

## INSIDE

### Saylor to Lead AFC

Nicole Saylor has been appointed the fourth director of the American Folklife Center, effective May 22.

**PAGE 3**



### Asian American Authors

The Asian Division kicked off Asian Pacific American Heritage Month with an event featuring Lao and Hmong American writers.

**PAGE 4**

### Q&A: Tracey Barton

The senior archives technician in the Manuscript Division discovered an unidentified treasure in the Charles and Ray Eames papers.

**PAGE 5**



### McCray-James Honored

Deanna McCray-James of the Office of Communications received a prestigious award for leadership and service.

**PAGE 6**



Paprika team members meet virtually; clockwise from top left: Muhibo Yusuf, Trevor Owens, Daniel Krech and Camille Salas.

Office of the Chief Information Officer

## New System Speeds Release of Thousands of Digital Titles

The platform represents an evolutionary leap in managing and serving digital content.

**BY MARK COOPER AND SAHAR KAZMI**

The modern Library of Congress is everywhere at once: a grand building on Capitol Hill, computers in homes across the world and even mobile devices in the palms of people's hands. As everyday users and veteran researchers alike increasingly search for information online, the Library is evolving into a new age of maturity in its digital collections practices.

Paprika, the Library's next-generation digital collections platform, is a case in point. Already, tens of thousands of general collections books are available on loc.gov thanks to the platform's processing power. Soon, tens of thousands

more digitized books will be added to loc.gov or, for those subject to rights restrictions, to Stacks.

Staff members from the Digital Collections Management and Services Division (DCMS) in the Library Collections and Services Group (LCSG) and the Office of the Chief Information Officer (OCIO) collaborated to develop the platform.

"Paprika was built on a modern, cloud-first design foundation," said IT specialist Daniel Krech, who worked closely on its development. "This allows us to meet crucial LCSG needs ... and quickly deliver on digital repository requirements."

DCMS' in-depth analysis of the

**PAPRIKA, CONTINUED ON 8**

---

## ALL-STAFF TOWN HALL

May 26

12:30 to 2:30 p.m., Coolidge Auditorium and Online

Librarian of Congress Carla Hayden will kick off a discussion of the Library's recently completed barrier analysis. It is a deep dive into the demographics of the Library to see whether they reflect those of the national civilian labor force and whether each group (by race, ethnicity gender and disability status) is able to reach the highest levels of leadership. The purpose of barrier analysis is to uncover, examine and remove barriers to equal participation at all levels of the workplace.

The town hall will be held in a hybrid format to allow both in-person and virtual participation. It will feature a detailed briefing about the [findings of the barrier analysis](#), which was shared earlier this spring with staff. There will also be time for questions from both in-person and virtual participants.

In-person attendance will be on a first-come, first-served basis, and staff must wear masks throughout the duration of the event.

A Zoom link will be sent out next week.

Questions? Send an email to [eeodp@loc.gov](mailto:eeodp@loc.gov).

---

## DONATED TIME

The following employees have satisfied eligibility requirements to receive leave donations from other staff members. Contact Amy McAllister at [amcallister@loc.gov](mailto:amcallister@loc.gov).

Christopher Arellano  
Lynette Brown

Michelle Dubert-Bellrichard  
Lan "Laney" Zhang

---

## VISIT THE LIBRARY'S ALA EXHIBIT

June 25-27

Walter E. Washington Convention Center

The American Library Association (ALA) is hosting its annual conference at the Walter E. Washington Convention Center in Washington, D.C., in June. The Library is an exhibitor at the conference, and staff and interns are invited to register for exhibit-only passes to the conference.

A pass will allow its holder to visit with exhibitors in person on June 25 and 26 from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. and on June 27 from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. The pass is limited to the exhibit area; it is not a conference registration. Those who already have a one-day or full-conference registration are ineligible for the exhibit pass.

To register for a pass, Library staff members must use their Library email addresses and [complete this form](#).

The deadline to register is June 15. The ALA will confirm registrations by email.

Questions? Send an email to [signatureprograms@loc.gov](mailto:signatureprograms@loc.gov).

---

## CHALLENGES OF A HYBRID WORKPLACE

May 26, 2 p.m.

