The Commerce Research Library has been in continuous operation since 1914, serving headquarters and select regional staff in tandem with bureau-specific libraries. Located in the Herbert C. Hoover Headquarters Building of the Commerce Department in downtown DC, the collection covers business, trade, and economics, along with the principal legal and legislative collection for the agency. The library’s 45,000 volumes also include a growing collection of Commerce Department archival documents. A large range of library services are available for local DOC Staff and those working in regional and global offices, including business and legal research and reference, research database procurement and administration, trainings, events and outreach.

Housed in the former Patent Office Library Reading Room, the two-story library also boasts historical and architectural significance, featuring columns, arches and vaulted painted ceilings. The early Renaissance style has inspired and delighted many staffers and visitors since it opened in 1932.

The tour will include an overview of the library’s history, products and services, collections, and the historic reading room, as well as a discussion of the library’s strategy to maintain the relevance of its space in the digital age.