

Increasing the accessibility of research conducted in Acadia National Park

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Problem:

There are thousands of documents in the Acadia National Park's archives about scientific research or monitoring that has happened in Acadia from the 1600s to present. These documents are useful in managing the park and to know what has happened in the park in the past. It is difficult to find these documents and they need to be preserved so they can be used in the future.



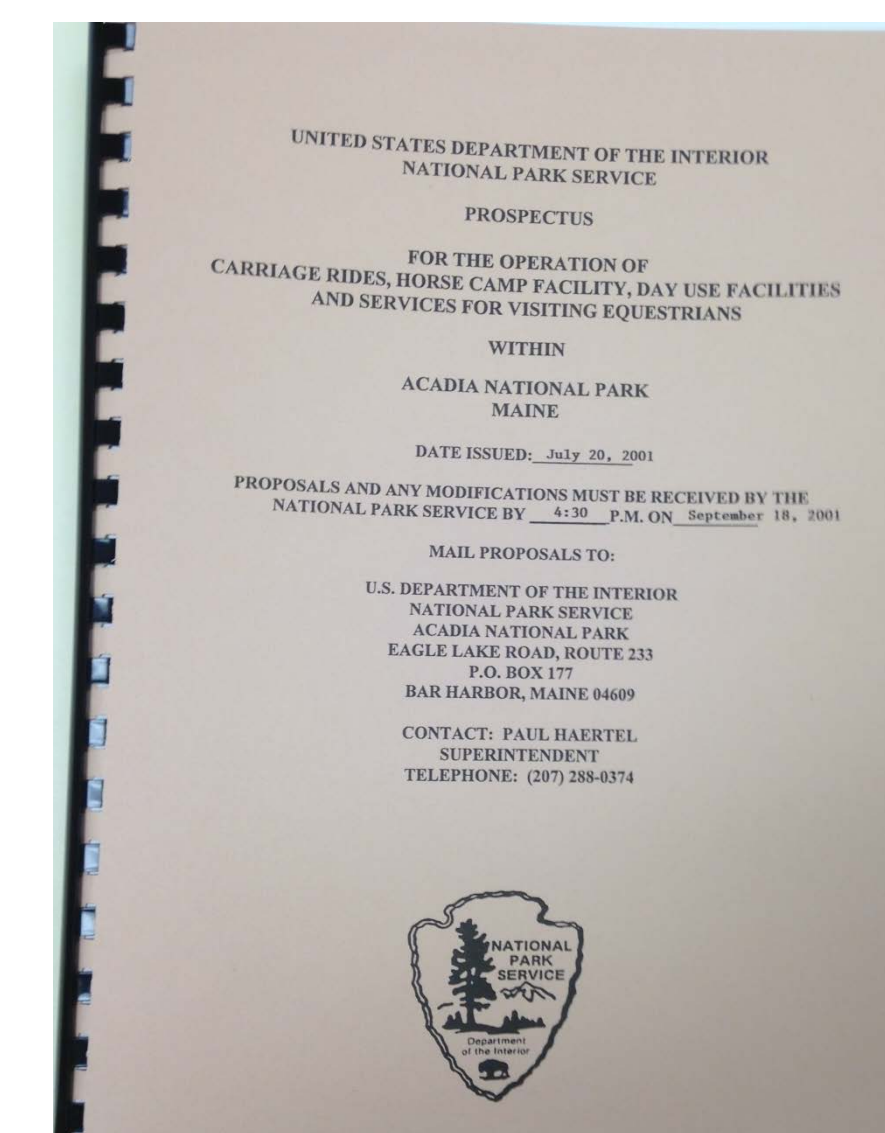
Shelves in the archives

NPS/Kate Pontbriand

One of the 40 boxes full of documents



NPS/Kate Pontbriand

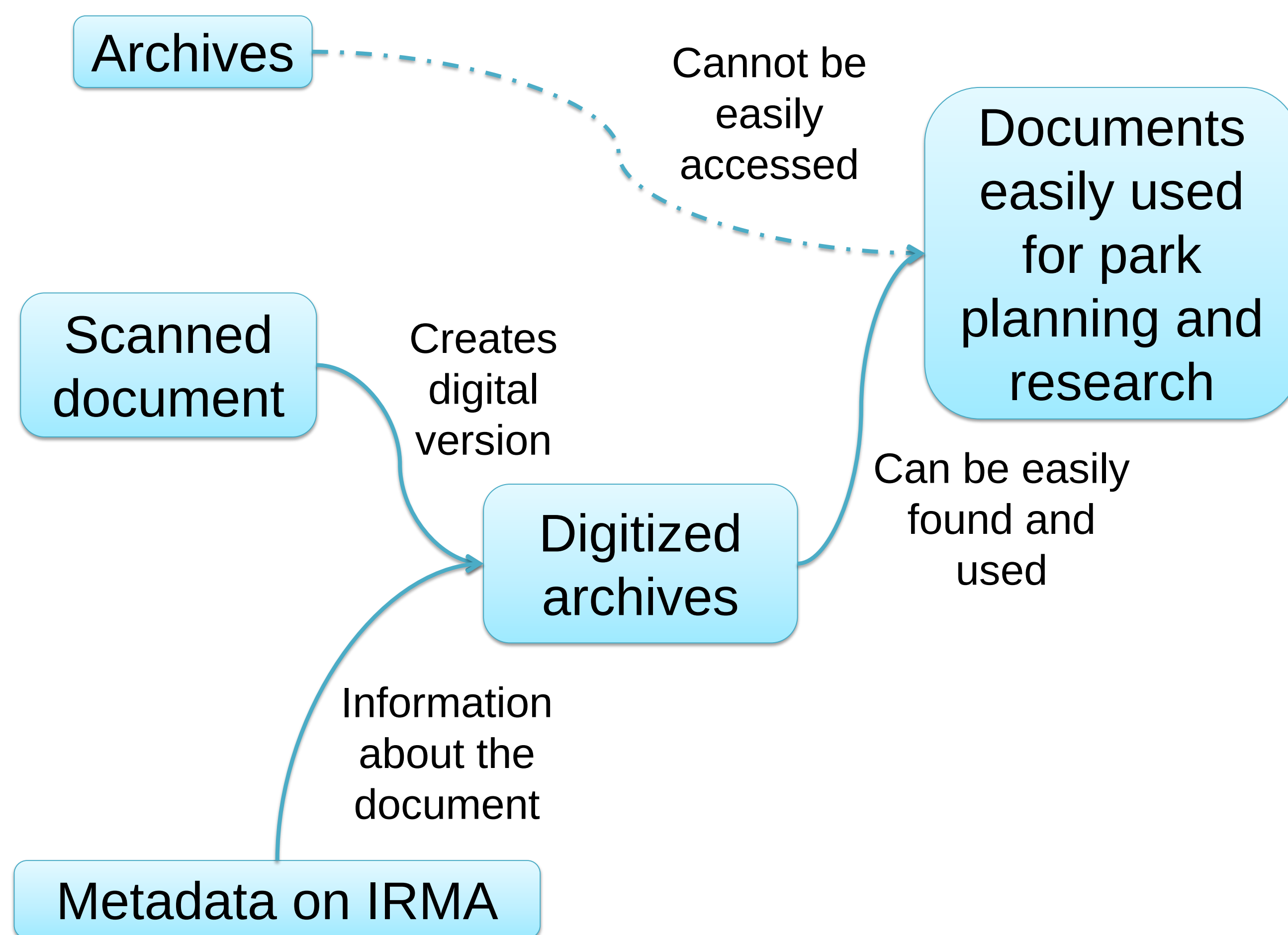


Sample document

NPS/Kate Pontbriand

Solution:

Digitize the documents so they can be easily accessed online anywhere.

