Disability Employment Awareness Month

Disability, Diversity and Display Items

This document displays items from the Library of Congress's collections for members of Library staff and the public to view, having to do with the contributions of persons with disabilities. It comprises a list of individuals who, collectively, meet three criteria: Featured in items from LC collections; representing a wide range of disabilities; and having a broad range of diversity connections.

The resulting display features people with disabilities from a wide range of areas of expertise (e.g. musicians, poets, authors, playwrights, sculptors, politicians, etc.) who have contributed to our vast collections (e.g. Manuscripts, Prints and Photographs, Law, Science, Business, Technology, Music, Geography, etc.). Individuals from a wide range of disability categories were considered, including deaf, hard of hearing, blind, low vision, mobility, dexterity, cognitive, mental, and medical disability.

The Library of Congress encourages continued research into the history and future of persons with disabilities as great contributors to American knowledge and creativity.

Display Guide

3. José Feliciano: Blind Hispanic American Musician
4. Frida Kahlo: Hispanic American Artist with Muscular Dystrophy
5. Ray Charles: Blind African American Musician
6. Harry Belafonte: African American Musician with a Learning Disability
7. Harriet Tubman: Underground Railroad “Conductor” with Epilepsy/Narcolepsy
8. Barbara Jordan: African American Politician with Multiple Sclerosis
9. Audre Lourde: African American Poet with Low Vision, Cancer
10. Daniel Inouye: Asian Pacific American Amputee Senator
11. John Woo: Asian Pacific American Film Director with Musculo-Skeletal Disability
12. Wilma P. Mankiller: Native American Politician with Myasthenia Gravis
13. John Clarke: Deaf Native American Sculptor
14. Helen Keller: Deaf and Blind Humanitarian
15. Alexander Graham Bell: Inventor with a Learning Disability
16. Anne Sullivan: Educator with Low Vision
17. Franklin Delano Roosevelt: Politician with Polio
18. Thomas A. Edison: Inventor with Hearing Loss
19. William Ellsworth “Dummy” Hoy: Deaf Athlete
20. Dorothea Lange: Photographer with Polio
21. Law Library: International resources on the rights of persons with disabilities
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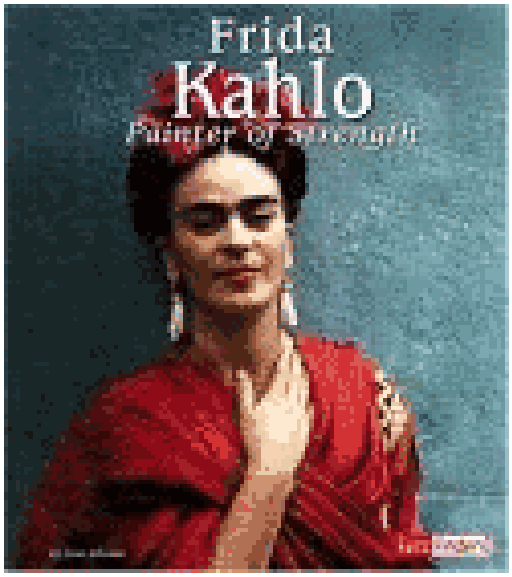
22. Developing Cross-Cultural Competence: Parent’s Guide to Disability & Diversity
    Everybody’s Different: Resource for Disability & Diversity

José Feliciano 1945-present

Feliciano has earned six Grammy Awards and eleven Grammy nominations and holds the distinction of achieving recording success in both English and Spanish. He was born blind in Puerto Rico and raised in New York, where he studied music. Early in his career he was determined to become a household name in both Latin America and the United States. He is a role model for those using music to convey ideas and inspire culture. In 1964 he recorded his first album, *Light My Fire*; in 1968, a controversial hit rendition of the The Star-Spangled Banner; in 1969 his hit "No Dogs Allowed" expressed his anger at guide dogs being quarantined and barred from international travel; in 1973 he recorded the Christmas standard "Feliz Navidad;" in 1984 he sang at the centennial celebration for the Statue of Liberty.

New York World-Telegram and the Sun Newspaper Photograph Collection, Library of Congress. Link: https://www.loc.gov/resource/cph.3c17428/



Frida Kahlo - Artist (1907 - 1954)

Born in Mexico, Frida Kahlo is known throughout the world for her unusual, colorful, and sometimes disturbing paintings. Her disabilities stemmed from childhood polio and a horrible street car accident when she was eighteen. Many of her paintings reflect the physical pain she suffered through most of her life. Her life, ideas, and artwork are found in many books, pictures, and materials in the Library of Congress collection.

Digital Image, from the American Memory collection of the Library of Congress

Book, Frida Kahlo: Painter of Strength, General Collections, Library of Congress

Ray Charles (1930 – 2004)

Ray Charles is known worldwide for his contributions to jazz, blues and soul music. He became blind by age six from glaucoma. He entered St. Augustine School for the Deaf and the Blind in Florida and used Braille to study and compose music. His parents and brother did not live to see him graduate in 1945 – nor to follow his lifelong achievements. He worked as musician through the forties and soared into fame in the fifties and sixties. Charles won nine of his 12 Grammy Awards between 1960 and 1966. This lively image of Charles is in the Library's online collections.

