In This Issue

FEATURES

8 The Legacy of Shared Cataloging
The signing of an education law 50 years ago gave the Library the ability to provide new and unparalleled cataloging services to the nation’s libraries.

10 A Window on the Law of the Indigenous
The Law Library of Congress has created a web portal to provide access to the law of the indigenous peoples of the Americas.

14 Access to Knowledge
It’s not enough only to acquire and maintain the Library’s vast and varied collections; they have to be able to be searched, found and used.

DEPARTMENTS

2 Trending
3 First Drafts
4 The Library in History
6 How Do It?
6 For You at the Library
7 My Job at the Library
19 Expert’s Corner
20 Online Offerings
21 Favorite Places
22 Page from the Past
23 Technology at the Library
24 Around the Library
25 News Briefs
26 Shop the Library
27 Support the Library
28 Last Word
AFRICAN AMERICAN HISTORY MONTH

ONE MAN’S DEDICATION TO A FIELD OF STUDY INSPIRED THE MONIKER “THE FATHER OF AFRICAN AMERICAN HISTORY.”

With this year’s theme of “Hallowed Grounds: Sites of African American Memories,” 2016 African American History Month will be celebrated in schools, libraries and other cultural institutions throughout the month of February.

One such sacred ground is 1538 Ninth Street N.W. in Washington, D.C., home to Carter G. Woodson, pictured above, (1875-1950), the Harvard-educated historian who established Black History Week in 1926. The property was declared a National Historic Site in 1976—the same year that the recognition of African Americans’ contributions to the nation was extended to a month-long celebration.

In his “Message on the Observance of Black History Month” in February 1976, President Gerald Ford acknowledged Woodson’s founding of the Association for the Study of African American Life and History (ASAALH) as a way to document those contributions. The organization was founded in 1915 at the house on Ninth Street, where Carter lived until his death in 1950. With more than 25 branches, the membership organization holds an annual convention in cities across the nation.

Woodson believed that, “Those who have no record of what their forebears have accomplished lose the inspiration which comes from the teaching of biography and history.” He devoted his life to researching, publishing and increasing public awareness of black history and culture.

Woodson researched his dissertation at the Library of Congress, where he was encouraged by Manuscript Division Chief J. Franklin Jameson to seek funding to further his goals. With a grant from the Carnegie Foundation, Woodson founded the ASAALH. In 1929 and 1938, Woodson donated his papers to the Library of Congress. The bulk of the collection’s 18,000 items have been microfilmed and the film is available in the Library’s Manuscript Reading Room.

THE GETTYSBURG ADDRESS

On Nov. 19, 1863, President Abraham Lincoln delivered a two-minute speech at the dedication of the Soldiers National Cemetery in Gettysburg, Pennsylvania, pictured above. Less than five months earlier, Union armies defeated those of the Confederacy at the bloody Battle of Gettysburg—a turning point in the Civil War.

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On March 3, 1931, Congress passed—and President Herbert Hoover signed—the Pratt–Smoot Act, which appropriated $100,000 annually to the Library of Congress “to provide books for the use of the adult blind residents of the United States” and its territories. Eighty-five years later, what is now called the National Library Service for the Blind and Physically Handicapped (NLS) has a budget of more than $50 million and makes use of the latest technologies to serve more than 500,000 individuals with the goal of ensuring “that all may read.”

As early as 1878, Thomas Edison envisioned using technology for that purpose. His patent for the phonograph stated that “[b]ooks may be read ... by professional reader[s], and the record of such book used [for the] blind ....”

Even though Edison’s proposal did not come to immediate fruition, service to readers who are blind or visually impaired during the past 85 years has followed a technological trajectory of rigid long-playing records, open-reel tapes, flexible disks, cassettes and the latest digital technologies—including smartphone apps.

Today, NLS is at the forefront of emerging technology. NLS launched the BARD Mobile app, which permits patrons to download braille and talking books to their mobile devices from the Braille and Audio Reading Download (BARD) online service. BARD was launched in 2009, to allow patrons with computer access to download braille and talking books over the Internet at their leisure, as often as they like. Nearly 70,000 users are registered for BARD and about 22,000 of them take advantage of the BARD Mobile app, which provides on-the-go access to tens of thousands of braille and audio books. "It is like having a library in your pocket,” NLS director Karen Keninger said.

Marshaling technology (and in many cases anticipating innovations) is only one way NLS supports its patrons. NLS network libraries play an equally important role. From its inception, the program has been a cooperative effort among federal, state and local agencies. What began with 19 regional libraries has grown into a national network of 55 regional libraries, 32 subregional libraries, 14 advisory outreach centers and four machine-lending agencies providing seamless service to patrons.

“Our partnership with network libraries is a unique model,” said Keninger. “In an era when personalized service is becoming increasingly rare, what network libraries provide is still vital to our patrons.” Even as technology—both for talking books and braille—migrates towards digital content distribution, serving the 80 percent of visually impaired readers who are not online remains a vital priority for NLS and its network of cooperating libraries.

With its ever-growing constituency of readers, NLS will continue to anticipate its patrons’ needs amid rapidly changing technological innovations.

—Stefan Gunther is a writer-editor in the National Library Service for the Blind and Physically Handicapped.
REQUEST ITEMS THROUGH INTERLIBRARY LOAN

THROUGH INTERLIBRARY LOAN, domestic and international academic, public or special libraries may borrow most books and some microfilmed material from the Library of Congress for use by their library patrons for a period of 60 days. All items lent from the Library of Congress collections must be used on the premises of the borrowing library.

