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Level 6 – 31st August 2026

Companies destroying books to train AI models

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https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2608/260831-destroying-rare-books.html

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Please try Levels 4 and 5 (they are easier).

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THE ARTICLE

From https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2608/260831-destroying-rare-books.html

The Federal Trade Commission in the USA is being urged to investigate AI companies for allegedly buying rare books in bulk and then destroying them. Groups like the Consumer Federation of America have asked the FTC to look into claims that AI companies are digitizing the books to train their large language models (LLMs). The process includes breaking the spines of the rare works, scanning the pages, and then destroying them. Some destroyed books may be among the last surviving copies of the original texts. Critics argue that such books are historically important and that it is not socially acceptable to burn them. One critic said: "The rarer a book is, the more carefully we should preserve it."

The bulk buying of books is creating a dilemma for stores that specialize in rare and antique books. They are receiving large orders for some rather valuable items, but are then questioning the ethics of destroying books. The Wall Street Journal reported that rare and obscure book sales have suddenly surged. Booksellers have been getting unusually large orders for out-of-print, and sometimes valuable books. It added that some books are apparently being bought not to be read, but to be digitized for AI training. Earlier this year, the Washington Post reported that the companies are spending a fortune on millions of books that are being used to help train AI assistants.

Sources: https://www.**cbsnews.com**/news/ftc-ai-companies-destroying-books/
https://www.**wsj.com**/articles/ais-need-for-content-has-put-rare-book-dealers-in-a-bind-1ac5a053
https://**novaramedia.com**/2026/08/21/hidden-airtag-exposes-amazon-destroying-rare-books-in-bulk-to-train-ai/

WARM-UPS

1. BOOKS: Students walk around the class and talk to other students about books. Change partners often and share your findings.

2. CHAT: In pairs / groups, talk about these topics or words from the article. What will the article say about them? What can you say about these words and your life?

> investigate / AI companies / rare books / large language models / pages / critics / rare bulk buying / dilemma / antique / ethics / obscure / spending a fortune / AI assistants

Have a chat about the topics you liked. Change topics and partners frequently.

3. UNLAWFUL: Students A **strongly** believe it should be unlawful to destroy rare books; Students B **strongly** believe that's silly. Change partners again and talk about your conversations.

4. ANTIQUES: What do you think of these antique things? How important are they? Complete this table with your partner(s). Change partners often and share what you wrote.

Antiques	What I Think	Preservation
Books		
Porcelain figures		
Clocks		
Writing desks		
Rings		
Maps		

5. RARE: Spend one minute writing down all of the different words you associate with the word "rare". Share your words with your partner(s) and talk about them. Together, put the words into different categories.

6. BOOK GENRES: Rank these with your partner. Put the best book genres at the top. Change partners often and share your rankings.

- Fantasy
- Philosophy
- Romance
- Self-help
- Science fiction
- Horror
- Comedy
- Biography

VOCABULARY MATCHING

Paragraph 1

1.	urged	a.	To keep something safe and in good condition.
2.	allegedly	b.	Statements that something is true.
3.	claims (noun)	c.	The part of a book that holds the pages together.
4.	in bulk	d.	Asked someone strongly to do something.
5.	spine	e.	Good or right enough for people to agree to or be OK with.
6.	acceptable	f.	Said to be true, but not yet proved.
7.	preserve	g.	In large amounts.

Paragraph 2

8.	dilemma	h.	Not well known or not easy to find.
9.	specialize	i.	To work mainly in one particular area or subject.
10.	ethics	j.	A very large amount of money.
11.	obscure (adjective)	k.	A difficult situation where you have to choose between two things.
12.	surged	l.	Increased very quickly and by a large amount.
13.	apparently	m.	Ideas about what is right and wrong.
14.	a fortune	n.	As far as you know or can see, but not certainly.

