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Library of Congress Magazine is issued bimonthly by the Office of Communications of the Library of Congress and distributed free of charge to publicly supported libraries and research institutions, donors, academic libraries, learned societies and allied organizations in the United States. Research institutions and educational organizations in other countries may arrange to receive Library of Congress Magazine on an exchange basis by applying in writing to the Library’s Director for Acquisitions and Bibliographic Access, 101 Independence Ave. S.E., Washington DC 20540-4100. LCM is also available on the web at loc.gov/lcm/. All other correspondence should be addressed to the Office of Communications, Library of Congress, 101 Independence Ave. S.E., Washington DC 20540-3610.

e-mail pao@loc.gov
loc.gov/lcm
ISSN 2169-0855 (print)
ISSN 2169-0863 (online)

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“Taste of the Five Senses” by muralist Robert Reid adorns the north corridor on the second floor of the Library’s Thomas Jefferson Building. Carol M. Highsmith Archive, Print and Photographs Collection

“Trendy” by muralist Ashley Jones adorns the south corridor on the second floor of the Library’s Thomas Jefferson Building. Carol M. Highsmith Archive, Print and Photographs Collection

The war’s end

“The Joy of Cooking” by muralist Ashley Jones adorns the north corridor on the second floor of the Library’s Thomas Jefferson Building. Carol M. Highsmith Archive, Print and Photographs Collection

David S. Mao
FOOD, GLOUS FOOD

TODAY'S POPULAR FOOD BLOGS ARE AN OUTGROWTH OF RECIPE-SHARING IN AMERICA THAT BEGAN WITH COMMUNITY COOKBOOKS.

It seems as if everyone is focused on food. We tune in to cooking shows on television and radio, read magazines and books devoted to food, even plan vacations to include food tourism. Millions share recipes and cooking tips on social media. There are myriad food blogs—on every topic from feeding your toddler to government food policy—and countless boards on Pinterest are devoted to food. We share photos of our latest meal on Instagram.

But 150 years ago, long before this virtual community of recipe-posting existed, people shared their recipes through a different medium—the community cookbook. Like blogs and Pinterest boards, community cookbooks offer an assembled collection of recipes and household hints.

The Library's rich collection of community cookbooks documents the lives of individuals and their cooking and eating habits as American food systems were transformed by industrialization and urbanization, immigration and expansion. They reveal regional tastes, from recipes for peanut soup and chess pie in the south to finnan haddie and cranberry pie in New England. They trace the impact of immigration through ethnic food recipes. They demonstrate the blending of cultures through new dishes, making the description of America as a "melting pot" both figurative and literal.

Largely an American invention, community cookbooks were—and still are—often published to raise funds for causes. They were first sold during the Civil War at the great sanitary fairs to raise funds for causes. They were first sold to raise funds for wounded soldiers and their families. The first known example of the genre—The Poetical Cook-Book—was sold at the Great Central Fair in Philadelphia in June 1864.

Community cookbooks continued to be published in ever-increasing numbers at the turn of the 20th century by church groups, improvement associations and women's clubs. As women began attending colleges and joining clubs, community cookbooks were a tool to support their involvement not only in local projects, but in larger social causes such as the temperance and suffrage movements. By the close of World War I, more than 5,000 charitable cookbooks had been published in support of various causes.

The 20th century brought thousands of additional titles. In 1927, the bipartisan Congressional Club issued its first cookbook, containing family recipes of Members of Congress, Supreme Court Justices and other government officials. Thirteen editions followed, with recipes ranging from Bess Truman's "Oatark Pudding" to Mrs. Thurgood Marshall's "Deluxe Mango Bread." Recipes, photographs and tips on Washington protocol reveal the social and political values of each period. Many editions contain a "Men Only" chapter where recipes contributed by men (rather than their spouses) appear. There, one can find Richard Nixon's "Meat Loaf" and Justice William O. Douglas' "Trout" (to be cooked outdoors).

The Library of Congress Cooking Club issued cookbooks in 1975 and 1987, featuring recipes from Library staff members. From "Javanese Banana Pancakes" to "Vegetarian Chopped Liver," the recipes are quite eclectic. A recipe for "Dandelion Wine" warns, "Do not fit on a tight, unventured cap or you will create a bomb!"

In the wake of Hurricane Katrina, family treasures were lost, including cherished recipes. One local newspaper responded by becoming a clearinghouse for recipe swapping. The result was "Cooking Up a Storm: Recipes Lost and Found from The Times-Picayune of New Orleans" (2008), which not only includes the recipes but the history behind them. The compilation tells the story of a community struggling to rebuild everything—including its culinary history.

——— Alison Kelly is a science librarian and culinary specialist in the Library's Science, Technology and Business Division.

MORE INFORMATION

View selected community cookbooks, 1872-1922 bit.ly/1RZ1TwF

AUNTIE ROSA'S PANCAKES

Rosa Parks' act of bravery on a bus in Montgomery, Alabama, in 1955 dubbed her "mother of the civil rights movement." Yet few know the more personal side of Parks' life.

A recent memoir, "Our Auntie Rosa: The Family of Rosa Parks Remembers Her Life and Lessons" provides a look at Parks as a role model and devoted mother figure to her 13 nieces and nephews. The book's author, Sheila McCauley Keys, joined by her co-author Eddie B. Allen Jr. talked about her aunt at the Library of Congress last spring.

"She was a true southern cook, often making dishes passed down for generations," recalled Keys. These family favorites include "featherlite" pancakes made with peanut butter. Scrawled on the back of an envelope (pictured right), the pancake recipe was found among her personal papers, recently placed on loan to the Library of Congress for 10 years from the Howard G. Buffett Foundation. The Rosa Parks Collection contains approximately 10,000 items, including personal correspondence and photographs, autographed letters from presidents, her Presidential Medal of Freedom and Congressional Gold Medal, additional honors and awards, clothing, furniture, 200 drawings by schoolchildren and hundreds of greeting cards from individuals thanking her for her inspirational role in the civil rights movement. Selected items from the collection will be available on the Library's website in February to mark the leader's 103rd birthday.

