INSIDE

Artificial Intelligence

LC Labs co-hosted a workshop exploring how cultural heritage practitioners can learn from one another’s artificial intelligence initiatives.

PAGE 3

Movie Time

“Beverly Hills Cop” is among the classic movies the newly reopened Packard Campus Theater will screen this month.

PAGE 4

Q&A: Anna Overstreet

The 2022 junior fellow from Mississippi State University is interning in the Preservation Research and Testing Division.

PAGE 5

Nationals Night

Staff members are eligible for discounted Washington Nationals tickets on Aug. 30, Library of Congress Night at Nationals Park.

PAGE 6

Junior Fellows Display Projects Online Again This Year

This year’s 27 projects will help the Library reach new audiences.

BY MARÍA PEÑA

The COVID–19 pandemic is still with us so, for the third consecutive year, 46 junior fellows presented their Library projects online on Wednesday during display day, an annual event that highlights junior fellows’ research and achievements over the summer.

Now in its 31st year, the Junior Fellows program gives college undergraduate and graduate students a behind-the-scenes look at Library collections, programs and services. This year, over the 10-week internship, fellows from 17 states, the District of Columbia and Puerto Rico fanned out to 23 divisions across the Library to work on projects reflecting their goals, skills and academic interests. The internship, most said, taught them more about themselves and the world.

“As a signature program of the Library, the Junior Fellows program continues to expand, deepen and reach new audiences,” Kimberly Powell, chief of talent recruitment and outreach at the Library, said.

“Interns in this program further the Library’s vision to connect all Americans and to empower new generations and diverse audiences for years to come.”

Before the pandemic, display day would have been a daylong public exhibition held in the Jefferson Building. The marquee event is similar to a conference poster session.

JUNIOR FELLOWS, CONTINUED ON 7
NOTICES

DONATED TIME
The following employees have satisfied eligibility requirements to receive leave donations from other staff members. Contact Amy McAllister at amcallister@loc.gov.

Lynette Brown
Rodney Evans

APPLY TO FUTUREBRIDGE
The application period for the FutureBridge mentoring program remains open through July 28. Applications are being accepted from mentee candidates as well as from staff members interested in serving as mentors or coaches.

For details, visit the FutureBridge website or send an email message to future-bridge@loc.gov.

REQUIRED RECORDS MANAGEMENT TRAINING
The Records Management Basic Awareness 2022 training course is available through LOC Learn. All Library staff members, as well as all contractors, interns and volunteers who handle Library records, are required to take the course by Sept. 9. It takes about one hour to complete.

Per LCR 5–810, “Records Management,” each year all Library personnel are required to complete the course. LCR 5–810 also requires all new Library personnel to complete the course within 30 days of their start date.

For questions about the course content, contact the Records Management Division at records@loc.gov. For technical assistance in accessing the course, submit a request through AskHDC.

More information about records management is available here.

SUPPLEMENTAL FEDERAL EMPLOYEE VIEWPOINT SURVEY
The Human Capital Directorate (HCD) is partnering with the Office of Personnel Management to launch the 2022 Federal Employee Viewpoint Survey (FEVS) at the Library on July 27.

FEVS measures employee satisfaction in a number of areas. By taking the survey, staff members can ensure that their voices are heard as the Library works to improve its workplace culture. HCD staff will collaborate with service units to analyze results, identify priorities and develop action plans to address concerns.

Questions? Visit AskHCD. In the drop-down menus, select Employee Engagement and Federal Employee Viewpoint Survey.

LEARNING AND DEVELOPMENT
Discover new learning opportunities at the Library

WANT TO MANAGE YOUR TIME BETTER?
The Talent Learning and Development Division (TLD) in the Human Capital Directorate invites you to discover new Skillsoft learning resources in LOC Learn.

Each Skillsoft channel features collections to help you build your expertise on a subject. Check out the channel on time management here.