BEFORE READING / LISTENING

From https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2608/260831-destroying-rare-books.html

1. TRUE / FALSE: Read the headline. Guess if a-h below are true (T) or false (F).

1. The Federal Trade Commission in the USA is being investigated. **T / F**
2. It is alleged AI companies are breaking the spines of rare books. **T / F**
3. Critics said it was socially acceptable to burn books. **T / F**
4. One critic said we should preserve all books. **T / F**
5. Rare and antique book stores have a dilemma over selling rare books. **T / F**
6. Some bookstores are questioning the morality of destroying rare books. **T / F**
7. The article says book stores are reprinting out-of-print books. **T / F**
8. A newspaper said AI companies are spending a fortune on books. **T / F**

2. SYNONYM MATCH: (The words in **bold** are from the news article.)

1. urged	a. awkward situation
2. allegedly	b. assertions
3. claims	c. seemingly
4. obscure	d. look after
5. preserve	e. morals
6. dilemma	f. encouraged
7. ethics	g. a huge amount
8. surged	h. reportedly
9. apparently	i. suddenly increased
10. a fortune	j. little known

3. PHRASE MATCH: (Sometimes more than one choice is possible.)

1. investigate AI companies for allegedly	a. spines of the rare works
2. The process includes breaking the	b. and antique books
3. among the last surviving copies	c. to burn them
4. such books are historically	d. a fortune
5. it is not socially acceptable	e. dilemma
6. bulk buying of books is creating a	f. buying rare books
7. specialize in rare	g. of the original texts
8. obscure book sales	h. train AI assistants
9. companies are spending	i. important
10. used to help	j. have suddenly surged

GAP FILL

From https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2608/260831-destroying-rare-books.html

The Federal Trade Commission in the USA is being (1) _____ to investigate AI companies for (2) _____ buying rare books in bulk and then destroying them. Groups like the Consumer Federation of America have asked the FTC to look into (3) _____ that AI companies are digitizing the books to train their large language models (LLMs). The process includes breaking the (4) _____ of the rare works, scanning the pages, and then destroying them. Some destroyed books may be among the last (5) _____ copies of the original texts. Critics argue that such books are (6) _____ important and that it is not (7) _____ acceptable to burn them. One critic said: "The (8) _____ a book is, the more carefully we should preserve it."

historically

claims

rarer

urged

surviving

socially

allegedly

spines

The (9) _____ buying of books is creating a dilemma for stores that specialize in rare and antique books. They are receiving large orders for some (10) _____ valuable items, but are then (11) _____ the ethics of destroying books. The Wall Street Journal reported that rare and (12) _____ book sales have suddenly surged. Booksellers have been getting (13) _____ large orders for out-of-print, and sometimes valuable books. It added that some books are (14) _____ being bought not to be read, but to be digitized for AI training. Earlier this year, the Washington Post reported that the companies are spending a (15) _____ on millions of books that are being used to help (16) _____ AI assistants.

obscure

train

apparently

bulk

fortune

questioning

rather

unusually

LISTENING – Guess the answers. Listen to check.

From https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2608/260831-destroying-rare-books.html

1) being urged to investigate AI companies for allegedly buying rare _____
   a. books on bulk
   b. books in bulk
   c. books in book
   d. books on balk
2) AI companies are digitizing the books to train their _____
   a. large languages models
   b. largeness language models
   c. at large language models
   d. large language models
3) Some destroyed books may be among the last surviving copies of _____
   a. the original texts
   b. the originally texts
   c. the originals texts
   d. them original texts
4) such books are historically important and that it is not socially acceptable _____
   a. to burn them
   b. to born them
   c. to bourn them
   d. to barn them
5) The rarer a book is, the more carefully we _____
   a. should preserve them
   b. should preserve it
   c. should preserve that
   d. should persevere it
6) The bulk buying of books is creating a _____
   a. dilemma for stores
   b. drama for stores
   c. diuretic for stores
   d. diorama for stores
7) large orders for some rather valuable items, but are then _____
   a. question in the ethics
   b. questioning a ethics
   c. questioning them ethics
   d. questioning the ethics
8) Booksellers have been getting unusually large orders for _____
   a. out-of-print
   b. out-off-print
   c. out-oft-print
   d. outer print
9) It added that some books are apparently being bought not _____
   a. to been read
   b. to be red
   c. to be read
   d. to be a read
10) Earlier this year, the Washington Post reported that the companies are _____
   a. spending a fortunes
   b. spend in a fortune
   c. spending a fortunate
   d. spending a fortune

