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## The complete *Nature* archive is available online

Since *Nature*'s launch, it has published many of the most significant and influential papers in modern science. From research scientists to investigative journalists, the *Nature* archive provides users with an authoritative narrative through scientific history.

### 4 *Nature* archive collections are currently available:

- **November 1869-December 1949:** Volumes 1-164 (4183 issues)
- **January 1950-December 1986:** Volumes 165-324 (1924 issues)
- **January 1987-December 1996:** Volumes 325-384 (510 issues)
- **January 1997-December 2006:** Volumes 385-445 (510 issues)

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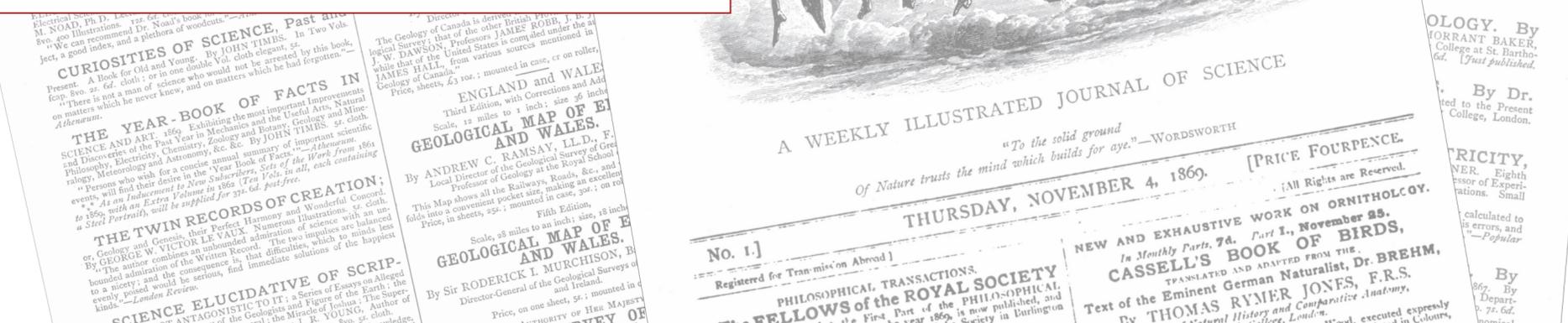
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- Background information
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- Writing grant applications, essays and research papers
- Teaching tool for all academic levels
- Essential reference resource
- History of science and science in society courses

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- HTML abstract
- PDF version of full article
- Hyperlinked references using abstracting services of CrossRef, Medline, and ISI including the ISI Web of Science.



### Collection 1: November 1869 – December 1949

Volumes 1-164: 4183 issues

The first collection of the *Nature* archive offers a rich variety of material; from original research to book reviews, scientific news, and reports of scientific society meetings.

During this period the pages of *Nature* were home to many of the most significant scientific advances, such as the invention of the typewriter and telegraphs, the science behind and debate around nuclear weapons, the discovery of the neutron, and, in what may have been *Nature's* very first special issue, a lively discussion on Einstein's theory of relativity.

**Article highlights in this collection include:**

- **1880:** The use of fingerprints is suggested as a way to identify criminals
- **1896:** First x-rays observed
- **1932:** Nuclear fission revealed

### Collection 2: January 1950 – December 1986

Volumes 165-324: 1915 issues

The post-war years saw a rapid increase in scientific discovery, particularly in the biological sciences. The structure of DNA was revealed to the world, and by the end of 1986 the first description of using fluorescence technology to automate DNA sequencing was published, eventually resulting in the human genome sequence.

Startling confirmations in the physical sciences, including evidence of continental drift and the detection of a hole in the ozone layer, now fuel much of today's climate change research - and key papers published in this collection continue to shape economic and political policies.

**Article highlights in this collection include:**

- **1953:** Watson and Crick decipher the structure of DNA
- **1983:** AIDS virus identified
- **1985:** Discovery of a hole in the ozone layer

### Biological Sciences Highlights

**Humanoids in Africa**

The first time that fossil evidence from Africa had been presented - many disagreed with the findings and preferred the prevailing view that man originated in Eurasia.

**Human evolution revised**

Based on the results of a cave excavation in Southeast Asia, it seems that we coexisted with another species until much more recently than had been previously thought.

**First protein structure**

DNA is dubbed the blueprint of life, but proteins are much more complex: their array of functions means they are the molecules that make life actually happen.