Need a demonstration on navigating Skillsoft content? Contact TLD at citi@loc.gov.
Library Leads the Way on AI in Cultural Heritage

LC Labs spearheads artificial intelligence workshop for public archives.

BY SAHAR KAZMI

In the 21st century, the cultural heritage community faces a simple truth: People cannot organize or research the world’s immense and ever-growing collections alone.

Several weeks ago, the LC Labs team in the Office of the Chief Information Officer co-hosted a leadership workshop addressing this reality. Titled “Leading the Future of AI and Public Archives,” the workshop convened government and academic practitioners to share ideas about how public archives can learn from one another’s artificial intelligence (AI) and machine learning initiatives and establish a network of collaboration for future efforts.

The workshop built on LC Lab’s research over the past five years into how advanced computing practices like AI and machine learning can support the Library’s mission to connect with all Americans.

Other participants were the National Archives’ Office of Innovation, Virginia Tech’s University Libraries and Center for Humanities and the Smithsonian Data Science Lab. Together, participants highlighted current AI programs in public archives and considered the challenges and ethics of more expansive implementations.

“Many cultural heritage institutions have succeeded at developing short-term or smaller-scale AI initiatives, but the community doesn’t yet have a holistic framework for how this work could be achieved at much larger scales,” Abbey Potter, an LC Labs senior innovation specialist, said. “The Library’s experience in this field gives us a chance to help guide these conversations and build collaborative AI approaches from the ground up.”

AI and machine learning use algorithmic programs to perform a variety of complex computing tasks – pinpointing images in digitized newspapers, identifying visual similarities between photographs or even finding biblical quotes across collection materials.

LC Labs has been exploring such possibilities with its Newspaper Navigator experiment and its Computing Cultural Heritage in the Cloud (CCHC) initiative, among others. Alongside the team’s AI research, which includes its 2019 machine learning and libraries report and its 2020 digital libraries report, LC Labs has spent years deepening its expertise in user-centered frameworks for responsible AI.

“We’re now well positioned as an organization to lead the way toward a shared new vision for AI in cultural heritage,” said senior innovation specialist Meghan Ferriter, who co-hosted the workshop on behalf of LC Labs with Potter.

During the event, Potter and Ferriter held roundtable conversations with cultural heritage leaders to discuss the organizational strategies behind their current AI experiments. The group shared reflections about their efforts and some of the lessons their institutions have learned about resourcing, staffing and internal collaboration in AI implementations.

The workshop also addressed ethical concerns associated with AI in cultural heritage. Elham Tabassi, chief of staff for the National Institute of Standards and Technology’s Information Technology Laboratory, presented a keynote address about the organization’s AI risk management framework. It offers a preliminary set of guidelines for AI risk management and recommendations for creating trustworthy AI initiatives and mitigating harmful impacts of the technology. These include managing technical factors like data accuracy and reliability as well as user considerations such as privacy and the general understandability of an experiment.

Within the Library, LC Labs shared its machine learning and AI work in a June open house and will present updates from the CCHC effort and additional workshops later this year.

“We hope our first leadership workshop can be a catalyst for the next wave of AI collaboration in cultural heritage,” Ferriter said. “The Library has a great opportunity to continue working with colleagues to design a future state for this technology together.”
Packard Campus Theater Resumes Film Screenings

The Library’s Packard Campus Theater has reopened its doors to patrons following a closure of more than two years to address the COVID-19 pandemic. A new season of film screenings began on July 15.

Through the end of the year, screenings at the art deco theater will focus on a different theme each month. In July, “Packard Campus Potpourri” will include a selection of fan favorites and staff requests. Late summer and fall themes are the “National Film Registry” (August); “Films of Futures Past” (September) and “Monsters Among Us” (October). The theater will conclude the year with a month of film noir in November and some great snow movies in December.

Films will be screened on Fridays at 7:30 p.m. and on Saturdays at 2 and 7:30 p.m. The Saturday matinees are family friendly.