Online

The [Women's Forum for Growth and Networking](#) invites staff to attend a virtual discussion about the challenges of employment in a hybrid workplace. Lisa Brown, employee assistance counselor; Kimberly Powell, chief of internship and fellowship programs; and Erika White, director of operations in the Librarian and Centers Administration office, will speak. All are welcome.

For updates, [join the forum's Listserv](#). Questions? Send an email to [womensforumboard@loc.gov](mailto:womensforumboard@loc.gov).

# GAZETTE

LIBRARY  
OF CONGRESS

[loc.gov/staff/gazette](http://loc.gov/staff/gazette)

**APRIL SLAYTON**  
Executive Editor

**MARK HARTSELL**  
Publications Editor

**WENDI A. MALONEY**  
Writer-Editor

**CONTRIBUTING EDITORS**  
Elaina Finkelstein, calendar  
Kia Campbell, Moving On  
Amy McAllister, donated leave

**PROOFREADER**  
George Thuronyi

**DESIGN AND PRODUCTION**  
Ashley Jones

### MISSION OF THE LIBRARY OF CONGRESS

The Library's central mission is to engage, inspire and inform Congress and the American people with a universal and enduring source of knowledge and creativity.

### ABOUT THE GAZETTE

An official publication of the Library of Congress, The Gazette encourages Library managers and staff to submit articles and photographs of general interest. Submissions will be edited to convey the most necessary information.

Back issues of The Gazette in print are available in the Communications Office, LM 143. Electronic archived issues and a color PDF file of the current issue are available online at [loc.gov/staff/gazette](http://loc.gov/staff/gazette).

### GAZETTE WELCOMES LETTERS FROM STAFF

Staff members are invited to use the Gazette for lively and thoughtful debate relevant to Library issues. Letters must be signed by the author, whose place of work and telephone extension should be included so we can verify authorship. If a letter calls for management response, an explanation of a policy or actions or clarification of fact, we will ask for management response.—Ed.

### Library of Congress Gazette

Washington, DC 20540-1620

**Editorial:** Mark Hartsell, 7-9194, [mhartsell@loc.gov](mailto:mhartsell@loc.gov),

or Wendi Maloney, 7-0979, [wmal@loc.gov](mailto:wmal@loc.gov)

**Design and production:** Ashley Jones, 7-9193,

[gaze@loc.gov](mailto:gaze@loc.gov)

ISSN 1049-8184

Printed by the Printing Management Section

### GAZETTE DEADLINES

The deadline for editorial copy for the June 3 Gazette is Wednesday, May 25.

Email editorial copy and letters to the editor to [mhartsell@loc.gov](mailto:mhartsell@loc.gov) and [wmal@loc.gov](mailto:wmal@loc.gov).

To promote events through the Library's online calendar ([www.loc.gov/loc/events](http://www.loc.gov/loc/events)) and the Gazette Calendar, email event and contact information to [calendar@loc.gov](mailto:calendar@loc.gov) by 9 a.m. Monday of the week of publication.

Boxed announcements should be submitted electronically (text files) by 9 a.m. Monday the week of publication to [mhartsell@loc.gov](mailto:mhartsell@loc.gov) and [wmal@loc.gov](mailto:wmal@loc.gov).

# Saylor to Lead American Folklife Center

Nicole “Nicki” Saylor has been appointed the fourth director of the American Folklife Center (AFC), effective May 22. Saylor succeeds Betsy Peterson, who retired in March.

Prior to her new role, Saylor served as chief of the Library’s Digital Innovation Lab, where she oversaw a team of innovation specialists who explore new technologies and creative ways to share the Library’s content and connect with researchers, artists and the public.

Since February, she has also served as acting director of the Digital Strategy Directorate, where she promoted digital transformation across the Library and worked to implement and update the Library’s digital strategy.

“Nicki brings a unique combination of expertise in AFC programs, collections, digital stewardship and the application of contemporary research methodology, which will be invaluable in moving AFC into the future,” Susan Vita, acting director of special collections, said. “I look forward to working with her.”

