

## INSIDE



### Connecting with Teachers

The Professional Learning and Outreach Initiatives office piloted online open houses this summer to acquaint teachers with Library resources.

PAGE 3

### America at 250

The Library hosted a signing ceremony on Monday to mark the launch of a multiagency collaboration to celebrate the 250th anniversary of American independence.

PAGE 4

### COVID Guidance Updated

The Library has updated its health and safety protocols to prevent the spread of COVID-19, including the highly contagious delta variant.

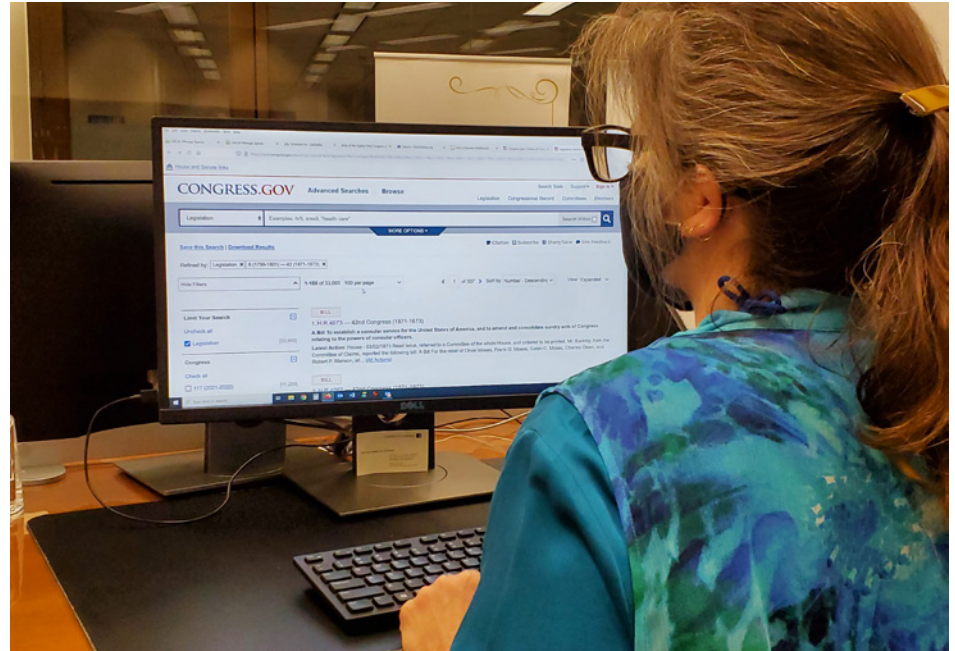
PAGE 4



### Q&A: Nicole Saylor

The recently appointed chief of LC Labs discusses how her professional experiences at the American Folklife Center and elsewhere will help her advance digital innovation at the Library.

PAGE 5



Barbara Bavis

From the Law Library Reading Room, Ann Hemmens, a senior legal reference librarian, works with bills migrated from “Century of Lawmaking” to Congress.gov.

## Library Adds ‘A Century of Lawmaking’ to Congress.gov

The update increases access to bills and resolutions dating from 1799.

BY LEAH KNOBEL

Exactly a month ago, for the first time, tens of thousands of U.S. bills and resolutions dating back to the days of printing presses and the telegraph became a simple search away. On July 6, the Library transitioned over 33,000 pieces of legislation drafted by Congress between 1799 and 1873 from a legacy site to [Congress.gov](https://www.congress.gov).

The documents’ launch on the modern, user-friendly platform offers citizens and researchers alike ease of insight into events from the nation’s most formative years.

“When the Founding Fathers wrote

into the Constitution that Congress must keep and publish records of its proceedings, none of them could have imagined a day when all those records could fit in the palm of your hand,” Jim Karmanis, director of IT design and development, said.

Staff in the Office of the Chief Information Officer, the Congressional Research Service (CRS) and the Law Library all contributed to the transition.

The migrated files came from the Library’s “Century of Lawmaking for a New Nation” collection, a premier source of historical legal

# NOTICES

## DONATED TIME

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

Lynette Brown  
Tiffany Corley Harkins  
Stephanie Jefferson

Linda Malone  
Kenneth Mitchell

## LAST CALL: HELP NAME NEW GIVING PROGRAM

This fall, the Library will launch a giving program inviting donors at all levels to become a vital part of the Library community. The Development Office wants your help naming this group of committed supporters.

