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»A container other than the brain had been found for information and a particular kind of reference; from this new system it was possible to see that certain kinds of data were better off outside our brains and mouths than inside them. Just as for millennia we had been putting physical objects like food and tools in bags and carrying them around or leaving them be, so we now began to put mental objects in the new equivalent of bags, fossilizing the achievement in such expressions as 'the contents' of a book. In doing this, we ceased to be slaves of transience; it was, in fact, the intellectual equivalent of storing up the harvest for later consumption.«

*Tom McArthur, Worlds of reference, p. 7*