

# Researching @ The Library of Congress

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## History of the Library of Congress

- Established in 1800 by an act of Congress to establish a library for Congressional members.
- \$5,000 was given to build a ample collection that could be used for legislative purposes.
- The Library was burned in the War of 1812. Rebuilt collection with purchase of Thomas Jefferson's private library.
- Ainsworth Spofford, Librarian of Congress (1864-97) created the LOC into our National Library.
- Under President Theodore Roosevelt, Librarian Herbert Putnam, moved the LOC forward into an institution that supports U.S. Libraries.
- The John Adams Building was annexed in 1914.
- Historian Daniel Boorstein, as Librarian of Congress, created the American Folklife Center, Center for the Book and the Council of Scholars.
- After 22 years of planning and development, The James Madison building opened in 1980.
- The 1990s, under James H. Billington, brought the establishment of the National Digital Library & National Audio-Visual Center in Culpepper Virginia.
- Carla Hayden was appointed Librarian of Congress in 2016 by President Obama. Ms. Hayden is the first woman and African-American to hold the post.

## Getting Around

- Building Floorplans [www.loc.gov/visit/maps-and-floor-plans/jefferson-building-ground-floor](http://www.loc.gov/visit/maps-and-floor-plans/jefferson-building-ground-floor)
- Library of Congress Virtual Tours [www.loc.gov/visit/online-tours](http://www.loc.gov/visit/online-tours)
- Reader Registration and pre-registration forms [www.loc.gov/rr/readerregistration.html](http://www.loc.gov/rr/readerregistration.html)
- Search collections online before you go! [www.loc.gov](http://www.loc.gov)

## Collections

- The Library of Congress has 3 buildings near the Capitol complex where various collections are held. Offsite collections include the audio-visual archives in Culpepper Virginia.
- The John Adams building houses the science, technology and business collections as well as the federal research division.
- The James Madison building contains the law library, the Copyright Reading Room, the Veteran's History Project Info Center plus the manuscript, map, photograph, & newspaper collections.

- Manuscripts [www.loc.gov/rr/mss](http://www.loc.gov/rr/mss)
  - Geography & Maps [www.loc.gov/rr/geogmap](http://www.loc.gov/rr/geogmap)
  - Newspapers & Periodicals [www.loc.gov/rr/news](http://www.loc.gov/rr/news)
  - Prints & Photographs [www.loc.gov/rr/print](http://www.loc.gov/rr/print)
- Thomas Jefferson Building houses the main reading room and the humanities collections including the foreign language reading rooms. Exhibits and programming is also held here.
    - John W. Kluge Center [www.loc.gov/programs/john-w-kluge-center/about-this-program](http://www.loc.gov/programs/john-w-kluge-center/about-this-program)
    - Rare Book and Special Collections Reading Room [www.loc.gov/rr/rarebook](http://www.loc.gov/rr/rarebook)
    - Children's Literature Center [www.loc.gov/rr/child](http://www.loc.gov/rr/child)
    - American Folk Life Center [www.loc.gov/folklife](http://www.loc.gov/folklife)
    - European Reading Room [www.loc.gov/rr/european](http://www.loc.gov/rr/european)
    - Hispanic Reading Room [www.loc.gov/rr/hispanic](http://www.loc.gov/rr/hispanic)

## Inter Library Loan

- The LOC will circulate books and microfilm at no cost through inter library loan. Materials are available in-house only at your library.
- Items that will not circulate include:
  1. Genealogy/family history books
  2. Rare books
  3. Original manuscripts
  4. Popular newspapers

ILL Policy [www.loc.gov/rr/loan/loanweb3.html#spcoll](http://www.loc.gov/rr/loan/loanweb3.html#spcoll)

## Searching the Catalog <https://catalog.loc.gov/index.html>

- Migrated Collections <http://memory.loc.gov/ammem/browse/updatedList.html>
- Print & Digital Copies listed in records
- Use **LC Find It** to search outside of LOC
  - Google Scholar
  - Google Books

## Newspapers & Periodicals

- Flickr [www.loc.gov/rr/news/flickr/flickrNewsp.html](http://www.loc.gov/rr/news/flickr/flickrNewsp.html)
- Chronicling America [www.chroniclingamerica.loc.gov](http://www.chroniclingamerica.loc.gov)