Learn more and submit your ideas [here](#).

Questions? Contact Lora Sodini at [lsodini@loc.gov](mailto:lsodini@loc.gov).

## APPLICATIONS INVITED: CAREER DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM

The Human Capital Directorate is accepting registrations for the virtual fall session of the Library's Career Development Program (CDP). Fourteen sessions will be offered weekly on Thursdays from Sept. 2 to Dec. 16. The deadline to apply is Aug. 16 at 4:30 p.m.

The award-winning program offers an opportunity for eligible Library staff members in permanent, indefinite or temporary positions in pay plans GS/WG/WL/WS and grades 2 through 9 to enhance their professional development and leadership skills and their knowledge of the Library's service units, major programs and initiatives. (Indefinite or temporary employees' not-to-exceed date must be on or after Dec. 24, 2022.) Participants will attend workshops, receive virtual guided tours of Library service units and work with colleagues from across the Library.

To register, applicants must obtain the approval of their supervisors to participate and submit a digital copy of the completed registration form to Susan Mordan-White at [smordan@loc.gov](mailto:smordan@loc.gov) by the deadline.

For more information and to register, [visit the CDP's webpage](#).

Limited Time Only  
**CASH BACK**  
ON ALL AUTO LOANS  
NEW/USED – BUY/REFI\*  
• Up to **\$500 Cash Back\***  
• All auto loans as low as **1.99%<sup>APR\*</sup>**  
Hurry—**CONTACT US & APPLY** or **ONLINE, ANYTIME!**

**LIBRARY OF CONGRESS**  
FEDERAL CREDIT UNION  
Better BANKING for Less

**LCFCU.org**  
**202-707-5852**

**TRUECar**  
LCFCU.TRUECar.com

\*APR = Annual Percentage Rate subject to change without notice. 1% of amount financed, up to \$500 max. Cash Back offer only applies to new/used vehicle financing or refinanced vehicle loans from other lenders & does not apply to any other LCFCU loan product. Existing LCFCU loans NOT ELIGIBLE. \$10,000 min. loan amount required. Limited time only & may be withdrawn without notice. Other restrictions may apply.

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

# 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**  
Deanna McCray-James, calendar  
Kia Campbell, Moving On  
Lisa Davis, 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 Aug. 20 Gazette is Wednesday, Aug. 11.

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).



# Open Houses Connect Educators with Library

BY KALEENA BLACK AND DANNA BELL

For more than two decades, teachers from across the country set aside time during summer breaks to come to the Library. Guided by the Library’s educational outreach staff, they brainstormed ways to engage students back home using Library collections.

It wasn’t possible to host the popular Summer Teacher Institute on-site this year because of the pandemic (nor was it last year). But this summer, an important part of the institute experience has been available – albeit in an adapted format.

The Professional Learning and Outreach Initiatives (PLOI) office piloted online open houses for educators on June 30 and Aug. 4. Through them, Library specialists acquainted teachers with Library resources appropriate for students across grade levels and subjects – as they typically do during summer institutes. Instead of greeting teachers in person, however, specialists reached out virtually.

“I came from this with several great ideas for my classroom,” one teacher said after the June 30 open house. Wrote another: “Very unique and a great selection of topics to choose from. It was really neat to have access to LOC staff.”

Materials from both open houses remain accessible on the [Library’s website](#).

Online programming has been a part of PLOI’s operations for years. The open houses are just the most recent example of PLOI’s expanded programming to accommodate the realities of the pandemic.

“The PLOI team has seized emerging opportunities and used its extensive programming experience to expand virtual offerings and develop new programs,” Lee Ann Potter, director of PLOI, said.

Since the pandemic, PLOI has introduced online office hours, teacher professional development

webinars and a “Double Take” webinar series in which Prints and Photographs Division (P&P) staff lead participants in exploring images. Through these programs, in addition to joint programming with partners like the National Council for Teachers of English, PLOI has reached over 6,000 educators in the past 14 months.

Furthermore, PLOI recently produced a guide to planning and executing online professional learning events that was shared with members of the Library’s Standing Events Committee.

For this year’s open houses, PLOI partnered with nearly two dozen Library offices to create a virtual space that invites educators from anywhere to engage with Library experts. The first open house featured specialists from the American Folklife Center; By the People; the Children’s Literature Center; LC Labs; the National Library Service for the Blind and Print Disabled; and four Library divisions: Manuscript; Rare Book and Special Collections; Science, Technology and Business (ST&B); and Serial and Government Publications.