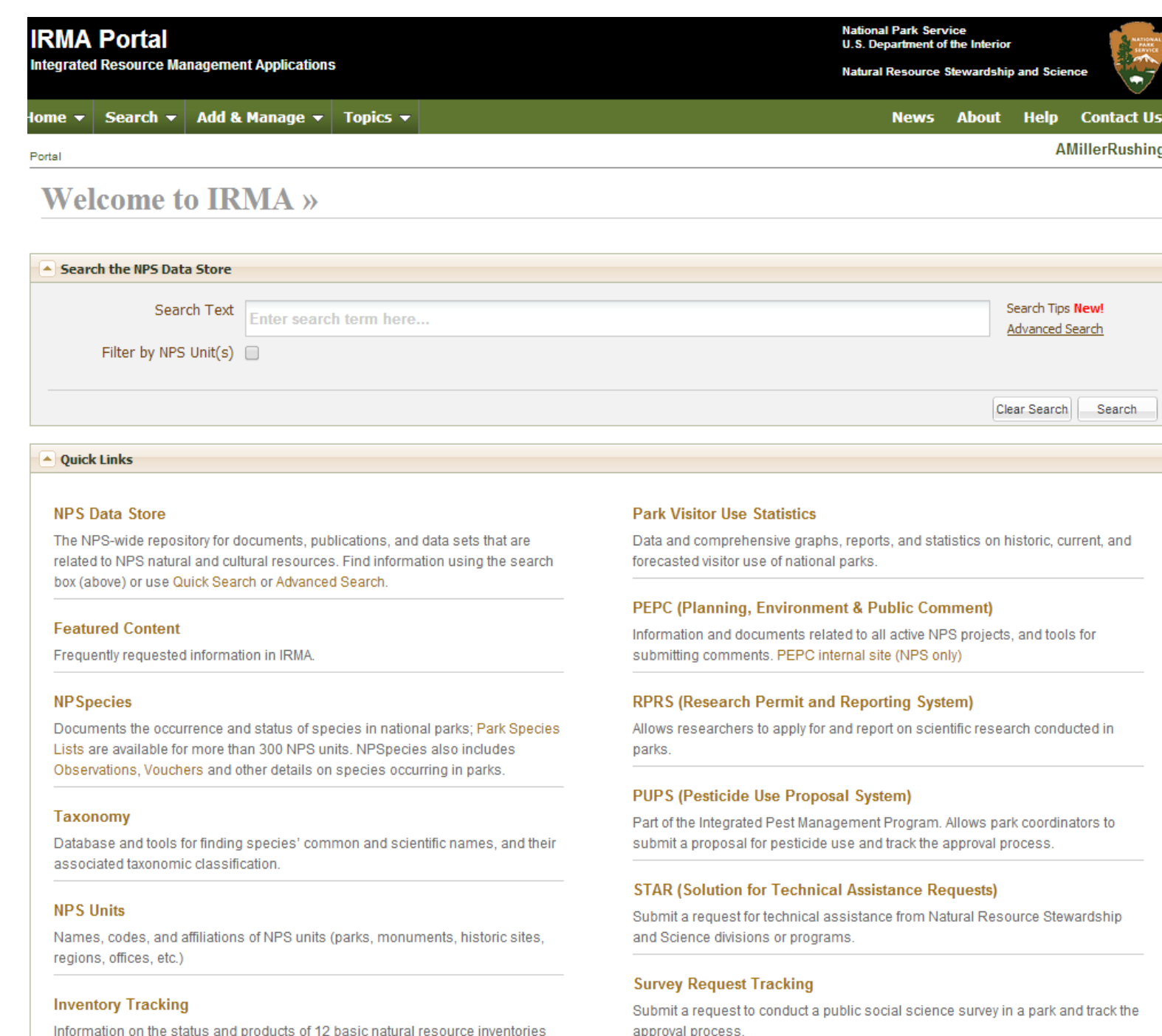


Benefits of digitizing the archives:

- Documents can be easily accessed – all you need is a computer and internet connection
- The archives will be preserved – fewer people will touch the paper copies and now we also have digital copies of all of the documents
- Documents can be searched and easily found
- More people have access to the documents so people will be able to find out what research has happened in Acadia in the past

Where will the digital documents be stored?

