FEDLINK Orientation to Federal Libraries and Information Centers Series: The Wirtz Labor Library

Since the founding of the Department of Labor in 1913, the Wirtz Labor Library has served the interests of the Department and its staff, researchers at large, and the general public. The Library maintains an extensive collection of legal, labor, and employment resources and provides reference services that are central in supporting the day-to-day regulating, monitoring, and analytical work of the Department.

Large segments of the Library’s collection, which document the history of labor, labor unions, and the growth and development of the labor movement in a national and world context, are unique either in their nature and content or in the length and completeness of their coverage, with some materials dating back to the mid-1800s.

This Library tour will provide a history of the collection as well as an overview of current materials and services. Highlights include the card catalog of the library’s pre-1975 holdings, the James Taylor Collection containing some of the Library’s rarest historic labor materials, and the 1939 edition of the Flint Auto Worker—printed on asbestos!