Copyright Records Launched
As part of a multiyear digitization project, the Copyright Office has released the first 500 record books from its historical record books collection online.

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Q&A: Ellen Terrell
The business reference specialist recounts her path to librarianship, recent standout projects and her passion for London.

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At Library, Justice Breyer Reflects on His Career
In difficult times, the rule of law keeps us together as a country, he said.

BY MARIA PEÑA

In the Coolidge Auditorium last Thursday, retiring Associate Justice Stephen Breyer urged young people to participate fully in U.S. democracy. “There are a thousand different ways” to do so, he said, including voting and pursuing public life. He shared that advice as he made the case that the Constitution is what keeps the nation together.

During a conversation with 2022 Supreme Court fellows, the Supreme Court justice discussed his time on the bench, the ways he approaches cases and the need to foster dialogue as the country faces a “difficult time.”

This was Breyer’s first public appearance since announcing his retirement in January at the White House. The Law Library of Congress and the Supreme Court Fellows Program co-sponsored the annual lecture. Jeffrey P. Minear, executive director of the fellows program and counselor to the chief justice, moderated.

Holding up a copy of the Constitution, Breyer emphasized that he likes to address high school and college students to encourage them to participate in the democratic process.

“I can tell you one thing from my experience, I think John Adams
KLUGE STAFF FELLOWSHIP APPLICATIONS INVITED
The John W. Kluge Center staff fellowship annually provides up to two qualified Library staff members with the chance to conduct independent research using the Library’s resources. Fellows join influential senior scholars and promising national and international postdoctoral researchers in residency at the center. The application deadline is April 1.
For information about eligibility, the terms of the appointment, topics that can be researched and application requirements, visit the fellowship webpage. Questions? Contact Michael Stratmoen at mist@loc.gov

NEW VIRTUAL SERIES LAUNCHES
The Rare Book and Special Collections Division is delighted to announce the launch of a new virtual series, From the Vaults. The series features division staff and invited guests discussing everything from crystal-gazing experiments in the Harry Houdini Collection to modern art treasures and fine bindings in the newly donated Aramont Library – and everything in between.
Access the series on the Library’s website and YouTube. Questions? Contact Stephanie Stillo at ssti@loc.gov

CAREER DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM
Applications are now being accepted for the virtual spring session of the Library’s Career Development Program (CDP). Fourteen sessions will be offered weekly on Thursdays from March 17 to June 23. The deadline to apply has been extended to March 1 at 4:30 p.m.
The program allows 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.
Applicants must obtain the approval of their supervisors to participate and submit a digital copy of the completed registration form to Susan Moradian-White at smordan@loc.gov by the deadline.
For more information and to apply, visit the CDP intranet site.

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Historical Copyright Record Books Digitized

The first 500 record books in the digitized Copyright Historical Record Books Collection are now available online. This collection is a preview of digitized historical record books that the Copyright Office plans to add to its Copyright Public Records System, currently in public pilot.

This first release is part of a multiyear digitization project and includes applications for books registered with the office from 1969 to 1977, with a majority being from 1975 to 1977. The office is prioritizing records that are still under copyright protection, and the collection is being digitized in reverse chronological order. Periodic updates will be made to the online collection as the record books are digitized.

The entire Historical Record Books Collection includes 26,278 bound volumes (over 26 million pages) of registration, renewal, assignment, notice of use of musical compositions and patent records from 1870 to 1977.

The project is part of a larger initiative within the Copyright Office to digitize and provide access to public records not previously available online. Through digitization, the office is also preserving important historical and cultural records for future research.

To find a specific registration record in the online collection, users will need to find the record book volume with the corresponding class and year. If the user knows, for example, the registration number of the work sought, the range of numbers located in each volume can be found in the collection item title.

The documents within the historical record books are also indexed in the Copyright Card Catalog and available online in the office’s Virtual Card Catalog. In addition, limited groups are listed in the Catalog of Copyright Entries.

Going forward, the office plans to develop metadata to allow users to search by fields such as registration number, title and claimant in the Copyright Public Records System.

For more information about searching for copyright records, visit the Copyright Public Records Portal and view the office’s Aug. 31 update on its Historical Public Records Program.

AN ODE TO BLACK HAIR BRAIDING

On the Copyright Office’s blog last week, public affairs specialist Ashley Tucker recounts how Black hair braiding is a form of artistic expression with a history dating to the 1500s. In this photo, Tucker is crowned in knotless braids styled by Dan McDonald.
Library Volunteers Conclude Service at Vaccine Clinic

Their dedication facilitated the clinic’s smooth operation.