LISTENING – Listen and fill in the gaps

From https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2608/260831-destroying-rare-books.html

The Federal Trade Commission in the USA (1) _____ to investigate AI companies (2) _____ rare books in bulk and then destroying them. Groups like the Consumer Federation of America have asked the FTC to look (3) _____ AI companies are digitizing the books to train their large language models (LLMs). The process includes (4) _____ of the rare works, scanning the pages, and then destroying them. Some destroyed books may be among the last surviving copies of the original texts. Critics argue that such (5) _____ important and that it is not socially acceptable to burn them. One critic said: "The rarer a book is, the more carefully we (6) _____."

The bulk buying of books is creating (7) _____ stores that specialize in rare and antique books. They are receiving large orders for some (8) _____, but are then questioning the ethics of destroying books. The Wall Street Journal reported that (9) _____ book sales have suddenly surged. Booksellers have been getting unusually large (10) _____, and sometimes valuable books. It added that some books are (11) _____ not to be read, but to be digitized for AI training. Earlier this year, the Washington Post reported that the companies are (12) _____ on millions of books that are being used to help train AI assistants.

COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS

From https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2608/260831-destroying-rare-books.html

1. What is being asked to investigate AI companies?

2. What does the article say AI companies are using books to train?

3. What are AI companies breaking?

4. What do some critics believe it is unacceptable to do to rare books?

5. What did a critic say we should do with rarer books?

6. What is bulk book buying creating for rare book sellers?

7. What are booksellers questioning?

8. What does a newspaper say has surged?

9. What did the newspaper say books are being digitized for?

10. How much money are AI companies spending on books?

MULTIPLE CHOICE - QUIZ

From https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2608/260831-destroying-rare-books.html

1) What is being asked to investigate AI companies?
a) the internet
b) the Federal Trade Commission
c) a book company
d) a court

2) What does the article say AI companies are using books to train?
a) the internet
b) writers and journalists
c) employees
d) large language models

3) What are AI companies breaking?
a) book spines
b) sales records
c) bandwidth limits
d) the rules

4) What do some critics believe it is unacceptable to do to rare books?
a) write in them
b) scan them
c) burn them
d) trash them

5) What did a critic say we should do with rarer books?
a) auction them
b) preserve them
c) give them to children
d) put them in museums

6) What is bulk book buying creating for rare book sellers?
a) a dilemma
b) opportunities
c) huge profits
d) a headache

7) What are booksellers questioning?
a) themselves
b) AI companies
c) the ethics of destroying books
d) companies who destroy books

8) What does a newspaper say has surged?
a) rare book sales
b) demand for paperbacks
c) the popularity of novels
d) an interest in hardbacks

9) What did the newspaper say books are being digitized for?
a) AI training
b) the better good
c) schools and universities
d) posterity

10) How much money are AI companies spending on books?
a) about $10 million
b) gazillions of dollars
c) a surprisingly small amount
d) a fortune

ROLE PLAY

From https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2608/260831-destroying-rare-books.html

Role A – Fantasy

You think fantasy is the best book genre. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their genres. Also, tell the others which is the least interesting of these (and why): philosophy, biography or self-help.

Role B – Philosophy

You think philosophy is the best book genre. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their genres. Also, tell the others which is the least interesting of these (and why): fantasy, biography or self-help.

Role C – Biography

You think biography is the best book genre. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their genres. Also, tell the others which is the least interesting of these (and why): philosophy, fantasy or self-help.

Role D – Self-help

You think self-help is the best book genre. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their genres. Also, tell the others which is the least interesting of these (and why): philosophy, biography or fantasy.

AFTER READING / LISTENING

From https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2608/260831-destroying-rare-books.html

1. WORD SEARCH: Look online / in your dictionary to find collocates, information on, synonyms for… the words 'books' and 'AI'.

books	**AI**

- Share your findings with your partners.
- Make questions using the words you found.
- Ask your partner / group your questions.

2. ARTICLE QUESTIONS: Look back at the article and write down some questions you would like to ask the class about the text.

- Share your questions with other classmates / groups.
- Ask your partner / group your questions.