Given many educators’ familiarity with Zoom, the PLOI team leveraged Zoom breakout rooms to simulate an open-house environment that was informal but focused and encouraged participants to explore widely, even into unfamiliar subjects.

To that end, each Library unit was assigned a breakout room, where staff experts delivered brief presentations and answered questions. With a four-round rotation



Courtesy of Kaleena Black

**Working remotely, Kaleena Black facilitates an online event for educators.**

schedule, participants were able to attend multiple presentations over the course of the event.

Approximately 140 individuals (including presenters) participated in the first event; 149 took part in the second, which featured staff experts from Library units including the U.S. Copyright Office, the Law Library, the Preservation Directorate, the Veterans History Project, the American Archive of Public Broadcasting, the Poetry and Literature Center and seven divisions: African and Middle Eastern; Asian; Geography and Map; Hispanic; Performing Arts; P&P; and ST&B.

“I had no idea there were so many specialty departments in the Library,” one participant observed. Another summed up: “It was ... as if I made a trip around the Library of Congress.” ■

## HCD SERVICES PORTAL

During this period of remote work, the Human Capital Directorate (HCD) services portal (<https://bit.ly/31fqIKw>) is there to help. Ask questions of HCD professionals; submit documents related to benefits, retirement and payroll matters; and track requests.

## HAVING TECHNICAL ISSUES?

The Office of the Chief Information Officer’s service desk is staffed around the clock with technicians ready to help. Contact [ocioservicedesk@loc.gov](mailto:ocioservicedesk@loc.gov) or (202) 707-7727.

# Library Prepares to Celebrate America's 250th

The Library hosted an official signing ceremony in the Great Hall on Monday to mark the launch of a multiagency collaboration to celebrate the 250th anniversary of American independence, to occur in 2026.

Twenty federal agencies, including the Library, and the organization America250 signed a memorandum of understanding agreeing to cooperate in a multiyear effort to plan programs and activities that draw on the knowledge and historical assets available at some of the country's leading cultural institutions. America250 is officially designated by the U.S. Semiquincentennial Commission to honor the milestone.

Librarian of Congress Carla Hayden said the memorandum "will provide a strong foundation for the most inclusive celebration in our nation's history." Over the next five years, the Library will highlight the American experience by "opening the Library's treasure chest of collection items for the American people to discover, launching new programs across the Library, unveiling a brand-new visitor experience and much, much more," she said.

The [congressional legislation](#) that created the Semiquincentennial Commission states that federal agencies "shall cooperate with the Commission in planning, encouraging, developing, and coordinating appropriate commemorative activities."

America250 federal partners are the Department of the Interior, the Department of Justice, the Department of State, the Institute of Museum and Library Services, the Library of Congress, the National Archives and Records Administration, the National Endowment for the Arts, the National Endowment for the Humanities, the Smithsonian Institution, the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation, the American Battle Monuments Commission, the Corporation for National and Community Service, the Defense Nuclear Facilities Safety Board,



Shawn Miller

Librarian of Congress Carla Hayden signs the America250 memorandum of understanding on behalf of the Library on July 2.

the Federal Mediation and Conciliation Services, the Railroad Retirement Board, the U.S. African Development Foundation, the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission, the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, the U.S. Office of Government Ethics and the U.S. Trade and Development Agency.

The commemoration period began in 2020, culminates on July 4, 2026, and officially concludes in 2027. For more information, visit [www.america250.org](http://www.america250.org). ■

## Library Updates COVID-19 Guidance for Staff

The Library continues to welcome researchers and visitors while maintaining strict protocols that adhere to the latest guidance from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention on stopping the spread of COVID-19, including the delta variant.

Everyone in Library buildings is now required to wear a mask in public spaces and when other people are present, regardless of vaccination status. Employees must also conduct self-assessments using the [Daily Health Screening Tool](#) and stay away from Library buildings when they are experiencing symp-

toms of COVID-19. Researchers and visitors must complete similar self-assessments.

In addition, physical distance of 6 feet or more is required, regardless of vaccination status, and the Library continues to limit on-site work, modify workspaces to provide extra protection as needed and provide enhanced cleaning.

The Library strongly encourages all employees to get the COVID-19 vaccine unless they are unable to do so. Through Sept. 30, the Library will continue to authorize employees to use up to [four hours of paid administrative leave](#) to

receive one dose of a COVID-19 vaccine. For vaccines requiring two doses, employees can use up to eight hours of paid administrative leave, not more than four hours per dose.

