American Federal Libraries/Information Centers Chronology

1780 Military garrison at West Point establishes library by assessing officers at the rate of one day’s pay per month to purchase books—arguably the first federal library since it existed when the country was founded (predecessor to U.S. Military Academy Library)

1789 First official federal library established at the Department of State

1795 War Department Library established in Philadelphia as a general historical military library by Henry Knox, the first Secretary of War

1800 The Navy Department Library established on March 31 by direction of President John Adams to Secretary of the Navy Benjamin Stoddert

1800 Library of Congress (LoC) founded on April 24

1800 War Department Library collections destroyed in fire at War Office Building on November 8, soon after relocation to Washington

1802 The President and Vice President authorized to use LoC collections

1812 Supreme Court Justices authorized to use LoC collections

1812 Congress appropriates $50,000 for the procurement of instruments and books for Coast Survey

1814 British burn both State Department Library and LoC collections during War of 1812

1815 Congress purchases Thomas Jefferson’s private library to replace LoC collections and opens collections to the general public

1817 Earliest documentation of book purchasing for Department of Treasury library

1820 Army Surgeon General James Lovell establishes office collection of books and journals

1821 The USS FRANKLIN deploys with “Seaman’s Library” of 1500 books purchased with funds raised by the crew

1830 Executive agencies authorized to use LoC

1831 Congress appropriates $500 to the Office of the Attorney General for purchase of books
American Federal Libraries/Information Centers Chronology (continued)

1832 Naval regulations require that each ship have a library for technical materials

1836 The Library of Office of the Surgeon General of the Army established from Lovell collection (see 1820 listing, above)

1837 LoC named official agency of U.S. government for foreign exchanges of documents

1843 Library for the Headquarters, U.S. Marine Corps established by Commandant Archibald Henderson (with authorization of Secretary of Navy David Henshaw)

1845 U.S. Naval Academy Library founded

1846 Smithsonian Institution established

1848 Samuel Hein named first librarian of Coast Survey Library

1850 Department of the Interior circulating library established with $1,000 appropriation

1850 Congress appropriates $1,000 for Librarian of Congress to purchase books for Department of Treasury library

1860 Government Printing Office established

1862 Department of Agriculture establishes library

1865 Attorney General James Speed establishes office of librarian at annual salary of $1,400

1865 First Veterans’ Hospital Library established at National Home for Disabled Soldiers, Togus, Maine; as service expanded, chaplains given primary responsibility for collections

1866 Smithsonian library collection (40,000 volumes) moved to fireproof housing at LoC after fire in Smithsonian Castle; becomes known as “Smithsonian Deposit”

1870 LoC named sole copyright agency for U.S. government and recipient of copyright deposits

1870 War Department Signal Office establishes 600-volume library to support weather reporting and forecasting

1871 Commission of Fish and Fisheries Library begins when Commission is created

1871 Secretary of the Navy directs Hydrographic Office to set up library containing works of hydrography, voyages of discovery, meteorology, marine surveying, etc., “with a catalogue of such works, arranged under their proper heads” (now Naval Oceanographic Office Library)
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1875</td>
<td>Military garrison and regimental libraries number over 78 and range in size from 385 volumes at Fort Bayard, New Mexico Territory, to 2,556 volumes at Fort Columbus, New York City</td>
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<tr>
<td>1876</td>
<td>State Department Library relocated to space in the State, War and Navy Building (now the Old Executive Office Building)</td>
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<td>1879</td>
<td>Navy Department Library relocated to the State, War and Navy Building, room 474 (now The Indian Treaty Room)</td>
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<td>1879</td>
<td>First volume of the <em>Index Medicus</em> published by Army Surgeon General’s library</td>
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<tr>
<td>1879</td>
<td>U.S. Geological Survey establishes library</td>
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<td>1881</td>
<td>Smithsonian Secretary Baird donates his private collection to form nucleus of an official National Museum Library at the new U.S. National Museum</td>
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<tr>
<td>1882</td>
<td>LoC begins accepting “gifts to the nation” from private citizens</td>
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<td>1882</td>
<td>Mary B. Cummings becomes first woman to serve as librarian for Department of Justice</td>
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<td>1885</td>
<td>Library collection assembled at the Bureau of Labor</td>
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<tr>
<td>1887</td>
<td>First Librarian of the U.S. Supreme Court appointed in Capitol Building location</td>
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<tr>
<td>1888</td>
<td>War Department Library relocated to permanent space in the State, War and Navy Building (now the Old Executive Office Building)</td>
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<tr>
<td>1895</td>
<td>Federal Depository System established at the Government Printing Office</td>
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<td>1896</td>
<td>Eighth Circuit Court (St. Louis) hires its first librarian; many other Circuits had libraries and librarians by the end of the 19th century</td>
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<tr>
<td>1897</td>
<td>LoC Jefferson Building opens</td>
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<tr>
<td>1897</td>
<td>Congress appropriates $1,200 to the Department of Treasury to appoint a professional librarian</td>
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<tr>
<td>1901</td>
<td>Congress appropriates $10,000 to establish the Army War College library “for the collection and dissemination of military information”</td>
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<tr>
<td>1901</td>
<td>Library established in the legislation that authorizes the new Hygienic Laboratory (renamed National Institutes of Health in 1930)</td>
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<tr>
<td>1901</td>
<td>LoC begins interlibrary loan services</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
American Federal Libraries/Information Centers Chronology (continued)