1. Check the Library of Congress online public access catalog before submitting a request to receive Library materials at a participating borrowing institution. This will confirm availability of requested items.

2. Register at loc.gov/rr/loan/LendingFirstTime.html

3. Send requests electronically through the nonprofit computer library service known as OCLC (members only) or through the Library’s Interlibrary Loan website (foreign libraries must email requests to IFLALoan@loc.gov).

MORE INFORMATION

Library of Congress Interlibrary Loan
loc.gov/rr/loan

Library of Congress Catalog
catalog.loc.gov

DIGITAL REFERENCE SPECIALIST LAURA GOTTESMAN DISCUSS THE JOB OF PROVIDING ACCESS TO THE LIBRARY’S ONLINE RESOURCES.

How would you describe your work at the Library?

Simply put, I facilitate research. The Library’s online Ask a Librarian service receives an average of nearly 55,000 inquiries a year from all over the United States and the world. Many researchers are in remote locations and have never been to the Library of Congress in person. It is a pleasure and challenge for those of us on the Digital Reference Team to make the Library’s collections as useful to them as they are to researchers in our reading rooms. We also create electronic web guides, bibliographies and webinars to help them locate the Library’s print and digital resources on a variety of subject areas.

I’ve observed that researchers tend to approach the Library with a mixture of awe and apprehension—the Library’s collections are larger than life, and the scale can be intimidating to some (and just plain exhilarating to others). As a reference specialist, I see my primary role as helping people get their bearings so they can mine the parts of the collection that are most meaningful to their work, no matter where in the Library these items may be housed.

How did you prepare for your current position?

My interests have always been eclectic. In college, my major was interdisciplinary. The College of Letters—the study of the literature, history and philosophy of Western Europe. After graduation from Wesleyan University in Connecticut, I headed west to Seattle for almost a decade, where I worked as a bookseller and at a digital photo archive. I then went to Library School at the University of Texas at Austin, where I focused on work in Archives and Special Collections. When I graduated, I saw a posting for a temporary job at the Library of Congress, in what was then called the National Digital Library. I thought, “That would be a great adventure for a year.” It’s 15 years later and I’m still here. But I still feel a thrill, a lift, when I stop and look up at our beautiful dome atop the Jefferson Building!

What are the biggest challenges you face on the job?

In public services, one of our greatest challenges is figuring out how to present our collections—print and digital—in a seamless and unified way that makes them comprehensible, accessible and useful to researchers, onsite and remotely. This work requires a lot of coordination and collaboration with staff experts behind the scenes, and it is some of the hardest work we do, but also some of the most gratifying.

It’s also a challenge to educate the public about what services are available to them at the Library. Anyone over the age of 16 with valid identification (state-issued I.D., driver’s license or passport) is welcome to complete a simple registration form, obtain a reader card and use the Library’s resources in person to satisfy their curiosity, dig deep into what interests them, or use our collections to support their research. And of course, they are also welcome to use our Ask a Librarian Service from remote locations.

What are some of the most memorable reference questions you have received?

Several years ago, a researcher asked whether we could confirm the accuracy of a memory he had of being at John F. Kennedy’s inauguration in Washington in January 1961, and seeing Eleanor Roosevelt in the audience a few rows ahead of him. I was able to find several references in newspaper accounts of the inauguration that confirmed that Mrs. Roosevelt was there, sitting in the audience, off the dais (apparently, so she could hear better). “...wrapped in a mink coat and an army blanket ...” to fend off the cold. I’ve always loved that image.

AS A LITTLEitaH

INFORMATION CENTER

THE LIBRARY OF CONGRESS began offering an online reference service known as “Ask a Librarian” in 2002. The service allows researchers to submit questions directly to each of the Library’s reading rooms to receive expert research assistance, typically within five business days. Some reading rooms also offer live chat assistance. The Ask-a-Librarian service averages nearly 55,000 inquiries annually from across the country and around the globe. In response to the volume of queries, the Library’s Digital Reference Team has created numerous guides to online and print resources.

WHAT: Online reference services
WHAT: Online reference services
WHEN: Year-round
WHEN: Year-round
COST: FREE
COST: FREE

ASK A LIBRARIAN

The Ask-a-Librarian service loc.gov/rr/askalib
The Ask-a-Librarian service loc.gov/rr/askalib

Online reference guides loc.gov/rr/program/zbz/zbzguide.html
Online reference guides loc.gov/rr/program/zbz/zbzguide.html

for you AT THE LIBRARY

THE LIBRARY OF CONGRESS is the largest library in the world, with 150 million items, including books, recordings, photographs, maps, prints and much more. It serves the research needs of the U.S. Congress and provides free access to the nation’s research collections in legal deposit.

WHAT: Library of Congress print collections
WHAT: Library of Congress print collections
WHEN: Year-round
WHEN: Year-round
COST: FREE
COST: FREE

ASK A LIBRARIAN

The Ask-a-Librarian service loc.gov/rr/askalib
The Ask-a-Librarian service loc.gov/rr/askalib

Online reference guides loc.gov/rr/program/zbz/zbzguide.html
Online reference guides loc.gov/rr/program/zbz/zbzguide.html

 Inhalation, Sept. 2015
A half-century ago, President Johnson signed a law promoting access to education and shared cataloging.

BY AUDREY FISCHER

Fifty years ago, on Nov. 8, 1965, President Lyndon Johnson signed the Higher Education Act of 1965 into law [P.L. 89-329]. This landmark legislation was part of his “Great Society” set of domestic programs that included the passage of the Civil Rights Act and the creation of Medicare, Medicaid and the Teacher Corps.

