RESOURCES

SERVICES
for LIBRARIANS

Library of Congress

Photo Credit: Shawn Miller
Ask-A-Librarian—We love to hear from you
Whenever you or your patrons have a question, please send us an email. We’re glad to help.
✉️ ask.loc.gov

BIBFRAME • BIBFRAME is an initiative to replace the cataloging metadata standard known as MARC 21. Currently the Library of Congress is testing production of BIBFRAME descriptions in a simulated cataloging environment for text, maps, moving images, notated (print) music, rare books, sound recordings, still images, and moving images in 35mm film, BluRay, and DVD formats. Conversion tools will permit BIBFRAME descriptions to be distributed to OCLC and other Cataloging Distribution Service customers in the MARC formats.
📍 loc.gov/bibframe

Cataloger’s Desktop • Cataloger’s Desktop provides users full-text, searchable access to frequently used policy manuals, resources for describing digital content, and resources for connecting users to tools for the metadata management lifecycle. Quarterly updates are issued for changes made to resources contained within the service.
📍 loc.gov/cds/desktop

CIP (Cataloging in Publication)
The Cataloging in Publication (CIP) Program serves the nation’s libraries by cataloging books and e-books in advance of publication. Publishers submit applications online via PrePub Book Link. The Library creates a bibliographic record for each publication and sends it to the publisher for printing on the verso of the title page. Since its establishment in 1971, the CIP Program has provided high-quality, timely prepublisher metadata to libraries and publishers—a total of 2,126,481 titles to date.
📍 loc.gov/publish/cip

Classification Web • Classification Web, a web-based subscription service, allows users to search, browse, and access cataloging reference resources such as all of the Library of Congress Classification schedules, Library of Congress Subject and Name Headings. Users can efficiently construct, verify, and assign classification numbers, subject headings, and name headings to library materials using authoritative, current data—as well as run correlations and view Library of Congress bibliographic records.
📍 loc.gov/cds/classweb

CYAC (Children’s and Young Adults’ Cataloging) The Children’s and Young Adults’ Cataloging (CYAC) Program at the Library of Congress provides cataloging for material published in the United States for children and young adults, with cataloging tailored to meet the specific needs of our primary users, school and public libraries. The records created include an objective, succinct summary of the book. The CYAC Program also develops new children’s subject headings, updates existing subject headings, and keeps abreast of trends in children’s publishing.
📍 loc.gov/aba/cyac

Dewey Program at LC The Dewey Program at the Library of Congress has a threefold mission - to develop, apply, and assist in the use of the Dewey Decimal Classification (DDC). Since 1930, the Library of Congress has been adding Dewey numbers to many of its bibliographic records—more than 100,000 in fiscal 2021. In this way, the Dewey Program supports the nation’s libraries, especially public and school libraries, as well as many foreign libraries that classify their collections according to DDC.
📍 loc.gov/aba/dewey
Pictures: Indexing Subjects and Form/Genres

The Thesaurus for Graphic Materials is a tool for indexing visual materials by subject and by genre/format. The thesaurus includes more than 7,000 subject terms and 650 genre/format terms to index types of photographs, prints, design drawings, ephemera, and other pictures.

loc.gov/pictures/collection/tgm

Program for Cooperative Cataloging

As the Secretariat for the Program for Cooperative Cataloging (PCC), an international cooperative with over 700 institutional members, the Library of Congress provides guidance on cataloging policies and standards, conducts training, and hosts meetings to support members. The PCC has four distinct programs covering name authority, subject authority, monographic bibliographic, and serial bibliographic records. The records produced by PCC are of high quality and reliably guide end users to the resources they are seeking.

loc.gov/aba/pcc

ISSN (International Standard Serial Number)

The International Standard Serial Number (ISSN) is a key identifier for the publishing, library, and information communities. The U.S. ISSN Center, one of 93 national centers in the ISSN Network, provides unique identifiers and metadata to over 5,000 U.S. serials and other continuing resources in a typical year. Included are print and online magazines, journals, and series, plus online databases, repositories, blogs, and other ongoing digital resources.