3. GAP FILL: In pairs / groups, compare your answers to this exercise. Check your answers. Talk about the words from the activity. Were they new, interesting, worth learning…?

4. VOCABULARY: Circle any words you do not understand. In groups, pool unknown words and use dictionaries to find their meanings.

5. TEST EACH OTHER: Look at the words below. With your partner, try to recall how they were used in the text:

• urged • claims • process • pages • last • carefully	• dilemma • orders • ethics • sales • apparently • fortune

BOOKS SURVEY

From https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2608/260831-destroying-rare-books.html

Write five GOOD questions about books in the table. Do this in pairs. Each student must write the questions on his / her own paper.
When you have finished, interview other students. Write down their answers.

	STUDENT 1 _____	STUDENT 2 _____	STUDENT 3 _____
Q.1.			
Q.2.			
Q.3.			
Q.4.			
Q.5.			

- Now return to your original partner and share and talk about what you found out. Change partners often.
- Make mini-presentations to other groups on your findings.

BOOKS DISCUSSION

STUDENT A's QUESTIONS (Do not show these to student B)

1. What did you think when you read the headline?
2. What images are in your mind when you hear the word 'book'?
3. What do you think of books?
4. Do you prefer reading paper books or digital books?
5. What's the oldest book you own?
6. Should there be laws about bulk buying rare books?
7. What do you think of the smell of books?
8. How do you feel when you are in a library?
9. How do you feel about rare books being destroyed?
10. Are AI companies too big and powerful?

BOOKS DISCUSSION

STUDENT B's QUESTIONS (Do not show these to student A)

11. Did you like reading this article? Why/not?
12. What do you think of when you hear the term AI?
13. What do you think about what you read?
14. What are the ethics of destroying books?
15. What are your favourite books?
16. Why do AI companies need to scan old books?
17. How do you feel when you are in a bookstore?
18. What should companies do after scanning the books?
19. How useful are AI assistants to you?
20. What questions would you like to ask AI company bosses?

DISCUSSION (Write your own questions)

STUDENT A's QUESTIONS (Do not show these to student B)

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

4. _____

5. _____

6. _____

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DISCUSSION (Write your own questions)

STUDENT B's QUESTIONS (Do not show these to student A)

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

4. _____

5. _____

6. _____

LANGUAGE - CLOZE

From https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2608/260831-destroying-rare-books.html

The Federal Trade Commission in the USA is being (1) _____ to investigate AI companies for allegedly buying rare books (2) _____ bulk and then destroying them. Groups like the Consumer Federation of America have asked the FTC to look into (3) _____ that AI companies are digitizing the books to train their large language models (LLMs). The process includes breaking the (4) _____ of the rare works, scanning the pages, and then destroying them. Some destroyed books may be among the last surviving copies of the original texts. Critics (5) _____ that such books are historically important and that it is not socially acceptable to burn them. One critic said: "The (6) _____ a book is, the more carefully we should preserve it."

The bulk buying of books is creating a (7) _____ for stores that specialize in rare and antique books. They are receiving large orders for some (8) _____ valuable items, but are then questioning the ethics of destroying books. The Wall Street Journal reported that rare and obscure book sales have suddenly surged. Booksellers have been getting (9) _____ large orders for out-of-print, and sometimes valuable books. It added that some books are apparently (10) _____ bought not to be read, but to be digitized (11) _____ AI training. Earlier this year, the Washington Post reported that the companies are spending a (12) _____ on millions of books that are being used to help train AI assistants.

Put the correct words from the table below in the above article.

1.	(a)	purged	(b)	splurged	(c)	surged	(d)	urged
2.	(a)	to	(b)	by	(c)	on	(d)	in
3.	(a)	claimants	(b)	claims	(c)	claimers	(d)	claiming
4.	(a)	bones	(b)	vertebrae	(c)	spines	(d)	columns
5.	(a)	arguing	(b)	argument	(c)	argue	(d)	argues
6.	(a)	rarer	(b)	rarity	(c)	rare	(d)	rarely
7.	(a)	diagonal	(b)	dilemma	(c)	diameter	(d)	division
8.	(a)	rather	(b)	lather	(c)	bather	(d)	father
9.	(a)	usual	(b)	unusually	(c)	unusual	(d)	usually
10.	(a)	been	(b)	be	(c)	being	(d)	are
11.	(a)	at	(b)	of	(c)	for	(d)	and
12.	(a)	bonanza	(b)	wealth	(c)	lottery	(d)	fortune