The HEA increased federal money given to universities, established need-based grants and federal scholarships, created work-study opportunities and offered low-interest student loans. The legislation not only opened the doors to college for millions of low- and middle-income Americans, but also supported the strengthening of college and research libraries.

Specifically, Title IIC of the Higher Education Act authorized the Office of Education to “transfer funds to the Library of Congress for the purpose of (1) acquiring all library materials currently published throughout the world that are of value to scholarship; (2) providing cataloging information for these materials promptly after their acquisition; and research materials from countries where such materials are essentially unavailable through conventional acquisitions methods. Following passage of the HEA, shared cataloging offices were opened in London and Rio de Janeiro.

On Jan. 13, 1966, officials from the national libraries and library professionals from six countries met at the British Museum to discuss the Library of Congress’ proposed procedures for shared cataloging among nations. Agreement was reached and the procedures were adopted. A week later, the Library announced that it received a grant of $130,000 from the Council on Library Resources to launch a program to distribute cataloging information in machine-readable form. By year’s end, a pilot project was begun to test the feasibility of distributing the Library’s machine-readable cataloging data known as MARC to other libraries by sending weekly distributions of tapes to 16 participating libraries. The pilot was a success and MARC remained the standard for more than 40 years.

On May 31, 1966, President Johnson signed a supplemental appropriations act, which provided the Library with $300,000 for acquisitions and cataloging of library materials. In June, the Library established the Shared Cataloging Division in its Processing Department to handle the descriptive cataloging of books received under Title IIC of the HEA.

Over the past 50 years, immense benefits have been derived by the global library community through cataloging cooperatively. Today, administered by the Library of Congress, the Program for Cooperative Cataloging creates records for serials, manuscripts, monographs, and name or subject authorities, which help bring all knowledge—regardless of format—under consistent bibliographic control in order to make it accessible to the worldwide community.

The legislation also expanded the Library’s overseas operations, which had begun in 1962 to acquire, catalog, preserve, and distribute library and research materials from countries where such materials are essentially unavailable through conventional acquisitions methods. Following passage of the HEA, shared cataloging offices were opened in London and Rio de Janeiro.

Anyone who has ever read entries in a card catalog describing a children’s book has likely benefited from the work of staff in the Children’s and Young Adults’ Cataloging (CYAC) Program in the Library of Congress. CYAC catalogers write the annotations—in 30 words or less—that capture the setting, plot, characters, and spirit of a book written for young readers. Often this description is a reader’s first introduction to a favorite book.

The Library’s role in shared cataloging dates back to the printing, sale and distribution of its catalog cards in 1901. But the Library’s Cataloging Division in 1966 recognized the importance of sharing cataloging information for materials not needed for its own collections.”

In short, the legislation gave the Library of Congress a clear mandate to provide new and strengthening of college and research libraries. It also recognized the importance of granting federal aid and assistance toward solving the challenge of shared cataloging.

The Library's role in shared cataloging dates back to the printing, sale and distribution of its catalog cards in 1901. But the Library’s establishment of a National Program for Acquisitions and Cataloging—authorized by the HEA—greatly expanded roles both nationallly and internationally.

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U.S. Supreme Court Justice Sandra Day O’Connor published an article in 1997 that provided important insight into tribal law. In “Lessons from the Third Sovereign: Indian Tribal Courts,” she observed that the United States actually consists of three sovereign bodies: the federal government, individual states and Indian tribes. Each tribe has its own government and plays an important role in the administration of justice. She estimated that the more than 170 tribal courts have a jurisdiction encompassing more than 1 million Americans.

Access to indigenous law, however, has been difficult for a variety of reasons. Some sources are only preserved through oral tradition. In other cases, tribes have codified their laws but choose to restrict access to them. In many instances, they provide a digital version of their most recent code, constitution or court decisions online. However, they can be difficult to locate as they have been scattered across websites and digital repositories.

To increase access to these rare and hard to find materials, the Library of Congress has created an online tool known as the Indigenous Law Portal (ILP). The ILP brings together collection materials from the Law Library of Congress that have been digitized along with links to tribal websites and primary source materials found elsewhere on the Web.

The ILP was created, in part, in response to the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples of 2007, which sets out the individual and collective rights of indigenous peoples, including the right to maintain and strengthen their own laws, cultures and traditions. Subsequently, the legal profession called for respect of tribal law as primary law, not just a subject specialty, and for recovery and exposure of the legal record of sovereign tribal governments in law library collections—a challenge for the information profession to replace the imaginary with current data.

Digitization projects at the Library of Congress and other institutions aimed at higher visibility of the indigenous peoples with the opening of collections to new and broader audiences. All these voices combined to generate tremendous...
interest in Indigenous law and increased study of cultural heritage and indigenous government.

The Law Library worked with the Library’s Acquisitions and Bibliographic Access Directorate to arrange the portal according to the Library of Congress Classification for “Law of the Indigenous Peoples in the Americas” (Classes KIA-KIX). The classification organizes resources by geographic regions, such as Canada, Mexico and the United States with their narrower geographic sub-regions such as the Northeast Atlantic and Pacific Northwest, each with its finite list of resident tribal governments. For that reason, the portal provides interactive maps as access points to indigenous jurisdictional resources. Through those maps, users find information on tribes and indigenous groups organized alphabetically by name, by country and by state or province.

Maps also can be used to provide a visual explanation of developments such as the Indian Territory (later, the state of Oklahoma), a consequence of the Indian removal to territory west of the Mississippi since 1830.