Parks' role in the civil rights movement is described in "A Long Struggle for Freedom." In the Library's collection commemorating the 50th anniversary of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, on view through Jan. 2, 2016.

MORE INFORMATION

View "A Long Struggle for Freedom" online loc.gov/exhibits/civil-rights-act/

"Our Auntie Rosa" program go.usa.gov/3x7em

November/December 2015 loc.gov/lcm
PARTICIPATE IN THE VETERANS HISTORY PROJECT

The Veterans History Project at the Library of Congress collects, preserves and makes accessible the first-hand remembrances of American wartime veterans so that future generations may hear directly from veterans and better understand the realities of war. To date, nearly 100,000 stories have been collected, many of which may be viewed online. These include the reminiscences of veterans of World War I through the current conflicts in Iraq and Afghanistan.

The project, which was authorized by the U.S. Congress in 2000, relies on volunteers to record veterans’ remembrances using the guidelines below.

1. Fill out the online form.
   loc.gov/vets/kit.html

2. Print the VHP Field Kit.
   The kit includes all required forms found at loc.gov/vets/kitmenu.html.

3. Prepare for the interview.
   Make sure to complete the Biographical Data Form found in the Field Kit to identify possible interview questions, and if possible, conduct a pre-interview with your subject. See loc.gov/vets/moresources.html for equipment and lighting tips.

4. Conduct the interview.

5. Send your recording to:
   VHP at the Library of Congress
   101 Independence Ave. S.E.
   Washington, DC 20540-4615
   vohp@loc.gov

The Veterans History Project at the Library of Congress collects, preserves and makes accessible the first-hand remembrances of America’s war veterans during wartime. Many, such as those noted above, can be viewed online. These include the jubilation and celebration that ensued, as well as the cost of war—its lasting effects.

“End of World War II: 70th Anniversary” is the latest installment on the Veterans History Project’s “Experiencing War” website series. The feature highlights personal stories from the VHP collection that illustrate what the end of the war meant to those who were serving and those on the home front. These personal accounts encompass the jubilation and celebration that ensued, as well as the cost of war—its lasting effects.

“As the project marks its 15th year, it will soon reach the milestone of acquiring 100,000 individual collections of stories, photographs, diaries and letters of the men and women who served our country during wartime. Many, such as those noted above, can be viewed on the VHP website.

Featured collections in the “End of World War II” presentation include that of John Katus, a Japanese-American living in San Francisco who was interned with his family in the Topaz War Relocation Center in Utah during his teenage years. He describes feeling like “a second-class citizen” living behind barbed wire. Drafted into the U.S. Army in 1945, he served in Germany during the immediate post-war occupation era, where he taught classes in the principles of democracy to German youth. “This was another case like displaced people in an internment camp,” Katus observed. “These people were a lot freer but couldn’t do many things they needed to do to live.”

The feature also profiles First Lt. Evelyn Kowalchuk, who worked as an Army flight nurse caring for patients being evacuated from the Normandy beaches to England. “Even when I came home from service, after seeing what I saw, I used to have nightmares,” she recalled. “Four of our nurses committed suicide when they got home.”

In a series of memoirs, Charles S. Stevenson, a former member of the Navy Medical Corps, describes his experiences as the first physician to enter the city of Nagasaki after the atomic bombing on Aug. 9, 1945. “I felt completely helpless and depressed,” he wrote. “There was nothing I could do to improve the conditions of these tragic victims of the cruellest bomb-blast the world had ever experienced.” In the 1980s, Stevenson began speaking out about the horrors of nuclear warfare, joining antinuclear groups such as Physicians for Social Responsibility.

Complementing these collections are home movies shot by veterans Charles Marlatt and Robert Weisbard, depicting victory parades in both New York and Europe.

Congress created the Veterans History Project in 2000 to collect, preserve and make accessible the first-hand remembrances of America’s war veterans from World War I through the more recent conflicts in Iraq and Afghanistan.
Connie Carter, Head of the Science Reference Section, Reflects on Her 50-Year Career at the Library of Congress

How would you describe your work at the Library of Congress?

My job in the Science Reference Section makes the science collections come alive for the Library's users. I really love what I do and with whom I do it. I am so fortunate to have a team of talented, dedicated and creative staff members who manage me.

Reference is an area of librarianship where age helps. The longer you are in the game, the more queries you have answered, the more databases you have reviewed and the more contacts you have made. Difficult questions that I once toyed over tend to reappear, even 30 years later. I know much more than I did when I came to the Library 50 years ago, and I’m still learning. I especially enjoy generating content for the Science, Technology and Business Division’s website.

How did you prepare for your current position?

I graduated from Smith College with a degree in zoology in 1959. That fall, I had the opportunity to work as a “girl Friday” for ornithologist and explorer William Beebe, whose work had taken him—and me—to Trinidad. Besides raising butterflies and recording the social behavior of fiddler crabs, I helped Beebe with his correspondence. He encouraged the young people who wrote to him to become scientists. Because our librarians have done so much to inspire and make the resources of the Library available to science teachers and students, I like to think that the spirit of Will Beebe lives on in the Library of Congress.

After returning to the states, I worked for four years at Harvard’s Museum of Comparative Zoology Library. While browsing through the card catalog, I noted that a book on the tufted titmouse had been classified with the mammals and not with the birds! I decided, right there and then, that my mission in life would be to save the scientist from the non-zoological librarians. I earned a master’s degree in library science from the University of North Carolina and, upon graduation, was accepted into the Library of Congress Special Recruit Program in 1965. That fall, I had the opportunity to help the Library acquire a copy of “The Day They Shot Lincoln” by researching the young surgeon’s treatment of the president immediately following the shooting in Ford’s Theatre. My research turned up a 1909 address by Dr. Leale to a group in New York, in which he recounted in great detail Lincoln’s last hours, including where he had put his hands on Lincoln’s body.

