



FEDLINK Orientation to Federal Libraries and Information Centers Series:

The National Geographic Society Library

Date

Thursday, February 18, 2016

Time

2:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.

Place

National Geographic Society Library
1146 16th St. N.W., Washington DC 20036 (phone: 202-857-7783)

Metro/Directions

Easily accessible from two metro stations, Farragut West & Farragut North. Enter through the 16th St. building. This entrance has stairs. Sign in at the guard's desk and they will point you to the library entrance. The handicapped entrance is located at 1145 17th St. -- please contact 202-857-7783 for an escort through the buildings to the Library.

Sponsor

FEDLINK Education Working Group

Information

Please call (202) 707-4813
TTY (202) 707-4995 - Request
ADA Accommodations five business days in advance at ADA@loc.gov.

Registration

This program is FREE, but [registration](#) is required. Limited to 25.

Cancellations

Please notify FEDLINK at (202) 707-4848 if you cannot attend to allow those on the waiting list an opportunity to register.

Although there are mentions as early as 1894 in the National Geographic Magazine of a library collection, the first formal library area was created in 1903 when the Society moved into its newly created headquarters, Hubbard Memorial Hall. Deposited in the cornerstone of Hubbard Hall is a document that reads, "The Library is the gift of Mrs. Gardiner Greene Hubbard, who joins her children in establishing this memorial to her husband." The Library was designed to provide a "meeting place for geographers and travelers... and for the accommodation of a useful geographical library of ready reference."

The Society's first librarian Kathleen Hargrave Frantz, set up a unique geographical classification scheme. "The first interest seems always to be in localities rather than subjects," she would write, "so for the quickest service all of the books were arranged on open shelves by regions, as nearly as possible as located on the map." Books on the polar regions were found in the far north and south of the room, while books about equatorial regions split the middle of the room's east and west axes. "A trip around the reading room," she noted, was thus "a trip around the world." She estimated that this unique arrangement should handle the collection's growth for the foreseeable future. In fact it would stay in place for the next 60 years. Since 1903 the Library's mission has expanded to support the burgeoning editorial and business departments of the Society: magazine and book publishing, travel programs, television, kids products, as well as our core science and exploration departments, among others.



Our tour will start in the modern library, with an overview of current services and print and digital collections. We will then split into two groups, and travel back in time to historic Hubbard Hall. Both groups will also visit the seldom seen National Geographic image vault.