Saylor brings nearly 20 years of library and archives experience to the position, including her service as director of the Archive of Folk Culture at AFC from 2012 to 2021. In that position, she led a team of librarians and archivists responsible for curating the nation’s oldest and largest archive of ethnographic documentation, including folk songs, stories and other creative expressions of people from diverse communities.

“The center’s work of preserving and presenting stories, songs and living traditions from all over the world is more important than ever,” Saylor said. “The staff is so innovative and committed to the work. It’s a dream job, and I am excited!”

The Archive of Folk Culture spans the earliest field recordings made in the 1890s on wax cylinders to born-digital collections, such as StoryCorps, a large oral narra-



Shawn Miller

Nicole Saylor

tive project. As director of that archive, Saylor contributed to many high-profile AFC projects, including the establishment of Mellon-funded Community Collection Grants to support contemporary cultural field research within diverse communities; the ongoing integration of Veterans History Project archives into the AFC archives operations; and many AFC acquisitions, including the AIDS Memorial Quilt Archive.

As an archivist and digital librarian, Saylor has published and

presented on topics including mentorship, crowdsourcing, digital acquisitions and audiovisual preservation of ethnographic recordings. She has also built coalitions with the archival and research library community through participation in major projects, and she has engaged in conversations about responsible stewardship of Indigenous materials, intellectual and cultural property issues and ethical implications of applying contemporary research methods to Library collections.

Before joining the Library, Saylor served as head of digital research and publishing at the University of Iowa Libraries, where she led the development of digital collections and library publishing services. In that role, she also developed collaborations with faculty and students on the design and implementation of digital scholarly research projects.

Earlier, after earning a master’s degree in library and information studies and a certificate in folklore from the University of Wisconsin, Madison, Saylor worked in a public library and a regional humanities center devoted to the languages and cultures of the Upper Midwest. She has a bachelor’s degree in mass communication from Iowa State University.

For a decade prior to becoming a librarian, Saylor worked as an editor at the Kansas City Star and the Wisconsin State Journal. ■

## HCD SERVICES PORTAL

In the new hybrid workplace, the [Human Capital Directorate \(HCD\) services portal](#) is there to help. Ask questions of HCD professionals; submit documents related to benefits, retirement and payroll matters; and track requests.

**Your Employee Personal Page (EPP) is at  
[www.nfc.usda.gov/epps/](http://www.nfc.usda.gov/epps/)**



# Lao and Hmong American Authors Speak at Library

An Asian American and Pacific Islander Collection display accompanied the event.

BY RYAN WOLFSON-FORD

The Asian Division kicked off Asian Pacific American Heritage Month on May 2 with a unique literary event: Kao Kalia Yang, Bryan Thao Worra and Thavisouk Phrasavath, all nationally recognized authors, took part in panel on Lao and Hmong American writing. It was the first panel to explore the genre at the Library.

“The authors displayed rare talents for telling the stories of their communities in a profoundly humanizing way,” Dongfang Shao, chief of the division, said. “This is especially important because these communities are not well represented in the public consciousness even after nearly 50 years of U.S. immigration.”

The Library’s Asian American Association co-sponsored the virtual event, titled “Memory, Experience and Imagination in the Works of Lao and Hmong American Authors.”

Although Lao and Hmong Americans may not be as well known as other immigrant communities, their experiences are not unusual for newer Asian Americans. The families of all three authors, for example, fled Laos after the revolution that took place there in 1975, enduring years of living in hardship, deprivation and uncertainty as refugees before finally arriving in the U.S.

Once in America, their trials did not end as they faced often difficult and precarious circumstances, fueled by misunderstanding, cultural differences and language barriers as well as racism, crime and poverty.

It is not easy to distill this range



Asian Division

Bryan Thao Worra (from left), Kao Kalia Yang and Thavisouk Phrasavath headlined the Library’s first panel to explore Lao and Hmong American writing.

of lived experiences in one event, but Yang, Worra and Phrasavath touched on a variety of topics and experiences.

Yang, the author of memoirs, poetry and fiction, said she hopes her writing deepens people’s understanding, not only about her story but also about their own, about “what it means to be a human being, what it means to put your hand right up to the pulse of a greater humanity.”

“For my generation, ... there were nearly no books about [the Lao and Hmong] experience,” Worra, author of dozens of poetry collections, pointed out. Reading from his work, he cautioned, “One poem can’t tell my whole story.”