I've also enjoyed helping the Library build its popular cookbook collections. Several years ago I had the opportunity to help the Library acquire a copy of “Ruth Wakefield’s Tried and True Recipes,” containing her recipe for what became known as the Toll House Chocolate Chip Cookie (see page 7). My mother went to Framingham State Normal School with Ruth and later visited her at the New England inn that gave the cookie its name. Mother told me the story about how the chocolate chip cookie was born out of need. On a fateful date in 1933, Ruth Graves Wakefield, pictured right, went to her cupboard in search of cocoa—a key ingredient for her chocolate Butter Drop Do cookies—and found there was none. Instead she reached for Nestlé Semi-Sweet Chocolate Bars, which she cut into bite-size bits. But, much to her surprise, the pieces did not melt completely. The Toll House Chocolate Crunch Cookie—named for the Massachusetts roadside inn she owned with her husband—was born.

No stranger to the kitchen, Wakefield graduated from the Framingham State Normal School Department of Household Arts in 1924. After graduation, she worked as a dietitian and food lecturer. Published in 1930, “Ruth Wakefield’s Tried and True Recipes,” pictured above, would go through 39 printings. The Chocolate Crunch Cookie recipe was first printed in the 1938 edition, pictured left.

The Toll House guests loved the cookies and word spread far and wide. The recipe was printed in a Boston newspaper. When the Nestlé Company discovered why its bars were flying off the shelves, they negotiated with Wakefield to print her Toll House Cookie recipe on its packages of chocolate bars in return for giving her a lifetime supply of their product. In 1939, Nestlé created its chocolate chip morsels to save consumers from having to chop up the bars.
SERVING UP FOOD COLLECTIONS

THE NATION’S LIBRARY OFFERS A VERITABLE FEAST OF FOOD-RELATED COLLECTIONS.

BY ALISON KELLY

Whether you’re researching what was served at the Pilgrims’ first Thanksgiving or tracing the history of genetically modified foods, you can find it in the Library of Congress.

The topic of food—interdisciplinary in nature and woven into many aspects of our lives—is well-represented in the Library’s extensive collections of cookbooks, scholarly works, journals, pamphlets, posters and bibliographies on food history. Researchers can also consult the Library’s primary-source materials—from anonymous diaries to presidential papers.

Cookbooks are an invaluable resource for food history. They offer clues about markets, agriculture, nutrition, regional and cultural differences, immigration, technological change and more. Some of the world’s outstanding cookbooks and other works on gastronomy—from the 15th through the 19th centuries—came to the Library in the early 1940s when Arvill Wayne Bitting donated the 4,346-volume collection assembled by his wife, Katherine Golden Bitting (1868-1937), a food chemist for the Department of Agriculture and the American Canners Association. The Library’s cookbook collections range from Maestro Martino’s handwritten 15th-century manuscript (“Libro de arte coquinaria”) in the Bitting collection to contemporary full-color works like “Modernist Cuisine” (2011) and “Cambridge World History of Food” (2014).

American cooking is a special strength of the Library’s collections. Titles include “American Cookery” (1796) by Amelia Simmons. Considered to be the first truly American cookbook, the volume is notable for recipes that included native American ingredients such as molasses, pumpkin and cornmeal. Simmons’ “Pompkin Pudding” baked in a crust is the basis for the American classic, pumpkin pie.

Numerous influential American cookbooks followed—from Lydia Maria Francis Child’s “The Frugal Housewife” (1829) to Irma Rombauer’s “Joy of Cooking,” published in 1931 and followed by six editions (see page 20).

Many of the Library’s cookbooks have regional focus, with specialized recipes from New England, the American Southwest, the Great Lakes and, of course, the South. An example is one of the first published works on cooking by an African-American author, “What Mrs. Fisher Knows about Old Southern Cooking, Soups, Pickles, Preserves, etc.” (1881) by Abby Fisher.

Many regional cookbooks have been used to raise funds for local schools, churches or women’s clubs. The community cookbooks comprise a portion of the Library’s food holdings (see page 2).

Wartime cookbooks could be their own genre. The “Confederate Receipt Book: a compilation of over one hundred receipts adapted to the times” (Richmond, 1863), was the only cookbook published in the South during the Civil War. Cookbooks published during the First and Second World Wars encouraged homemakers to do their part in contributing to the war effort on the home front by stretching their budget with recipes such as mock sausage.

Many cookbooks focus on a specific food or food group: “500 Ways to Cook Fish” (1981), “The Delectable Egg” (1968), “Leafy Greens” (2012). Others cover a method or technique such as baking, grilling, stewing or use of slow cookers. Some are aimed at a particular audience, for example, cookbooks for children, newlyweds, campers and tailgaters. Cookbooks also can represent a certain time or place, such as World’s Fair recipes, pre-Prohibition cocktails, or recipes from the Waldorf-Astoria hotel. Ethnic cookbooks—Jewish, Italian, Hispanic—also figure prominently in the Library’s collections.

Like cookbooks, women’s magazines are an excellent source for recipes and food culture. The General Collections hold extensive runs of 19th- and 20th-century women’s magazines, as well as trade journals and scholarly journals on food-related topics.

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The reference collections in the Science and Business Reading Room hold biographies of cooks and chefs, encyclopedias, handbooks and food histories. Researchers can refer to more than a dozen food-related bibliographies, from "The History of Household Technology," "Beer and Brewing" and "Food Preservation" to "American Barbecue: History and Geography." A resource guide to "Presidential Food" lists resources for the study of food in the White House.

Housed in the Manuscript Division, the papers of Thomas Jefferson reveal his culinary interests, no doubt developed while he served as minister to France, 1784-1787. He returned with French recipes ranging from pigs’ feet to vanilla ice cream. An avid inventor, Jefferson was fascinated by the workings of the pasta machines he saw in Italy.

President Franklin D. Roosevelt’s palate was not satisfied during his White House years. The personal papers of his housekeeper, Henrietta Nesbitt, include official correspondence containing sternly worded suggestions for improving the meals. In one missive, he admonished, "I do not want any more [sweetbreads] until further notice."

Another source for food history is a 1930s documentary project known as "America Eats," the last project undertaken by the Federal Writers’ Project, a New Deal program under the Works Progress Administration (WPA). Writers and folklorists gathered stories and photographers documented America’s diverse regional foodways. In 2000, the Library’s American Folklife Center led a similar project to document regional customs and festivals—often involving food. These "Local Legacies" are housed in the Library.

