In operation since 1999, the Vine Deloria, Jr. Library is the 20th library of the Smithsonian Libraries and is housed at the National Museum of the American Indian’s (NMAI) Cultural Resources Center (CRC) located in Suitland, MD. The Deloria Library shares research and collection space with the NMAI Archives.

The CRC serves as the vital resource hub to support the proper care, storage, use, and research of the NMAI collections; and, is at all the NMAI facilities including the George Gustave Heye Center in New York City, and the museum on the National Mall. The Deloria Library provides research, reference, and outreach services to staff in all three locations and contributes to NMAI and Smithsonian Libraries initiatives, programs, and events.

The Deloria Library research materials include over 16,000 volumes of books, periodicals, microfilm, and media in the main collection, a developing rare book collection, Native American Artist Files, and NMAI publications. These collections cover a broad range of topics and disciplines related to the histories, cultures, arts, and contemporary lives of Native American and Indigenous peoples in the Western Hemisphere. Strengths in the collection are tribal histories, biographies, traditional and modern art, language and literature – including children and young adult materials, Native knowledge, and collections care.

Metro/Directions

The Deloria Library is a 10 minute walk from the Suitland Metro station on the Green Line. As you exit the station, Turn right onto Silver Hill Road. The Smithsonian’s Cultural Resources Center is in the first large building complex on the right side of the street, behind a black wrought iron fence within a gated compound. Please enter the complex at the main Museum Support Center Business Entrance (4210 Silver Hill Road). Let the guard on duty at the gate know that you are here for the FEDLINK NMAI Vine Deloria, Jr. Library tour.

The P12 Metro bus westbound towards the Eastover Shopping Center will also take you from the Suitland Metro Station to the NMAI Vine Deloria, Jr. Library. Exit the bus at the third stop on Silver Hill Road after the Suitland Station, by the Museum Support Center Business Entrance (4210 Silver Hill Road). The P12 eastbound bus towards Addison Road station will take you back to the Suitland Metro Station. The P12 runs about every 25 minutes on weekday afternoons.

If you are driving from downtown Washington, DC, take South Capitol Street south past Nationals Stadium, across the Anacostia River. Take a slight left to enter on the Suitland Parkway. Continue on the parkway about 4.5 miles, and exit on Silver Hill Road. Turn right (west) onto Silver Hill Road. On the right, look for the Museum Support Center Business Entrance (4210 Silver Hill Road) sign. Enter at that gate and check in with the guard on duty, letting the guard know you are here for the FEDLINK NMAI Vine Deloria, Jr. Library tour.