One of the first collections added to the ILP was the American Indian Constitutions and Legal Materials collection. Staff in the Law Library digitized its holdings of more than 400 American Indian constitutions and by-laws, charters and acts. The collection contains historic Cherokee, Choctaw and Creek laws and legal documents—some published in the language of those tribes—dating back to 1810, as well as constitutions signed by tribes from across the continental U.S. and Alaska after the 1934 Indian Reorganization Act.

Researchers also need access to contemporary laws and legal materials, which are typically available on indigenous websites. The ILP makes this possible by linking to individual tribal websites for the most authoritative source of information on tribal law in the United States.

One can trace the evolution of the Choctaw Constitution from the earliest version written in 1838 to the most recent version on the tribe’s website. Other examples include direct links to the tribal courts of the Seminole Nation of Oklahoma and the United Keetoowah Band of Cherokee Indians. Groups like the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma and Ysleta del Sur Pueblo of Texas have sophisticated websites that offer information about the services citizens expect of their government, including economic development, emergency management and health and human services.

Among the powers of sovereign nations is the right to enter into treaties. Many European nations, and later the United States, acknowledged the sovereignty of tribes by entering into treaty negotiations. The digitized version of the 1895 laws of the Osage Nation includes several treaties. Indian land cessions by treaty and reservations were meticulously documented. The full terms of these and other treaties are accessible to the public through the ILP.

The Library is continuing to add content to the ILP by identifying, organizing and providing links to free primary law sources from the Library’s collections, indigenous governments, organizations, and other institutions. Work on the ILP is currently expanding to Central and South America, and Library staff continues to seek input from state and federal agencies and individual tribal organizations.

MORE INFORMATION

Indigenous Law Portal
loc.gov/law/help/indigenous-law-guide/

Contributors to this article include Jolande Goldberg and Carla Davis-Castro in the Acquisitions and Bibliographic Access Directorate and Tina Gheen in the Law Library of Congress.
In the beginning—that is, in 1800—the Library of Congress consisted of 740 books and three maps, all tucked into a room in the U. S. Capitol. Finding the right book, or map didn’t take long.

Today there are more than 162 million items in the collections available to researchers. Books and other printed materials numbered more than 38 million; there were 70 million manuscripts, 5.5 million maps, 14 million photos and nearly 2 million films. To discover and access these resources, researchers need a guide.

Often, it’s a research librarian—a modern day knowledge navigator—encountered in-person in one of the Library’s 20 reading rooms, or, for many, through the “Ask a Librarian” service online (see page 6). Many an author whose work was researched at the Library of Congress will speak gratefully about the direction and extra effort delivered by such librarians to patrons, daily.

But even a trained research librarian has to know how to use a system to locate that particular book, serial title or other object in the great trove that is the Library of Congress.

Enter the Library’s catalogers—the great, unsung heroes and heroines of the knowledge-delivery business. They stave off chaos and ensure access to knowledge by establishing order from the start.

“Catalog,” “finding aids,” and “metadata” are all terms used to refer to the description of resources in the Library’s collection. “Description” itself is a broad term, referring to information about a resource’s physical properties as well as providing controlled name authority data about its creator and assigning subject headings and classification numbers to reflect its content. Catalogers create descriptions using internationally established standards so that catalogs in the largest to smallest libraries can represent the same resource in the same manner.

Back in the day, the Library created and maintained vast handwritten, or typed cards stored in acres of card catalogs—tall chests of specialized drawers that held indexing material used by researchers to locate books. Today, cataloging is computerized and the output is shared with other libraries, sometimes in multiple formats.
The move to automating catalog records was led by a seminal figure in library science, Henriette D. Avram, who joined the Library of Congress in 1965 and created the MARC (machine-readable cataloging) format. Avram, who was not formally trained as a librarian, had learned computer programming in an earlier job at the National Security Agency. But upon her arrival at the Library, she steeped herself in Library needs, knowledge and lore so she could determine what data would underpin MARC, a system that won worldwide adoption and earned Avram many awards, including some of the highest honors bestowed within library science.

MARC made it possible for cataloging data to be entered, accessed and stored on mainframe computers and shared cooperatively with partner libraries around the world.

To succeed the MARC format in the age of the semantic web and linked open data technologies, the Library of Congress is leading the effort to create a new bibliographic data carrier called the Bibliographic Framework Initiative (BIBFRAME). BIBFRAME will be a carrier for library data that will be shareable not only with other libraries that share the same systems, but on the World Wide Web through a semantic web technology called linked open data.

The Library’s catalog is freely available online.

From Left: Grand Hotel Pupp, Carlsbad, Bohemia, Austro-Hungary, Detroit Publishing Company, 1890-1900 | Photochrom Prints Collection, Prints and Photographs Division; Aftermath of the Johnstown Flood, Ernest Walter Histed, May 3, 1889 | Prints and Photographs Division; Theodore Roosevelt and William H. Taft, Brown Brothers, circa 1909 | Prints and Photographs Division

Nearly 1.6 million people came to the Library of Congress in 2015 to conduct research in its 21 reading rooms on Capitol Hill. More than 60 million users visited the Library’s website last year to access Library resources. Here are some examples of what researchers found.

**Film director Wes Anderson:** “The Library of Congress’s Photochrom Print Collection includes commercially produced pictures showing views of Europe around the turn of the 20th century,” Anderson told “The Telegraph.” “They’re black-and-white photographs that have been colorized. ‘What you see when you look at these pictures are landscapes and cityscapes: from all over the world. … A huge number of them are from the Austro-Hungarian Empire and Prussia. These pictures were a great inspiration for ‘The Grand Budapest Hotel.’” Many of the old hotels in these photographs still exist as buildings. But none of them exist as the places they once were.