Veterans History Project collections include interviews and correspondence concerning what the members of the military—from World War I to the present—ate while deployed and what they especially liked in packages from home. (Canned peaches are a well-documented favorite military ration). Other oral history collections, such as the StoryCorps collection, also contain significant discussions about food.

The WPA’s Federal Art Project produced hundreds of colorful posters between 1936 and 1943, which are housed in the Library’s Prints and Photographs Division. Many of these have food consumption and preservation as their theme. Similarly, posters from World War I include colorful lithographic prints related to food conservation from the U.S. Food Administration. Farm Security Administration/Office of War Information Office photographs, which preserved a pictorial record of American life between 1935 and 1944, include many images related to food. More modern food-related photographs can be found in the Carol M. Highsmith Archive, which documents America, 1980-2005.

From the Library’s sheet-music collections to folksongs recorded by the Library’s folklorists, researchers can study food in song at the Library. Many music works center on picnics. Some, like "Picnic in the Sky," from the 1915 show "Alone at Last" can be heard on the National Jukebox, the Library’s online collection of historical recordings, 1901-1925.
Television and radio broadcasts in the Library’s broadcast and recorded sound collections are also an excellent resource for studying product advertising over the past century. In 2000, the Library received a donation of the Coca-Cola Company’s entire collection of historic television commercials dating to 1950. The national and international advertisements reveal much about world cultures—and their eating and drinking habits—over the past five decades.

Over the past decade, many culinary experts have spoken at the Library on topics ranging from Somali, Turkish, Egyptian and Pan-African cuisine to the fortune cookie; Many notable chefs have spoken at the Library’s National Book Festival. These presentations can be viewed on the Library’s website or its YouTube channel.

**MORE INFORMATION**

Science Reference Guides to Food-Related Topics
loc.gov/scitech/tracer-bullets/foodhistorytb.html

Presidential Food Resources
loc.gov/mr/scitech/SciRefGuides/presidentialfood.html

The Katherine Golden Bitting Collection
loc.gov/rarebook/coll/028.html

Alison Kelly is science librarian and culinary specialist in the Library’s Science, Technology and Business Division.

Clockwise from top: A man is photographed eating an oyster at a political rally in Mississippi as part of the “America Eats” Federal Writers’ Project in the 1930s; Prints and Photographs Division, World War I poster, U.S. Food Administration, 1918; Prints and Photographs Division; Thomas Jefferson’s recipe for vanilla ice cream, 1780s; Thomas Jefferson Papers, Manuscript Division; Fried pies are the centerpiece of a family reunion in North Carolina; Carol M. Highsmith, Archive, Prints and Photographs Division.
Today the Library of Congress is truly a national library that serves the research needs of the U.S. Congress, other federal agencies in all branches of government, the American public and the global community. But that broad mission was not always apparent or supported. The dual nature of the Library of Congress—a legislative library and a national institution—was often debated by legislators and Librarians of Congress, especially during the institution’s first years.

The Early Years

The Library of Congress was established as a legislative branch agency of the American government by an act of Congress, signed into law by President John Adams on April 24, 1800. Its primary purpose was, and remains, reference and research service for Congress.

Congress established the position of Librarian of Congress with oversight from Congress’ Joint Committee on the Library. The Librarian was to be appointed by the President of the United States. The duties of the Librarian were delegated to the Clerk of the House of Representatives.

In 1802, President Thomas Jefferson asked House Clerk John James Beckley to serve as the first Librarian of Congress. Beckley assisted the Joint Committee in ordering books and publishing the Library’s first printed catalog of its holdings. Jefferson took a keen interest in the Library and frequently provided advice regarding purchases.

After Beckley’s death in 1807, Jefferson named the new House clerk, Patrick Magruder, as the second Librarian of Congress. Magruder, a Maryland lawyer and politician, was held responsible by Congress for failing to protect the Library and its financial records when the British burned the Capitol, which housed the congressional library, on Aug. 24, 1814. He resigned on Jan. 28, 1815.

The acquisition by Congress of Jefferson’s personal library in 1815 widened the scope and doubled the size of the Library’s collection, prompting President James Madison to name the first full-time Librarian of Congress. George Watterston, a local novelist and poet, was an ardent nationalist who felt that Jefferson’s library was “a most admirable substratum for a National Library.” He proposed a separate building for the Library of Congress since the United States, in his view, should have a library “equal in grandeur to the wealth, the taste, and the science of the nation.”

Congress did not share his view. Most Members of Congress felt its library should solely serve its legislative needs. The heated debate over the purchase of Jefferson’s library—which included books on many subjects and in several languages—revived old arguments against spending sparse government dollars to create a national library of cultural treasures in the European tradition. The 1815 expenditure of nearly $24,000 for Jefferson’s library of approximately 6,500 volumes also was a convenient excuse for limiting future appropriations for the Library.

Watterston’s librarianship came to an abrupt end in 1829 when newly elected President Andrew Jackson, a Democrat, replaced him with another Democrat: John Silva Meehan, a local printer and publisher. Any move toward creating a national library would be hampered by the growing rivalry between the North and South that would culminate with a bloody civil war. Moreover, Senator James A. Pearce of Maryland, who headed the Joint Committee on the Library from 1845 until his death in 1862, felt the Library of Congress should focus on its legislative responsibilities. This, coupled with a disastrous Christmas Eve fire in 1851 that destroyed two-thirds of the congressional library’s collection of 55,000 items, slowed the Library’s development and growth.

Nonetheless, Congress voted to replace the books and to build a new fireproof room for its library in the U.S. Capitol. The elegant new room opened on Aug. 23, 1853. Librarian of Congress Meehan continued to fulfill the wishes of Senator Pearce with
regard to Library acquisitions and functions. As a result, the institution’s role in national functions continued to diminish.

On March 8, 1861, Sen. Pearce informed newly elected President Abraham Lincoln that the president “has always deferred to the wishes of Congress regarding the appointment of the Librarian of Congress, and that the Joint Committee wished to retain Librarian Meehan. Lincoln ignored Pearce and on May 24 appointed a political supporter, John G. Stephenson, a physician from Terre Haute, Indiana, to become the fifth Librarian of Congress.