SPELLING

From https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2608/260831-destroying-rare-books.html

Paragraph 1

1. Federal Trade mCmsoisnio

2. being urged to ntteegiaivs AI companies

3. lglelydea buying rare books in bulk

4. breaking the sipens of the rare works

5. not socially bctaeplcae

6. the more carefully we should revprsee it

Paragraph 2

7. creating a mldamie

8. rare and taineuq books

9. orders for some rather uelablva items

10. rare and oercsub book sales

11. books are penatlrayp being bought

12. companies are spending a nfetrou

PUT THE TEXT BACK TOGETHER

From https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2608/260831-destroying-rare-books.html

Number these lines in the correct order.

( ) acceptable to burn them. One critic said: "The rarer a book is, the more carefully we should preserve it."

( ) antique books. They are receiving large orders for some rather valuable items, but are then questioning the ethics

( ) asked the FTC to look into claims that AI companies are digitizing the books to train their large language

( ) models (LLMs). The process includes breaking the spines of the rare works, scanning the

( ) of destroying books. The Wall Street Journal reported that rare and obscure book sales have suddenly

( ) pages, and then destroying them. Some destroyed books may be among the last surviving copies of the original

( ) print, and sometimes valuable books. It added that some books are apparently being bought not to be

( ) rare books in bulk and then destroying them. Groups like the Consumer Federation of America have

( ) read, but to be digitized for AI training. Earlier this year, the Washington Post reported that the companies are

( ) spending a fortune on millions of books that are being used to help train AI assistants.

( ) surged. Booksellers have been getting unusually large orders for out-of-

( ) texts. Critics argue that such books are historically important and that it is not socially

( ) The bulk buying of books is creating a dilemma for stores that specialize in rare and

(***1***) The Federal Trade Commission in the USA is being urged to investigate AI companies for allegedly buying

PUT THE WORDS IN THE RIGHT ORDER

From https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2608/260831-destroying-rare-books.html

1. AI allegedly books buying companies for Investigate rare .

2. AI are Claims companies digitizing books the that .

3. breaking includes of process rare spines The works .

4. copies last of original surviving texts The the .

5. argue books Critics historically important such are that .

6. a books Bulk creating dilemma buying is of .

7. for items large orders Receiving rather some valuable .

8. and book have obscure Rare sales suddenly surged .

9. a are books Companies fortune on spending .

10. AI being Books help assistants to train used .

CIRCLE THE CORRECT WORD (20 PAIRS)

From https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2608/260831-destroying-rare-books.html

The Federal Trade Commission in the USA is being *surged / urged* to investigate AI companies for allegedly *bought / buying* rare books in bulk and then destroying *them / it*. Groups like the Consumer Federation of America have asked the FTC to look into *clams / claims* that AI companies are digitizing the books to *train / workout* their large language models (LLMs). The process includes breaking the spines of the rare works, scanning the pages, and then destroying them. Some destroyed books may be *other / among* the *last / lost* surviving copies of the *originally / original* texts. Critics argue that such books are historically important and that it is not socially acceptable *to / for* burn them. One critic said: "The rarer a book is, the more carefully we should *reserve / preserve* it."

The bulk buying *by / of* books is creating a dilemma for stores that specialize in *rare / rarity* and antique books. They are receiving large orders for some rather valuable *items / item*, but are then questioning the ethics *of / on* destroying books. The Wall Street Journal reported that rare and obscure book sales have suddenly *urged / surged*. Booksellers have been getting unusually large orders *for / to* out-of-print, and sometimes valuable books. It *increased / added* that some books are apparently being *bought / buying* not to be read, but to be digitized for AI training. Earlier this year, the Washington Post reported that the companies are *spent / spending* a fortune on millions of books that are being used *for / to* help train AI assistants.

Talk about the connection between each pair of words in italics, and why the correct word is correct. Look up the definition of new words.