**BY WENDI A. MALONEY**

Above and beyond. That’s how Principal Deputy Librarian of Congress Mark Sweeney describes the efforts of Library staff volunteers who supported the Office of the Attending Physician’s (OAP) COVID-19 vaccine clinic. One group assisted the clinic between January and July 2021; a second helped out from October 2021 until earlier this month. The attending physician is Congress’ chief doctor.

“To say your performance and dedication have earned grateful praise and admiration is an understatement,” Dr. Sandra Charles, chief of the Health Services Division (HSD), wrote to volunteers on Feb. 10. “The Library’s reputation has been burnished by your outstanding contributions and professionalism.”

The Library’s support of the clinic began shortly after the government allocated a supply of vaccines to Congress. The OAP requested assistance, and the Library responded within days with a team of volunteers selected for their customer service skills.

Between four and six staffers worked four- and eight-hour shifts at the clinic daily between 8 a.m. and 4:30 p.m., scheduling hundreds of appointments each day by phone, registering arriving patients, completing vaccine cards and generally managing clinic flow. They also observed patients after vaccination and alerted OAP staff of any issues.

“All of that was done pretty much exclusively by Library employees,” Shannon Gorrell, senior clinical manager in HSD, said. She handled scheduling of volunteers at the clinic and, with HSD colleagues Katherine Boyle, Arlene Klauber, Joseph Nadzady and Amanda Schmitt, administered injections.

The Library group integrated seamlessly with OAP staff, Gorrell said, forming one efficient team. “For patients, the longest part of the process was the 15-minute wait after receiving a shot.”

The OAP’s chief of staff described Library volunteers as “embarrassingly good” and “rock stars.”

Located in the Rayburn House Office Building, the vaccination program focused first on members of Congress, congressional staff and others on Capitol Hill meeting certain criteria, then expanded to the entire Capitol campus, including employees of the Architect of the Capitol’s office, the U.S. Capitol Police, the Supreme Court and the Library.

The first group of volunteers, including some who have since departed the Library, were Jewel Baldwin, Shawn Barringer, Vega Bharadwaj, DeCarlos Boyd, Bailey Cahall, Kia Campbell, Luis Clavell, Malinda Goodrich, Bridey Heing, Paul Krzych, Cheryl Loewe, Susan Mendez, Patrick Miller, Daisy Barrett McQueen, Ramon Miro, Jamie Santos and Elizabeth White.

These volunteers received a group award from the Library last spring. “Their efforts and dedication have facilitated tens of thousands of legislative branch workers getting vaccinated against COVID-19, ensuring the vital work of Congress, the Supreme Court, the U.S. Capitol Police and the Library can continue,” the award nomination read.

By summer 2021, many on Capitol Hill had been vaccinated, and the Library’s support was no longer needed. But OAP asked for assistance again in the fall when boosters became available, and the Library again responded. Linda Conaway, on detail to HSD from the Logistics Services Division, handled scheduling of staff in the fall and winter.

The second-round volunteers who concluded their service this month were Trina Byrd, Bailey Cahall, Melissa Crawford, Shalita Jones, Paul Krzych, Felix Lopez, Lucila Oliveira, Rodolfo Ozorio, Monica Pleasant, Amy Swanson, Katie Schwartzstein and Bridgett Warren.

“It was a great opportunity as part of the Capitol Hill community to come together to do something for the greater good and also showcase the abilities and the great people we have here working at the Library,” Gorrell said of the experience of supporting the OAP clinic.

The clinic remains open to Library staff needing vaccinations or boosters. To make an online appointment, visit the OAP portal. For more information, call (202) 225-8299.

**REb**

All Library employees, including those working remotely, who have experienced symptoms of COVID-19, received a positive COVID test result or had close contact with someone with COVID-19 are required to send a message to their supervisors and copy the Health Services Division (HSD) at HSD-COVID-check-in@loc.gov.

The email to HSD should include the employee’s name in the subject line and a reachable email address and telephone number in the body of the message. HSD will follow up to ensure that affected employees remain off-site for the appropriate amount of time and confirm that contact tracing is not necessary.
Library Accepting Applications for Parking Permits

As the Library continues to prepare for a new normal state of operations, the application period for parking permits at the Library’s Capitol Hill facilities began this week and will end on March 7. The new parking permits are meant for use after phase three, part three, of operations restoration ends and the Library begins its new normal state of operations. As outlined in this special announcement, the permits will be valid until Sept. 30. Until phase three, part three, ends at a date to be announced, parking will continue to be managed under this special announcement, and phase three parking permits will remain valid.

