As part of a series of orientations to libraries and information centers, FEDLINK is offering an opportunity for federal librarians to become acquainted with the programs and services of the U.S. Naval Observatory’s James M. Gilliss Library.

The James M. Gilliss Library is the largest astronomy library in the United States and features a rare astronomy collection containing original works by Galileo and Copernicus. The tour will also feature a tour of the facility with an opportunity to see the observatory’s telescope and a view of the city from the rooftop.

The Naval Observatory is accessible via MetroBus from Metro’s Red line Friendship Heights, Tenleytown-AU, Dupont Circle and Farragut North stations and the Farragut West station on the Orange and Blue lines. The N2, N4, and N6 MetroBuses connect at these stations and travel to the Naval Observatory along Massachusetts Avenue.

Do not enter the gate at the intersection of Massachusetts and Observatory circle, but proceed to the end of the street to the South Gate opposite the New Zealand Embassy. At the gate, show the guards a valid photo ID with your name and date of birth and inform them you are here to see Library Director Sally Bosken for the FEDLINK Library Tour. The library is located in Building 1. There is a large parking area inside the facility near the South Gate. Signs will be posted to guide you to the library.

Try Mapquest’s Interactive Atlas or Google Maps to help you find your way. Use the street address for the New Zealand Embassy, 37 Observatory Circle NW, Washington, DC, 20008 for your search destination.