INSERT THE VOWELS (a, e, i, o, u)

From https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2608/260831-destroying-rare-books.html

Th_ F_d_r_l Tr_d_ C_mm_ss__n _n th_ _S_ _s b__ng _rg_d t_ _nv_st_g_t_ __ c_mp_n__s f_r _ll_g_dly b_y_ng r_r_ b__ks _n b_lk _nd th_n d_str_y_ng th_m. Gr__ps l_k_ th_ C_ns_m_r F_d_r_t__n _f _m_r_c_ h_v_ _sk_d th_ FTC t_ l__k _nt_ cl__ms th_t __ c_mp_n__s _r_ d_g_t_z_ng th_ b__ks t_ tr__n th__r l_rg_ l_ng__g_ m_d_ls (LLMs). Th_ pr_c_ss _ncl_d_s br__k_ng th_ sp_n_s _f th_ r_r_ w_rks, sc_nn_ng th_ p_g_s, _nd th_n d_str_y_ng th_m. S_m_ d_str_y_d b__ks m_y b_ _m_ng th_ l_st s_rv_v_ng c_p__s _f th_ _r_g_n_l t_xts. Cr_t_cs _rg__ th_t s_ch b__ks _r_ h_st_r_c_lly _mp_rt_nt _nd th_t _t _s n_t s_c__lly _cc_pt_bl_ t_ b_rn th_m. _n_ cr_t_c s__d: "Th_ r_r_r _ b__k _s, th_ m_r_ c_r_f_lly w_ sh__ld pr_s_rv_ _t."

Th_ b_lk b_y_ng _f b__ks _s cr__t_ng _ d_l_mm_ f_r st_r_s th_t sp_c__l_z_ _n r_r_ _nd _nt_q__ b__ks. Th_y _r_ r_c__v_ng l_rg_ _rd_rs f_r s_m_ r_th_r v_l__bl_ _t_ms, b_t _r_ th_n q__st__n_ng th_ _th_cs _f d_str_y_ng b__ks. Th_ W_ll Str__t J__rn_l r_p_rt_d th_t r_r_ _nd _bsc_r_ b__k s_l_s h_v_ s_dd_nly s_rg_d. B__ks_ll_rs h_v_ b__n g_tt_ng _n_s__lly l_rg_ _rd_rs f_r __t-_f-pr_nt, _nd s_m_t_m_s v_l__bl_ b__ks. _t _dd_d th_t s_m_ b__ks _r_ _pp_r_ntly b__ng b__ght n_t t_ b_ r__d, b_t t_ b_ d_g_t_z_d f_r __ tr__n_ng. __rl__r th_s y__r, th_ W_sh_ngt_n P_st r_p_rt_d th_t th_ c_mp_n__s _r_ sp_nd_ng _ f_rt_n_ _n m_ll__ns _f b__ks th_t _r_ b__ng _s_d t_ h_lp tr__n __ _ss_st_nts.

PUNCTUATE THE TEXT AND ADD CAPITALS

From https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2608/260831-destroying-rare-books.html

the federal trade commission in the usa is being urged to investigate ai companies for allegedly buying rare books in bulk and then destroying them groups like the consumer federation of america have asked the ftc to look into claims that ai companies are digitizing the books to train their large language models llms the process includes breaking the spines of the rare works scanning the pages and then destroying them some destroyed books may be among the last surviving copies of the original texts critics argue that such books are historically important and that it is not socially acceptable to burn them one critic said the rarer a book is the more carefully we should preserve it

the bulk buying of books is creating a dilemma for stores that specialize in rare and antique books they are receiving large orders for some rather valuable items but are then questioning the ethics of destroying books the wall street journal reported that rare and obscure book sales have suddenly surged booksellers have been getting unusually large orders for out of print and sometimes valuable books it added that some books are apparently being bought not to be read but to be digitized for ai training earlier this year the washington post reported that the companies are spending a fortune on millions of books that are being used to help train ai assistants

PUT A SLASH (/) WHERE THE SPACES ARE

From https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2608/260831-destroying-rare-books.html

