**At the center of research across the Smithsonian are the branches and librarians of the Smithsonian Libraries, a network of 21 specialized libraries.**

The Natural and Physical Sciences Department, headquartered at the National Museum of Natural History (NMNH) has 19 staff who provide professional and technical library services for the researchers at the NMNH, the National Zoological Park, the Smithsonian Conservation Biology Institute, the Smithsonian Environmental Research Center and the Smithsonian Tropical Research Institute.

A rich assortment of collections serve users throughout the Natural History Museum building, most residing next to corresponding museum departments. They include the main library, Anthropology, Botany, Entomology, Invertebrate Zoology, Mammals, Birds, Fishes/Reptiles, Mineral Sciences, Vertebrate Paleontology, and Kellogg (marine mammals) libraries.

This orientation will include a behind-the-scenes tour to some of these libraries to experience the integral role they play in Smithsonian research.

Attendees will also receive an update on the Biodiversity Heritage Library. A global digitizing effort, an introduction to Smithsonian Research Online, an expanding online collection of published research from all Smithsonian scholars.