

Dreaming of the Internet on Paper Cards: The Mundaneum

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When we wonder about something, we type a few letters into a search box and find the answer in an instant. Yet more than 100 years ago, when there were neither computers nor electronic networks, some people actually pushed forward a dream of gathering all the world's knowledge in one place so that anyone could look it up. Two Belgian lawyers copied information scattered across books, newspapers, and reports onto palm-sized cards, one piece per card, and filed them in huge cabinets according to set numbers. Within a few decades, the cards piled up to more than 15 million, and people sent questi