Stephenson spent less time supervising the Library than he did serving as a physician for the Union Army. He could do so because in September 1861, he had hired Cincinnati bookseller and journalist Ainsworth Rand Spofford as his assistant. For all practical purposes, Spofford ran the Library until Stephenson’s resignation in December 1864. Lincoln promptly appointed Spofford as Librarian of Congress.

The Modern Librarians

Spofford brought the Library of Congress into the modern age. In a post-Civil War period of growing cultural nationalism, he transformed the Library of Congress into an institution of national significance. He demonstrated to Congress that its library could serve simultaneously as both a parliamentary library and a national library. With full support of the Joint Committee on the Library, he expanded the Library’s space in the Capitol; centralized U.S. copyright registration and deposit at the Library in order to rapidly develop comprehensive collections of Americana; and promoted the authorization and construction of the Library’s first separate building. The “book palace of the American people,” known today as the Library’s Thomas Jefferson building, opened its doors in November 1897.

On July 1, 1897, President William McKinley appointed a new Librarian of Congress to supervise the Library’s move from the Capitol to the new building and to implement a major reorganization including a separate copyright department. John Russell Young, who served until his death on Jan. 17, 1899, was a journalist and former diplomat. A skilled administrator, Young worked hard to build the collections and expand the scope of services provided to Congress. He began the process of reclassifying the Library’s collection and compiling bibliographies specifically for the use of Congress. He also inaugurated the Library’s first services for the blind.

Following Young’s death, President McKinley appointed Herbert Putnam, director of the Boston Public Library, the first experienced librarian to hold the post. Putnam believed the national library should serve the cataloging and bibliographic needs of other libraries.

By 1903, the Library of Congress was the first American library to house 1 million volumes and that year published the first volume of a new classification scheme, based on its holdings. The Library also began printing and selling its catalog cards to other libraries. In announcing the card distribution service, Putnam said, “American instinct and habit revolt against multiplication of brain effort and outlay where a multiplication of results can be achieved by machinery.”

During his 40-year tenure, Putnam made American libraries an important Library of Congress constituency; planned and built the Library’s Annex (now the John Adams building), which opened to the public in 1939; and undertook a new international role for the institution through the acquisition of materials from other countries. Under Putnam, the Library established a Legislative Reference Service in 1914 to expand services to Congress. Early in his tenure, Putnam had courted the support of President Theodore Roosevelt who, in his first annual message to Congress on Dec. 3, 1901, called the Library of Congress “the one national library.” When Putnam retired in 1939, the Library had a staff of 1,100, a book collection of six million volumes, and an annual appropriation of approximately $3 million.

The role of libraries in a modern democracy captured the imagination of Putnam’s successor, writer and poet Archibald MacLeish. Appointed by President Franklin Delano Roosevelt, MacLeish served as Librarian during wartime while presiding over a major administrative reorganization. MacLeish developed explicit statements of the Library’s objectives along with “Canons of Selection” for its collections. In addition to serving Congress, MacLeish believed that the Library should be a “reference library of the people.”

MacLeish resigned in 1944 to become assistant secretary of state. His assistant, Luther Evans, was nominated by President Harry Truman the following year. Evans was a political scientist who had been involved in the Library’s reorganization. Like MacLeish, he assessed the role and collections of the Library “for the post-war era” and urged the expansion of the Library’s national and international roles. Evans resigned in 1953 to become the third director-general of UNESCO.

The next year, President Dwight Eisenhower nominated L. Quincy Mumford, director of the Cleveland Public Library and president-elect of the American Library Association, as the next Librarian of Congress. During his 20-year term, Mumford presided over an unparalleled period of expansion. The book collections grew from 10 to 16 million volumes, the staff more than tripled and the annual appropriation multiplied from $10 million to more than $100 million.

Under Mumford, both legislative and national services were strengthened, particularly services to the library community. A report commissioned by the Joint Committee on the Library in 1962 urged further expansion of the Library’s national activities. The Library also expanded its foreign holdings, which were identified as weak during World War II. Developments in library automation during the 1960s allowed the library to distribute its cataloging data in machine readable form. The Legislative Reorganization Act of 1970, which created the Congressional Research Service, underscored the Library’s priority to serve legislators, but did not preclude its growing national and international activities.

In 1975, President Gerald Ford nominated historian Daniel J. Boorstin as the 12th Librarian of Congress. Boorstin presided over the construction and move into a third building on Capitol Hill (the James Madison Memorial Building), which opened in 1980. He focused on strengthening the Library’s ties with Congress and developing new relationships with scholars, publishers, authors, booklovers, cultural leaders and the business community. With congressional support, Boorstin created the American Folklife Center in 1976 and the Center for the Book the following year—two educational outreach endeavors that continue to flourish today.

Appointed by President Ronald Reagan as the 13th Librarian of Congress, historian James H. Billington began his tenure in September 1987 by stating his intention to leverage the new digital technologies to make the collections universally accessible in the 21st century. Making good on that promise during his tenure broadened the Library’s role to a global information resource (see page 18).

MORE INFORMATION

Librarians of Congress, 1802-2015
loc.gov/about/about-the-librarian(previous-librarians-of-congress/)
John Y. Cole is director of the Center for the Book in the Library of Congress.
A 21ST-CENTURY LIBRARIAN

BY JENNIFER GAVIN

When Russia scholar James H. Billington was sworn into his position as Librarian of Congress on Sept. 14, 1987, following his nomination by President Ronald Reagan and his unanimous confirmation by the U.S. Senate, it was an analog world.

But even then, before there was an Internet; before desktop computers and cellphones were commonplace, he was focused on the idea that the Library of Congress should not just be for Congress and researchers. As a public institution and as the world’s largest library, he said, there needed to be a new drive to get its content out to more and more users, wherever they might be—to “get the champagne out of the bottle,” as he famously (and frequently) put it.

During his 28-year tenure, retiring Librarian James H. Billington provided global access to the Library’s unparalleled collections.