**Historian David McCullough:** “I discovered my vocation here in the Library of Congress. I have done research on all my work at this great library. After seeing pictures of the 1889 flood in Johnstown, Pa., in the Library’s Prints and Photographs Division, I began writing my first history, ‘The Johnstown Flood’ (1968).” McCullough researched his latest book, “The Wright Brothers,” at the Library of Congress, where photographs and manuscript records of the aviation pioneers are housed. “I am more indebted to this great institution than I can say. It is the mother church of the library system in America.”


**Musician, writer and actor Henry Rollins:** “These people are all about collecting, databasing and preserving. I am in my element,” said Rollins about staff in the Library’s Motion Picture, Broadcasting and Recorded Sound Division. “We are having conversations about acid-free paper and Mylar L-sleeves! Be still, my fanatic heart. … A day of nonstop awe and inspiration. Whenever any great song or album gets lost in the ether, someone is deprived of the joy of hearing it, and the great effort of those who created and recorded the work is damaged. Thankfully, the fanatics are there to make sure the jam session never stops.”
BIBFRAME will open the world of bibliographic data to the linked open data world, making library data truly interchangeable in the web environment. The many years of effort the Library of Congress and its partners have put into creating thesauri and establishing authorized headings for creators can be reemployed and ultimately used to help "organize" the web as well as make library resources instantly findable through search engines for the users.

The Library's catalog is freely available online. It includes references to resources in all formats and may provide links to materials that have been digitized. Interlibrary loan services are available to researchers from other libraries who find that the only copy of a material they need for their work is available at the Library of Congress.

Today, many books, newspapers, magazines, manuscripts, maps, films, photographs and other library materials are freely available on the web. Some 52.3 million digital files are available from the Library of Congress through its website and many are in the public domain.

"Digitization will become more and more extensive over time, and more books and other library materials are "born digital," said Beacher Wiggins, the Library's director for acquisitions and bibliographic access. "Yet even when we digitize an item, we also maintain the original for its archival value. Whether you choose to access its resources in person or online, the Library of Congress is working to ensure that you will always be able to find the "it" you're looking for in its vast collections."

Without bibliographic control, there would be no access to the Library's vast collections. Having over 160 million items in its collections would be meaningless if Library staff members could not locate collection items and make them accessible to Congress and other users.

The Library's cataloging and processing staff create the records that serve as intermediaries between users and content. The Library serves the larger library community—nationally and internationally—by sharing its cataloging data. This began in 1901 with the printing and distribution of the Library's catalog cards. Today, the Library's most current and authoritative bibliographic resources are available through its Cataloging Distribution Service, which also supplies web-based cataloging tools and cataloging records in various formats.

Bibliographic control has changed vastly in the century since the first catalog card was printed, due in large part to technological developments. One of the biggest changes came in the late 1960s with the implementation of the Machine Readable Cataloging (MARC) format. The Library, under the guidance and vision of Henriette Avram—who led the creation and national and international adoption of MARC—rolled out the MARC format incrementally, starting with print materials in Latin script. From the time I joined the Library in 1972 through the 1980s, MARC formats for other types of materials (such as sound recordings, moving image, cartographic items, and non-Latin script like Chinese characters and Cyrillic) were gradually issued and implemented by the Library and the library community.

While the Library was making a major shift to an automated environment in the late 1960s, a new set of cataloging rules was adopted. AACR2 (Anglo-American Cataloguing Rules, 2nd Ed.) codified descriptive cataloging rules dating back to the early 20th century.

MARC was the standard for more than 40 years. Two standards are transforming bibliographic control today—RDA, Resource Description and Access and BIBFRAME.

RDA was implemented in 2013 as a replacement for AACR2, to be a set of instructions for descriptive cataloging. RDA is a restructuring of AACR2 to provide guidance on cataloging in the web world. AACR2 was card catalog focused. RDA better positions the library community to process non-print and print materials. This is particularly important as more digital content is being added to library collections. Further, RDA is less Anglo-centric, making it accessible to a greater number of countries beyond the English-speaking world. RDA is particularly beneficial to the Library of Congress, which collects materials in all languages, because it means the creation of more cataloging data that can be used without requiring changes, thereby making cataloging and processing more efficient.

With the adoption of RDA, it became increasingly apparent that MARC, as the format for containing and sharing library bibliographic data, was not sufficient to support the new cataloging code. Further, it was not compatible to non-library entities, which limited the Library's ability to use metadata created by web content developers, as well as other cultural institutions such as archives and museums.

BIBFRAME, which the Library is currently developing and testing in a pilot project, is making it possible for the Library to operate more effectively in the linked data world.

BIBFRAME, coupled with RDA, will allow the Library of Congress, along with other libraries, to share and use metadata in ways never before possible, with great savings of time, energy and resources.

**MORE INFORMATION**

Acquisitions and Bibliographic Access
loc.gov/aba/
THE SOCIAL LIBRARY

WITH ITS ROBUST SOCIAL MEDIA OFFERINGS, THE LIBRARY EXTENDS ACCESS TO ITS COLLECTIONS AND SERVICES TO A WORLDWIDE AUDIENCE.

Not everyone has the opportunity to visit the Library of Congress on Capitol Hill in Washington, D.C. At the dawn of the digital age, the Library of Congress recognized this and became one of the first cultural institutions to make rudimentary digitized versions of its most popular collections available on what was charmingly referred to as the “World Wide Web.” Decades later, the Library’s website at loc.gov provides millions of digitized items and robust services to the public at no cost.

But in these days of push media and mobile access, it’s not enough to simply offer a rich and comprehensive website of assets, collections and curated content, then wait for users to find it. A public institution like the Library of Congress has a responsibility to reach out to its audiences and get them what they want when they want it.

