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Mission of the Library of Congress

The mission of the Library is to support the Congress in fulfilling its constitutional duties and to further the progress of knowledge and creativity for the benefit of the American people.

Library of Congress Magazine

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On the Cover: A crowd gathers at the Lincoln Memorial during the March on Washington, Aug. 28, 1963. Leonard Freed, Prints and Photographs Division

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TIMELINE: 1963
THE EVENTS OF 1963 WERE BOTH TRAGIC AND TRIUMPHANT AMID WORLDWIDE SOCIAL, CULTURAL AND POLITICAL CHANGE.

JANUARY
14
George C. Wallace is sworn in as governor of Alabama. His inaugural address states “Segregation now, segregation tomorrow, segregation forever!”

FEBRUARY
19
Betsy Friedan’s “The Feminine Mystique” is published.

MARCH
28
The soap opera “General Hospital” debuts on ABC-TV.

APRIL
1
Alfred Hitchcock’s film “The Birds” is released in the United States.

MAY
ZIP codes are introduced by the U.S. Postal Service.

JUNE
12
Thousands of civil-rights marchers are arrested in Birmingham, Ala., as police confront them with fire hoses and attack dogs.

JULY
1
Civil-rights activist Medgar Evers is gunned down on his front lawn in Mississippi.

AUGUST
28
Martin Luther King Jr. delivers his “I Have a Dream” speech during the March on Washington for Jobs and Freedom.

SEPTEMBER
16th Street Baptist Church bombing in Birmingham, Ala., kills 4 African-American girls.

OCTOBER
2

NOVEMBER
15
President John F. Kennedy is assassinated in Dallas, Texas.

DECEMBER
22
The Beatles’ “I Want to Hold Your Hand” is released in the U.S., spurring phenomenon of “Beatlemania.”

SUMMER VACATION: HittiNG THE ROAD
ALL ACROSS THE COUNTRY, PEOPLE ARE TRAVELING FOR SUMMER VACATION. THE LIBRARY’S COLLECTIONS DOCUMENT THIS AGE-OLD TREND.

HOTEL RESERVATIONS? CHECK. CAR GASSED UP? CHECK.
It’s time for summer vacation. Prior to industrialization, people rarely traveled for pleasure, with the exception of the wealthy and those making religious pilgrimages.

The advent of paved roads in the early 1900s helped propel automobile travel in the United States, making cross-country travel possible. The Federal Aid Highway Act of 1956 authorized the construction of the nation’s Interstate System—now totaling more than 47,000 miles. Last summer, Americans traveled more than $20 billion miles on those roads, according to the Federal Highway Administration.

Today most people navigate the highways and byways with the aid of such handy technology as GPS systems and Google maps for their smartphones. But that doesn’t mean that road maps are a thing of the past. State road maps are available free from most states today, thanks to tourism bureaus and automobile clubs.

In 2001, Library map cataloger Charles Peterson donated his personal collection of 16,000 oil company roadmaps to the Library’s Geography and Map Division. With the bulk of material from such maps’ heyday, 1948–1973, the collection complements a substantial collection of similar material dating back to the early 20th century.

Travel and tourism are well-documented in the Library’s Prints and Photographs Division. The Panoramic Photograph Collection features many images of travel destinations such as amusement parks, beaches, fairs, hotels and resorts. Several years ago, the Library’s Junior Fellows Summer Interns discovered novelty postcards located among the copyright deposits and gifts that have come into the nation’s library. A wide variety of travel destinations are represented in this visual format.

The Library’s American Memory collection “By the People, For the People: Posters from the Works Progress Administration (WPA), 1936–1943” includes a variety of artful and colorful posters promoting tourism during the 1930s, ’40s and ’50s.

Noted photographer Carol M. Highsmith has been on the road with her camera, capturing images of present-day California as part of her multi-state “This is America!” project. The images have been donated to the Library and are available, copyright free, to the public (see story on page 27).

—Erin Allen

MORE INFORMATION:
Panoramic Photographs
loc.gov/pictures/collection/pan/
Sample Postcards
loc.gov/pictures/item/2009631551/
Travel Posters from the WPA
memory.loc.gov/ammem/wpaposters/highlight3.html
Carol M. Highsmith Photos
loc.gov/pictures/collection/highsm/
CATALOGING TRAINING

THE LIBRARY OF CONGRESS PROVIDES FREE ONLINE TRAINING TO CATALOGERS AROUND THE WORLD.

THE LIBRARY OF CONGRESS OFFERS FREE, comprehensive and authoritative web-based training—in English and Spanish—for catalogers making the transition to the new Resource Description and Access (RDA) standard.

Implemented on March 31, 2013, RDA replaces the Anglo-American Cataloguing Rules, second edition (AACR2), a standard used by libraries throughout the English-speaking world since 1981. The new standard provides instructions for cataloging digital and nonprint resources as well as traditional materials.

RDA training, which joins other online learning tools on the Library’s Cataloger’s Learning Workshop website, is a self-paced, interactive series of videos, demonstrations, quizzes and exercises. It also offers live “real-time” webinars facilitated by Library catalogers.

Search maps online loc.gov/maps/
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Follow Library of Congress maps on Twitter twitter.com/locmaps

THE SOUTHWEST COURTYARD

THE SOUTHWEST COURTYARD OF THE THOMAS JEFFERSON BUILDING is one of four interior courtyards that were designed to surround the circular Main Reading Room. The northeast and southeast courtyards were enclosed in 1910 and 1927, respectively, to provide space for book stacks. The northwest courtyard provided space for the Coolidge Auditorium, built in 1925, and the Whittall Pavilion, which was completed in 1938. Both spaces provide venues for programs and musical performances. In 2012, the southwest courtyard was refurbished and reopened for use by members of the public and the Library’s staff.