Consequently the Library, under his leadership:

- Pioneered an array of no-fee, high-quality electronic services, greatly increasing outreach to patrons both onsite and online;
- Created the American Memory project in 1990, which became the National Digital Library in 1994, providing access to no-fee, online, one-of-a-kind digitized Library treasures of American history and culture;
- Created the THOMAS.gov website in 1994, which let the public freely access U.S. federal legislative information and expanded public access to updated legislative information—a system that was updated beginning in 2012 as Congress.gov;
- Launched an online Library of Congress educational portal for K-12 teachers and students in 1996, adding in 2013, major new prizes and programs for advancing literacy;
- Pioneered the Library’s online social media presence beginning in 2007, which now encompasses blogs, Flickr, Flickr Commons, Facebook, iTunesU, Pinterest, RSS, Twitter, YouTube, Instagram and other new media channels;
- Enhanced the public spaces of the Library’s Thomas Jefferson Building into a major national exhibition venue, allowing the Library to host more than 100 exhibitions—onsite and online—many based on materials never before publicly displayed in America;
- Launched an online Library of Congress portal for K-12 teachers and students in 1996, adding in 2013, major new prizes and programs for advancing literacy;
- Launched a mobile exhibition in a specially designed 18-wheel truck;
- Created the National Jukebox in 2011 to provide streaming free online access to more than 10,000 out-of-print music and spoken-word recordings;
- Renovated the Library’s numerous website pages, over a four-year period starting in 2011, to make them more easily usable and searchable.

As Billington increased access to the Library’s online collections, the Library’s analog collections nearly doubled—from 85.5 million items in 1987 to more than 160 million items by 2015. Billington opened new collection storage modules at Fort Meade, Maryland, starting in 2002, to preserve and make accessible more than 4 million physical items.

He launched the Library’s first private-sector advisory group, which provided no less than half a billion dollars in private support to supplement congressional appropriations (see page 27). This let the Library dramatically increase its collections, programs, and digital outreach despite a 30-percent reduction in staff since 1992.

Librarian of Congress James H. Billington leaves a legendary legacy.

Jennifer Gavin is a senior public affairs specialist in the Library’s Office of Communications.
JOY OF COOKING

The Library’s list of “Books That Shaped America” sparked a national conversation on books and their importance in our lives.

Irma Starkloff Rombauer (1877-1962) was anything but joyous when she began the task of compiling what would become one of America’s favorite cookbooks.

The St. Louis homemaker began work on “Joy of Cooking” following her husband’s suicide, the year after the stock market crash of 1929.

Though not a gifted cook herself, she did excel at cake decorating and food presentation—born of her artistic nature and love of gardening. Years earlier she had taught a cooking class to raise money for the First Unitarian Church of St. Louis. Armed with a stack of recipes she had gathered over the years, she enlisted the help of friends and relatives to test various dishes and type up the 500 entries that would make it into the privately-published tome. After a year, 2,000 of the 3,000 copies ordered had sold. A chance meeting with the president of Bobbs-Merrill Publishing led to publication of the cookbook’s second edition in 1936.

Six more editions would follow, including a 75th edition published in 2006. The book went on to sell nearly 18 million copies in its various editions.

The Library of Congress, which selected “Joy of Cooking” as a “Book That Shaped America,” recently acquired a facsimile of the original 1931 edition (pictured). Designed by the author’s daughter, Marion Rombauer Becker, the original cover depicts St. Martha of Bethany, the patron saint of cooking, slaying the dragon of kitchen drudgery. Rombauer is credited with simplifying cooking by beginning her recipes with ingredient lists and offering precise directions—along with her own personal and friendly anecdotes.

“Joy of Cooking” has remained a family business for over 80 years. In recent years, Rombauer’s great-grandson John Becker and his wife Megan not only continue to test and add recipes, but have launched a website, blog and an app for iPad to promote this classic cookbook.

—Audrey Fischer

THE MADISON CAFÉ is the Library’s main dining facility on Capitol Hill. From soup to sushi, the Library’s food vendor provides an array of hot and cold foods daily. The menu offers both American and international fare, including many Asian fusion dishes. Staples include made-to-order sandwiches, pizza, hamburgers and fries, salads and fresh fruits, and an Asian noodle bar.

The café serves an average of 2,800 people daily, including Library staff members, researchers, tour groups and other members of the public. Its top floor location offers a scenic view of the Potomac River and the area around nearby Washington Reagan National Airport.

More Information:

Location
James Madison Memorial Building
Sixth Floor
101 Independence Ave., S.E.
Washington, D.C. 20540
loc.gov/visit/dining/

Hours
Monday through Friday
Breakfast, 8:30 a.m. to 10:30 a.m.
Lunch, 11 a.m. to 2 p.m.
Limited Service, 10:30 a.m. to 11 a.m. & 2 p.m. to 3:30 p.m.
Limited service is hot and cold beverages, made-to-order grill items and cold grab-and-go items

Closed Saturdays and Sunday and federal holidays

View the exhibition “Books That Shaped America”
loc.gov/exhibits/books-that-shaped-america
The GREATEST WEDDING CAKE ON EARTH?

The Library’s Food Collections Include Once-Edible Artifacts.

On Feb. 10, 1863, an event occurred that caused a media sensation and distracted the war-weary nation from the bloody Civil War. On that day, showman P.T. Barnum hosted the wedding of two performers in his circus—the 2-foot-11-inch Charles Stratton (known professionally as General Tom Thumb) and the similarly sized Lavinia Warren.

The elaborate ceremony at New York’s Grace Episcopal Church was followed by a reception at the Metropolitan Hotel. Perched atop a grand piano, the couple greeted their guests, who included members of New York’s high society. Barnum sold tickets to the reception to the first 5,000 to apply. Tiffany and Co. provided a silver coach for the occasion. President Abraham Lincoln and wife Mary held a special reception for the newlyweds at the White House.

A once-edible artifact remains as a reminder of the occasion—a piece of the couple’s wedding cake is preserved in the Library’s Manuscript Division. The item came to the Library of Congress in the 1950s in the papers of actress Minnie Maddern Fiske and her husband, theater manager Harrison Grey Fiske. Tom Thumb’s widow sent the cake to Harrison Fiske in 1905, perhaps hoping that it would lead to stage work or some publicity for her autobiography published the following year. At the time, Fiske was editor of “The New York Dramatic Mirror.”

