READY AT HOME · VOLUME 14

# Offline Knowledge & Media

## Libraries, maps & media without internet

Wikipedia, medical libraries and maps that work with no internet
Project NOMAD, Kiwix, offline maps and local AI
What to download now, and how to keep it powered



THE SERIES


0 Start Here
1 Just Add Water
2 Power Cuts & Storms
3 Water & Sanitation
4 Cooking & Warmth
5 First Aid
6 Symptoms & Home Care
7 Home Systems & Repairs
8 Fire Safety & Security
9 Communications
10 Grab Bags & Kits
11 Pantry & Stockpile
12 Outdoor Skills
13 Kids, Morale & Wellbeing
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Edition 2 · Nov 2026 · Free at readyathome.info · Emergency: 112 or 999 · Licensed CC BY-NC 4.0: free to copy and share, not to sell.

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**Do it while the internet works**

Everything in this volume has to be downloaded in advance. Set an evening aside, start the big downloads overnight, and refresh them every six months or so.

# 1. What to back up

| Category | Examples | Rough size |
|---|---|---|
| Your own documents | Scans of passports, certificates, insurance, prescriptions, the household plan (Volume 0) | Under 1 GB |
| Photos and videos | Family photos, especially ones that only exist on one phone | 10-500 GB |
| This series | All 16 Ready at Home PDFs (readyathome.info) | About 100 MB |
| Reference libraries | Wikipedia, medical encyclopedias, how-to guides (Section 2) | 2-100 GB |
| Maps | Your county, Ireland, and anywhere you might travel (Section 3) | 0.2-2 GB |
| Learning | Khan Academy lessons, PhET science simulations, Wikibooks | 1-200 GB |
| Books and audio | Project Gutenberg ebooks, LibriVox audiobooks (both free and out of copyright) | 1-60 GB |
| Music and films | Your own collection, plus free music from Musopen or Free Music Archive | Varies |
| Faith texts | Public-domain Bible translations (KJV, World English Bible); the Quran text from Tanzil; your own prayer books | Under 100 MB |

Keep two copies: one on a laptop or small server at home, and one on a USB drive or SSD stored somewhere else (a relative's house, or a fire-resistant bag). Encrypt the drive that holds personal documents.

# 2. Offline libraries with Kiwix

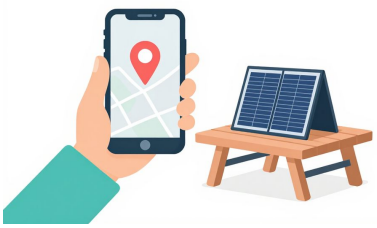
Kiwix is a free reader for 'ZIM' files: whole websites packed into a single file. It runs on Android, iPhone, Windows, Mac and Linux, and can serve the library to every device on your home Wi-Fi.

1. Install Kiwix (kiwix.org) on a phone, tablet or laptop.
2. Open the built-in library or browse library.kiwix.org and download the files you want.
3. Big files are best downloaded on a laptop and copied to an SD card or USB drive.
4. Test: switch to airplane mode and look something up.

| Library (ZIM name) | What it is | Size* |
|---|---|---|
| **Wikipedia** (wikipedia_en_all) | All of English Wikipedia. 'nopic' versions skip images. | 14-120 GB |
| **MDWiki** (mdwiki_en_all) | Medical encyclopedia written for the public (formerly WikiMed) | 2-10 GB |
| **MedlinePlus** | US National Library of Medicine health topics and medicines | about 1.9 GB |
| **NHS Medicines A to Z** | Plain-English guide to common medicines | about 15 MB |
| **Medical Library** (zimgit-medicine) | Field and first-aid manuals collection | about 70 MB |
| **Military Medicine** (irp.fas.org) | US military field medical manuals | about 60 MB |
| **iFixit** | Repair guides for phones, appliances, cars, tools | about 3.4 GB |
| **Home Improvement Q&A;** | diy.stackexchange: plumbing, electrics, building | about 2 GB |
| **Wikivoyage** | Travel guide (Europe-only version is smaller) | 0.1-1 GB |
| **Gardening, Cooking Q&A;** | Growing and cooking food | 0.2-0.9 GB |
| **Wikibooks, PhET** | Textbooks and interactive science for children | 0.1-4.5 GB |
| **Learning Self-Reliance** | Video library on self-sufficiency | about 3.8 GB |

*Sizes from the Kiwix library, November 2026; they change with each update. The Merck/MSD Manual is not available as a free ZIM; MSD offers a free app, so check whether it stores content offline before relying on it. WHO and the Red Cross (IFRC) publish free first-aid and health guidance as PDFs you can save.

# 3. Offline maps



Your phone's GPS works without mobile signal or Wi-Fi; what you lose is the map. Download maps in advance and navigation keeps working.

| App | Good for |
|---|---|
| **Organic Maps** (Android, iPhone) | Free, no ads, based on OpenStreetMap. Download by country or region; walking, cycling and driving directions offline. |
| **OsmAnd** (Android, iPhone) | More detail: contour lines, hiking trails, more settings. |
| **Google Maps** | 'Offline maps' saves an area you draw; expires after a year unless updated. |
| **Paper maps** | Tailte Éireann Discovery Series 1:50,000. Never runs out of battery. |

- Download all of Ireland (well under 1 GB in Organic Maps), plus anywhere you travel.
- Mark key places as favourites: family, meeting points, hospitals, pharmacies, water points.
- Update the maps every few months.

# 4. A home knowledge server: Project NOMAD



Project NOMAD (by Crosstalk Solutions, free and open source) turns an old laptop or a mini PC into an offline 'internet in a box' that every phone and laptop in the house can use over Wi-Fi.