## Veterans Oral History Project

- [www.loc.gov/vets](http://www.loc.gov/vets)



- <https://memory.loc.gov/diglib/vhp/html/search.html>

## Prints and Photos Division

- Researcher's Toolbox [www.loc.gov/rr/print/resource/researchertool.html](http://www.loc.gov/rr/print/resource/researchertool.html)
- Copyright free images [www.loc.gov/free-to-use](http://www.loc.gov/free-to-use)

## Geography and Maps

- [www.loc.gov/rr/geogmap](http://www.loc.gov/rr/geogmap)
- [www.loc.gov/maps/collections](http://www.loc.gov/maps/collections)

## Historic American Building Survey

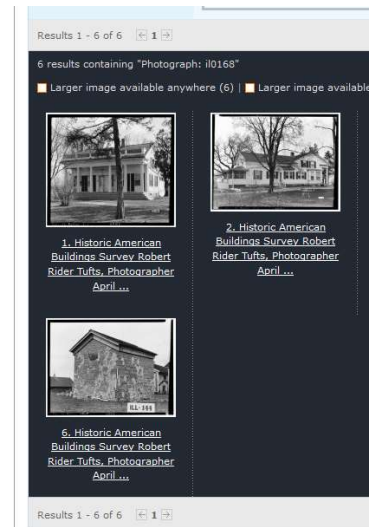
- Over 580,000 prints and photographs of nearly 45,000 historic buildings & landscapes across the U.S. and territories.
- [www.loc.gov/pictures/collection/hh](http://www.loc.gov/pictures/collection/hh)
- <https://bit.ly/2uuByes>

## Digital Collections and Online Exhibits

- Baseball America <https://bit.ly/2JaRhFY>
- Mapping a Growing Nation <https://bit.ly/2yn9fQk>
- Bob Hope <https://bit.ly/2H3HbYr>
- All previous online exhibits: [www.loc.gov/exhibits/all](http://www.loc.gov/exhibits/all)

## Library of Congress Social Media Accounts

- Blogs:
  - <https://blogs.loc.gov/loc>
  - <https://blogs.loc.gov/folklife>
  - <https://blogs.loc.gov/headlinesandheroes>
  - <https://blogs.loc.gov/maps>
  - <https://blogs.loc.gov/law>
- Medium
  - <https://medium.com/@librarycongress>
- Library of Congress email Subscriptions [www.loc.gov/subscribe](http://www.loc.gov/subscribe)



- Facebook
  - [www.facebook.com/libraryofcongress](http://www.facebook.com/libraryofcongress)
  - [www.facebook.com/americanfolklifecenter](http://www.facebook.com/americanfolklifecenter)
  - [www.facebook.com/vetshistoryproject](http://www.facebook.com/vetshistoryproject)
- Twitter
  - <https://twitter.com/librarycongress>
  - <https://twitter.com/LOCMaps>
  - [https://twitter.com/crowd\\_LOC](https://twitter.com/crowd_LOC)

## Webcasts and Podcasts

- Library of Congress webcasts [www.loc.gov/today/cyberlc/index.php](http://www.loc.gov/today/cyberlc/index.php)
- Library of Congress on YouTube! [www.youtube.com/user/LibraryOfCongress](http://www.youtube.com/user/LibraryOfCongress)
- Library of Congress Podcasts [www.loc.gov/podcasts](http://www.loc.gov/podcasts)
- Podcasts available through iTunes <https://apple.co/2VOMdk9>



## Photo Sharing

- Flickr: [www.flickr.com/photos/library\\_of\\_congress](http://www.flickr.com/photos/library_of_congress)
- Instagram: [www.instagram.com/librarycongress](http://www.instagram.com/librarycongress)
- Pinterest: [www.pinterest.com/LibraryCongress](http://www.pinterest.com/LibraryCongress)
- Picture This Blog: <https://blogs.loc.gov/picturethis>

## Crowd Sourcing

The Library of Congress is the People's Library. Therefore, they are happy to solicit our help in making their records available to the world. The "By the People" crowd sourcing initiative works in three ways:

1. transcribe records already digitized by LOC
2. Tag important details in the work
3. Review other transcriber's work.

Ready to jump in? Go here:

<https://crowd.loc.gov/help-center/welcome-guide>