These days, one way of doing this is via social media. What was a short time ago experimental, cutting-edge, “Web 2.0” access strategies are in 2016 simply a requirement of doing business. Since launching one of the first federal blogs a decade ago, the Library has been a pacesetter in both government and library communities by its use of social media to extend the reach of our collections and services to a broad, worldwide audience.

Today, the Library promotes its work to a global audience through a growing number of social media channels. The foray into social media that began with a lone blog now encompasses 15 topic blogs, 10 public Twitter accounts, six Facebook pages, channels on Flickr, YouTube, iTunes U, LinkedIn, Instagram and Pinterest, plus dozens of topic-specific email bulletin services—all to support researchers and the intellectually curious.

—John Sayers

THE SCANNING LAB in the Geography and Maps Division is where large-format cartographic treasures get precision, high-resolution digitization. Here, specialist Diane Schug-O’Neill digitizes a map from the collections. The oversized documents might confound an ordinary office scanner and storage system, but the lab’s state-of-the-art equipment provides and archives high-resolution digital versions of our cartographic treasures.

While not a publicly accessible space, this and other scanning labs in the Library play a key role in its mission to provide universal access to the rich, diverse and enduring collections. For decades, the Library of Congress has been steadily digitizing eligible maps, books, photos, manuscripts, film, video and audio, then working to describe, archive and make them available worldwide online.
The Rose Bowl Stadium—part of the Tournament of Roses celebration that includes the football game and the Rose Parade that began in 1890. The second Rose Bowl game was held in 1916 and has continued to be held annually for a century. Since 1923, the game has been played each January (usually on New Year’s Day) in Pasadena’s Rose Bowl Stadium (with the exception of one year during World War II). Designed by architect Myron Hunt, the stadium was a venue for the Olympic Games in 1932 and 1984 and for the 1994 FIFA World Cup, among other large public events.

The Library holds a collection of photographs and other documentation of the Rose Bowl Stadium that are part of the Historic American Buildings Survey (HABS)—the nation’s first federal preservation program. HABS began in 1933 under the federal Work Projects Administration (WPA), a New Deal agency under President Franklin D. Roosevelt. The following year, HABS became part of the National Park Service.

Under an agreement with the National Park Service and the American Institute of Architects, the Library of Congress was given the responsibility of housing, maintaining and making the collection accessible to the public.

The HABS collection continues to grow through documentation created by schools, contractors, and preservationists. It has been augmented by two other National Park Service heritage documentation projects: the Historic American Engineering Record (HAER) and the Historic American Landscapes Survey (HALS). The HABS/HAER/HALS collections are among the largest and most heavily used in the Library’s Prints and Photographs Division. The collections document more than 40,000 structures and sites throughout the nation, and comprise more than 600,000 items (photographs, drawings and historical reports). Many of these items are accessible online.

MORE INFORMATION

HABS/HAER/HALS Collection
go.usa.gov/ckbcN

The Rose Bowl Stadium
go.usa.gov/ckbx8

VIEW CONGRESS AT WORK

MORE THAN 1 MILLION ITEMS ARE SEARCHABLE ON THE CONGRESS.GOV WEBSITE.

The Library of Congress has been the official online source of U.S. legislative information since THOMAS.gov launched on Jan. 5, 1995. In recent years, the Library has worked to transition the site to the modern, mobile-friendly website, Congress.gov. With the most recent update, more than 1 million items pertaining to the legislative process are accessible on your computer or mobile device.

Congress.gov provides Members of Congress, legislative agencies and the public with accurate, timely and complete legislative information. The site is presented by the Library of Congress using data from the U.S. House of Representatives, the U.S. Senate, the Government Publishing Office, the Congressional Budget Office and the Library's Congressional Research Service (CRS).

The site contains metadata for legislation starting with 1975 (the 93rd Congress), full text of the legislation beginning in 1993 (the 103rd Congress) and both the Congressional Record and committee reports dating back to 1995 (the 104th Congress). Treaty documents, nominations and executive communications are also accessible.

The site also offers profiles of all current Members of Congress, and some former Members dating to 1929 (the 71st Congress). Each profile includes a photo, a link to a short biography, district information, party affiliation and, in the case of current members, links to congressional website and contact information.

Along with the growth in volume of data on the site, additional features have been added. Users can now sign up and receive email alerts any time a Member of Congress (from the current Congress) introduces a bill, there is an action on a particular bill or a new issue of the Congressional Record is available on the site.

The “Browse” page, which offers roll call votes, legislation by policy area and bills by sponsors and cosponsors, now includes lists of public laws, legislative subject terms and popular and short titles of legislation.

Congress.gov also contains an ever-expanding glossary that covers legislative terms and a “Resources” section that provides a portal to legislative branch websites. An “Appropriations” page provides access to continuing appropriations, omnibus appropriations, supplemental appropriations, regular appropriations and budget resolutions dating to 2005. A list of the top 10 most-viewed bills page is provided weekly using metrics from the previous week.

To make Congress.gov more accessible to people with disabilities, a new feature, “Listen to this page” reads the legislative summaries aloud. A new video series, “Two-Minute Tips,” provides tutorials such as “Creating and Using Congress.gov Email Alerts,” “Search Terms and Facets” and “Navigating a Bill.” These short videos join a nine-part series on the legislative process, written by CRS experts.

With each new update, the Congress.gov website is improving service to users, whose feedback is being incorporated into the site.