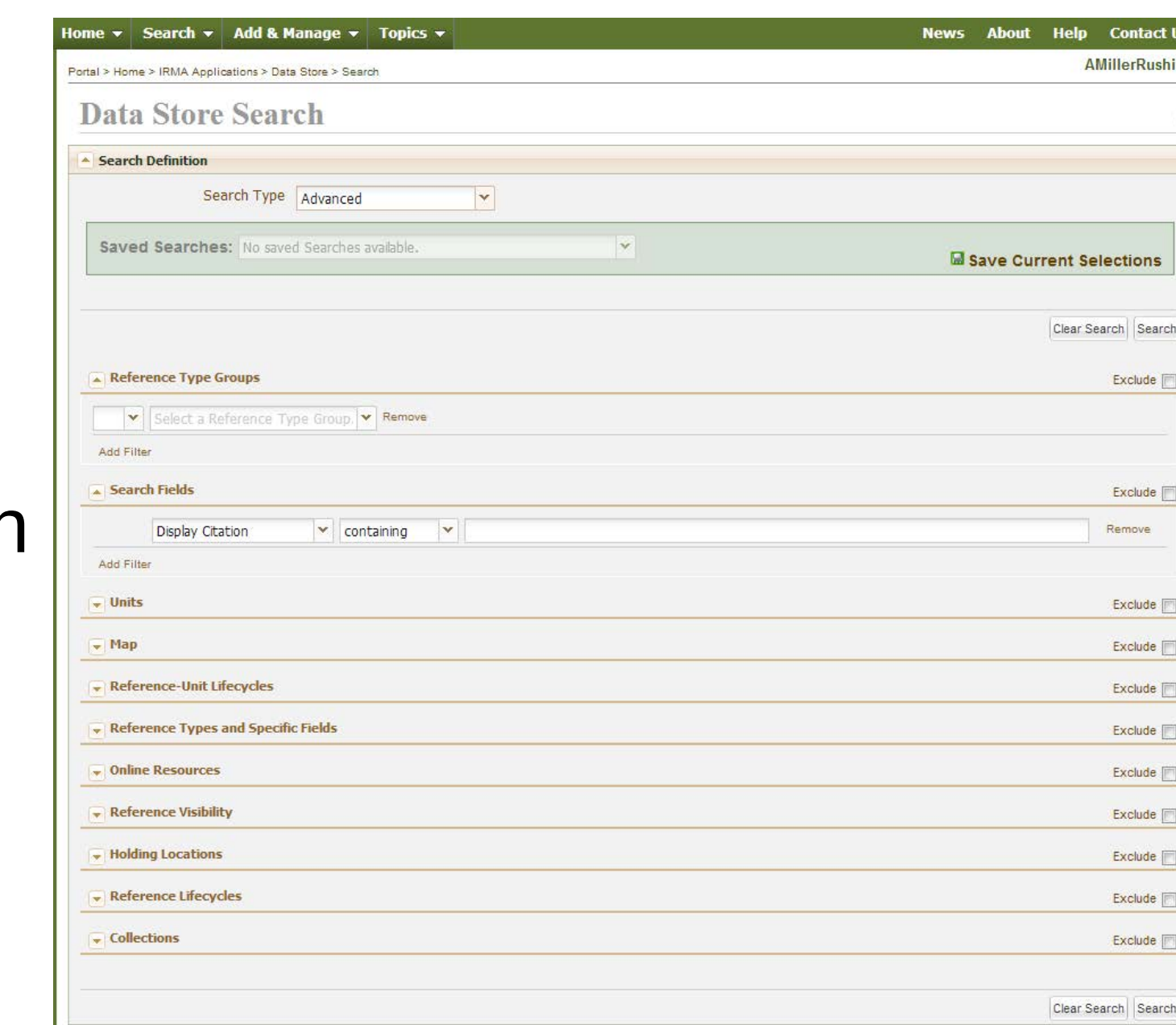
The National Park Service (NPS) created the Integrated Resource Management Applications (IRMA), which brings together information from multiple National Park Service (NPS) data systems and sources. IRMA makes it easier to find, view, upload, download, and print information related to NPS resources. These documents are on the Data Store, which includes journal articles, letters, maps, park reports, photos, and field notes



NPS/Kate Pontbriand

IRMA

Advanced Search



NPS/Kate Pontbriand

How to get to and use IRMA:

- Go to irma.nps.gov
- Search by title, author or keyword



How to get the document on IRMA:

- Once on the page for the IRMA entry, scroll down to the “Holdings” section
- There are three possibilities:
 - Physical – there is a copy in the Archives
 - Digital – this is a PDF that you may download
 - External – a link to an outside website where the document is available

What is next?

- Finish digitizing these documents
- Digitizing the rest of the items in the Museum Collection at Acadia National Park Headquarters – this will take many years