Phrasavath, a memoirist and filmmaker, said, “Sorry, I’m just choking up [about] all those incredible stories.” He called writing his “personal way of self-expression, self-healing and therapy.”

The event clearly moved those attending on Zoom. One person wrote, “Wow! What an amazing program with talented authors! This brings back all my memories and experiences as a young Lao refugee girl. Thank you.”

Another commented: “I wish I could stand up and cheer for you all. I am so thankful I stumbled on this event today. What a precious opportunity to join our lovely, talented panelists and have my thoughts and world expanded. Gratitude.”

The event was also a chance for the Asian Division to showcase its Asian American and Pacific Islander Collection, which contains 27 individual collections, including those of famous Asian Americans such as Carlos Bulosan and Jade Snow Wong. Items related specifically to the Lao and Hmong American experience included bilingual periodicals, language primers and religious texts. ■

## SIGN UP FOR JEMNS ALERTS

Staff are encouraged to download the Joint Emergency Mass Notification System (JEMNS) mobile app on their personal devices and register to receive text alerts. For instructions and more information, go to the [JEMNS frequently asked questions document](#).

Questions? Call (202) 707-8708 or send an email message to [epp@loc.gov](mailto:epp@loc.gov).

## QUESTION & ANSWER



Chris Spehr

### Tracey Barton

*Tracey Barton is a senior archives technician in the Manuscript Division.*

#### Tell us about your background.

I was born in Arlington, Virginia, and grew up in Falls Church. I was a creative kid who loved art, and my dream was to go to art school. Eventually, I did. I got my bachelor's degree in fine art from the Corcoran School of Art in Washington, D.C., but not before I began my long, gratifying 40-year relationship with the Library of Congress.

My family's connection to the Library goes back even further. My grandparents were from Endicott, New York, and moved to Washington, D.C., in 1930, where they lived just blocks from the Jefferson Building. My grandmother would tell me how she would stroll my aunt over in her baby buggy to read her hometown newspaper at the "Congressional Library." My grandfather took many pictures of his new town, and I have wonderful snapshots of the neighborhood, including one of him and his friends standing in a house on Second Street that once stood where the Madison Building sits today.

#### What brought you to the Library to work?

I was unsure about what I wanted to do after graduating from high

school, and a family friend, knowing how much I loved books, suggested I apply at the Library. That sounded like a great place for me while I figured out what I was really going to do.

In 1982, I got a job in the Jefferson Building stacks as a deck attendant. A year later, I was hired in the Newspaper Section of the Serials and Government Publications Division, where I worked for 22 years. Except for my first year, I've always worked on the first floor of the Madison Building.

In 2005, I had the great fortune to move to the Manuscript Division Preparation Section, where I work as an archives technician. My job consists of assisting in the sorting, arranging and describing of the personal papers of individuals and families, along with some organizational records, that focus on American history and culture. The collections tend to reflect topics of national significance.

It's an amazing place to work and has turned out to be the perfect fit for my love of history, beautiful correspondence, old photographs and other people's cool stuff!

#### What are some of your standout projects?

I have processed many incredible collections over the past 16 years. The highlight of my career, however, was assisting in the organization of the papers of 20th-century industrial designers Charles and Ray Eames. I love design, architecture and ephemera, so every day was a dream and a treasure hunt.

In fact, I found an unidentified

treasure in their papers: a large, mysterious drawing of a Madonna figure. After some detective work, I was able to identify its creator, renowned self-taught, Mexican artist Martín Ramírez. It had been hidden away in a box for possibly 50 years.

It was in rough shape when I found it, and Susan Peckham in the Conservation Division did an incredible job in restoring its beauty. In December 2013, it was unveiled to the public at the Library's "Celebration of Mexico" event, where it was displayed in the Jefferson Building for three months.

Today, it is housed in the Prints and Photographs Division. I'm very proud of my small part in the rediscovery of this beautiful artwork.

#### What do you enjoy doing outside work?

I love going to museums. My favorite is the National Gallery of Art, where I spend most Saturdays. I enjoy reading and collecting books on art and design. I also collect vintage postcards, primarily of Washington, D.C., and mid-20th-century architecture.