John Kendrew, lead author of the paper, shared the **Nobel Prize in Chemistry 1962** with Max Parutz, who later deduced the structure of haemoglobin using the same technique.

**Reverse transcriptase**

The discovery of the RNA viruses (such as HIV), which magically spin RNA into DNA, has led to major advances in molecular biology and drug development.

**The Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine 1975** was awarded jointly to David Baltimore, Renato Dulbecco and Howard Martin Temin "for their discoveries concerning the interaction between tumour viruses and the genetic material of the cell".

**Monoclonal antibodies**

The creation of the first monoclonal antibodies - target-specific 'magic bullets' that can be used against cancer cells, amongst others.

**Entire DNA of an organism sequenced**  
In 1978, a bacteriophage was the first organism to have its entire DNA sequenced, and meant the complete genetic blueprint of a living creature was within grasp.

### Collection 3: January 1987 – December 1996

Volumes 325-384: 512 issues

The period covered by the third archive collection includes established scientific findings, such as remarkable advances in drug development and the search for other earth-like planets.

In 1995 Mayor and Queloz of the Geneva Observatory, Switzerland, found '51 Pegasi b', a large, Jupiter-sized planet orbiting a Sun-like star. Nearly two hundred extrasolar planets have since been found using the same technique.

**Article highlights in this collection include:**

- **1992:** 300,000 year old Neanderthal skull remains found
- **1994:** Powerful anti-cancer compound Taxol is synthesized for the first time
- **1995:** First discovery of a planet outside our solar system

### Physical Sciences Highlights

**Spectrum of quasar – evidence leading to the big bang theory**

This paper showed that the previously mysterious 'quasars' were in fact the nucleus of distant galaxies.

**Continental drift**

The first paper to reconcile an unpopular theory with direct evidence from seafloor lava flows. In less than a decade, the idea of continental drift was accepted, and earth science was born as a modern interdisciplinary subject.

**Discovery of the electron**

A rush of experiments with the 'x-rays' discovered by Röntgen led to the first description of the 'electron'.

In 1927 two papers studying the wave-like nature of electrons advanced the understanding of physics at the quantum level, and led to inventions such as the electron microscope. The authors of these 2 papers, A Davisson and J.J. Thomson, shared the **Nobel Prize for Physics 1937**.

**Discovery of radioactive decay**

Scottish chemist William Ramsay and Englishman Frederick Soddy reported in a 1903 issue of *Nature* that helium gas is produced by the radioactive decay of radium.

**The Nobel Prize in Chemistry 1921** was later awarded to Frederick Soddy "for his contributions to our knowledge of the chemistry of radioactive substances, and his investigations into the origin and nature of isotopes".

**Electrophoretic ink**

This paper reports on the synthesis of an electrophoretic ink based on the microencapsulation of an electrophoretic dispersion - the technology behind Amazon's Kindle™.

**Synthesis of carbon nanotubes**

Used in microelectronic circuitry and microscopy, and as a tool to test quantum mechanics and model biological systems, nanotubes seem to have unlimited potential.

### Collection 4: January 1997 – December 2006

Volumes 385-445: 512 issues

The final *Nature* archive collection is home to some of the most groundbreaking research and discoveries of the previous decade, including the first instance of successful cloning of a mammal, and the development of electrophoretic ink, used today in ebook readers.

Huge steps forward in genetics were also made; the Human Genome Project mapped every part of the human DNA and a large portion of the results were published in *Nature*. The data from this project will allow researchers to continue to develop new and life saving technologies.

**Article highlights in this collection include:**

- **1997:** Cloning and birth of Dolly the sheep revealed
- **2001:** The human genome is mapped
- **2006:** Decoding the Antikythera mechanism

<http://www.nobelprize.org>

**1880:** Fingerprints

**1896:** X-rays and electrons

**1903:** Radioactive decay

**1925:** Humanoids in Africa

**1927:** Wave-like electrons

**1932:** Nuclear fission

**1933:** DNA structure

**1953:** DNA structure

**1958:** Protein structure

**1961:** Genetic code for proteins

**1963:** Quasars and continental drift

**1970:** Reverse transcriptase

**1978:** Monoclonal antibodies

**1983:** AIDS virus

**1985:** Ozone hole

**1990:** Carbon nanotubes

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**1992:** Neanderthal skull remains

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**1995:** 1<sup>st</sup> planet outside our solar system

**1997:** Dolly the sheep

**1998:** Kindle™ ink

**2001:** Human Genome

**2006:** Antikythera mechanism

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