1901  LoC begins offering copies of its catalog cards and classification schedules to libraries

1903  U.S. government agencies begin transferring surplus books to LoC

1903  Historical and Presidential papers transferred to LoC from Department of State

1907  Department of the Interior abolishes its circulating library

1914  War Department Library transferred and consolidated with collection of the Army War College Library at the Washington Barracks (now Fort Lesley J. McNair)

1914  Department of Commerce main library established

1917  The Librarian of Congress named Director of the American Library Association (ALA) Library War Service, forerunner of the Army Library Service

1917  Department of Labor Library established through consolidation of Children’s Bureau and Bureau of Labor libraries

1918  Carnegie Corporation of New York funds 36 library buildings at major Army installations

1918  Air Service, War Department (forerunner of Air Force) establishes three technical libraries: McCook Field Library (now Wright Patterson AFB), San Antonio Intermediate Air Depot Library (Kelly AFB) and the Air Service Library in Washington, D.C.

1918  First female ALA Library War Service librarian hired

1918  ALA Library War Service extended to hospitals caring for soldiers and veterans, providing patients with materials for recreation, education and therapy

1918  ALA Library War Service establishes Paris office to support soldiers in France

1919  Military and veterans ALA libraries staffed by 145 librarians and 6 supervisors

1919  ALA library services extended to Public Health Service Hospitals and National Soldiers Homes

1919  Department of the Navy creates the Library Services Branch to provide a professionally directed, ship and shore library program for Navy and Marine Corps (now the Naval General Library Program)

1920  ALA Library War Service (books, buildings and equipment) turned over to the Army

1921  Army Library Service formally established as an activity of the Adjutant General’s Office in War Department
**American Federal Libraries/Information Centers Chronology (continued)**

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<tr>
<td>1921</td>
<td>ALA veterans hospital libraries become part of Public Health Service and Civil Service</td>
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<td>1921</td>
<td>President Warren Harding directs transfer of original copies of the Declaration of Independence and the Constitution from the State Department Library to the Library of Congress</td>
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<tr>
<td>1921</td>
<td>Bureau of the Budget’s General Counsel begins law collection in Old Executive Office Building</td>
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<td>1922</td>
<td>U.S. Veterans Bureau (later renamed Veterans Administration) assumes responsibility for veterans affairs, and Congress mandates that each veterans hospital have at least one library</td>
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<tr>
<td>1922</td>
<td>Library of the Office of the Surgeon General (Army) renamed Army Medical Library</td>
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<tr>
<td>1922-1926</td>
<td>Veterans Bureau mandates that each veterans hospital have 2 libraries—medical and patient</td>
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<tr>
<td>1927</td>
<td>Ruth Hutchins Hooker hired to run the one-room library at the Naval Research Laboratory; the library begins its ascent to become a first class science library (now named for Hooker)</td>
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<tr>
<td>1934</td>
<td>The National Archives Act creates the National Archives as an independent government agency, and R.D.W. Connor becomes the first Archivist of the United States</td>
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<tr>
<td>1935</td>
<td>Supreme Court Library moves to the historic Supreme Court Building at 1 First Street, SE in Washington, D.C.</td>
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<tr>
<td>1937</td>
<td>Department of the Interior consolidated library established with 285,000 volumes</td>
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<tr>
<td>1939</td>
<td>Bureau of the Budget Library established by amalgamating collections of the Bureau of Efficiency and the Central Statistical Board with the General Counsel’s law collection</td>
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<td>1939</td>
<td>Franklin D. Roosevelt Library established as the first Presidential archival depository, the first of the libraries now comprising the Presidential Library System</td>
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<tr>
<td>1940</td>
<td>Permanent Army Library Service staff position established in Morale Branch of the Adjutant General’s Office to select and purchase books for Army posts and Air Corps stations and advise the War Department on library matters</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1942</td>
<td>National Institutes of Health Library combines with Public Health Service Library to form collections exceeding 40,000 volumes</td>
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<tr>
<td>1942</td>
<td>Office of War Information Library established from small newspaper morgue in New York</td>
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</table>
American Federal Libraries/Information Centers Chronology (continued)