THE LIBRARY’S MAP COLLECTION, numbering nearly 5.5 million items, is the world’s largest collection of cartographic materials. More than 12,000 of these maps are now available digitally on the Library’s website, in new, high-resolution formats. The digitized maps include contemporary color maps of nations around the world, rare historical maps of world exploration and battlefield maps from the Civil War through World War II. Search for specific eras from 1320 to 2012, or browse in a broad gallery format.

Library staffer Ana Cristan instructs an RDA training class. Abby Brack Lewis

Search maps online loc.gov/maps/
Visit the Geography and Map Reading Room loc.gov/rr/geomap/
Follow Library of Congress maps on Twitter twitter.com/locmaps

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DEATH OF A PRESIDENT

AS THE AMERICAN PEOPLE STRUGGLED TO COME TO GRIPS WITH THE DEATH OF PRESIDENT JOHN F. KENNEDY, THE NATION’S LIBRARY PROVIDED REFERENCE, REFUGE AND REMEMBRANCE.

Just after 10 p.m. on Nov. 22, 1963, White House Special Assistant Arthur M. Schlesinger called two Library of Congress officials at home to “relay an urgent personal request from Mrs. Kennedy.” Just nine hours after the president’s death, the calls on behalf of the newly widowed wife of John F. Kennedy were placed to Roy Basler, director of the Library’s Reference Department, and Manuscript Division Chief David C. Mearns. The request was for documentation of Abraham Lincoln’s lying in state.

According to William Manchester in “Death of a President,” First Lady Jacqueline Kennedy remembered an engraving of Lincoln lying in state that she had selected to illustrate the first public guide to the White House, published in 1962. The image showed Lincoln’s coffin, shrouded in black crepe, on a catafalque in the East Room.

Mearns volunteered to go to the Library at once to get copies of Frank Leslie’s Illustrated Newspaper (later renamed Leslie’s Weekly) and Harper’s Weekly, in which the images could be found. He asked James I. Robertson, a noted Civil War scholar and executive director of the U.S. Civil War Centennial Commission, to join him, along with James Sutton, head of the Newspaper and Periodical Section of the Serial Division. Mearns and Basler later documented their activities, which are preserved as part of the Manuscript Division’s David C. Mearns Papers, 1918-1979. Mearns wrote:

Upon arrival, we went directly to the Manuscript Division, where I distributed flashlights. Mr. Sutton went off to collect Washington and New York newspapers. Dr. Robertson and I went to the Main Building to examine contemporary general periodicals. In Leslie’s Weekly we found excellent pictures of the scene in the White House’s East Room and in the rotunda of the Capitol. … We selected and marked those [newspapers] which contained the fullest and most precise accounts. I then called Dr. Schlesinger, and described to him the materials we had gathered together. He instructed us to deliver it to the Northwest Gate of the White House, which Dr. Robertson did. I reached home about half past one.

Throughout the national period of mourning, from 3 p.m. on Friday, Nov. 22 until 9 a.m. on Tuesday, Nov. 26, a skeleton staff at the Library of Congress was at work. Basler, Mearns and many other staff members fulfilled numerous media requests, created reports on presidential succession and a bibliography on firearms-possession laws. They even offered the cold and weary mourners refuge in the Library’s Jefferson Building as they waited to file past the President’s coffin lying in state across the street in the U.S. Capitol. During the month that followed the state funeral, the Library presented an exhibition of books by the late president and other memorabilia.

—Cheryl Fox is the Library of Congress archivist, in the Manuscript Division.
DIGITAL PRESERVATION AND THE JFK ASSASSINATION

THE KENNEDY ASSASSINATION SURVEY OFFERS A COMPELLING CASE STUDY REGARDING THE IMPORTANCE OF DIGITAL PRESERVATION.

Social-sciences research, such as opinion polling and government studies, is among the oldest digital media in the world. Often stored on punch cards and other outmoded storage devices, this important information is at high risk of being lost to posterity.

With support from the Library of Congress through its National Digital Information Infrastructure and Preservation Program (NDIIPP), the Data Preservation Alliance for the Social Sciences (Data-PASS) is working to ensure that at-risk resources are not lost. One of NDIIPP’s many nonprofit voluntary partners, the Data-PASS project has been working to develop a sustainable model for preserving social-sciences data. The importance of the work being done by this alliance is illustrated in the following cautionary tale that began half a century ago.

Shortly after the assassination of President John F. Kennedy on Nov. 22, 1963, the National Opinion Research Center (NORC) at the University of Chicago turned to the latest computer technology in an effort to study the event. From Nov. 26 through Dec. 3, 1963, NORC conducted a survey of citizen reactions. The results were recorded on machine-readable paper punch cards, which were input into a mainframe computer.

When another national catastrophe struck on Sept. 11, 2001, NORC researchers acted to replicate the 1963 study and then compare how the nation responded to these two very different tragedies. But first the researchers had to answer one fundamental question: where was the original Kennedy assassination data set? The punch cards were unaccounted for. Without the cards, researchers could not make the most meaningful comparisons. NORC archivists went to reviewing old indices to thousands of boxes in a private storage facility, the original punch cards were found.

Celebration had to wait. NORC had stopped using punch cards a quarter of a century earlier and had to identify a third party to convert the Kennedy cards to a format that 21st-century computers could read. A facility in New York could do the work, but not without difficulty. There was only one copy of the cards, which meant there was no room for error, either in transporting the cards to the facility or in processing them. Nerves spiked when the facility reported it “had to refurb our punch card equipment, it had been sitting around so long it got a little rusty.”