#### What is something your co-workers may not know about you?

In 1971, when I was 9, my dad and stepmom took me with them to see Elvis in Las Vegas at the International Hotel. My most vivid memories from that night were Elvis throwing teddy bears into the audience. Frank Gorshin, the Riddler from the Batman TV show, was the opening act. What an incredible experience! ■

**HELP CONNECT  
FORMER STAFF TO  
THE LIBRARY**

**LIBRARY OF CONGRESS  
ALUMNI NETWORK**

Share the link to the  
new Library of Congress  
Alumni Network

[www.loc.gov/alumni](http://www.loc.gov/alumni)

Questions or  
ideas? Contact  
[alumni@loc.gov](mailto:alumni@loc.gov)



# McCray-James Named Maryland Top 100 Woman

Deanna McCray-James of the Office of Communications accepted a 2022 Maryland Top 100 Women award at a ceremony on May 9 at the University of Maryland in College Park.

The award recognizes high-achieving Maryland women who are making a difference through leadership, community service and mentoring. More than 1,700 women have been presented with the honor over the years since its founding in 1996 by The Daily Record.

McCray-James was cited for her contributions to multiple organizations. Since 2015, she has mentored students participating in the Links Leadership Academy at Annapolis High School, and she is currently a member of the chapter's scholarship committee. An advocate for youth and children's wellness, McCray-James served as a voting member of the Montgomery County Citizen's Review Panel for Children between 2017 and 2021. Her community fundraising accomplishments include spearheading the raising of more than \$11,000 for the National Center for Children and Families in 2014 and \$7,000 for the Jack and Jill of America Foundation the same year.

In addition, as first vice president for service programs of the Rho Xi Omega chapter of the Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority Inc., between 2011 and 2015, McCray-James directed more than 300 chapter members to complete thousands of hours of service in the areas of childhood hunger, women's health, education, environmental sustainability and financial literacy.

At the Library, McCray-James worked with the director of communications to establish an internship program within the Communications Office. Since 2020, she has supervised the hiring and mentoring of four undergraduate students.



Courtesy of Deanna McCray-James

Deanna McCray-James

Maryland attorney Cylia E. Lowe-Smith, who has known McCray-James for 20 years, nominated her for the award. "In the time that we've known each other, I have watched her demonstrate leadership and a heart of service in a variety of roles throughout the state, with the simple expectation of leaving things better than she found them," Lowe-Smith wrote.

"It is an honor to be recognized as one of Maryland's 2022 Top 100 Women," McCray-James said. "As the saying goes, to whom much is given, much is required. I have achieved and accomplished so much in my life because of an amazing family and community support system that continues to pour into me. I am just trying to return what I have received to the universe and make a difference."

For more information about the award, visit the website of [The Daily Record](https://www.dailyrecord.com/top100women). ■

## 21 SATURDAY

**Concert:** The duo Flutronix performs new works for flute. 8 p.m., Coolidge Auditorium. Contact: [clmo@loc.gov](mailto:clmo@loc.gov).

## 23 MONDAY

**Webinar:** Library subject experts and researchers discuss the value of web archiving and uses for content collected and preserved by cultural heritage institutions. 6 p.m., [register](https://www.loc.gov/register). Contact: [abgr@loc.gov](mailto:abgr@loc.gov).

**Concert:** James Conlon and musicians from the Colburn School perform a virtual concert of music from the Ziering-Conlon Initiative for Recovered Voices. 8 p.m., [stream](https://www.loc.gov/stream). Contact: [clmo@loc.gov](mailto:clmo@loc.gov).

## 24 TUESDAY

**Concert:** Canada's ARC Ensemble presents a virtual program of chamber works by Paul Ben-Haim, Verdina Shlonsky and Franz Crzellitzer. 8 p.m., [stream](https://www.loc.gov/stream). Contact: [clmo@loc.gov](mailto:clmo@loc.gov).