Drawing by Anita Kunz, Swann Collection, Prints and Photographs Division, Library of Congress. Link: https://www.loc.gov/resource/cph.3g11583/

Harry Belafonte (1927-present)

Harry Belafonte is a globally acclaimed singer, motion picture actor and civil rights activist. He is best known for his interpretation of West Indian Calypso music, popular songs, ballads and spirituals. He provided money to bail Martin Luthur King Jr. out of the Birmingham City Jail, and for many years he was an outspoken anti-apartheid leader and activist. In 1985, he conceived the idea to fight famine in Ethiopia with the song "We Are the World," generating more than 70 million dollars. In 1987 he was named UNICEF Goodwill Ambassador. Harry Belafonte is also a person with dyslexia.

Photo, Prints and Photographs Division - Library of Congress.
Link: https://www.loc.gov/resource/cph.3b40386/

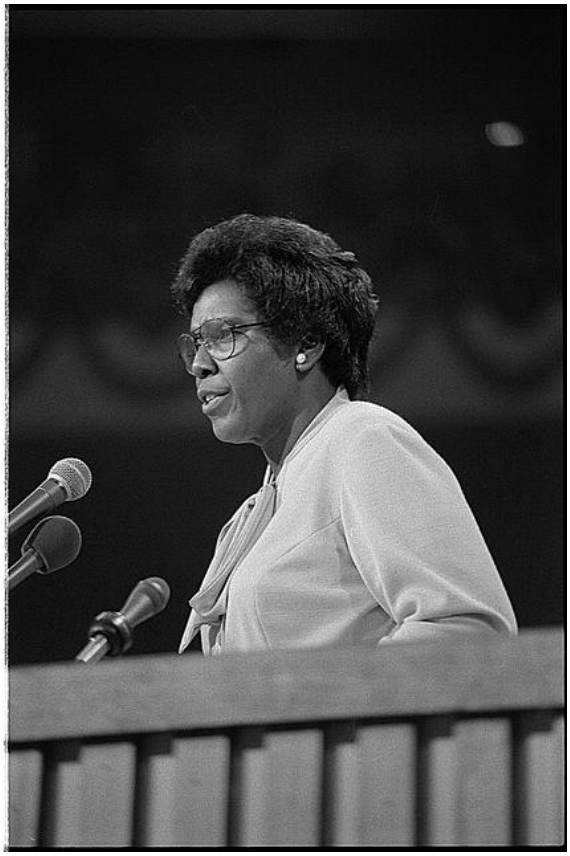
Harriet Tubman (1820-1913)

Born into slavery in America as Araminta “Minty” Ross, she later became known as Harriet Tubman, the great rescuer of slaves on the Underground Railroad during the American Civil War. From her teen years and throughout her life she bore the marks of a blow to the head when she was a slave. She exhibited “sleeping fits,” symptoms consistent with epilepsy and narcolepsy, but was never deterred from her life’s work. After the Civil War, she founded the Harriet Tubman Home for Indigent Aged Negroes and was known as the “Moses of her People.”

Drawing, Harriet Tubman escape, disguised as a man / Bernarda Bryson
Link: https://www.loc.gov/resource/ppmsca.06782/

Photo of sculpture by Frederic Jean Thalinger.
Link: https://www.loc.gov/resource/cph.3b16365/

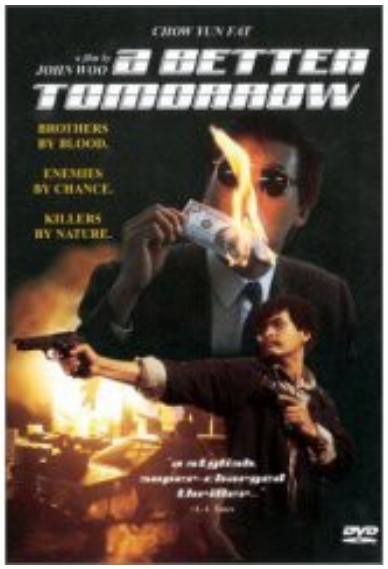
Photographic portrait ca. 1860 – 1875
Link: https://www.loc.gov/resource/cph.3a10453/



Barbara Jordan (1936-1996)

Inspired by Edith Sampson, an African American lawyer, Barbara Jordan decided to purse a career in law. After graduating from law school in 1959, she set her sights on becoming a legislator. In 1966 she was elected to office and became the first African American female state senator in Texas. In 1971 she won election to the U.S. House of Representatives. In 1973 she was diagnosed with multiple sclerosis and began using a wheelchair. Undaunted by her disability, she pressed forward with her career and ran for a fourth term in the House. While in Congress, she was a member of the House Judiciary Committee which presided over the impeachment of President Nixon. Throughout her career she was a dynamic and unstoppable force for her issues, working tirelessly to improve conditions for the poor and those in need.