Over a period of four months, the data set was successfully migrated to a modern, user-friendly format. The information was used by NORC to develop a survey of the nation’s response to the events of Sept. 11, 2001. The resulting National Tragedy Survey (NTS) not only measured reaction to the event, but compared and contrasted the results with the Kennedy Assassination Study. Among its findings, the NTS concluded that, with the exception of New Yorkers, more people were affected by the Kennedy assassination. It was posited that this may be due to increased media exposure to national disasters over the intervening 38 years.

This particular foray into data archaeology had a happy ending, but it illustrates the hurdles that time and obsolescence can present to keeping digital data alive and useful. Ideally, the original Kennedy assassination data set should have been continually migrated to new generations of media and file formats. Not doing so left the important social-sciences research at the mercy of a distant and rusty mechanical relic.

—William LeFurgy is a digital initiatives manager in the Library’s National Digital Information Infrastructure and Preservation Program.

MORE INFORMATION:
View the exhibition “Books That Shaped America” myloc.gov/exhibitions/books-that-shaped-america/ and Photographs, Prints, and Photographs
Listen to a webcast of Betty Friedan’s 2005 lecture loc.gov/today/cyberic/feature_wdesc.php?rec=3675

The famous bestseller that ignited women’s liberation

The Feminine Mystique at 50

The Library’s list of “Books That Shaped America” has sparked a national conversation on books and their importance in our lives.

It’s been 50 years since pioneering women’s rights activist Betty Friedan stunned the nation with her controversial book, “The Feminine Mystique.”

In what became known as a manifesto, Friedan urged women to eschew the cult of domesticity and address “the problem that has no name”—the feeling among many 1950s housewives that something was lacking in their lives. Offering an antidote—the pursuit of higher education and meaningful work—the book raised the consciousness of her generation and those that followed over the past half-century.

The sale of more than 3 million copies over the past five decades contributed to a seismic change in society—women entered the workforce in record numbers, men began to help with housework and child care, and, earlier this year, the ban was lifted on women in combat.

Friedan’s book can’t be credited with all of these changes, but it certainly deserves to be one of the “Books That Shaped America” as it was designated by the Library of Congress in June 2012, along with a list of other titles that the Library displayed last summer.

In what was one of her last public appearances, Friedan spoke at the Library on March 10, 2005, to mark Women’s History Month. She died on Feb. 4, 2006, her 85th birthday.

In her talk, the founder of the National Women’s Political Caucus and co-founder of NOW (the National Organization for Women) lamented that “although women comprise 51 percent of the population they constitute only 12 percent of Congress.” With a record number of women in the Senate (20) the recently sworn-in 113th Congress has 101 women in its ranks (or about 19 percent), so progress continues to be made.

—Audrey Fischer

MORE INFORMATION:

The Feminine Mystique
Betty Friedan, 1960 | Fred Palumbo, Prints and Photographs Division

The famous bestseller that ignited women’s liberation

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—Audrey Fischer
FEDLINK: FOSTERING FEDERAL BUYING POWER

The Federal Library and Information Network in the Library of Congress is leading the effort to maximize the government’s buying power. The U.S. government needs to be strategic in its procurement and sourcing practices, allowing federal agencies to take advantage of reduced prices, increase administrative efficiencies and achieve other benefits.

Enter the Federal Library and Information Network (FEDLINK), a unit of the Library of Congress. The Office of Management and Budget (OMB) recently designated FEDLINK as the lead agency for the Strategic Sourcing Leadership Council (SSLC), a group comprising the federal agencies that spend more than 90 percent of federal procurement dollars. In this role, FEDLINK will acquire information products and services—such as online databases, subscriptions, books, maps and newspapers—on behalf of federal agencies that opt into the program. This acquisitions service alone could potentially save hundreds of millions of dollars and increase access to information resources for the benefit of the American people.

FEDLINK already serves as a centralized manager of information products and services acquisitions on behalf of more than 90 federal agencies and bureaus throughout all branches of the government. By expanding services through strategic sourcing, FEDLINK could potentially save the government between $140 million and $555 million over the next four years, depending on participation, according to a report by the Federal Research Division (FRD) at the Library of Congress.

FEDLINK was established by the Librarian of Congress in 1965 as the Library of Congress Committee (later the Federal Library and Information Center Committee or “FLICC”). In 2001, Congress established a statutory revolving fund under 2 U.S.C. §182c to support FEDLINK interagency procurement and library support efforts. During fiscal year 2012, FLICC made systemic revisions to the organization’s bylaws. The newly adopted bylaws create a single organization, authorized by the FEDLINK statute, which performs both the FEDLINK tasks as well as incorporating the FLICC responsibilities.

ABOUT FEDLINK
The Federal Library and Information Network is an organization of federal agencies working together to achieve optimum use of the resources and facilities of federal libraries and information centers by promoting common services, coordinating and sharing available resources, and providing continuing professional education for federal library and information staff. FEDLINK serves as a forum for discussion of the policies, programs, procedures and technologies that affect federal libraries and the information services they provide to their agencies, to the Congress, the federal courts and the American people.

The newly adopted bylaws of the organization’s bylaws. The newly adopted bylaws create a single organization, authorized by the FEDLINK statute, which performs both the FEDLINK tasks as well as incorporating the FLICC responsibilities.