## 25 WEDNESDAY

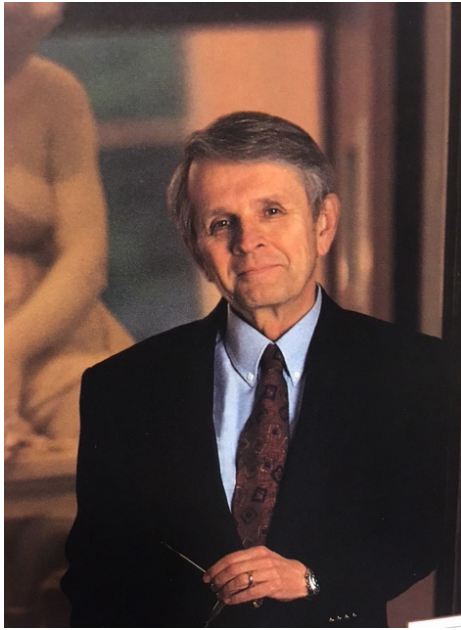
**Lecture:** Tanzanian-born novelist and Nobel Prize-winner Abdulrazak Gurnah participates in an interview in celebration of Africa Day. 7 p.m., [stream](https://www.loc.gov/stream). Contact: [adia@loc.gov](mailto:adia@loc.gov).

**Concert:** The Library's Holocaust-era Wanda Landowska Collection is the subject of a panel discussion accompanied by rarely heard performances of the composer's music. 7 p.m., Coolidge Auditorium. Contact: [clmo@loc.gov](mailto:clmo@loc.gov).

## 26 THURSDAY

**Live at the Library:** A program in honor of Memorial Day features live music from Operation Song, Veterans History Project workshops and more. 6 p.m., Great Hall. [Tickets required](https://www.loc.gov/tickets). Contact: 7-8000.

Request ADA accommodations for events five business days in advance at 7-6362 or [ADA@loc.gov](mailto:ADA@loc.gov).



## Peter G. Sparks

Peter Grant Sparks, former director of preservation at the Library, passed away peacefully at home in Wilmington, Delaware, on March 16. He was 85.

Born in Philadelphia, he attended Frankford High School and graduated from the University of Pennsylvania in 1961 with a bachelor's degree in physical chemistry. He earned a Ph.D. in the field from the university in 1968 and did postdoctoral work as a research fellow in applied physics at Cornell University.

In 1969, Sparks joined the faculty of the University of Delaware, where he taught art conservation and chemistry. In 1974, he became the first director of the joint University of Delaware-Winterthur Museum graduate program in art conservation, helping to shape its curriculum and guiding it through its first years.

In 1981, he moved to Washington, D.C., to become director for preservation at the Library. Here, he coordinated Librarywide activities relating to conservation of library books and materials through microfilming, binding, research and testing and management of the National Preservation Program. It played a significant role in promoting good practices in preservation

and in developing the grant-making programs that support libraries nationwide to this day.

“Peter Sparks was a formative leader in the Library’s preservation efforts,” Jacob Nadal, the Library’s current director for preservation, said. “His aspirations for a National Preservation Program and his attention to the relationship between conservation, science and large-scale preservation shaped the way we care for collections today.”

In 1989, Sparks returned to the Philadelphia area to work with the Preservation Services Office of the Conservation Center for Art and Historic Artifacts as a consultant to university libraries, museums, archives and historical societies.

Sparks later spent 12 years in Arizona near Scottsdale, where he taught chemistry labs for several years at Arizona State University. In 2012, he settled in Wilmington.

A veteran of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Sparks was a member of Sigma Alpha Epsilon at Penn, the American Institute of Conservation and the International Institute of Conservation. He was a past president of the board of the Conservation Center for Art and Historic Artifacts and a past editor of the *Journal of the American Institute of Conservation*.

In his private life, Sparks collected period furniture and artifacts; restored antique automobiles; and enjoyed cruising with his family on the Chesapeake Bay in his boat, Egg Harbor.

Sparks is survived by his wife of 32 years, Margaret Holley of Wilmington; his former wife, Bonnie Murray of Wilmington; his daughter, Catherine Sparks of West Grove, Pennsylvania; his son, Gavin Sparks of Middletown, Delaware; and his grandchildren and nieces. ■

## POLISH DELEGATION VISITS



Piotr Gliński, deputy prime minister of Poland and minister of culture and national heritage, visited the Library on May 3 during a working visit to the U.S. With members of his delegation and Library staff, Gliński (right) viewed historical documents, including the 1791 Polish Constitution and a 1937 directory from Warsaw that contained his grandfather’s name.