Photo, Prints and Photographs Division
Link: https://www.loc.gov/resource/ppmsca.03082/



A Better Tomorrow *and* ***A Better Tomorrow II***
Films written and directed by John Woo

John Woo (1945-present)

John Woo is a film and television director who has gained a worldwide reputation for action films such as *From Rags to Riches* and *Hard Target*. Woo was born in Guangzhou province in China and now lives in the United States. At age three he was diagnosed with a serious medical condition which caused musculoskeletal problems in his back. Following surgery, his right leg remained shorter than his left leg, and he could not fully walk until the age of eight. Two of his films, *A Better Tomorrow* and *A Better Tomorrow II*, made fame for Chow Yun-Fat, who plays a hit man with a disability who is a confidante of the film's protagonist.

In the general collections of the Library of Congress you will find these works:

"John Woo: interviews" edited by Robert K. Elder

"Ten thousand bullets: the cinematic journal of John Woo" by Christopher Heard

"Between the Bullets: the spiritual cinema of John Woo" / by Michael Bliss

"John Woo" by Caroline Vie-Toussaint

"John Woo: the films" by Kenneth E. Hall

Films, Motion Picture, Broadcasting, and Recorded Sound Division, Library of Congress.
Copy Locator VAA 9628 (viewing copy)

Daniel Inouye (1924-2012)

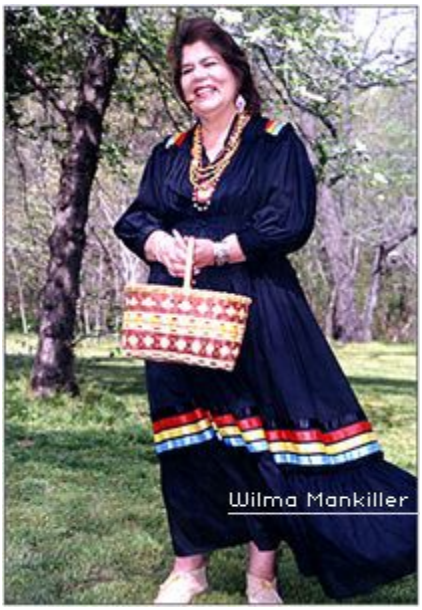
Daniel Inouye was a U.S. Senator from Hawaii. In 1943 he enlisted in the 442nd Combat Regiment, the famed "Go for Broke" regiment for soldiers of Japanese ancestry The map above was used at this time and shows the Po Valley region of Italy where Inouye served valiantly as a platoon leader. During a key battle he continued to command his troops after being severely wounded, resulting in the amputation of his arm. Honorably discharged with numerous military awards, Inouye set new career goals. He graduated from the University of Hawaii and the George Washington University School of Law. In 1954 he ran for his first congressional seat. He was the first Asian-American ever elected to the US Senate.

“Please remember that the story of my experiences during World War II is–by itself–not important,” Senator Inouye wrote in 2003 to a girl who had visited him in his Washington office. “Much more significant are the values that the 442nd Regimental Combat Team and other segregated units represented: that patriotism and love of our great country are not limited to any ethnic group, and wartime hysteria must never again lead us to trample on our democratic principles.”

Military map, 1943, Geography and Map Division
Link: http://hdl.loc.gov/loc.gmd/g6711p.ct000617s

Digital image, Inouye’s Senate website

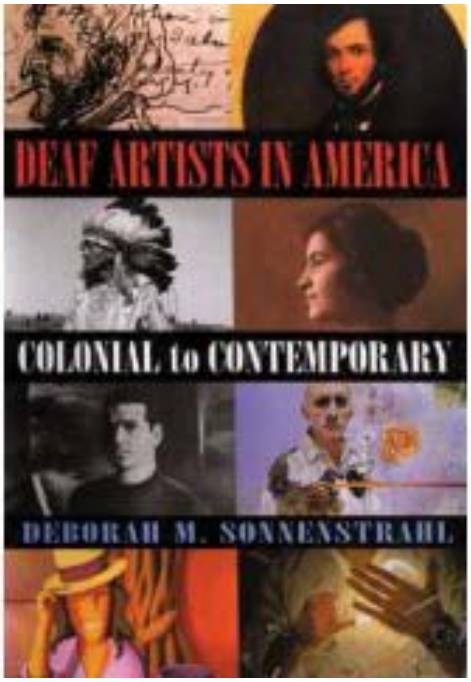
Inset Photo, Prints and Photographs Division
Link: https://www.loc.gov/resource/ppmsca.12945/