MORE INFORMATION:
Visit FEDLINK online loc.gov/flicc/

BY ROBIN HARVEY

“Agencies are very concerned about rapidly escalating prices in electronic information, particularly in the science and technical information fields,” said FEDLINK Executive Director Blane K. Dessy. “I think prices are rising because information vendors say their management, access and infrastructure costs are rising. Because most vendors are aggregators of information, they pass these increasing costs onto us,” said Dessy.

Information content prices can range from the inexpensive to the very expensive, with a single journal title costing tens of thousands of dollars. “Agencies need this information because there is no other source,” said Dessy. Yet his biggest concern for federal agencies is varied prices among agencies for the same content. “This is something the federal government has not looked into. Nevertheless, when vendors offer unique information that an agency needs, the vendors end up in an advantageous negotiating position.”

Some observers comment that most of what these vendors are collecting, aggregating and selling is information originally from the federal government.

“Why is government paying premium prices for information it created? Vendors return data and content back to the government in a reorganized way,” said Dessy. Because they enhance and add value to the content, “there is a business proposition present.”

Some of the largest agency buyers of federal information are the departments of Defense and Homeland Security and the National Institutes of Health. According to the FRD report, total costs for federal purchases exceeded $2.7 billion for the last five fiscal years. FEDLINK, a revolving fund program, handled $140 million of those purchases in fiscal year 2012.

“FEDLINK has been helping federal agencies determine what they are buying and what they should be buying for nearly 40 years,” said Dessy. “We have the track record, we know the market and we can move very effectively.”

Meanwhile, vendors are interested in finding ways to work more efficiently with the federal government. “Finding an expedited way of selling to the federal government is very appealing to them,” said Dessy. “Rather than working with hundreds of offices in different agencies,” said Dessy, “FEDLINK streamlines the acquisitions, contracting, and financial management process for both vendors and agencies.”

FEDLINK has already targeted its strategic sourcing effort on scientific, legal, technology, engineering and medical content. “These are the trending information markets,” said Dessy. “These are the trending information markets,” said Dessy. “This is where FEDLINK can increase the cost savings and the efficiencies both agencies and vendors require.”

Robin Harvey is FEDLINK’s editor-in-chief and education coordinator.
The year 1963 was, quite simply, extraordinary. It began with the newly elected governor of Alabama proclaiming, "segregation forever!" and ended with the death of a U.S. president.

During this year, Betty Friedan gave voice to millions of women in her groundbreaking manifesto, "The Feminine Mystique," while 250,000 voices demanded "jobs and freedom" at the civil rights March on Washington that summer.

Bob Dylan's now-classic "Blowin' in the Wind" posed a series of questions about war, peace and freedom as the conflict in Vietnam was escalating.

Superhero "Iron Man" made his first appearance in comics, while real-life hero Sandy Koufax, pitcher for the L.A. Dodgers, broke a decade-old record by striking out 15 Yankee batters during the World Series.

Elsewhere in the world, Kenya gained its independence from Britain, the Russians put a woman in space and four lads from Liverpool launched a musical invasion that set off "Beatlemania" in America's youth.

With images drawn from the Library’s collections and two new Library exhibitions focused on the events of 1963, the following photo essay depicts a year like no other.

—Audrey Fischer
HERBLOCK LOOKS AT 1963

On Aug. 28, 1963, editorial cartoonist Herbert Block (Herblock), sat in the press tent as the crowd grew around him for the March on Washington. Through his drawings, the Pulitzer Prize-winning editorial cartoonist for the Washington Post captured the tenor of that historic day and lampooned other events of the year—the third and what would be the final year of the Kennedy presidency.


The Herb Block Foundation donated a collection of more than 14,000 original cartoon drawings and 50,000 rough sketches, as well as manuscripts, to the Library of Congress in 2002, and has generously continued to provide funds to support ongoing programming.

MORE INFORMATION:

“Herblock Looks at 1963” is free and open to the public 8:30 a.m.–4:30 p.m., Monday–Saturday, through March 22, 2014.

Library of Congress Graphic Arts Galleries
Ground floor of the Thomas Jefferson Building
10 First St. S.E., Washington, D.C.

View the exhibition online
myloc.gov/exhibitions/herblockgallery

1. Herblock’s 1963 editorial cartoon shows Republican legislators plotting to remove President Kennedy from office over his handling of Cuba and the Soviet Union. Herbert L. Block Collection, Prints and Photographs Division

2. Soviet cosmonaut Valentina Tereshkova becomes first the woman in space on June 12, 1963. New York World-Telegram & Sun Newspaper Photograph Collection, Prints and Photographs Division

3. A movie poster for “Cleopatra” touts the 1963 film, starring Elizabeth Taylor in the title role. Courtesy of Twentieth Century Fox Film Corp.

4. The Kennedy family is pictured after the late president’s funeral mass. Harry Leder, New York World-Telegram & Sun Newspaper Photograph Collection, Prints and Photographs Division

5. Iron Man makes his first appearance in issue #39 (March 1963) of Marvel Comics’ “Tales of Suspense,” which the Library acquired through copyright deposit. Serial and Government Publications Division

6. Sidney Poitier became the first African American man to win an Oscar, for his role in the 1963 film “Lilies of the Field.” Courtesy of United Artists
"A DAY LIKE NO OTHER"

To commemorate the 50th anniversary of the March on Washington for Jobs and Freedom, the Library of Congress will display 40 iconic black-and-white photographic images from the day—Aug. 28, 1963. "A Day Like No Other" opens exactly 50 years after the historic event at which Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. delivered his "I Have a Dream" speech to a crowd of 250,000 gathered at the Lincoln Memorial.