Following President Biden's announcement last week regarding vaccination and testing of federal employees and on-site contractors, the Library expects to review more detailed guidance on implementation from the [Safer Federal Workforce Task Force](#) when it is available and will provide updates to Library employees at that point. ■



## QUESTION & ANSWER



Stephen Winick

### Nicole Saylor

*Nicole Saylor was recently appointed chief of the Digital Innovation Division, or LC Labs, a new position within the Digital Strategy Directorate of the Office of the Chief Information Officer.*

#### **Tell us about your background.**

Just prior to my new position in the Digital Strategy Directorate, I spent more than eight years leading the American Folklife Center (AFC) archives, where a dedicated staff acquires, preserves, describes and makes accessible the nation's oldest and largest ethnographic archives.

Before that, I was head of digital research and publishing at the University of Iowa libraries, where we expanded a digital library, created a digital repository and e-publishing services and supported digital scholarship through experimental projects ranging from 3D scanning to in-line video transcriptions at a time when the underlying technologies for such work were not robust. In addition, we created a popular public crowdsourcing program that began as a low-tech experiment to invite the public to

transcribe Civil War diaries and letters.

I have also worked in a public library, a regional humanities center devoted to the languages and cultures of the Upper Midwest and as a journalist at metropolitan newspapers in the Midwest.

I have a master's degree in library and information science from the University of Wisconsin-Madison.

#### **How will your experience in AFC inform your work with LC Labs?**

AFC has a long history of innovation and embracing new technologies. Robert Winslow Gordon, the founding head of the archives (then called the Archive of Folk Song), was capturing folk songs on the "new media" of the early 20th century – wax cylinders – while his fellow ballad scholars were merely documenting folk songs on paper. Folklorist Alan Lomax, the most famous former head of the archives, experimented with computational analysis of world music and dance styles using punch cards in the 1960s. AFC's California Gold collection of field recordings, documenting 1930s folk music from Northern California, was among the Library's first digital collections, going online in 1997.

AFC's director, Betsy Peterson, hired me in December 2012 with a mandate to digitally transform the archives. During my tenure, AFC collaborated closely with Library technologists to innovate on projects that advanced AFC's goals in many areas, including born-digital preservation and inclusive description.

In partnership with StoryCorps, a nonprofit that collects personal narratives and donates them to AFC, we developed a way to automate the ingest of tens of thousands of recordings generated through StoryCorps' mobile app. We also collaborated with tribal communities and anthropologists to pilot implementation on [loc.gov](http://loc.gov) of traditional knowledge labels that denote tribal preferences for use of digital collections. That effort was part of a larger preservation and access project that led

to language revitalization among Passamaquoddy tribal members. It also enabled the Library to include community perspective into its descriptive records.

Day to day, AFC archivists delight in finding innovative approaches to accelerate and add rigor to their work, whether it's appraising born-digital content or handling community-generated metadata. This is all to say that I come from a culture that values innovation. We also know well the challenges and rewards of implementing new technologies and approaches at the Library.

#### **What are your goals for LC Labs?**

After just a few weeks on the job, I am blown away by the breadth and complexity of Labs' experimentation related to machine learning, cloud computing, public engagement with digital collections and much more. The far-reaching implications of these experiments on expanding the Library's reach while enhancing its offerings is significant. The team has a great reputation and much demonstrated success toward making experimentation a core Library practice.

In addition to continuing that momentum, I want to help make explicit how experiments are prioritized, moved into production or retired. I want to champion the impact of experimentation so experiments are widely recognized as central to the Library's problem-solving and decision-making.

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

I grew up on a farm in Iowa where we always had a large vegetable garden. As an adult, I've only lived in urban places, but I always make a point of having a garden plot. I even used to host gatherings to teach my urban pals how to can vegetables, and everyone would leave with a jar of salsa. I belong to a community garden in D.C. where I grow tomatoes, green beans, peppers and various greens and herbs. I'm not sure what this says about me, but I really like pulling weeds and eating homegrown tomatoes. ■

## CONGRESS.GOV, CONTINUED FROM 1

documentation since it was first released online in 1998. Subsequent migrations from the site will occur in upcoming years.