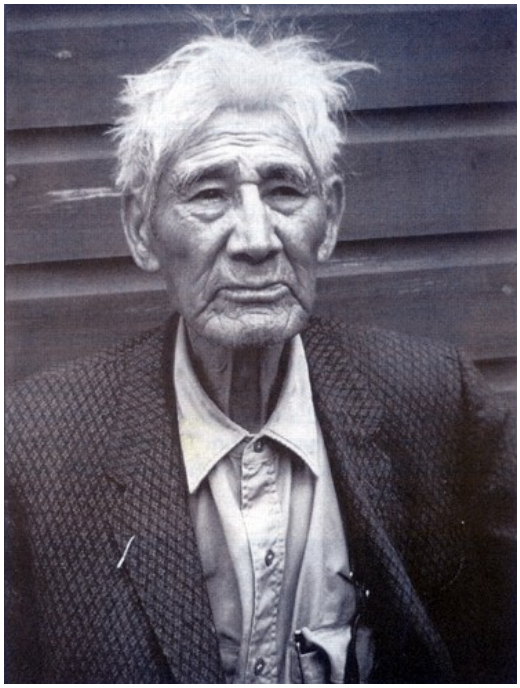


Wilma P. Mankiller (1945-2010)

Wilma Mankiller was a homemaker, activist and tribal leader of the Cherokee Nation. In 1985 she became principal chief, the first woman ever to hold such a high-ranking position in a major tribal government. In the 1960s the protest occupation of Alcatraz Island inspired Mankiller to become more involved in Native American issues. She eventually returned to her Cherokee country in northeastern Oklahoma. In 1979 Mankiller's life changed while in the hospital recovering from a serious car accident, enduring multiple operations, grieving the loss of a friend, and being diagnosed with myasthenia gravis (a chronic neuromuscular disease). She later explained that these experiences brought about a profound spiritual understanding and moral compass for the trajectory of her life's work. Mankiller emphasized the value of native wisdom, culture and spirituality; the interconnectedness of individuals within a community; and the interrelatedness of communities in the world. She is widely respected for her unique example of transforming her personal experience of disability within her cultural heritage.

Photograph, Prints and Photographs Division, Library of Congress
Link: https://www.loc.gov/resource/ppmsca.12913/





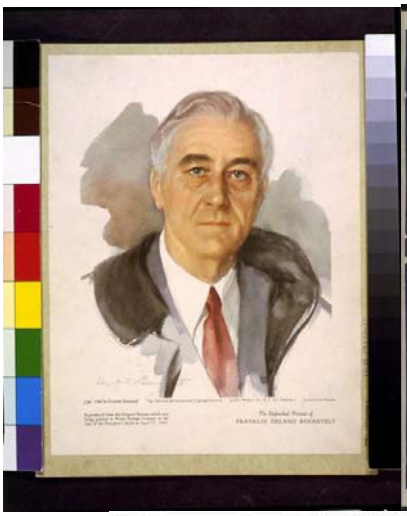
Deaf Artists in America: Colonial to Contemporary
by Deborah M. Sonnenstrahl
This book can be found in the collections of the Library of Congress

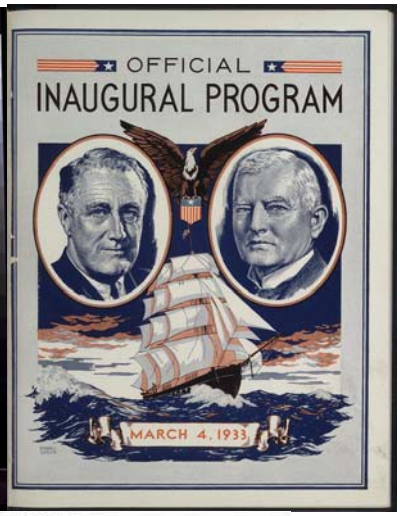
John Louis Clarke (1881-1970)

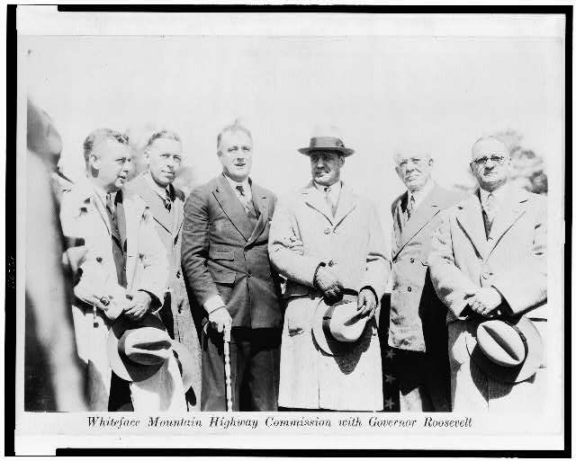
The sculptures of John Louis Clark, regularly shown and collected during his lifetime, now reside in many museums across America. During the 1930s Clarke received several important commissions for large-scale carved panels to embellish public buildings. In 1940 he executed two relief panels in wood for the entrance of the new Museum of the Plains Indian and Crafts Center in Browning, Montana. He was named Cutapuie or “Man Who Talks Not” after becoming Deaf at age two from a severe attack of scarlet fever. In 1913 he returned to the Indian reservation at Glacier Park to set up a studio which he maintained for 57 years. The above book documents his life and the lives of many other Deaf artists. Clarke’s work continues to inspire succeeding generations.