“The public are under the impression that I am not living,” she noted in her letter to Fiske, which accompanied the slice of cake. In 1885 she married Count Primo Magri—two inches shorter than her first husband. To support their lavish lifestyle, the couple continued to perform into their later years.

Recent “food finds” in the Library’s collections include a hand-made greeting card decorated with rice sent to civil rights activist Rosa Parks by her nephew and a candy conversation heart from the 1920s in the Coolidge-Pollard Families Papers—a collection related to the maternal side of President Calvin Coolidge’s family.

—Audrey Fischer

“General Tom Thumb’s Grand Wedding March, composed by E. Mac, Philadelphia 1863 | Prints and Photographs Collection; A piece of Tom Thumb’s wedding cake, 1863 | Minnie Maddern Fiske and Harrison Grey Fiske Papers, Manuscript Division; Candy conversation heart | Coolidge-Pollard Families Papers, Manuscript Division; with rice sent to civil rights activist Rosa Parks by her nephew and a candy conversation heart from the 1920s in the Coolidge-Pollard Families Papers—a collection related to the maternal side of President Calvin Coolidge’s family.

All photos | Shawn Miller
**RARE BIBLE GIVEN IN HONOR OF PAPAL VISIT**

The Library of Congress received a rare Apostles Edition of The Saint John’s Bible as a gift from Saint John’s Abbey and University in Minnesota. The gift was made in the presence of Pope Francis, following his address to a joint meeting of Congress on Sept. 24. The work of art—one of only 12 copies produced—is composed of more than 1,130 pages and 160 illuminations. The Apostles Edition is the first handwritten and illuminated Bible commissioned by a monastery since the invention of the printing press more than 500 years ago. The project to create a handwritten and illustrated Bible using the materials and methods employed by the Benedictines continues earlier begun in 1992 under the direction of Donald Jackson, a calligrapher serving as the official scribe to Queen Elizabeth II. The rare edition is on public exhibition at the Library through Jan. 2, 2016.

MORE: loc.gov today/pr/2015/15-152.html

**MADELEINE ALBRIGHT PAPERS DONATED TO THE LIBRARY**

The Library of Congress has received the first installment of the papers of the Honorable Madeleine Korbel Albright, the first woman to serve as Secretary of State (1997–2001) and a 2012 recipient of the Presidential Medal of Freedom. The materials will be known as the Madeleine Korbel Albright Collection and will include some personal papers, non-record copies of unclassified government papers, photographs and other materials.

The first installment of Albright’s papers (1937–1992) comprises more than 60,000 items, including correspondence, speeches, writings, research notes, briefing books, teaching files, subject files, clippings, printed matter and other files chiefly pertaining to her political activities. With the exception of her undergraduate papers, which have been donated to Wellesley College, the papers being donated to the Library will encompass Albright’s entire life. Additional installments will be received over the next several years. Unless otherwise specified, access to the collection by the public will commence five years after Albright’s death.

MORE: loc.gov today/pr/2015/15-155.html

**POET LAUREATE PROJECT ANNOUNCED**

In his first official appearance as the 21st Poet Laureate Consultant in Poetry, Juan Felipe Herrera, announced at the Library of Congress National Book Festival the official project of his laureateship, La Casa de Colores (House of Colors). The project invites Americans to contribute a verse to an “epic poem” about the American experience.

The poem, titled “La Familia,” will unfold monthly, with a new theme each month about an aspect of American life, values or culture. Herrera will compile the contributions and announce the next theme on the Poetry and Literature Center’s blog. A word cloud illustrating the responses will be posted to provide a visual snapshot of the language contributors used to articulate the themes.

La Casa de Colores also will include a monthly feature that includes videos, poems and blog posts, will show Herrera interacting with and responding to select items throughout the Library.

MORE: loc.gov today/pr/2015/15-156.html

**LIBRARIAN APPOINTS CHIEF INFORMATION OFFICER**

Librarian of Congress James H. Billington has announced the appointment of Bernard A. Barton Jr. as chief information officer of the Library of Congress. Barton will serve as the senior information-technology leader, responsible for information-technology operations, strategy and alignment with the institution’s mission.

Barton most recently served as chief information officer and deputy administrator of the Defense Technical Information Center (DTIC), the largest central resource for Department of Defense and government-funded research, development, technical and engineering information. Barton joined DTIC in 2009 as deputy director of Information Technology Services. In 2010, he was named acting director of Information Technology Services and, in 2012, its director. Later that year, Barton was appointed DTIC’s deputy administrator and chief information officer. Prior to his tenure at DTIC, Barton served in several capacities with the North Carolina National Guard, including as deputy chief information officer. In that role, he administered all information technology for a network of more than 10,000 users across the state.

MORE: loc.gov today/pr/2015/15-155.html

**MAKE A DIFFERENCE**

The Library of Congress invites you to consider creating a gift annuity, an installment gift, a bequest or another planned gift to the institution.

The Library of Congress has created a new YouTube video to encourage people to visit the Library and use its resources.

**ALL PHOTOS | SHAWN MILLER**

1. David McCullough, left, and David Rubenstein, right, present Librarian of Congress James H. Billington, center, with a print featuring all 15 National Book Festival posters.
2. Director of National and International Outreach Jane McLuskie introduces the 2015 Kluge Prize winners, Jürgen Habermas and Charles Taylor.
4. Juan Felipe Herrera conducts his inaugural reading at the Library’s Coolidge Auditorium.
5. Singer-songwriter Sheryl Crow looks at selected collection items with Stephen Winick of the Library’s American Folklife Center.
6. Comedian Jerry Lewis tours the Library’s Packard Campus for Audio-Visual Conservation in Culpeper, Virginia, where his film collection will be preserved.
THE MADISON COUNCIL AT 25

GENEROUS SUPPORT FROM THE JAMES MADISON COUNCIL HELPS THE LIBRARY OF CONGRESS EXPAND ITS COLLECTIONS AND OUTREACH.

The Library of Congress has a long tradition of deploying private funds for public benefit. Generous individuals have, throughout the Library’s 215-year history, stepped forward to enrich its collections and advance its goals through their philanthropic support.

