We watch, discuss, and analyze movies—but rarely do we read the scripts. While some well-known film scripts have appeared in print, most have never been published in any format. The scholar’s struggle to locate original scripts involves complicated permissions and negotiations, and holders of scripts are often reluctant to lend rare and unique documents.

The Film Scripts Online Series makes available, for the first time, accurate and authorized versions of copyrighted screenplays. Now film scholars can compare the writer’s vision with the producer’s and director’s interpretations from page to screen.

Most scripts in the series have never been published before and are available nowhere else. Alexander Street developed the collection through arrangements with Warner Bros., Sony, RKO, MGM, and other major film studios; rights holders such as Faber & Faber, Newmarket Press, Penguin Putnam, StudioCanal, and Vintage Anchor; and the writers themselves, including Paul Schrader, Lawrence Kasdan, Gus Van Sant, Neil LaBute, Oliver Stone, and many others.

How will you use it?
The Film Scripts Online Series contains 1,500 film scripts, an exploration of culture and cinema through the decades. This highly structured archive offers a bibliographic and biographical database of directors and writers, along with the full text of the movies themselves. From the earliest silent films through to the present, the cultural attitudes and lifestyles are reflected in the medium. Students, instructors, and researchers use the Film Scripts Online Series for studying popular culture, film, diversity and gender issues, language and linguistics, writing, American history, anthropology, sociology, psychology, and other disciplines.

The value of the written script
Students of film studies, writing, drama, theatre, and literature can study the structure of scripts, character development, plot points, and scenes. When there are multiple versions of a script over time, users see how derivative scripts are developed.

Content
The Film Scripts Online Series was recently expanded with Volume II to include 500 new screenplays, along with monographs including the Film Classics series from the British Film Institute. While American Film Scripts: Volume I contains hundreds of titles from classic American cinema, Film Scripts Online: Volume II focuses more on contemporary and international films. The volumes together are the most comprehensive collection of film scripts available to libraries anywhere in the world.

American Film Scripts: Volume I

American Film Scripts: Volume II
Volume II expands beyond classic and feature films with 500 new screenplays from StudioCanal, Ealing Studios, and others. Film origins go beyond American classic cinema to include more international and contemporary films. Users will find screenplays from well-known filmmakers, such as Sam Peckinpah’s Cross of Iron, Michael Cimino’s The Deer Hunter, David Lynch’s The Elephant Man, Carol Reed’s The Third Man, David Lean’s Hobson’s Choice, Alexander Mackendrick’s The Ladykillers, Nicholas Roeg’s The Man Who Fell to Earth, Robert Harner’s Kind Hearts and Coronets, Mike Figgis’s Leaving Las Vegas, and Sidney Lumet’s Murder on the Orient Express.

In addition, Film Scripts Online: Volume II features the British Film Institute’s Film Classics monographs. This series of critical works provides deep analysis of the most well-known classics in cinematic history. Each volume offers an opportunity to learn about the production and reception history of the films, why they are considered “classics,” and an inside look into the author’s personal response to the final film. Titles include critical assessments of Citizen Kane, Vertigo, Throne of Blood, Dr. Strangelove, Solaris, 8½, Bringing Up Baby, and many others.

Purchase options
American Film Scripts: Volume I and Film Scripts Online: Volume II are available either through one-time purchase of perpetual rights or through annual subscription. The collections contain scripts and monographs, re-keyed and indexed, along with a PDF version when available.

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