

Darwin's research continues to evolve

CAMBRIDGE, England (AP) — Charles Darwin's work has evolved again. Now it's available in an online archive that launched this month.

The creators of www.darwin-online.org.uk say the Internet trove is only half complete. But it already includes manuscripts, notebooks and other material, much of which comes from the Darwin Archive at Cambridge University.

"The idea is to make these important works as accessible as possible; some people can only get at Darwin that way," said project director John van Wyhe, a researcher at Christ's College, Cambridge.

"Most of the materials provided are appearing online for the first time."

These include the first edition of the *Journal of Researches* (1839) (or *Voyage of the Beagle*), *The Zoology of the Voyage of HMS Beagle* (1838-43) and *The Descent of Man* (1871). The archive has multiple editions of *On the Origin of Species*.

The notebook in which Darwin recorded his thoughts on seeing the Galapagos Islands in the Pacific — where he made many of the observations that formed his theory of natural selection — was stolen in the early 1980s and is still missing.

But the text, transcribed from microfilm, is available in the online archive. The website also includes the largest Darwin bibliography yet produced.

Van Wyhe noted that the archive is expected to be complete by 2009 — the 200th anniversary of Darwin's birth and the 150th anniversary of the first publication of *The Origin of Species*.