Here is the schedule for the remainder of July. A schedule of future screenings will be made available here.

**July 22, 7:30 p.m.**
‘The Flesh and The Devil’ (WB, 1926)
Felicitas (Greta Garbo) is the center of a love triangle between a man and his best friend. The movie joined the National Film Registry in 2006.

**July 23, 2 p.m.**
‘Viva Las Vegas’ (MGM, 1964)
A race car driver moonlighting as a waiter at a Las Vegas resort meets and falls in love with an attractive co-worker.

**July 23, 7:30 p.m.**
‘8 1/2’ (Cinenz/Columbia, 1963)
A film director cannot rest on the success of his last film because of others looking to work on his next movie. Italian with English subtitles.

**July 29, 7:30 p.m.**
‘Beverly Hills Cop’ (Paramount, 1984)
Detroit detective Axel Foley works to bring down a drug lord in sunny Southern Californian while also dealing with the local cops, who do not appreciate his methods.

**July 30, 2 p.m., double feature**
‘Wagon Train’ (WB, 1940) and ‘Land of the Open Range’ (WB, 1942)
The bad guy is buying up freight businesses on the cheap (often with force) and then charging poor customers big prices. The good guy is keeping his freight company, and that doesn’t sit well with the bad guy.

‘Lawrence of Arabia’ (Columbia, 1962)
The epic story of T.E. Lawrence’s exploits in Arabia during the First World War. The movie joined the National Film Registry in 1991.

Programs are free and open to the public. Children 12 and under must be accompanied by an adult. Seating at the screenings is on a first-come, first-served basis unless otherwise noted.

Access to the Packard Campus’ parking lot begins one hour before showtime; entrance into the building begins 45 minutes beforehand; and the theater opens for seating 30 minutes before the curtain.

Wearing face masks is recommended, and patrons must go through a security check. No large parcels, purses or backpacks are permitted.

The Packard Campus Theater is located at the National Audio-Visual Conservation Center at 19053 Mt. Pony Road in Culpeper, Virginia.

For general theater information, call (540) 827-1079, ext. 7-9994, or (202) 707-9994.

Request ADA accommodations five business days in advance at (202) 707-6362 or ADA@loc.gov.

In case of inclement weather, call the theater information line no more than three hours before showtime to confirm cancellations.

Your Employee Personal Page (EPP) is at www.nfc.usda.gov/epps/
Question & Answer

Anna Katherine Overstreet

Anna Katherine Overstreet, a junior fellow, is interning in the Preservation Research and Testing Division (PRTD). She received a bachelor’s degree in mathematics from Mississippi State University in May and will begin a master’s program in statistics at the university this fall.

Tell us about your project.

I am working with Andrew Davis, a chemist in PRTD, and Alexandra Ptacek, a junior fellow from Arizona State University, on a project titled “Preservation: External Climate and Internal Building Climates.” We are working with data sets on external weather and internal microclimates to try to better understand the relationships between the two. For microclimates, we’re focusing on PRTD spaces in the Madison and Jefferson buildings that span different usage environments and regions of each building.

Describe a typical day.

I start the day by checking in with Andrew and Ali to agree on what we would like to accomplish each day. Usually, I follow this with data cleaning, which is the process of taking the large data sets we have access to and editing them down to what is necessary to create visualizations. For example, we might take data from sensors that record interior microclimate variables every five minutes and condense them into hourly increments so we can compare them to hourly external climate data.

I will typically work on visualizations and data cleaning throughout the day and check in with Andrew intermittently to refine the focus of a visualization or a visualization itself. We will also discuss other visualizations that might be of interest and what data would be most interesting to compare.

What have you discovered of special interest?

I have been able to learn so much about the data I am working with and the implications of climate change within preservation spaces. I have also learned how to create new types of visualizations for environmental data sets that I likely would not have had the opportunity to do otherwise.

What attracted you to the Junior Fellows program?