1943 Joint project of U.S. Government and private publishers begins production of 123 million copies of Armed Services Edition paperback books (4 ½ oz. pocket size reprints of 1300 best sellers and classics) for distribution to troops overseas

1944 Pentagon Library established in Pentagon Building (War Department Memorandum No. W. 210-44, 16 February 1944), based on recommendations of Keyes Metcalf (Director, Harvard University Libraries) to consolidate 28 military libraries

1945 Army Air Forces Library Program (now Air Force Library Program) established as an entity separate from the Army Library Service

1945 Defense Technical Information Center (DTIC) established as Air Documents Division of the Intelligence Department Headquarters, Air Technical Service, Army Air Force (name changes in 1948 and 1951, and in 1963 becomes Defense Documentation Center; becomes DTIC in 1979)

1945 Army Library Service establishes branch offices in London and Paris to support soldiers in European Theater of Operations

1945 Publications Board (forerunner of National Technical Information Service) established to declassify and disseminate American and enemy war-related technical documents to the public

1946 On recommendation of the Librarian of Congress and ALA, Veterans Administration libraries reorganized into 13 decentralized district offices with new standards and requirements

1946 National War College established; library formed from collections of the Army War College

1946 Air University Library established at Maxwell Field (now Air Force Base), Montgomery, Alabama

1946 The Law Library of Judge Advocate General (Army) transferred to the Pentagon Library

1946 Armed Forces Staff College established in Norfolk, Virginia, on a 55-acre site formerly housing the U.S. Naval Receiving Station; library established in October

1947 Atomic Energy Commission Library established

1947 War Department Library renamed The Army Library with the passage of the National Security Act of 1947 (War Department Memorandum 3-50-1, 2 January 1947)

1947 Central Intelligence Agency Library established
**American Federal Libraries/Information Centers Chronology (continued)**

1947  
State Department Library relocated from Old Executive Office Building to the Department of State headquarters building

1948  
Congress authorizes all Circuit Courts to hire librarians

1949  
Department of the Interior establishes 8 bureau libraries and the Geological Survey and Division of Geography libraries under the technical supervision of the Librarian of the Department

1950  
National Technical Information Service established within the Department of Commerce as the central clearinghouse for technical information

1951  
Army War College Library reestablished in Carlisle Barracks

1952  
The Army Medical Library renamed the Armed Forces Medical Library

1952  
Original copies of the Declaration of Independence and the Constitution transferred from LoC to the National Archives

1952  
Veterans Administration reports 545 libraries, 436 librarians, over 1.5 million volumes, and over 13 million items in circulation annually

1953  
Smithsonian Secretary Carmichael agrees that the Library of Congress may integrate the Smithsonian deposit volumes into LC collections

1953  
Former Office of War Information collection merged with State Department libraries for Press and Publications and for Propaganda to form library for newly-created U.S. Information Agency

1953  
Army establishes U.S. Army Special Service Library in Korea

1955  
Air Force Academy Library established

1955  

1956  
The Armed Forces Medical Library designated the National Library of Medicine and placed under the Public Health Service

1957  
First Military Librarians Workshop held at Air University, Maxwell Air Force Base, Alabama

1960  
DTIC forerunner (Armed Services Technical Information Agency) initiates Project MARS (MAchine Retrieval System); publishes Thesaurus of ASTIA Descriptors to enhance searching
1961  Department of State Foreign Service Institute Library established

1962  National Agricultural Library established from Department of Agriculture library

1964  National Library of Medicine’s Medical Literature Analysis and Retrieval System (MEDLARS) becomes operational

1965  Redstone Scientific Information Center, Army Missile Command/Marshall Space Flight Center, implements the first automated Integrated Library System (batch system) in the U.S.