Book: General Collections, Library of Congress

Photo courtesy of the Rochester Institute of Technology







Franklin Delano Roosevelt (1882-1945)

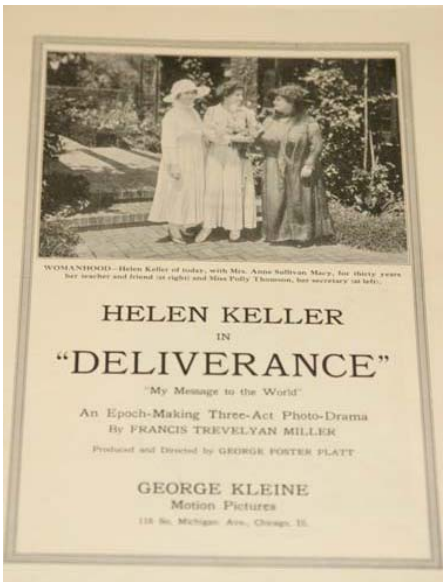
Franklin Delano Roosevelt was the 32nd President of the United States, who created jobs for the unemployed and gave assistance to those in need. During his life the public was shielded from the fact that he had adult onset polio in his 40s. His family, the government and the media worked very hard to hide the extent of his disability.

Photo, Prints and Photographs, Digital ID: https://www.loc.gov/resource/cph.3c10723/

Drawing, Prints and Photographs Digital ID: https://www.loc.gov/resource/cph.3b35125/

Image of Inaugural Program, American Memory Digital Collection

Original program is located in the Harold Ickes Papers, Manuscript Division



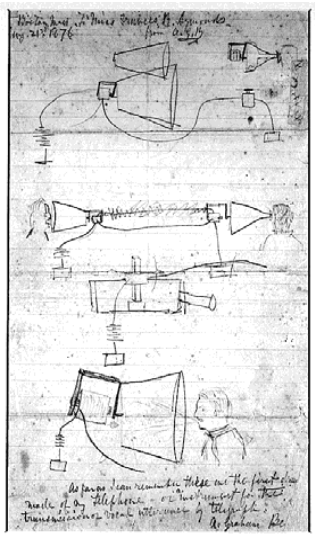
Helen Keller (1880-1968)

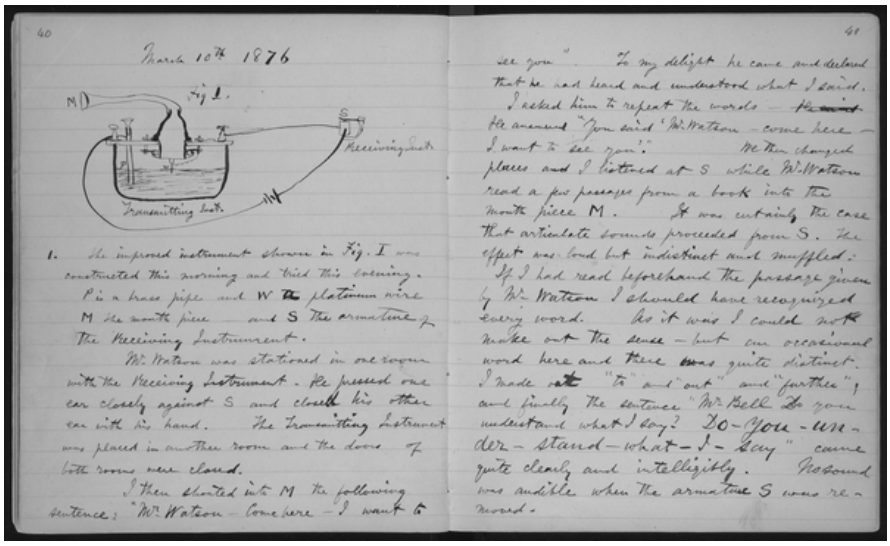
Helen Keller was an author, activist, lecturer and renowned humanitarian for Blind and Deaf-Blind people. Her advocacy work spanned six decades. In 1899 she and Anne Sullivan Macy proposed the creation of a school for children who were deaf and blind. Focusing on abilities rather than disabilities, she was an advocate for educational and employment programs. She was widely influential and gained appropriation of funds for the Talking Book Program during the Roosevelt Administration in 1935. In 1959 she sent a letter to Senator Lister Hill of Alabama supporting a bill to create an international center for medical health research. She fiercely promoted the changing image of persons who are blind.

The photo and program above publicized “Deliverance,” a 1919 silent film featuring Helen Keller herself. “Deliverance” is a fictionalized story of Helen Keller's life from eighteen months when she became Deaf and Blind through adulthood. It shows footage of her inspiring World War I veterans with disabilities and includes a dream sequence of Helen as Circe beckoning Ulysses to her island home.

Photo: Prints and Photographs. Link: https://www.loc.gov/resource/cph.3c32371/

Program: Motion Picture, Broadcasting and Recorded Sound





March 10th 1876

Fig. 1.