- Kiwix libraries: Wikipedia, medical references, ebooks
- Offline maps for the regions you choose
- Kolibri with Khan Academy courses for children
- A local AI assistant (Ollama) that can answer questions about your saved documents
- Notes and other tools

| | Minimum | Comfortable |
|---|---|---|
| Computer | Any 64-bit PC, 4 GB RAM (Debian or Ubuntu Linux) | Mini PC or laptop, 16-32 GB RAM; a graphics card helps the AI |
| Storage | 10 GB for the system plus your libraries | A 1-2 TB SSD |
| Power | Mini PCs draw 10-30 W: a 1 kWh power station runs one for a day or more (Volume 2) | |

**Keep it private**

NOMAD has no passwords. Use it on your home network only and never expose it to the internet.

# 5. AI that runs without internet

Small language models can now run on a laptop or recent phone with no connection. They're handy for explaining things, summarising your saved documents or helping children with homework.

| Device | App | Suggested models |
|---|---|---|
| Laptop / PC | Ollama or LM Studio (free) | Llama 3.x 8B, Gemma 3 4B-12B, Qwen 3 4B-8B, Mistral 7B. 8 GB RAM minimum, 16 GB better. |
| Android / iPhone | PocketPal AI (free, open source); Google AI Edge Gallery on Android | 1-4B models: Gemma 3 1B-4B, Llama 3.2 1B-3B, Qwen 3 1.7B-4B. Needs 6-8 GB of phone RAM. |

**Know the limits**

- Offline AI can sound confident and still be wrong. Never use it to decide on medicines, doses or whether someone needs emergency care: use Volumes 5 and 6 and call 112.
- Download models while you have internet; they're 1-8 GB each.

# 6. Films, music and books

A media server keeps the household entertained in a long outage and runs happily on the same mini PC.

| Tool | What it does | Notes |
|---|---|---|
| **Jellyfin** | Free, open-source media server: your films, TV, music and photos on any screen in the house | Works fully offline once set up |
| **YAMS** | An installer that sets up Jellyfin plus tools to organise and fetch media | Use only for media you own or that's free to share |
| **Kiwix** | TED talks and Project Gutenberg as ZIMs | Educational video and ebooks |
| **Free collections** | Musopen (classical, public domain), Free Music Archive (Creative Commons), LibriVox audiobooks | Download to a USB drive for the car too |

Rip the DVDs and CDs you already own, and keep children's favourite films and audiobooks on a tablet that stays charged in the no-power box (Volume 13).

# 7. Keeping it all powered



- Phones and tablets: power banks and a small solar panel (Volume 2).
- Server or laptop: a power station; set the laptop to stop charging at 80% for battery life.
- A Wi-Fi router runs on 10-15 W, so the whole house can share the library from one battery.
- Store a spare copy of everything on a USB drive in a Faraday bag or metal tin. That protects the electronics from surges; a waterproof bag protects them from damp.

# Emergency numbers & the series

| Service | Number | Use it for |
|---|---|---|
| **Emergency services** | **112 or 999** | Ambulance, Garda, fire, coast guard. Works from any phone, any network. |
| ESB Networks | 1800 372 999 | Power cuts, fallen or damaged lines (24/7) |
| Gas Networks Ireland | 1800 20 50 50 | Smell of gas (24/7). Call from outside the house. |
| Uisce Éireann (Irish Water) | 1800 278 278 | Water outages, burst mains, boil-water notices |
| HSELive | 1800 700 700 | Health service information |
| Public Poisons Line | 01 809 2166 | Advice if someone has swallowed or touched something harmful (8am-10pm daily) |
| Samaritans | 116 123 | Anyone struggling to cope (24/7) |
| Text About It | Text HELLO to 50808 | Free text support (24/7) |
| Childline | 1800 66 66 66 | Children and young people up to 18 (24/7) |
| Your county council | _____ | Roads, flooding, local emergency centres |
| Met Éireann | met.ie / Met Éireann app | Weather warnings |

Numbers checked November 2026. Write in your county council's number above, and your own local numbers (GP, out-of-hours doctor, pharmacy, vet, neighbours) in Volume 0.

## The Ready At Home series

| Vol | Title | What it covers |
|---|---|---|
| 0 | Start Here | Household plan & emergency numbers |
| 1 | Just Add Water | Home-dehydrated emergency meals |
| 2 | Power Cuts & Storms | Getting through long outages |
| 3 | Water & Sanitation | Storing, treating, toilets |
| 4 | Cooking & Warmth | Without mains power |
| 5 | First Aid | Step-by-step emergency care |
| 6 | Symptoms & Home Care | Red flags, minor illness, medicines |
| 7 | Home Systems & Repairs | Shut-offs, leaks, storm damage, floods |
| 8 | Fire Safety & Security | Alarms, escape plans, extinguishers |
| 9 | Communications | Family plan, radios, signals |
| 10 | Grab Bags & Kits | 72-hour, car, child & pet kits |
| 11 | Pantry & Stockpile | A 30-day food store you rotate |
| 12 | Outdoor Skills | Fire, shelter, knots, navigation |
| 13 | Kids, Morale & Wellbeing | Keeping people okay |
| **14** | **Offline Knowledge & Media** | Libraries, maps & media without internet |
| 15 | Other Emergencies | Radiation, chemicals, heat, illness, cut off |

This series gives general preparedness guidance. It is not a substitute for professional medical, electrical, gas or structural advice, or for a certified first-aid course. In an emergency, call 112 or 999 and follow the call-taker's instructions.

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