María Peña



## PAPRIKA, CONTINUED FROM 1

challenges of ingesting, storing and serving the Library's wide range of digital content informed Paprika's design, and each component of the modernized system was carefully developed to meet the Library's unique needs for digital content management today and into the future.

In particular, Paprika's foundation in the cloud offers automation capabilities that facilitate collection management at a very large scale, while simultaneously protecting and improving the data integrity of the Library's digital collections.

Paprika's cloud environment enables its streamlined "content-addressable storage" data management infrastructure, a central component of the platform. Content-addressable storage allows for all preservation copies of content to be tracked and managed through an authoritative system, while significantly increasing the efficiency of content storage, retrieval and validation.

Every edit, content change or other routine action taken on a digital item is recorded and time-stamped within Paprika, and automated alerts signal when ingest errors or other processing issues occur.

"Transparency is essential to Paprika. Our goal in developing this platform was to automate and add visibility to everything we could, putting as much control as possible in the hands of the experts in DCMS," IT specialist Muhibo Yusuf said.

Working under an agile development methodology to incrementally build new features for Paprika, DCMS and OCIO's IT design and development specialists met weekly to set development priorities and discuss enhancements for the tool, and they were in constant communication about changes through email and chat.

"DCMS could report a bug with the platform on a Monday, and we'd be able to deploy a fix by Tuesday," Krech said. "Speed of change

was one of the great advantages of the continuous integration and continuous deployment process we used to collaborate on building and improving Paprika."

The team designed and developed Paprika's foundations and infrastructure throughout 2020 and 2021. As part of this collaboration, DCMS leveraged the system's automation capabilities to ingest a massive initial set of data, over 80 terabytes that included more than 170,000 Library holdings – containing over 45 million pages – digitized from 2008 to 2020. While many of these items had previously been hosted by the Internet Archive, less than 10% had been available on loc.gov.

Starting with an initial release of 100 titles in March 2022, DCMS staff quickly refined its routine workflows to review and release even more books to loc.gov and Stacks. It became immediately and measurably clear how Paprika offers an evolutionary leap in the management and availability of digital content at the Library.

After steadily scaling up and collaborating with OCIO to test all aspects of the system, DCMS was able to make tens of thousands of titles, all with searchable full-text optical character recognition, available to users through Paprika's highly automated processes in the course of just a few weeks.

Paprika's automation, batch processing capacities and interfaces with loc.gov and Stacks are now enabling DCMS to release digital content more quickly and efficiently than ever before, bringing this vast sample of the Library's

collection to users while also allowing for connections to emerge within and between these works and other materials on loc.gov.

Selected for digitization in consultation with Library curators and specialists, the 170,000 titles being made available include content not known to be accessible online anywhere else. This concentration represents a fascinating cross-section of publications from the 19th and early 20th centuries, including many singular treasures available only from the Library.

As they are released, these books will join the Library's [Selected Digitized Books collection](#). It has grown quickly from a subset of only around 12,000 of these titles to more than 40,000 and will soon expand to include the entire collection.

The books released so far represent a smorgasbord of knowledge, including history, biography, speeches, poetry and literature [featuring subjects](#) as diverse as astronomy, cooking, travel, penmanship, spiritualism and beekeeping.

"I'm really excited to see the depth and quality of collaboration between teams across OCIO and LCSG," Trevor Owens, head of the Digital Content Management Section, said. "While there is more to do for Paprika to become a fully realized general purpose digital repository environment, the successes realized so far are a powerful demonstration of what the future of this collaboration can bring about." ■

---

## VACCINATION STATUS APPLICATION UPDATED

The Human Capital Directorate (HCD) announced that the Library's application to certify vaccinations has been updated to display any previously entered booster data. Staff whose vaccination status has changed (as a result of receiving a second booster dose, for example) should visit the [HCD portal](#) and enter the new details using the COVID-19 certification of vaccination link.

The Library encourages all fully vaccinated employees to receive a vaccination booster as soon as they are eligible.

Questions? Submit them to [AskHCD](#).