TheFederalTradeCommissionintheUSAisbeingurgedtoinvestigateAI companiesforallegedlybuyingrarebooksinbulkandthendestroyingth em.GroupsliketheConsumerFederationofAmericahaveaskedtheFTC tolookintoclaimsthatAIcompaniesaredigitizingthebookstotraintheirl argelanguagemodels(LLMs).Theprocessincludesbreakingthespines oftherareworks,scanningthepages,andthendestroyingthem.Somed estroyedbooksmaybeamongthelastsurvivingcopiesoftheoriginaltex ts.Criticsarguethatsuchbooksarehistoricallyimportantandthatitisno tsociallyacceptabletoburnthem.Onecriticsaid:"Therarerabookis,the morecarefullyweshouldpreserveit."Thebulkbuyingofbooksiscreatin gadilemmaforstoresthatspecializeinrareandantiquebooks.Theyarer eceivinglargeordersforsomerathervaluableitems,butarethenquesti oningtheethicsofdestroyingbooks.TheWallStreetJournalreportedth atrareandobscurebooksaleshavesuddenlysurged.Booksellershaveb eengettingunusuallylargeordersforout-of-print,andsometimesvalu ablebooks.Itaddedthatsomebooksareapparentlybeingboughtnotto beread,buttobedigitizedforAItraining.Earlierthisyear,theWashingto nPostreportedthatthecompaniesarespendingafortuneonmillionsofb ooksthatarebeingusedtohelptrainAIassistants.

FREE WRITING

From https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2608/260831-destroying-rare-books.html

Write about **books** for 10 minutes. Comment on your partner's paper.

ACADEMIC WRITING

From https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2608/260831-destroying-rare-books.html

Old books should never be destroyed. Discuss.

HOMEWORK

1. VOCABULARY EXTENSION: Choose several of the words from the text. Use a dictionary or Google's search field (or another search engine) to build up more associations / collocations of each word.

2. INTERNET: Search the Internet and find out more about this news story. Share what you discover with your partner(s) in the next lesson.

3. BOOKS: Make a poster about books. Show your work to your classmates in the next lesson. Did you all have similar things?

4. SCHOOL LIBRARIES: Write a magazine article about all old books being kept in school libraries. Include imaginary interviews with people who are for and against this.

Read what you wrote to your classmates in the next lesson. Write down any new words and expressions you hear from your partner(s).

5. WHAT HAPPENED NEXT? Write a newspaper article about the next stage in this news story. Read what you wrote to your classmates in the next lesson. Give each other feedback on your articles.

6. LETTER: Write a letter to an expert on books. Ask him/her three questions about them. Give him/her three of your ideas on what we should do with antique books. Read your letter to your partner(s) in your next lesson. Your partner(s) will answer your questions.

ANSWERS

VOCABULARY (p.4)

1.	d	2.	f	3.	b	4.	g	5.	c	6.	e	7.	a
8.	k	9.	i	10.	m	11.	h	12.	l	13.	n	14.	j

TRUE / FALSE (p.5)

1	F	2	T	3	F	4	F	5	T	6	T	7	F	8	T

SYNONYM MATCH (p.5)

1. f	2. h	3. b	4. j	5. d
6. a	7. e	8. i	9. c	10. g

COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS (p.9)

1. The Federal Trade Commission
2. Large language models
3. The spines of books
4. Burn them
5. Preserve them
6. A dilemma
7. The ethics of destroying books
8. Rare and obscure book sales
9. AI training
10. A fortune

WORDS IN THE RIGHT ORDER (p.19)

1. Investigate AI companies for allegedly buying rare books.
2. Claims that AI companies are digitizing the books.
3. The process includes breaking spines of rare works.
4. The last surviving copies of the original texts.
5. Critics argue that such books are historically important.
6. Bulk buying of books is creating a dilemma.
7. Receiving large orders for some rather valuable items.
8. Rare and obscure book sales have suddenly surged.
9. Companies are spending a fortune on books.
10. Books being used to help train AI assistants.

MULTIPLE CHOICE - QUIZ (p.10)

1.	b	2.	d	3.	a	4.	c	5.	b	6.	a	7.	c	8.	a	9.	a	10.	d

ALL OTHER EXERCISES

Please check for yourself by looking at the Article on page 2.
(It's good for your English ;-)