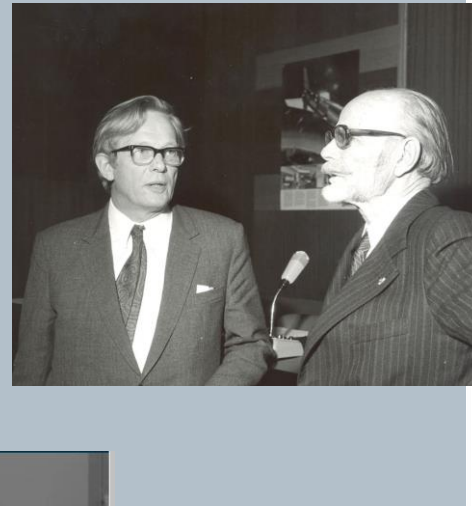
NEWS

TAGS

ESCR

RELATED CONTENT

- 20 years of the European Centre for Space Records



ESA space history @ESA\_History · Jun 21

Not just the #Solstice - 21 June is also the international #FeteDeLaMusique! The #ESAarchives celebrates in our Object of the Month how the launch of #ESRO's Boreas satellite in 1969 inspired a piece of music by composer Bruno Maderna!

@fetemusique  
historicalarchives.esa.int

1,172

### 1959 SPACE IN EUROPE TIMELINE

This timeline gives an overview of the first decades of European personalities, projects and events, from 1959 to 1984. It is a quick way to start your journey with us, to better understand the events, personalities, locations and projects initiated in Europe for space. Other space decades will follow soon!

Space in Europe...

### EXPLORE THE ARCHIVES

Access the historical pictures collections

Search the SHIP database of images from the picture collections hosted in the ESA Archives, currently covering the years 1964 to 1974.

VISIT WEB

READ MORE

European Space Agency

Space Heritage Image

Earth Observation