Transition to [Congress.gov](https://www.congress.gov) makes it much easier for researchers to locate what they need in the migrated data. On the old site, users could not search by bill or legislation number as they can on [Congress.gov](https://www.congress.gov). Moreover, they can now download legislation in PDF format, enabling text searches.

“The migration makes this important, historic collection of bills and resolutions that tell the story of the first century of the American experiment easily accessible,” Margaret Wood, a reference librarian in the Law Library, said.

Integration of legislative data from “Century of Lawmaking” into [Congress.gov](https://www.congress.gov) makes for a natural fit – the platform was designed to be a single, authoritative source for official U.S. legislative information. With the exception of the 12th Congress (about which more below), the bills and resolutions migrated cover the sixth to the 42nd Congresses, shedding light on lawmakers’ approach to such historically defining moments in American history as the Louisiana Purchase and the Civil War and Reconstruction.

The [first bill from the eighth Congress](#) (1803–05), for example, relates to the Louisiana Purchase of 1803. It was introduced as “an act to enable the President of the United States to take possession of the territories ceded by France to the United States, by the treaty concluded at Paris on the thirtieth of April last, and for the temporary government thereof.”

In preparing for the migration, Wood and her colleagues came across several bills that piqued their interest as Library staff members. For example, one from the 29th Congress in 1847 ([H.R.627](#)) and another from the 30th in 1848 ([S.278](#)) proposed the purchase and publication of Thomas Jefferson’s papers and manuscripts.

The Library bought Jefferson’s personal library in 1815 following the burning of the Capitol in 1814. A little more than 20 years after his death in 1826, the House proposed authorizing the purchase and publication of his papers and manuscripts, while the Senate proposed granting \$25,000 for the purchase from his grandson and executor, Thomas Jefferson Randolph. The papers were to be deposited with the Department of State, while the Joint Committee on the Library of Congress was to be given \$6,000 to oversee the publication of the papers as appropriate.

The Library did eventually procure Jefferson’s papers but not as a result of either piece of legislation – neither passed through its respective chamber. But researching them served a useful purpose.

“My colleagues and I had fun searching for legislation in the [Congress.gov](https://www.congress.gov) test environment,” Wood said. “It made it all the more clear how much more flexible and user-friendly the [Congress.gov](https://www.congress.gov) system is compared to the ‘Century of Lawmaking’ site.”

Migrated records from “Century” join existing congressional data on [Congress.gov](https://www.congress.gov) beginning in the mid-20th century. To search the recently migrated legislation, click the “Advanced Searches” tab and search according to a session of Congress by entering the legislation number or title.

Subsequent migrations over the next two years from “Century” will include other historical documents, “Journals of the Continental Congress” among them. It includes communications on measures such as a 1774 petition to King George III and a commission to privateers in 1780.

Further migrations will involve the records of the daily proceedings of the first and second Continental Congresses, records from the Constitutional Convention and state constitutional ratification debates. Some of these materials will be migrated to [Congress.gov](https://www.congress.gov), while others will be housed in the Library’s digital collections.

So, why were bills and resolutions from the 12th Congress (1811–13) unavailable for migration? It’s because they are missing altogether. Library staff suspect they were being printed at the time the Capitol was burned. Not all is lost, however: Laws passed by the 12th Congress are available in the [United States Statutes at Large](#).

In other [Congress.gov](https://www.congress.gov) news, an update this week added historical congressional material separate from “Century of Lawmaking,” including the Congressional Record Bound from 1925. The Congressional Record documents the daily proceedings of a session of Congress. At the end of each session, the daily editions are collected into a permanent, bound edition.

Other recent updates to [Congress.gov](https://www.congress.gov) have included new usability features, including a new citation tool, a “find your member” search bar, enhanced search options and improvements to the congressional committee schedule.

[Congress.gov](https://www.congress.gov) is presented by the Library using data from the Office of the Clerk of the U.S. House of Representatives, the Office of the Secretary of the Senate, the Government Publishing Office, the Congressional Budget Office and CRS.

*Read about when [Congress.gov](https://www.congress.gov) became the [single source for legislative data](#). ■*

---

## OIG WOULD LIKE TO KNOW

Report suspected illegal activities, waste, fraud, abuse and mismanagement in Library of Congress administration and operations to the Office of the Inspector General (OIG). A link to all Library regulations is available on the [staff intranet](#).

To make a report, contact OIG via the [online form](#) or report anonymously by mail to 101 Independence Ave., S.E., LM 630, Washington, D.C., 20540-1060.