M

S

Receiving Instt.

Transmitting Instt.

1. The improved instrument shown in Fig. I was constructed this morning and tried this evening. P is a brass pipe and W the platinum wire M the mouth piece — and S the armature of the Receiving Instrument.

Mr Watson was stationed in one room with the Receiving Instrument. He pressed one ear closely against S and closed his other ear with his hand. The transmitting Instrument was placed in another room and the doors of both rooms were closed.

I then shouted into M the following sentence: "Mr Watson — Come here — I want to see you" — To my delight he came and declared that he had heard and understood what I said.

I asked him to repeat the words — ~~the~~ He answered "You said 'Mr Watson — come here — I want to see you'". We then changed places and I listened at S while Mr Watson read a few passages from a book into the mouth piece M. It was certainly the case that articulate sounds proceeded from S. The effect was loud but indistinct and muffled. If I had read beforehand the passage given by Mr Watson I should have recognized every word. As it was I could not make out the sense — but an occasional word here and there was quite distinct. I made out "to" and "out" and "further", and finally the sentence "Mr Bell do you understand what I say? DO-you-un-der-stand-what-I-say" came quite clearly and intelligibly. No sound was audible when the armature S was removed.

Alexander Graham Bell (1847-1922)

Alexander Graham Bell was born in Scotland. His mother, who was deaf, was a musician and a portrait painter. His father taught speech skills to people who were deaf and hard of hearing. Bell himself had a learning disability and became a world famous inventor. In the manuscript collections of the Library of Congress you can find a treasure trove of Bell's notebooks, correspondence, photographs and related materials. The above images, from his notes for inventing the telephone, can be found online.

The development of the telephone, credited to Bell in 1876, was a byproduct of his early research to invent a hearing aid for his wife. The invention of the telephone had the unfortunate effect of hindering telecommunication among deaf, hard of hearing and hearing individuals. For decades deaf persons were denied employment if telephone usage was a job requirement. A breakthrough occurred in 1964, when a deaf scientist Robert Weitbrecht designed an acoustic coupler that joined a telephone receiver to a Western Union teletypewiter known as a TTY. Today internet services, telephone relay operators and video relay operators ensure that telecommunication is not a barrier to employment for individuals who are deaf and hard of hearing.

Sketch, Manuscript Division ID: LC-MSS-51268-6

Laboratory Notebook, Manuscript Division.
Link: https://www.loc.gov/resource/magbell.25300201/?sp=22&q=25300201

Standing behind Helen Keller (left) and Alexander Graham Bell (right)

Anne Sullivan Macy (1866–1936)

Anne Sullivan Macy was teacher, mentor and best friend to Helen Keller. She attained legendary fame as the “miracle worker” who “saved” Keller from darkness. In reality, Sullivan was a hardworking, determined teacher who provided her student with experiential learning. Her educational methodology was founded on the manual alphabet, typing, Braille and occasionally writing – all in English. Sullivan graduated from the Perkins School for the Blind and was herself a person with low vision. Throughout her life she worked as an educator, personal assistant, interpreter, writer and lecturer.

In 2005, Junior Fellows summer interns found in the Library’s unparalleled non-book collections, the text of Anne Sullivan’s lecture notes regarding the education of Helen Keller. It had been acquired through the historic copyright registration and deposit system, but never catalogued.

Photograph, Prints and Photographs
Link: https://www.loc.gov/resource/ppmsc.00877/

Lecture Notes, Office of Copyright Object List, 2005 Junior Fellows Summer Internship Program

Dorothea Lange (1895-1965)

Dorothea Lange, who had polio, made her home in Northern California and owned her own photography studio. In the photograph above, dated April 6, 1942, Lange is shown photographing Japanese-American evacuees. She documented the change on the home front, especially among ethnic groups and workers uprooted by the war. Three months after Pearl Harbor, President Franklin Roosevelt ordered the relocation of Japanese-Americans into armed camps in the West. Soon after, the War Relocation Authority hired Lange to photograph Japanese neighborhoods, processing centers, and camp facilities.

Lange's earlier work documenting displaced farm families and migrant workers during the Great Depression did not prepare her for the disturbing racial and civil rights issues raised by the Japanese internment. To capture the spirit of the camps, Lange created images that frequently juxtapose signs of human courage and dignity with physical evidence of the indignities of incarceration. Not surprisingly, many of Lange's photographs were censored by the federal government.

The true impact of Lange's work was not felt until 1972, when the Whitney Museum incorporated 27 of her photographs into “Executive Order 9066,” an exhibit about the Japanese internment. New York Times critic A.D. Coleman called Lange's photographs "documents of such a high order that they convey the feelings of the victims as well as the facts of the crime."

