



LIBRARY OF CONGRESS

General Photography and Video Guidelines for Visitors* to the Library of Congress

- **TIME LIMIT:** Photography/video sessions are limited to **not more than one hour, preferably avoiding the most active periods of 10:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Monday–Saturday.**
- **EQUIPMENT:** Specialized equipment (e.g. tripods, bipods, monopods, selfie sticks, lights) is only permitted with written permission from the Office of Communications (news@loc.gov or 202-707-2905). Permission to use equipment is not given for wedding and engagement photo shoots.
- **GROUP SIZE:** Group size is limited to 5 people, including the photographer or videographer.
- **RESTRICTIONS and PROHIBITIONS:**
 - Photography/video must not interfere with the movement of visitors or block ingress and egress areas, including stairs, landings, doorways, exhibitions, etc.
 - Photography/video is not permitted in restricted areas of Library buildings, including the reading rooms or areas not open to the public.
 - Photographer/videographer must comply with all signs designating areas where photography or flash are prohibited.
 - Staged photography/video is not permitted in the Main Reading Room overlook, on or near the stairways or landings, or in exhibition galleries.
 - Appropriate clothing and shoes are required. Changing facilities are not available.
 - Unsafe activities (e.g., running, dancing, skating, sliding down banisters) are prohibited.
- **PHOTOGRAPHING OTHERS:** Photographing/videotaping of visitors, staff and volunteers is not permitted without their written permission. Photographing/videotaping police or security areas is prohibited.
- **SECURITY CHECKS:** All camera equipment must go through the x-ray machine on entry. Bags will be checked upon departure. Bags and accessories must remain with owners at all times
- **EXTERIOR:** Photographing/videotaping exteriors of Library buildings must be requested through the U.S. Capitol Police (202-224-8891 or www.uscapitolpolice.gov/special_events.php).

Failure to comply with these guidelines or any directives from appropriate Library staff or U.S. Capitol Police can result in eviction from the premises.

*News media and commercial productions must contact the Office of Communications (news@loc.gov, 202-707-2905) for approval and permits.