ARCHIVE(V)   **ARCHIVE(V)**

NAME

ar — archive (library) file format

DESCRIPTION

The archive command *ar* is used to combine several files into one. Archives are used mainly as libraries to be searched by the link-editor *ld*.

A file produced by *ar* has a magic number at the start, followed by the constituent files, each preceded by a file header. The magic number is 177545(8) (chosen because it is unlikely to occur anywhere else). The header of each file is 26 bytes long:

0-13	file name, null padded on the right
14-17	modification time of the file
18	user ID of file owner
19	group ID of file owner
20-21	file mode
22-25	file size

Each file begins on a word boundary; a null byte is inserted between files if necessary. Nevertheless, the size given reflects the actual size of the file exclusive of padding.

Notice there is no provision for empty areas in an archive file.

SEE ALSO

ar (I), ld (I)

BUGS