I was introduced to the program through the weekly newsletter of my university’s honors college. I applied because I had recently been hired by my university’s library, and I enjoyed the work I was doing — I was interested in working in another library or cultural heritage institution. I was also drawn in by the plethora of projects the program offered and the variety of disciplines involved.

What has your experience been like?

My experience at the Library and in the program has been overwhelmingly positive, and I am excited to see what we will ultimately complete. I have gained experience in presenting projects and following through with deadlines while also largely setting my own goals and schedule for each day.

How will the fellowship influence your career plans?

It has been extremely interesting to learn about the many different disciplines involved in work within the Library and how my knowledge can be applicable within the Library and other cultural heritage institutions.

The fellowship has also given me practical experience with programming languages and statistical knowledge beyond what I had already gained at Mississippi State, and it has allowed me to become acclimated to an office environment as opposed to an academic setting.

I have been offered a graduate assistant position upon my return to Mississippi State this fall. I hope to continue to better understand the experimentation and analysis process involved with gathering data, and I also hope to refine my data analysis skills.

My time at the Library has fostered an interest in continuing to work at the Library or in other cultural heritage institutions.

Calendar

27 Wednesday

Webinar: “Researching Women and Gender at the Library: American Women Guide Series” will highlight how to research women’s history and gender studies using the Library’s collections. Noon, online. Contact: enov@loc.gov.

28 Thursday

Live at the Library: The Jefferson Building and its exhibitions will be open for extended hours with happy hour drinks and food available. 5 to 8:30 p.m., Great Hall. Tickets required. Contact: 7-8000.

Film: Outdoor screening of “Mary Poppins” (1964). 8 p.m., Jefferson Building southeast lawn. Contact: 7-8000.
You’re Invited! Library of Congress Night at Nationals Park

On Aug. 30 at 7 p.m., Librarian of Congress Carla Hayden will throw the first pitch at Library of Congress Night at Nationals Park, home to the Washington Nationals. The Library has reserved two sections of discounted seats for staff.

“This is an opportunity to bring together the Library community, friends and family,” Shari Werb, director of the Center for Learning, Literacy and Engagement (CLLE), said.

In addition to a game between the Nationals and the Oakland Athletics, the evening will feature videos and trivia highlighting the National Book Festival and the Library’s collections. The event is the culmination of a collaboration between the Library and the Nationals to promote reading and the book festival, scheduled for Sept. 3 at the Walter E. Washington Convention Center in Washington, D.C.

Earlier this year, Werb approached Gregory McCarthy, senior vice president of community engagement for the Nationals, known as “the team that reads” for its advocacy of literacy. Soon afterward, CLLE, the Office of Communications and the Nationals agreed on three collaborative activities.

In the first, Lauren Roszak, manager of family and youth programs in CLLE’s Informal Learning Office, organized two programs for young kids based on Library collections for the Nationals’ Summer Reading Sundays Program. “Who’s on First?” involved an interactive live reading of the children’s book and a performance by Roszak and Library staffers Sasha Dowdy, Monica Valentine and Taylor Dean based on the original act by Abbott and Costello. “Take Me Out to the Ball Game” was a group singalong and readalong exploring the history of the classic baseball song.

The collaboration continued on June 30 with a conversation between Hayden and Nationals pitcher Sean Doolittle about his love of books, passion for reading and role as his team’s summer reading ambassador.

Before the event, the Multimedia Group and the Communications Office filmed an interview with Doolittle that will be used to promote the book festival. While he was at the Library, Doolittle got a reader’s registration card.

Purchase discounted tickets to the Aug. 30 game through this link.

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 here or report by mail to 101 Independence Ave., S.E., LM 630, Washington, D.C., 20540-1060.

Beatriz Gutiérrez Müller (from left), the wife of Mexico’s president, visited the Library on July 12 with Jill Biden, first lady of the United States. Here they view treasures from the Prints and Photographs Division with Librarian of Congress Carla Hayden.
but offers access to the prestigious resources of the nation’s oldest federal cultural institution.