Original images by the daily press, independent documentarians and others who participated in the march represent the cross-section of individuals who were there. Newly discovered works from the archive of photographer Leonard Freed (1929-2006) will also be featured. Freed’s recently published photo essay, “This Is the Day: The March on Washington,” was the subject of a book talk at the Library of Congress earlier this year. Images from the book have been donated to the Library.

MORE INFORMATION:
“A Day Like No Other” is free and open to the public 8:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m., Monday-Saturday Aug. 28, 2013–Feb. 28, 2014 Library of Congress Graphic Arts Galleries Ground floor of the Thomas Jefferson Building 10 First St. S.E., Washington, D.C.

View the exhibition online
myloc.gov/exhibitions/

Webcast from “This Is the Day” book talk
loc.gov/rr/program/bib/2012li

1. The Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. delivers his "I Have a Dream" speech at the Lincoln Memorial. New York World-Telegram & Sun Newspaper Photograph Collection, Prints and Photographs Division
2. Titled "Unions parade looks down on demonstrators," this image captures the crowd gathered at the Lincoln Memorial on Aug. 28, 1963. New York World-Telegram & Sun Newspaper Photograph Collection, Prints and Photographs Division
3. Participants at the March on Washington carry signs championing their cause. Fred Ward, Black Star, Prints and Photographs Division

ADRIENNE CANNON, AFRICAN AMERICAN HISTORY AND CULTURE SPECIALIST FOR THE MANUSCRIPT DIVISION, DISCUSSES THE SCOPE OF THE LIBRARY’S CIVIL RIGHTS COLLECTIONS.

When did the Library of Congress begin collecting material documenting the Civil Rights Movement?

Throughout its 213-year history, the Library has endeavored to document every facet of the African American experience. With the establishment of the U.S. Copyright Office in the Library of Congress in 1870, a large percentage of these materials have been collected as copyright deposits, while others have been acquired as gifts or through purchase and subscription. The Carter G. Woodson Papers, given between 1929 and 1938, provided the first manuscripts related to the fight for civil rights. The collection includes the papers of John T. Clark, a National Urban League official.

Several years ago the Library mounted an exhibition marking the centennial of the NAACP. How did the Library come to acquire this important collection?

The Library acquired the NAACP Records in 1964 with the help of Morris L. Ernst, a friend of Arthur Spingarn, the NAACP’s longtime counsel and president. Totalling approximately 5 million items, the NAACP Records are the largest single manuscript collection acquired by the Library—and the most heavily accessed.

The NAACP Records are the cornerstone of the Library’s civil rights collections. The Library’s comprehensive civil-rights collections also include the original records of the NAACP Legal Defense and Educational Fund, the Brotherhood of Sleeping Car Porters, the National Urban League and the Leadership Conference on Civil Rights; and the microfilmed records of the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee (SNCC). These records are enhanced by the papers of such prominent activists as Roy Wilkins, Moorfield Storey, A. Philip Randolph, Bayard Rustin, Joseph Rauh, Mary Church Terrell, and Jackie Robinson. When Thurgood Marshall donated his papers to the Library in 1991, the documentation of his 60-year career, from civil rights lawyer to Supreme Court Justice, were finally brought together in one place.

MORE INFORMATION:
Civil Rights Resource Guide
loc.gov/rr/program/bib/civilrights/home.html

View the NAACP centennial exhibition
myloc.gov/exhibitions/naacp/

Does the Library’s Manuscript Division continue to acquire material pertaining to the struggle for civil rights?

Yes. The Roger Wilkins Papers, a gift, arrived in January 2013. They chronicle his career as a civil rights lawyer, journalist and professor. In recent years, the division also received the papers of James Forman, Herbert Hill and Tom Kahn. Forman’s papers cover his leadership of SNCC, as well as his involvement in CORE, the NAACP and the Black Panther Party. Hill’s papers document his multi-faceted career, including his tenure as NAACP labor secretary. Kahn’s papers include his memoranda and notes on the 1963 March on Washington as first assistant to Bayard Rustin, the event’s chief organizer.

What other resources does the Library hold on the Civil Rights Movement?

In addition to the personal papers and organization records in the Manuscript Division, the Library’s other custodial divisions hold related resources in a wide variety of formats such as photographs, newspapers, radio and television broadcasts, film and sound recordings. The Library’s American Folklife Center preserves oral history interviews with those who experienced the movement first-hand. The Library is also collaborating with the Smithsonian Institution on the Civil Rights History Project, a congressional initiative to survey the nation’s existing Civil Rights-era oral history collections and to record additional interviews that will be housed in the American Folklife Center.

MORE INFORMATION:
Civil Rights Resource Guide
loc.gov/rr/program/bib/civilrights/home.html

View the NAACP centennial exhibition
myloc.gov/exhibitions/naacp/
A RARE BOOK BY ANOTHER OBAMA

BY MARK HARTSELL

The author’s name, listed on the title page, is familiar even if the language is not: “olosi gi Barack H. Obama.” The language is Luo, an African tribal dialect, and the Obama in question isn’t the 44th president of the United States, but his father.

The African and Middle Eastern Division of the Library of Congress holds an exceedingly rare copy—only four are believed to exist—of a book written decades ago in Kenya by the president’s father. “Otieno, the Wise Man,” or “Otieno Jariero” in the original Luo, was published in Kenya in 1959 to promote literacy at a time when adult illiteracy was widespread.

The slim, 40-page volume also is the product of a collaboration that proved pivotal in the Obama story—the book’s editor helped Obama Sr. get to the United States, where he met and married a woman with whom he had the child who would become the first African American to be elected president.