Permits for the new normal state of operations are available for employee parking in the Madison garage, the Adams garage and the Jefferson west lot. Garage parking in these facilities requires a permit for motor vehicles, bicycles, motorized bicycles, scooters and motorcycles. Employees interested in applying for parking should review Library of Congress Regulation (LCR) 8-230, which has been updated. The policy reflects changes resulting from the Library’s new telework policy by ensuring that the number of days employees work on-site is a factor in determining priority for carpool parking.

Employees can use the parking application system on the ServiceNow platform to apply for parking permits. New users of the system must request access through the link provided before completing an application.

The Library recognizes that parking availability will affect decisions about Metro and other forms of commuting. That is why the application period for the new normal state of operations will be completed soon, allowing those not able to park on-site enough time to request a transit subsidy before returning to on-site work.

Permits are not required for parking at Library facilities that are not on Capitol Hill, and employees at those locations should not apply for parking during the open season, except for employees who want to use the electric vehicle charging stations at the Packard Campus. These employees should apply under the electric vehicle (EV) category in the parking application system during this open season.

Employees who apply for parking at Capitol Hill facilities and want to use the EV charging stations in the Madison and Adams garages should check the box for EV charging on their parking applications. Parking in the spaces designated for EVs and using the charging stations requires a Library parking permit and payment of a monthly fee to reimburse the Architect of the Capitol for electricity costs.

Library officials eligible for parking because of their positions outlined in LCR 8-230, sec. 8.A should not apply for parking during open season. They will receive information from the Parking Program Office directly.

More information about prioritization of parking for employees with approved accommodations under Americans with Disabilities Act policy, employees working special hours, carpoolers and employees qualifying on the basis of length of service is available in this special announcement.

View a user guide for the parking program application system.

Questions? Contact the Parking Program Office at parkingprogram@loc.gov.

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**PHASE THREE, PART THREE, UPDATE**

Librarian of Congress Carla Hayden addressed staff by video on Tuesday, detailing what to expect during phase three, part three, of operations restoration.
Ellen Terrell

Ellen Terrell is a business reference specialist in the Science, Technology and Business Division.

Tell us about your background.

I grew up in New Orleans and went to the University of Alabama for my undergraduate degree. I majored in history and political science.

I moved to the Washington, D.C., area in 1992 and had a few unremarkable jobs. The best and coolest was working for the Capitol Hill newspaper Roll Call in the classified section. I never had to explain where I worked — everyone in D.C. knew the paper.

I was there when the paper ran a fake first-page story about Hillary Clinton getting an office in the Senate as an April Fools’ Day joke (this was back when Bill Clinton was president). We got so many phone calls about that story!

Then, I decided I needed to go back to school. When I met Kimberly Ferguson, who now works in the Congressional Research Service, I decided being a librarian was the perfect job for me. I got my master’s degree from Catholic University of America and went to work right away for the accounting firm Arthur Andersen.

What brought you to the Library, and what do you do?

When Andersen started imploding because of its involvement in the Enron scandal in the early 2000s, I began applying for jobs, including one at the Library. I actually applied on my last week of the job! Thankfully, I got a position at the Library, and this September I will celebrate my 20th anniversary.

As for what I do, I spend a lot of time answering questions from people, either at the reference desk or via Ask a Librarian. It is my favorite part of the job — it gives me the opportunity to learn new things all the time.

I also create online research guides, write blog posts for Inside Adams, recommend books for the Library to acquire and work on other reference-related assignments.

What are some of your standout projects?

One standout project I have been involved in is the digitization of a very popular business title: Dun and Bradstreet’s Reference Book. This publication came out several times a year between 1859 and 2006 and listed many of the businesses in the U.S. It gave information on sales and credit ratings and was the title people used when they wanted to do business with a company and wanted to make sure they would either be paid or get what they ordered.

So far, volumes for 1900 through 1924 are available on the Library’s website, and I am quite excited. But this an ongoing project, and we will be adding even older years back to the 1860s over the course of 2022.

I am also rather proud of the research guides I have created. My most recent is “History of the Office and Office Equipment: A Resource Guide.” It includes resources related to office furniture and equipment like typewriters, computers, telephones, copiers and so on. This one was interesting to create because it shows how much the office has changed — just think about the changes brought on by typewriters and computers.