“Display day is a great opportunity to showcase junior fellows’ research and achievements and to foster a dialogue between staff and fellows about our shared passions: the Library’s users and collections,” Ashlyn Garry, acting supervisory program specialist for display day, said. “By incorporating feedback from previous years, we can make every year uniquely meaningful and interesting for attendees and researchers.”

Thanks to technology, interns were able to brainstorm ideas across four time zones and seek guidance from Library experts from their onboarding in May to the waning days of the program, which ends on July 29. They participated in Zoom sessions on professional development and in meetings to share knowledge and experiences with one another.

The 27 projects this year allowed them to dive into some of the Library’s collections and programs and explore ways to make them more accessible to the public.

“Again this year, junior fellows tell stories that elevate rich experiences and voices of communities across the nation,” Eric Eldritch, the program’s manager, said.

César Reyes, who is wrapping up a master’s degree in library and information science (MLIS) at San Jose State University, worked on two video projects in the Signature Programs Office: one for the American Library Association conference in June, where he highlighted the stories of three Library experts, and a video series he created with another junior fellow to promote the National Book Festival around the 2022 theme, “Books Bring Us Together.”

“Much of what the Library does is shrouded in mystery or a veil of awe, so I wanted to make the connection between people and the Library more human,” said Reyes of the video series.

Reyes said meeting Librarian of Congress Carla Hayden was his best unexpected experience: “She is warm and kind, and being in her presence felt like being held and hugged.”

Eugene Parrish, a rising senior at Virginia State University, researched Black political power during Reconstruction — the era in which African Americans gained freedom, equal protection, citizenship and the right to vote – using resources from the Daniel A.P. Murray Collection.

Parrish’s display showed how these newly acquired rights led to the largest increase ever of Black men in politics at all levels of government across the South. Parrish is majoring in political science, so his internship in the Office of Communications was a perfect fit for the Stockton, California, native, who said he feels “a sense of gratitude” in carrying out Murray’s mission to document Black historical achievements.

Ghazal Ghazi’s project in the Digital Services Directorate explored
the notions of “‘ishq,” or love, in its sacred and human manifestations in the poetry, calligraphy and miniature painting of the transregional Persianate world. For display day, she highlighted collection items that exemplify the three main types of love in Persian poetry aesthetics.

A summer highlight, Ghazi said, was researching “an exquisitely detailed miniature painting showing the two star-crossed lovers Laylah and Majnun fainting upon seeing each other for the first time after a long separation.”

Margot Cuddihy, a graduate student at the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign, worked with another junior fellow in the Music Section of the National Library Service for the Blind and Print Disabled (NLS). There, they helped craft a reference guide with over 350 items by or about blind and visually impaired musicians. For display day, Cuddihy discussed how the guide will benefit NLS patrons and the public.

The musician-turned-librarian said she is “committed to promoting the discovery and use of music materials produced by members of historically marginalized communities.”

During her internship, Cuddihy said she learned about why so many pioneers of country blues music in the early 20th century were Black men who went blind, often because of poverty, malnutrition and poor to nonexistent health care. “Essentially, they turned to music to survive,” Cuddihy said.

Vela Burke teamed up with another junior fellow in the Copyright Office to develop a design proposal for Copyright for Kids with an outreach and communication plan.

Burke explained: “Our project will provide librarians, educators, parents and kids with much-needed information on copyright, so that today’s creative kids can become good digital citizens.”

Burke has an MLIS from Queens College of the City University of New York, and she is pursuing work as a children’s librarian. The Junior Fellows program is made possible by a gift from late James Madison Council member Nancy Glanville Jewell through the Glanville Family Foundation, the Knowledge Navigators Trust Fund and the Mellon Foundation through the Library’s Of the People: Widening the Path initiative.

View all the 2022 displays here.