“Books like ‘Otieno’ are part of the historical documentation of presidents and their families,” said Mary-Jane Deeb, chief of the African and Middle Eastern Division. “This book documents, in a tangible way, the father of the first African American president. It helps show what his values and interests were and helps illustrate what kind of man he was.”

“Otieno, the Wise Man” was a three-volume series produced by the Kenya Adult Literacy Program and published by the East African Literature Bureau to promote literacy as well as health, good farming practices and citizenship.

The Library holds copies of the first two volumes. The authorship of Vol. 1 is unclear: An illustrator is credited but no author is listed. Printed on the inside cover of Vol. 2, “Wise Ways of Farming,” however, is this note: “Written by Barack H. Obama for the Education Department of Kenya under the direction of Elizabeth Mooney, literary specialist.”

In his 2012 biography of the president, “Barack Obama: The Story,” author David Maraniss writes that Obama Sr. was performing clerical duties at the literacy program offices when the managers decided to publish primers in five tribal languages. Mooney chose Obama to write the Luo version.

“He was interested in bringing modern techniques to his homeland, and he realized he could make a bit of money through writing,” Maraniss wrote. “So for a time he willingly put himself into the mind of his wise fictional protagonist, Otieno.”

Obama’s tenure at the literacy program office ultimately was most important not for the book but for the connection he made with his editor, Mooney. “Betty” Mooney was an American who spent her life promoting adult literacy in India, Africa and the United States. In Nairobi, she headed a British government project that helped adults read in the local tribal languages.

In addition to the writing job, Mooney also offered to help Obama continue his education in the United States. According to Maraniss,
she acquired books that helped him pass college entrance exams, served as a reference and provided financial support.

And crucially—though by chance—she helped Obama find the school he would attend. Leafing through the Saturday Evening Post magazine, she saw an article about a “colorful campus of the islands”—a school with a beautiful setting and a multiracial student body. She passed the article to Obama, who liked what he saw and chose to attend the University of Hawaii. There, he met Ann Dunham. They married and had the son who later became an American president.

The Library of Congress acquired its copy of “Otieno, the Wise Man” in March 1967—41 years before the author’s son was elected president and the historical significance of the book could be fully understood. It is believed that the acquisition was made possible by the Library’s Field Office in Nairobi, which was established the previous year.

The book, Deeb said, illustrates the importance of collecting a wide range of material, even though some material might seem puzzlingly obscure at the time it is gathered. Such material often proves valuable—decades later, in many cases—in ways unimaginable when it was acquired.

For scholars, the book also is useful in ways other than the historical importance of its connection to President Obama. It shows Kenya at a time when it was rapidly evolving technologically, socially, economically and politically. In 1963, four years after the book’s publication, Kenya declared its independence from the United Kingdom.

Volumes such as “Otieno, the Wise Man” also play an important role in the preservation of indigenous languages. UNESCO estimates that half of the more than 6,000 languages spoken today will disappear by the end of the century. “It is important that at least one place in the world be a repository for those languages,” Deeb said. “When those languages are preserved in a place like the Library of Congress, the whole world thinks more highly of them and wants to preserve them as well.”

Mark Hartsell is editor of The Gazette, the Library’s staff newspaper.
MARCH ON WASHINGTON
FOR JOBS AND FREEDOM
AUGUST 28, 1963

LINCOLN MEMORIAL PROGRAM

1. The National Anthem
   Led by Marian Anderson.

2. Invocation
   The Rev. Dr. Daniel Jr., Archangel of Washington.

3. Opening Remarks
   Dr. John Lewis, Chairman, Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee.

4. Remarks
   Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., President, SCLC.

5. Tidbits to Negro Women
   Mrs. Nova Hiltons, Congresswoman for Freedom.

6. Remarks
   Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., President, SCLC.

7. Remarks
   Mr. John Lewis, Chairman, Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee.

8. Remarks
   Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., President, SCLC.

9. Selection
   Mrs. Clara C. King.

10. Prayer
    Mrs. Clara C. King.

11. Remarks
    Mrs. Clara C. King.

12. Remarks
    Mrs. Clara C. King.

13. Remarks
    Mrs. Clara C. King.

14. Remarks
    Mrs. Clara C. King.

15. Remarks
    Mrs. Clara C. King.

16. Remarks
    Mrs. Clara C. King.

17. The Pledge
    Mrs. Clara C. King.

18. Benediction
    Mrs. Clara C. King.

“WE SHALL OVERCOME”

PAUL FRANK

COOPERATIVE CATALOGING SPECIALIST
IN THE LIBRARY’S COOPERATIVE AND INSTRUCTIONAL PROGRAMS DIVISION, DISCUSSES THE EFFECT OF THE NEW RDA CATALOGING STANDARD ON HIS WORK.

How did you prepare for your current position?

I earned a bachelor of science degree in Russian Area Studies from George Mason University. The opportunity to work with Russian-language materials drew me to the Library of Congress. In 1993, I was hired as a cataloging technician in the Slavic Area Section of the Cataloging Division. To gain more experience, I volunteered to work on many professional details. In 1997, I had the opportunity to advance to the position of cataloger on one of the Music and Sound Recording Teams. In 2002, I returned to the Slavic Area Section as a cataloger, where I first began participating in Library training. That led me, in 2004, to join the Cooperative and Instructional Programs Division (CICP) — the office responsible for cataloging training.

How would you describe your work at the Library?

Through shared and cooperative cataloging, the Library of Congress helps the nation’s libraries provide better bibliographic access to their collections in a cost-effective manner. I work primarily with external libraries and institutions through my work with the Program for Cooperative Cataloging (PCC), which is administered by the Library of Congress. The PCC is an international cooperative effort of some 2,000 participating institutions engaging in sharing high-quality cataloging data. My job involves training many of the participants, which used to require a lot of travel but is increasingly done via the Internet.