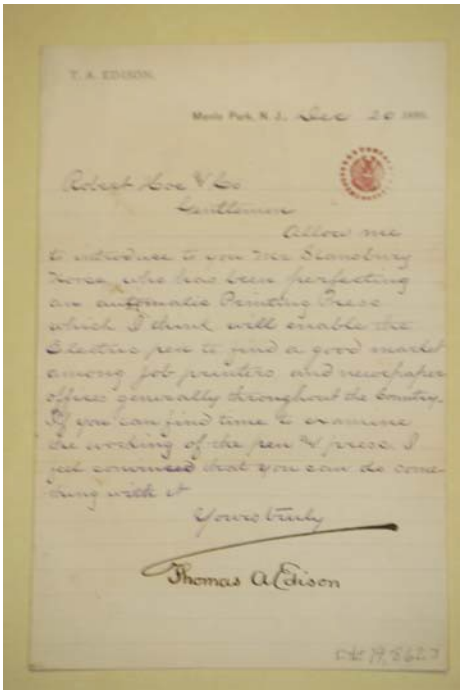
Prints and Photographs Division. Digital ID: LC-USZ62-56704

Audre Lorde (1934-1992)

Audre Lourde was very nearsighted as a child and loved to write poetry. In 1960 she received her master's degree in Library Science. Her first book of poetry, *The First Cities*, was published in 1968. In 1978 she published *The Black Unicorn*. Following a mastectomy Audre examined many issues in American health care. In *The Cancer Journals* she explores both the emotional and political aspects of having cancer.

Sound recordings of Lorde are in the Library's Archive of Recorded Poetry and Literature, which features literary readings by hundreds of poets, authors, dramatists, and actors, including countless American women.

Library of Congress Prints and Photographs Division
Link: https://www.loc.gov/resource/cph.3c18055/

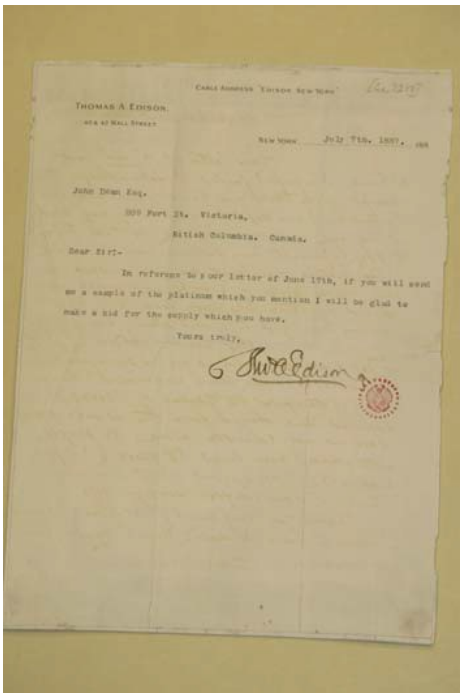


T. A. EDISON.

Menlo Park, N. J. Dec 20 1886

Robert Lee & Co
Gentlemen
Allow me to introduce to you Mr Stanbury Torrey who has been perfecting an automatic Printing Press which I think will enable the Electric pen to find a good market among job printers and newspaper offices generally throughout the country. If you can find time to examine the working of the pen & press I feel convinced that you can do something with it

Yours truly
Thomas A Edison



Cable Address "Edison New York"

THOMAS A EDISON,
65 & 67 Wall Street

New York July 7th, 1887.

John Dean Esq.
109 Fort St. Victoria,
British Columbia. Canada.

Dear Sir:-

In reference to your letter of June 17th, if you will send me a sample of the platinum which you mention I will be glad to make a bid for the supply which you have.

Yours truly,
Thos A Edison

Thomas A. Edison (1847-1931)

Thomas Edison was known as the “Wizard of Menlo Park.” A prolific inventor, he held the record for obtaining the most U.S. patents during his lifetime. He invented the electric light bulb, the phonograph, and the motion-picture projector. After a childhood bout with scarlet fever Edison’s hearing was permanently damaged in both ears.

Of his ten reasons for inventing the phonograph, Edison did not mention listening to music. He did however cite using the phonograph to play recordings of written materials for individuals who are blind.

Above are two working documents, in Edison’s own hand, which describe his interests and work in progress. The first item is a request for a sample of platinum: July 7, 1887: “Dear sir, In reference to your letter of June 17th, if you will send me a sample of the platinum which you mentioned. I will be glad to make a bid for the supply which you have."

The second item, dated December 20, 1886, discusses his desire to promote "...an automatic printing press which I think will enable the electric pen to find a good market…" Perhaps, if he had lived long enough, he would have delighted in the personal computer, an extension of his idea.