—Andrew Weber is legislative information systems manager in the Law Library of Congress.
1. Gershwin Prize recipient Willie Nelson, his wife Annie D’Angelo and their son Micah pose for a selfie in the Library’s Main Reading Room.

2. The Library displays items from the recently acquired collection of composer Marvin Hamlisch—one of 2 people to be awarded a Pulitzer, Emmy, Grammy, Oscar and Tony (PEGOT).”


4. Former Prime Minister of Great Britain and Northern Ireland Tony Blair discusses defeating Islamist extremism during the Library’s Henry Alfred Kissinger Lecture Series.

5. Author Tom Angleberger (right) directs the audience in a moment of silence for victims of the Paris terrorist attacks.

6. The U.S. Marine Drum and Bugle Corps, “The Commandant’s Own,” performs a holiday concert in the Library’s Great Hall. All photos | Shawn Miller

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**LIBRARY ACQUIRES DAVID BROMBERG PAPERS**

American folk-music legend David Bromberg, a guitarist and fiddle virtuoso who has become a renowned expert in rare violins, has donated papers pertaining to his musical career to the Library of Congress’ American Folklife Center.

The collection, dating from Bromberg’s early stage days playing with such folk luminaries as Bob Dylan, Pete Seeger and Doc Watson, includes notes, letters, photographs, ephemera from shows (including posters and programs) and audio and video recordings documenting public and private performances. In 2002, Bromberg and his wife moved to Wilmington, Delaware, where they are now the proprietors of David Bromberg Fine Violins, which sells and repairs fine instruments.

Bromberg has returned to the stage part-time and has recorded two albums: “Try Me One More Time” (2007), nominated for a Grammy in the category of Traditional Folk Album, and “Use Me” (2011) in which he performs songs written by John Hartford, Guy Clark, Dr. John, Keb’ Mo’ and David Halide.

**HISTORICAL PUBLIC BROADCASTS NOW ONLINE**

The Library of Congress and public broadcaster WGBH Boston announce the launch of the American Archive of Public Broadcasting (AAPB) Online Reading Room. With contributions from more than 100 public media organizations across the country, radio and television broadcasts produced over the past 70 years are now available to stream on the AAPB website.

This rich collection of programs dating from the 1940s to the 2010s will help tell the stories of local communities throughout the nation in the last half of the 20th century and first decade of the 21st.

Items in the collection include a 1956 interview with Rosa Parks during the Montgomery Bus Boycott; a live broadcast from the opening reception of the World Trade Organization’s Seattle Summit in 1999; and a 1974 debate between U.S. Rep. Martha Griffiths, sponsor of the Equal Rights Amendment, and Phyllis Schlafly, the main opponent of the ERA.

The entire collection of 40,000 hours has been preserved and is available for research on location at WGBH and the Library of Congress.

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**LITERACY AWARD WINNERS ANNOUNCED**

Three nonprofit organizations are the recipients of the 2015 Library of Congress Literacy Awards. Originated and sponsored by philanthropist David M. Rubenstein, the Literacy Awards recognize and support organizations working to alleviate the problems of illiteracy and aliteracy in the United States and world.

The recipient of the David M. Rubenstein Prize ($150,000) is First Book, which works to further educational equity by tackling the scarcity of books and educational resources for millions of children growing up in low-income families in the U.S. and Canada. The American Prize ($50,000) recipient is United Through Reading, which helps families—most of whom are service members reading storybooks and sends the video recordings and the books home to their families. The International Prize ($50,000) recipient is Beanstalk, a volunteer-based literacy organization that provides one-on-one support to children ages 6 to 11. A formal presentation of the awards will be held at the Library of Congress in the spring.

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**ADDITIONS TO THE NATIONAL FILM REGISTRY**

Spanning the period 1894-1997, 25 films have been named to the National Film Registry. This year’s selections bring to 675 the number of films in the registry—a small fraction of the Library’s vast moving-image collection of 1.3 million items. Titles on the National Film Registry have been identified as motion pictures that deserve to be preserved because of their cultural, historic or aesthetic importance. The 2015 registry includes such iconic movies as the 1949 “Shane,” about a legendary gunslinger; “Top Gun,” the 1986 adrenaline-charged Navy drama, starring Tom Cruise and Kelly McGillis; the 1959 melodrama “Imitation of Life,” starring Lana Turner; and director Ivan Reitman’s 1984 horror comedy “Ghostbusters,” starring Bill Murray and Dan Aykroyd. Also on the list of significant films is “The Sneeze” (1994), one of the earliest film recordings and the oldest surviving copyrighted motion picture, which was produced by Thomas Edison’s team of inventors.

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**MORE:** loc.gov/today/pr/2015/15-196.html

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**MORE:** loc.gov/today/pr/2015/15-194.html

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**MORE:** loc.gov/today/pr/2015/15-195.html

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**MORE:** loc.gov/today/pr/2015/15-216.html
Jefferson's Library Catalog
Product #21110240
Price: $36.95
Peruse Thomas Jefferson's catalog of his personal library, which he sold to Congress in 1815.

Library Card Socks
Product #21503271 (small); 21503273 (large)
Price: $10
Wear your love of libraries on your feet. Small (Men's 9-11/Women's 5.5-9.5) or Large (Men's 10-13/Women's 8-12).

Library Card Tote
Product #21301023
Price: $18.95
Check out this nostalgic Library of Congress tote.

Lincoln's Bible
Product #21120283
Price: $50
Own this facsimile of the bible used at the presidential inaugurations of Abraham Lincoln and Barack Obama. 5.75 inches 4 inches.

March On Washington
Product #211050233
Price: $29.95

Minerva Silk Scarf
Product #21304064
Price: $69.95
This printed silk scarf is an adaptation of Elihu Vedder's Minerva mosaic in the Library of Congress.