Early in his tenure, Librarian of Congress James H. Billington received congressional approval from the Joint Committee on the Library to establish a private-sector support group, which would provide financial support for the Library’s fundraising operations and for key initiatives.

In January 1990, Billington launched the James Madison Council to extend the fourth U.S. president’s dream of relating knowledge to governance and American life into the 21st century. At the first meeting, Billington told founding members that the Library of Congress “if used properly will be the foundation of our prosperity in the future.” Madison Council members meet twice a year to reach in and learn about the Library so they can then reach out as the Library’s primary link to the nation’s business and philanthropic communities.

The Madison Council’s public-spirited citizens have fueled Billington’s campaign to make the Library’s resources more accessible to all people—researchers, students in school and lifelong learners—by supporting innovative programs, widening outreach and adding rare materials to the collections.

Since its creation 25 years ago, Madison Council members have contributed nearly $220 million to the Library’s 215-year history, stepped forward to enrich its collections and advance its goals through their philanthropic support.

In order to strengthen the Library’s nascent collection.

• Multiyear project succeeded in replacing nearly all for the loan of, and housing for the Abel Buell Map of the newly independent United States (1784).

• Garfield also established the Madison Council to extend the fourth U.S. president’s dream of relating knowledge to governance and American life into the 21st century.

•-Award-winning photographers document today’s America in more than 200 photographs and related essays.

• More than 600 photographs by Jacob Riis document urban poverty in New York at the turn of the 20th century.

• Create a new digital Library of Congress, bringing educationally valuable materials from the Library’s collections to people everywhere, free of charge;

• Provide tools for K-12 students and teachers to integrate the Library’s materials into classrooms nationwide;

• Put into place a full range of scholarship opportunities; and

• Make possible the Library’s efforts to promote reading and literacy.

Individual members of the Madison Council have also made signature gifts to the Library. A donation of $60 million from the late Madison Council Chairman Emeritus John W. Kluge established the Library’s Kluge Center for Scholars and the Kluge Prize for Achievement in the Study of Humanity. Former Madison Council chairman H.F. (Gerry) Lenfest supported some of the Library’s most significant initiatives such as the National Digital Library, the World Digital Library and the Knowledge Navigators Program that continues to fund the Junior Fellows Summer Internship program.

Current Madison Council Chairman David Rubenstein has committed more than $10.3 million to support the National Book Festival through 2019. Rubenstein also established the Library’s Literacy Awards in 2012—three awards given annually totaling $250,000. He also provided the loan of, and housing for the Abel Buell Map of the newly independent United States (1784).

Madison Council member Jerry Jones and his wife Gene supported an effort, begun in 1999, to replace missing titles in Thomas Jefferson’s original library that had been destroyed by fire in 1851. The multiyear project succeeded in replacing nearly all of the 6,487 volumes that formed the nucleus of the Library’s nascent collection.

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“Jacob Riis: Revealing New York’s Other Half”
Product #21107164
Price: $60
More than 600 photographs by Jacob Riis document urban poverty in New York at the turn of the 20th century.

“Facing Change: Documenting America”
Product #21107165
Price: $60
Award-winning photographers document today’s America in more than 200 photographs and related essays.

“The Library of Congress Shop" offers books and calendars inspired by items in its collections.
ACTING LIBRARIAN OF CONGRESS DAVID S. MAO DISCUSSES THE ROLE OF THE 21ST-CENTURY LIBRARIAN.

During my first year of law school, I was given a research problem as part of my legal research and writing class. I had no idea where to begin. I went to the law library’s reference desk and asked a librarian for help. The law librarian patiently listened to my questions, helped clarify my confusion with the sources, and then left the desk to guide me to the correct area of the stacks. He not only helped me find what I needed, but also demonstrated how to use the sources correctly and effectively.

Thus began my appreciation and respect for librarianship, which would lead me to earn a master’s degree in library science. A library degree, along with a law degree, prepared me for a career in law librarianship. I never dreamed that one day I would head the Law Library of Congress and subsequently be appointed Acting Librarian of Congress.

I am humbled to follow in the footsteps of James H. Billington as steward of the world’s largest library. During his tenure, the Library began providing unprecedented access to its unparalleled collections by leveraging the capabilities of the rapidly evolving digital technologies. Dr. Billington spearheaded the creation of a National Digital Library and then proposed and implemented a collaborative World Digital Library. Today, the Library’s online resources—and those of other nations—are being used by researchers and educators in classrooms around the world.

Technology has made library materials globally available and accessible. However, librarians are still needed to point researchers in the right direction—just as I was assisted as a law student several decades ago. In fact, the sheer volume of information now available at our fingertips makes the role of librarians even more important today.

Former Apple Computer CEO John Sculley first used the term “knowledge navigator” in 1987 to describe a large networked database of hypertext information that uses computer programs to search for information. Dr. Billington often used the term to describe the role of 21st-century librarian.

Today’s librarians are knowledge navigators. They help patrons traverse the digital terrain. They help users with varying degrees of technical proficiency to explore the ways in which online tools may be used to locate analog and digital collections. They follow trends in how users are accessing and creating content.

The impact of social media on library services is a case in point. A decade ago, the Library of Congress was one of the first federal agencies to launch a blog. Many other Library blogs have been added—each focused on the institution’s specific collections or services. The Library’s presence on Facebook, Flickr, Twitter, YouTube, iTunes U, Pinterest and, most recently, Instagram, followed. The Library of Congress is reaching millions of users through these sites.

The nature of technology is that it is always changing. Today’s librarians—and libraries—must be prepared to change with it.

David S. Mao was appointed Acting Librarian of Congress on Oct 1, 2015, following the retirement of Librarian of Congress James H. Billington. Mao will serve until a new Librarian is appointed.
exhibitions
AT THE LIBRARY

Illuminating the Word: The St. John’s Bible
Through
Jan. 2, 2016

Chamber Music: The Life and Legacy of Elizabeth Sprague Coolidge
Through
Jan. 23, 2016

The Civil Rights Act of 1964: A Long Struggle for Freedom
Through
Jan. 2, 2016

MORE INFORMATION:
loc.gov/exhibits/