I also created three guides that are the bread and butter of business research: “Doing Company Research,” “Doing Industry Research” and “Doing Historical Company Research.” The guides are useful for me as I do my job and, I hope, for researchers as well.

What do you enjoy doing outside work?

I have really enjoyed making my house a home. My last project was the unglamorous but essential: gutters. I have started to prepare myself mentally for my next project, the basement, something that I have put off because it seems like it will be a Big Project.

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

I spent a semester in London when I was an undergraduate. It is one of my favorite places and is where I first experienced the marvel that is the British pub.

It also has great museums. My favorite is Sir John Soane’s Museum in the Lincoln’s Inn Fields area. Soane was a preeminent British architect, and he collected and displayed many architecturally-related items in his house along with other things, including artwork. My favorites are “A Rake’s Progress,” a series of paintings by William Hogarth, and the sarcophagus of Egyptian pharaoh Seti I.

OIG WOULD LIKE TO KNOW


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and the others were right about this: If you don’t participate, this document won’t work, because it’s a document that foresees your participation in a democratic government as essential to the experiment that is this country,” he said.

Breyer described the Constitution as a “boundary-setting document” that “tries to leave a lot of things, vast numbers, the vast majority of things up to the public to decide through democratic processes.” It allows cities, states, towns, counties and the nation “to decide through democratic processes what kind of government they want,” he said.

In discussing his latest book, “The Authority of the Court and the Peril of Politics,” Breyer said that the country is facing “a difficult time, both politically and in terms of people disagreeing with each other.” He said he wants people to understand that the rule of law “has helped keep the country together.”

Breyer underscored the importance of “working out differences,” especially when urging young people to address others they disagree with.

“It’s up to you: Listen. You don’t like what someone else is saying? Go talk to them, don’t sit there and just mope,” he said. “And you better know how the country works, you better know what’s in this document, the Constitution.”

During the hourlong discussion, Breyer also suggested that, when trying cases, judges should be mindful that their decisions from the bench can set “principles that might be followed in Spain, or Belgium, by other judges.”

When he announced his retirement on Jan. 27, Breyer, 83, quoted extensively from the Gettysburg Address and expressed hope for the future of the American democratic experiment.

He said that after hearing cases, he’d often look out at the audience and think about how the U.S. is a “complicated country,” recalling how his mother marveled at a nation made up of people of every race, religion and point of view.

“It’s a kind of miracle when you sit there and see all those people in front of you, people that are so different in what they think. And yet they’ve decided to help solve their major differences under law,” he said then.

Asked during last week’s lecture about what he hopes to see happen on the court once he’s off the bench, Breyer replied: “I hope to see ... people who are looking down and seeing the same things I’ve seen for 27 years. I certainly hope that ... that is the challenge.”

In opening remarks, Law Librarian of Congress Aslihan Bulut cited the “historically rich and rewarding relationship” between the Law Library and the Supreme Court and remarked that “it is an honor and a privilege” to be part of the lecture series. She also summarized the rich resources the library provides to support legal scholarship.

Founded in 1973, the Supreme Court Fellows Program offers midcareer professionals, recent law school graduates and doctoral-degree holders in law and political science an opportunity to work for one of four federal judiciary agencies during a yearlong appointment in Washington, D.C.

Breyer was nominated to the Supreme Court in 1994 by President Clinton. Prior to joining the court, Breyer spent 15 years as a federal judge. He ends his tenure on the bench after a series of high-profile cases, including those related to the Second Amendment, abortion rights and religious freedom. Among the majority opinions he authored last term is one blocking a challenge to the Affordable Care Act and another in support of a Pennsylvania student’s First Amendment rights.

A graduate of Stanford and Oxford universities and Harvard Law School, the San-Francisco born jurist was a law professor for many years at Harvard Law School and at the Kennedy School of Government. He also clerked for Justice Arthur Goldberg and worked as a lawyer in the Justice Department’s Antitrust Division.

Among many roles in his long career, Breyer also worked as an assistant special prosecutor in the Watergate case and as chief counsel of the Senate Judiciary Committee, where he worked closely with Democratic Sen. Edward M. Kennedy on passage of the Airline Deregulation Act.

Breyer has written books and articles about administrative law, economic regulation and constitutional law.

View the lecture on the Library’s YouTube channel. ▪