The idea first came to Howard Buffett one evening as he sat watching the evening news. The papers of Rosa Parks, the broadcast reported, for years had been sitting in storage boxes in New York—unpreserved, unused, inaccessible to the public. How, Buffett wondered, could papers of one of the civil-rights movement’s great figures be left in such a state?

“I thought, ‘That’s crazy,’” recalled Buffett. “How can that be right?”

Following the broadcast that evening, Buffett suggested to board members that the Howard G. Buffett Foundation buy the collection and make sure it would be preserved. But, he was told, preserving historical documents doesn’t really fit the foundation’s mission, no matter how worthy the cause. Indeed, the Buffett Foundation works to improve the standard of living for the world’s most-impoverished populations, primarily supporting projects in food security, access to water, conflict mitigation and public safety.

Buffett was on the verge of giving up, he said, when he received a letter from a Florida woman he’d never met.

“Mr. Buffett,” she wrote, “It’s not my place, but I really think you should buy the Rosa Parks collection.”

Inspired again, Buffett pressed on.

“This is just the right thing to do,” he said. “It doesn’t matter that I’m a little off-focus. It doesn’t matter that it isn’t what we typically do. This is just the right thing to do, and we need to get it done.”

The Buffett Foundation eventually purchased the collection—some 7,500 manuscripts and 2,500 photographs—and placed it on loan to the Library of Congress for 10 years. The collection opened formally to researchers on Feb. 4, 2015, on the birthday of the civil-rights icon.

“This gift embodies what David M. Rubenstein, the chairman of our private-sector support group, the Madison Council, has called ‘patriotic philanthropy,’” said former Librarian of Congress James H. Billington when the collection arrived last year. “It allows the Library of Congress to share with people everywhere the life of one of the leading civil-rights icons, who is not just a famous picture of a woman on the bus but a living, breathing, wonderfully modest and extremely important proof of the value and the witness of what one individual can mean, not just to this country but to the world.”

—Mark Hartsell is editor of The Gazette, the Library’s staff newspaper.

Rosa Parks Papers
Generous Support Helps the Library Make Its Collections Accessible to the Public.

Lincoln’s Bible
Product #21120283
Price: $50
Own this facsimile of the bible used at the presidential inaugurations of Abraham Lincoln and Barack Obama. 5.75 inches 4 inches.

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—Mark Hartsell is editor of The Gazette, the Library’s staff newspaper.
JANE MCAULIFFE DISCUSSES THE LIBRARY’S NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL OUTREACH ACTIVITIES.

Let’s call her Dolores DeSantis. Last Labor Day weekend she visited her sister in Washington, D.C., and they attended the Library of Congress National Book Festival. In November, she received the Library’s new gift catalog and began her holiday shopping. In December, Dolores read about the Library’s additions to the National Film Registry and decided to view some movies she hadn’t yet seen. With spring break looming, Dolores and her husband are planning to introduce their children to their nation’s capital. Like more than 1 million visitors annually, they put the Library of Congress at the top of their must-see list. Once there, they will take a tour of the historic Thomas Jefferson Building and view the Library’s current exhibitions. With their youngest in tow, they will visit the Library’s Young Readers Center to browse books he might enjoy.

Let’s call her Amira Jamal. As an undergraduate, Amira interned in the John W. Kluge Center, the Library’s residential research center. Working there sparked Amira’s interest in graduate study and a few years later Dr. Amira is back at the Kluge Center to complete her first book. While there, she discovers the Library’s Educational Outreach programs and alerts her brother to the summer institutes that train teachers in the classroom use of the Library’s online primary sources. She also locates material for her book on the World Digital Library and, because WDL operates in 7 languages, is able to share links with researchers in the Middle East and China. When Amira learns about the literacy awards that honor efforts to promote reading she mourns her illiterate grandmother but when she hears about the Library’s programs for distribution of braille and audio materials, Amira alerts an aunt who has begun to suffer from macular degeneration.

Both Dolores and Amira tell the story of the Library’s national and international outreach efforts. The three directorates that comprise the Library’s National and International Outreach service unit serve the American public and the world, both directly and indirectly.

National Programs promotes literacy and lifelong learning, and it creates partnerships to share digital strategies. Through a network of local libraries, it distributes reading material to those who cannot use traditional print. It oversees the preservation of sound and film material of national significance and administers two high-profile events—the National Book Festival and the Gershwin Prize for Popular Song.

National Enterprises delivers fee-based services to institutions and federal agencies. It develops and markets the Library’s cataloging records, operates the Library’s sales shop and provides duplication services. It supports federal libraries through training and consolidated procurement, provides customized research to federal agencies and publishes works that highlight the Library’s collections.

Scholarly and Educational Programs designs exhibitions to showcase Library collections and administers visitor services, special events and internships. It encourages use of the Library’s online primary sources in K–12 classrooms and serves scholars from around the world who conduct research using the Library’s collections.

Technology is making it possible for the Library to expand its outreach efforts both nationally and internationally, thereby providing access to its resources and services to an increasing number of people who turn to the world’s largest library as a knowledge provider for the 21st century.

Jane McAuliffe, director of National and International Outreach, previously directed the Library’s John W. Kluge Center and Office of Scholarly Programs.
exhibitions
AT THE LIBRARY

Out of the Ashes: A New Library for Congress and the Nation
Through May 2016

Here to Stay: The Legacy of George and Ira Gershwin
Ongoing

Exploring the Early Americas
Ongoing

MORE INFORMATION: loc.gov/exhibits/