Letters, Manuscript Division, Library of Congress

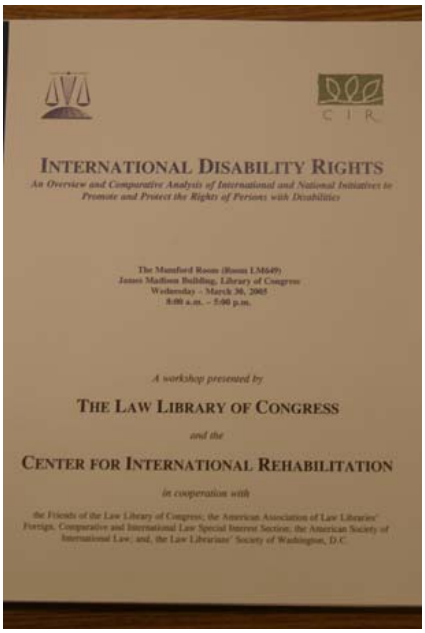
William Ellsworth Hoy (1862-1961)

William Ellsworth “Dummy” Hoy was an American center fielder who played for several major league baseball teams from 1888 to 1902; most notably the Cincinnati Reds and two Washington, D.C. franchises; the Washington Nationals of the American Association (1888) and the Washington Nationals of the National League (1891). He was inducted into the Cincinnati Reds Hall of Fame in 2003.

Hoy became deaf as a result of meningitis at age three. In Hoy’s time, the word “dumb” was used to describe someone who could not speak. He was known by his preferred nickname, “Dummy” Hoy. On June 19, 1889, he set a major league record by throwing out three runners at home plate in one game. Hoy retired with a .287 batting average, 2044 hits, 1426 runs, 726 runs at bat, 248 doubles, 121 triples and 40 home runs. He is often credited with creating the signals for safe and out calls. (This is not the only example of well-known Deaf innovations in sports: The “huddle” was created by deaf players on Gallaudet College football teams.)

In retirement, Hoy and his wife Anna Maria (who was also deaf) operated a dairy farm near Cincinnati, Ohio. Among their six children was Carson, an Ohio judge. Their grandson Judson was a member of the Ohio State House of Representatives, and Hoy’s nephew Paul Hoy Helms founded the Helms Athletic Foundation in Los Angeles. Hoy also worked as an executive with Goodyear, supervising hundreds of deaf workers during World War I. Unfortunately, these workers were laid off after the war.

Baseball Card, Benjamin K. Edwards Collection, Prints and Photographs Division.
Digital ID: (original) bbc 0383

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The Library of Congress www.THOMAS.gov

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House Report 109-168 - FOREIGN RELATIONS
AUTHORIZATION ACT, FISCAL YEARS 2006 AND
2007
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SEC. 1115. INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION
AFFIRMING THE HUMAN RIGHTS AND DIGNITY OF
PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES.

(a) Findings- Congress finds the
following:

   (1) There are more than 600,000,000
        people who have a disability
        and more than two-thirds of all
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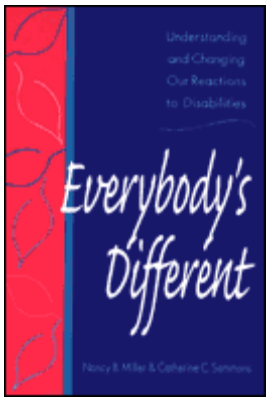
Online Resources from *Thomas*

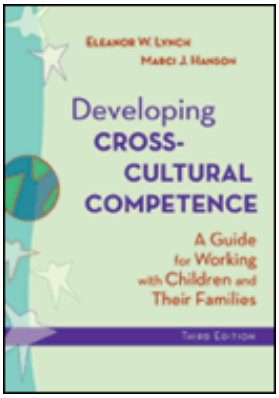
The Library of Congress provides unprecedented portals of information and knowledge on a universal collection of knowledge. Above at right is a reproduction of a portion of a printout available from Thomas.gov regarding legislative action on an international treaty concerning the rights of persons with disabilities. In January of 1995, the 104th Congress directed the Library of Congress to make federal legislative information freely available to the public.

The image on the left is from a Symposium on International Disability Rights co-sponsored by the Law Library of Congress and the Center for International Rehabilitation. Proceedings of this conference are available through the Law Library.

Program: Proceedings, symposium on international rights of persons with disabilities

Digital Text: Thomas.gov, a website created by the Library of Congress





Developing Cross-Cultural Competence:
A Guide for Working with Children and Their Families, Third Edition
Edited by Eleanor W. Lynch, Ph.D., & Marci J. Hanson, Ph.D. ISBN 1-55766-744-6

Everybody's Different:
Understanding and Changing Our Reactions to Disabilities
By Nancy B. Miller, Ph.D., M.S.W., & Catherine C. Sammons, Ph.D., M.S.W. ISBN 1-55766-359-9

These are but two books from the Library of Congress holdings which describe a new perspective on children and adults with disabilities in modern society. Resources such as these outline the journey of understanding individuals with disabilities, not a passive recipients of assistance but as active participants in diverse communities and contributors to the world. Parents, families and schools are encouraged to explore experiences of culture shock and move into a framework of cultural learning.

Understanding how we as individuals can react positively and interact openly with persons with disabilities is essential if we are to remove attitudinal barriers faced by persons with disabilities. Understanding how diverse ethnic communities in America regard “difference” in specific cultural contexts is key to an expanded understanding of persons with disabilities. Educators and service providers are challenged to communicate effectively and respectfully with families.