1965  The Federal Library Committee established at LoC by agreement with Bureau of Budget

1965  The Medical Library Assistance Act is signed into law, authorizing National Library of Medicine’s programs of grant assistance and a Regional Medical Library network

1965  Department of Housing and Urban Development Library established from libraries of three predecessor agencies: Federal Housing, Housing and Home Finance, and Public Housing

1966  LoC introduces MARC (Machine-Readable Cataloging)

1966  Atomic Energy Commission establishes Bethesda Technical Library

1966  Army Special Services establishes library system in Vietnam, growing to more than 20 large libraries by end of the decade

1967  Library established to serve the Court of Claims and the Court of Customs and Patent Appeals (now Federal Circuit Court Library)

1967  U.S. Army Military History Research Collection established (later renamed Military History Institute)

1968  Two positions to staff the Federal Library Committee funded in the LoC appropriation

1968  Smithsonian Secretary Ripley establishes the Smithsonian Institution Libraries under a single, centralized director to manage the library resources of the Institution

1968  DTIC implements Defense Research, Development, Test and Evaluation Online System (DROLS), enabling users to conduct online bibliographic searches of DTIC database

1970  With creation of National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, NOAA Library established, consolidating collections from Coast and Geodetic Survey, Weather Bureau and Bureau of Commercial Fisheries
American Federal Libraries/Information Centers Chronology (continued)

1971 Following creation of the Environmental Protection Agency in 1970, the EPA Library System is established with 28 libraries (now the EPA Library Network)

1971 Executive Office of the President consolidates White House and Office of Management and Budget library collections in the New Executive Office Building Library

1972 Library at Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms’ National Laboratory Center established

1972 American Library Association establishes Federal Librarians RoundTable; FLRT holds first meeting and publishes first issue of newsletter

1973 Federal Library Committee establishes first federal bibliographic network, FEDLINK

1974 First OCLC MARC record input by the Smithsonian Institution Libraries

1974 Federal Energy Office Library forms nucleus of collections from defunct Price Commission Library and becomes part of the National Energy Information Center

1974 Bethesda Technical Library becomes the Nuclear Regulatory Commission Library

1975 Energy Research and Development Administration Library formed out of collection of former Atomic Energy Commission

1976 National Defense University Library established at Ft. McNair

1977 Department of Energy Library established from collections of Energy Research and Development Administration, Federal Energy Administration and Federal Power Commission

1978 White House Information Center established in Old Executive Office Building

1979 Reference Library and Archive of Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Fire Arms established

1979 Defense Documentation Center renamed Defense Technical Information Center (DTIC) to reflect evolution to providing information from variety of sources; DTIC assumes administrative control of nine contractor-operated Information Analysis Centers

1982 Federal Circuit created and library renamed Federal Circuit Court Library

1982 The Army Library renamed the Pentagon Library

1982 The White House Law Library established in the Old Executive Office Building (in a room that housed the War Department Library 1888-1914 and then served as an annex of the State Department Library until 1947)
American Federal Libraries/Information Centers Chronology (continued)

1983  Department of Energy Library becomes first federal library to be contracted out in its entirety

1983  The Executive Office of the President Law Library established in the room that housed the War Department Library 1888-1938 and then the State Department Library until 1947

1984  White House Information Center evolves into White House Library and Research Center


1988  U.S. Institute of Peace establishes the Jeannette Rankin Library Program

1990  The White House Library and Research Center, the White House Law Library, and the Executive Office of the President Library renamed the Executive Office of the President Libraries

1993  Marine Corps University Library established as part of the Marine Corps Research Center to support the new Marine Corps University at Quantico, Virginia

1993  Electronic Information Access Enhancement Act (GPO Access law) enacted

1994  National Library of Education established from Department of Education Library