GREAT ESCAPES: FEDLINK LIBRARY TOUR SERIES

Year-End Review

The Great Escapes series returned in 2023 with behind-the-scenes tours of six federal libraries. Sponsored by the FEDLINK Education Working Group, the tours were in high demand after a three-year break due to the pandemic. The series began in the 1990s as a professional development and networking opportunity for federal library and information center professionals.

Special thanks to these amazing libraries showcased below. To host a tour at your library in 2024, email fliccfno@loc.gov.

The Ralph J. Bunche State Department Library

Established in 1789 by Thomas Jefferson, this is the oldest federal library. Guests were treated to a presentation by the chief librarian, a viewing of rare books, and a private tour of the stacks.
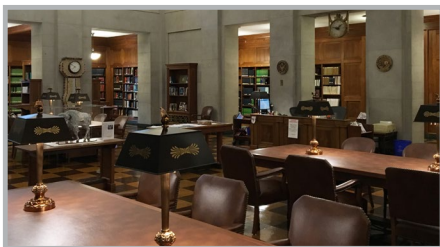

The Joseph F. Cullman Library at the Smithsonian's National Museum of Natural History

The tour began with the *Nature of the Book* exhibit led by Smithsonian conservators, followed by a collection of rare books in anthropology and the natural sciences.

The Smithsonian American Art Museum/National Portrait Gallery Library

The AAPG Library is the largest of four art libraries at the Smithsonian. Attendees had an insider's look at the special collections, vertical files, artists' books, and other materials.

U.S. Department of the Interior Library

The library's collection features national parks, geology, nature, history, and wildlife, water and public lands management. The tour featured the library's history and website resources.

Library of Congress Science & Business Reading Room

These collections cover topics from cooking to corporate histories, oceanography to outer space, and more. Guests of this tour also enjoyed a networking event in the FEDLINK offices.

U.S. Naval Observatory's James M. Gilliss Library

This library houses some of most important scientific works dating back to 1482. The tour spanned the grounds of the Observatory, with an inside look at its historic telescope and master clocks.