I also play a role in internal cataloging training and, to some degree, Library of Congress cataloging policy development. So while training is my primary role, I also advise and mentor staff members on matters related to establishing unique identifiers in the two big international authority files: one for names and one for subjects.

The Library of Congress has been leading the effort to help the nation’s catalogers make the transition to the new RDA cataloging standard. As a “bridge cataloger,” I am responsible for training catalogers on the new standard. I receive name and subject authority records produced by the Library of Congress and provide feedback, review, and training materials. For the wider cataloging community, I created the “RDA in NACO” training modules.

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around THE LIBRARY

1. Siedah Garrett performs “Man in the Mirror”—the hit song she wrote for Michael Jackson—at the American Society of Composers, Authors and Publishers event at the Library on May 14.

2. Librarian of Congress James H. Billington escorts King Carl XVI Gustaf and Queen Silvia of Sweden through the Library’s Jefferson Building on May 9.

3. Poet Laureate Natasha Trethewey meets with Librarian of Congress James H. Billington before delivering her lecture to close the spring literary season on May 1. The Library announced in June that Trethewey will serve a second term 2013–2014.

4. Singer Colbie Caillat performs at the May 21 Library event marking Carole King’s receipt of the Gershwin Prize for Popular Song.


6. The audience gathered to celebrate her receipt of the Library’s Gershwin Prize for Popular Song.

news BRIEFS

A GRAMMY FOR PRESERVATION

The Recording Academy presented the Library with a special Grammy Award in recognition of the Library’s ongoing efforts to preserve historic audio recordings. These efforts include the Library’s oversight of the congressionally mandated National Recording Registry, which, over the past decade, has selected 375 culturally, artistically and historically important audio recordings for preservation.

The award was presented to the Librarian of Congress in April, at the Academy’s annual Grammy on the Hill. Held in the nation’s capital, the event brings together music-makers and policymakers. The Recording Academy also recognized actress and singer Jennifer Hudson for her philanthropic work and York Community High School of Elmhurst, Ill., for its outstanding music program.

CAROLE KING GARNERS 2013 GERSHWIN PRIZE

Carole King has received the 2013 Library of Congress Gershwin Prize for Popular Song. The iconic singer-songwriter known for such beloved hits as “You’ve Got a Friend,” “So Far Away,” and “(You Make Me Feel Like) A Natural Woman,” was feted with a series of events in May, including an honoree’s luncheon with Members of Congress and musical performances at the Library of Congress and the White House. With more than 25 million units sold worldwide, her album “Tapestry” (1971) remained the best-selling album by a female artist for a quarter century, was No. 36 in Rolling Stone magazine’s 2003 list of the 500 best albums of all time and was added to the Library of Congress National Recording Registry in 2003.

The Gershwin Prize honors the lifetime achievement of artists whose work exemplifies the standard of excellence associated with towering songwriters George and Ira Gershwin. King joins prior recipients Paul Simon, Stevie Wonder, Sir Paul McCartney and songwriting duo Burt Bacharach and Hal David in receiving the honor.

CIVIL WAR EXHIBIT EXTENDED

The Library has extended the “Civil War in America” exhibition from its original closing date of June 1, 2013, to Jan. 4, 2014. The exhibition commemorates the 150th anniversary of the Civil War with unique items that reveal the complexity of the Civil War through those who experienced it firsthand.

Through diaries, letters, maps, song sheets, newspapers and broadsides, photographs, drawings and unusual artifacts, the exhibition chronicles the sacrifices and accomplishments of those—from both the North and South—whose lives were lost or affected by the events of 1861-1865. In June, more than 200 new artifacts from the Library’s unparalleled Civil War collections replaced existing items on display.

On view in the Library’s Thomas Jefferson Building, the exhibition is free and open to the public from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday through Saturday.

MODERN CULTURE

ELSHTAIN NAMED KLUGE CHAIR IN MODERN CULTURE

Jean Bethke Elshtain has been appointed to the Kluge Chair in Modern Culture at the Library’s John W. Kluge Center. During her five-month tenure, Elshtain will use the Library’s archival resources to research her forthcoming book “Movies and the Moral Life.” She will examine films from 1950–2000, looking specifically at the relationship among violence, law and liberty in genres such as westerns.

Elshtain is the Laura Spelman Rockefeller Professor of Social and Political Ethics in the Divinity School at the University of Chicago, with appointments in Political Science and the Committee on International Relations. Through a generous endowment from John W. Kluge, the Library of Congress established the Kluge Center in 2000 to bring together the world’s best thinkers to stimulate and energize one another, to distill wisdom from the Library’s rich resources, and to interact with policymakers in Washington.

MORE: loc.gov/today/pr/2013/13-064.html
FROM POLITICAL LEADERS TO LITERARY GREATS, the Library of Congress Shop offers unique items that celebrate the nation’s heritage.

**Civil Rights Movement Knowledge Cards**
Product # 21507999
Price: $9.95

This deck of 48 Knowledge Cards offers a concise illustrated history of the Civil Rights Movement and a chance to learn about the turbulent era and its brave leaders.

**Martin Luther King Jr. Photograph**
Product # 21604022
Price: 8x10 ($20), 11x14 ($30), 16x20 ($40)

This image of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. (1964) is part of the U.S. News & World Report photograph collection housed in the Library’s Prints and Photographs Division.

**Washington, D.C. Digital Picture Postcard**
Product # 21405029
Price: $13

Send a digital postcard from the nation’s capital. CD contains 250 photographs of Washington’s famous sights.