loc.gov/issn

Linked Data Service

The Library of Congress Linked Data Service, ID.LOC.GOV, provides both interactive and machine access to commonly used ontologies, controlled vocabularies, and other lists for bibliographic description. Librarians and automated systems can search preservation vocabularies, authorized names and Library of Congress Subject Headings, 19 million BIBFRAME descriptions, and MARC formats, among many other resources. id.loc.gov provides both interactive and machine access to commonly used ontologies, controlled vocabularies, and other lists for bibliographic description.

id.loc.gov/resources/instances.html

MARC cataloging and formats

The MARC (Machine Readable Cataloging) formats are the standards for recording and exchanging bibliographic, authority, holdings, and classification data in library catalogs. The Library of Congress led the development of MARC and is the maintenance agency for the formats. The Library’s Cataloging Distribution Service makes Library of Congress MARC records available to OCLC and cataloging vendors. MDSConnect is an open-access service that makes MARC data available for download, to support research and development.

bit.ly/2SHIEyi

Surplus Books

The congressionally mandated Library of Congress Surplus Books Program (SBP) makes surplus materials available to educational institutions, public bodies, and non-profit, tax-exempt organizations in the United States, at no charge. Eligible participants select materials in the Surplus Books room at the Library of Congress. If they can’t visit Washington, their congressional delegation may select materials on their behalf. In a typical year, SBP distributes 85,000 items.

loc.gov/acq/surplus.html
Help Your Patrons with Declining Vision

The Library offers free reading materials for people with a temporary or permanent visual, physical, or reading disability through the National Library Service for the Blind and Print Disabled. NLS offers audio and braille books and magazines that can be downloaded and played on a smart device, or mailed to a patron’s home. The service, which offers more than 160,000 titles, is perfect for patrons who believe their declining vision prevents them from enjoying the books they love.

[Link: loc.gov/thataillmayread]

Host a Library of Congress transcribe-a-thon! • Bring your community together to learn and volunteer with Library of Congress digital collections! By the People invites learners of all ages to become virtual volunteers, exploring and transcribing historical documents to improve discovery and access for future researchers. Current projects include Theodore Roosevelt, Clara Barton, Walt Whitman, the women’s suffrage movement, and 16th–19th century Spanish legal documents. Want to host a By the People event? See our detailed “How to host a transcribe-a-thon” guide.

[Link: crowd.loc.gov/resources]

The Veterans History Project Community Events • Commemorative dates can provide opportunities throughout the year to plan activities to honor veterans, spotlight your Library and build the Veterans History Project collection of stories of veterans who served in World War I through recent conflicts and peacekeeping missions.

[Link: loc.gov/vets/communityevents.html]

The Veterans History Project Workshops

Veterans History Project (VHP) offers workshops that are designed to increase participants’ understanding of oral history interviewing and techniques as well as the specifics of VHP guidelines so that interviews may be included in the archives at the Library of Congress. Participating organizations who request, receive and host workshops provide the venue and the voluntary participants. Workshops accommodate between 25 and 60 participants.

[Link: loc.gov/vets/workshopinfo.html]

DMEP (Duplicate Materials Exchange Program) • The Library of Congress’s distribution of exchange materials is centralized via Duplicate Materials Exchange Program (DMEP). The program serves exchange partners in other countries, offering items which are deemed dispensable, that DMEP partners can utilize to enrich their own institutional collections. In exchange for materials sent to the Library and added to its collections, partners receive quota credits that allow them to select from an inventory of available books via the online ordering system, Web DMEP.

[Link: loc.gov/acq/exchange.html]

LOC Alumni Program

Have you worked at the Library? Join the Library of Congress Alumni network and stay connected.

[Link: loc.gov/alumni]