**John F. Kennedy Poster (24” x 36”)**
Product # 21603014
Price: $12

Louis Fabian Bachrach photo with quote from a commencement address given by the president June 10, 1963.

**Jacqueline Kennedy Dual Pearl Pin**
Product # 21509402
Price: $69

A classic example of Mrs. Kennedy’s elegant and refined taste, this broach design was one of her staples during the White House years. The broach set boasts cabouchon faux-pearls and gold plating.

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**MORE INFORMATION**
Order online: www.loc.gov/shop
Order by phone: 888.682.3557
Order by fax: 202.707.1771

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**MORE INFORMATION**
Carol M. Highsmith Archive
loc.gov/pictures/collection/highsm
Library of Congress Development Office
202.707.2777
loc.gov/philanthropy

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THIS IS AMERICA!
GIFTS FROM INDIVIDUALS, GROUPS AND ORGANIZATIONS THROUGHOUT THE WORLD HELP THE LIBRARY OF CONGRESS FULFILL ITS MISSION.

THE LIBRARY OF CONGRESS HAS ACQUIRED 5,000 digital images documenting present-day California from distinguished American photographer Carol M. Highsmith. During her travels across the Golden State, Highsmith took photographs throughout, from San Francisco’s Golden Gate Bridge 75th Anniversary celebration to El Centro’s vegetable fields and the world-famous Yosemite National Park.

The California project is made possible by funding from the Capital Group Companies Inc. in memory of Jon B. Lovelace, a pioneer in the mutual-fund industry and a founding member of the James Madison Council, the Library’s private–sector advisory group. The Jon B. Lovelace California Collection is part of Highsmith’s “This Is America!” project, a visual study of the United States in the early 21st century.

In 2010, Highsmith completed the photo documentation of her first state, Alabama, with the financial support of George F. Landegger, CEO of Parsons & Whittemore, one of the world’s largest producers of the market pulp used in making paper.

The images of Alabama have been published in a hardcover volume and a California book is scheduled for release in November 2013.

Highsmith, who has documented American life and architecture for more than 30 years, began donating her work to the Library’s Prints and Photographs Division in 1992. The collection includes images of the art and architecture of the Library’s Thomas Jefferson Building.

The photographer has donated the rights for these images to the American people, thereby providing copyright-free access and making her archive a worldwide visual resource.

“With Carol’s artistic vision and continued financial support for her efforts, the nation’s library will one day have a comprehensive record of America at the beginning of the new millennium,” said Librarian of Congress James H. Billington.

—Audrey Fischer

Photographer Carol Highsmith captured this image of California’s Golden Gate Bridge in May 2012, the 75th anniversary of its opening.
REP. JOHN LEWIS (D-GA.) DISCUSSES HIS MEMORIES OF THE MARCH ON WASHINGTON AND ITS LEGACY.

You were one of the leaders of the historic March on Washington for Jobs and Freedom Aug. 28, 1963. Tell us about some of your experiences that day.

On the morning of the march, I traveled with the other speakers to Capitol Hill and met with Democratic and Republican leaders of the House and Senate. We met with the chairman and ranking member of the House Judiciary Committee. Then, we traveled to the Senate and also met with the majority and minority leaders. We discussed the need for strong civil rights legislation from the Congress.

After we left Capitol Hill, our plan was to link hands and lead the marchers from Capitol Hill down Constitution Avenue to the Washington Monument. We thought there might be a few thousand people, but in the end there were over 250,000. When we came out to the street, I looked towards Union Station and saw a sea of humanity marching. I said to myself, there goes our people, let me catch up to them. We linked arms and started marching with the crowd. They literally pushed us down the street, toward the memorial and onto the stage.

That day, I spoke sixth and Martin Luther King Jr. spoke last. His speech was amazing. He turned the marble steps of the Lincoln Memorial into a modern-day pulpit. We did not have a sense of the magnitude of that day, at the time, but he knew—and we knew—he had made an impact. After the speeches were over, people were still coming to the National Mall from all over America. We were invited to the White House by President Kennedy. He met us at the door of the Oval Office and he was standing there almost like a beaming father. He shook hands with each speaker and said to each one, “You did a good job.” And when he got to Dr. King he said, “And you had a dream.”

Your book “Across That Bridge” shares life lessons for those committed to bringing about social change. What are some of those lessons?

The movement taught me to have faith, to never give up, to always love and to not become bitter or hateful. Most importantly, it taught me to pace myself for the long haul. The struggle for equality will not last a week or a year; it is the struggle of a lifetime.

Your soon-to-be published book, “March,” is in the form of a graphic novel. Why did you choose to use this format to tell the story of the Civil Rights Movement?

The format was chosen to reach more young people and children, so they can know the history and meaning of the Civil Rights Movement. It is an attempt to bring the movement alive through drawings and words.

Do you believe President Obama’s election is the realization of Dr. King’s dream?

The election of President Obama is a significant step towards making Dr. King’s dream become a reality, but it is not the true fulfillment or realization of his dream. It is only a down payment on King’s dream of building a “Beloved Community”—a society based on simple justice that values the dignity and the worth of every human being. We have come a long way, down a very long road toward accomplishing this ideal, but we are not there yet. We still have a great distance to go before we realize the true meaning of Dr. King’s dream.


MORE INFORMATION:


loc.gov/bookfest/author/john_lewis/
Herblock Looks at 1963
March 30, 2013–March 22, 2014

A Night at the Opera

A Day Like No Other

MORE INFORMATION:
www.loc.gov/exhibits/