

BUILDING FACTS AND FIGURES

COST TO BUILD
\$6,345,000

CONSTRUCTION TIME
1888 to 1897

FLOOR SPACE
600,000 sq.ft

INCLUDES

- 15 types of marble
- 2,165 windows
- First public building in Washington built with electricity installed

The Library of Congress opens in the new Capitol Building with 740 books and 3 maps.



Thomas Jefferson sells his personal library to the nation after the original library was destroyed during the War of 1812.



The Library of Congress becomes the home of the U.S. Copyright Office



JEFFERSON & LIBRARY BUILDING HISTORY

1800

1815

1870

1897

NOW

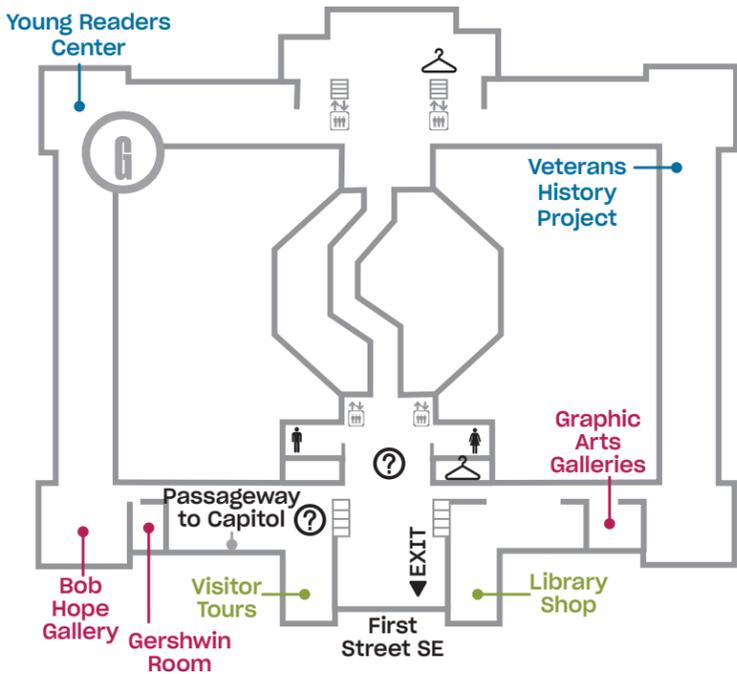
The library building opens with more than 40 American sculptors and artists contributing to the interior decor. It was named for Thomas Jefferson in 1880.

The Library is the largest in the world, with nearly 170 million items in 470 languages, including: books, maps, films, rare manuscripts, and more!



GROUND FLOOR

Restrooms Information Cloakroom



The **Young Readers Center** has books and activities for children. Learn about veterans' experiences at the **Veterans History Project** Information Center. Be sure to visit with an adult!

Want to do more? Ask at an information desk or go to loc.gov.

Thomas Jefferson Building and Exhibitions
Monday through Saturday
8:30 am to 4:30 pm
Closed New Year's, Thanksgiving and Christmas

FOLLOW US



LIBRARY

LIBRARY OF CONGRESS

FAMILY GUIDE

Explore the Thomas Jefferson Building and step into history!



For kids and adults

See collections in exhibitions and display cases throughout the building!



Suggested itineraries

15 to 30 mins.

30-60 mins.

> 1 hour

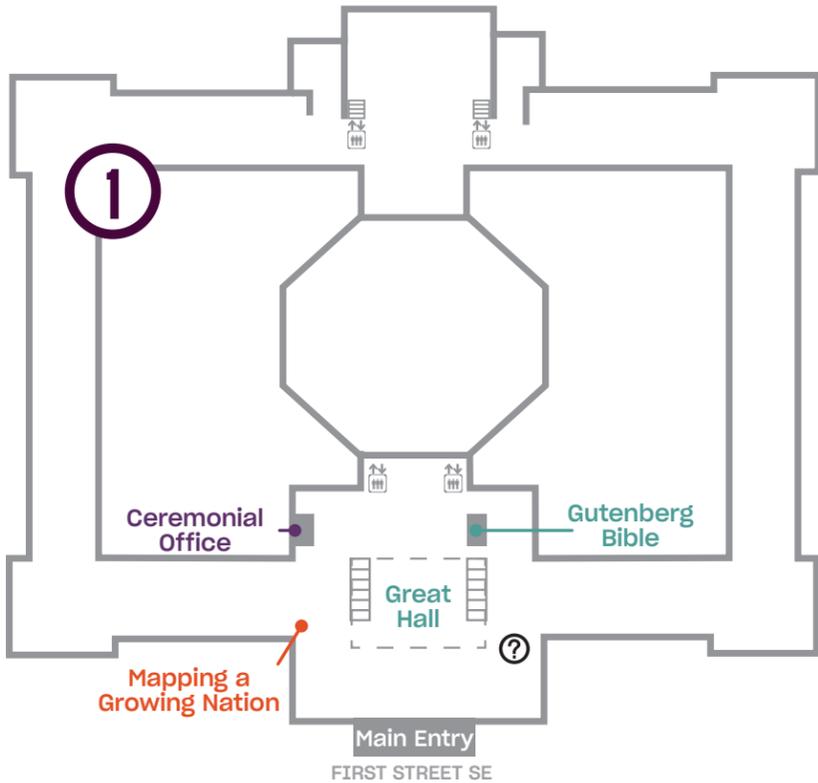


Ground floor map on reverse

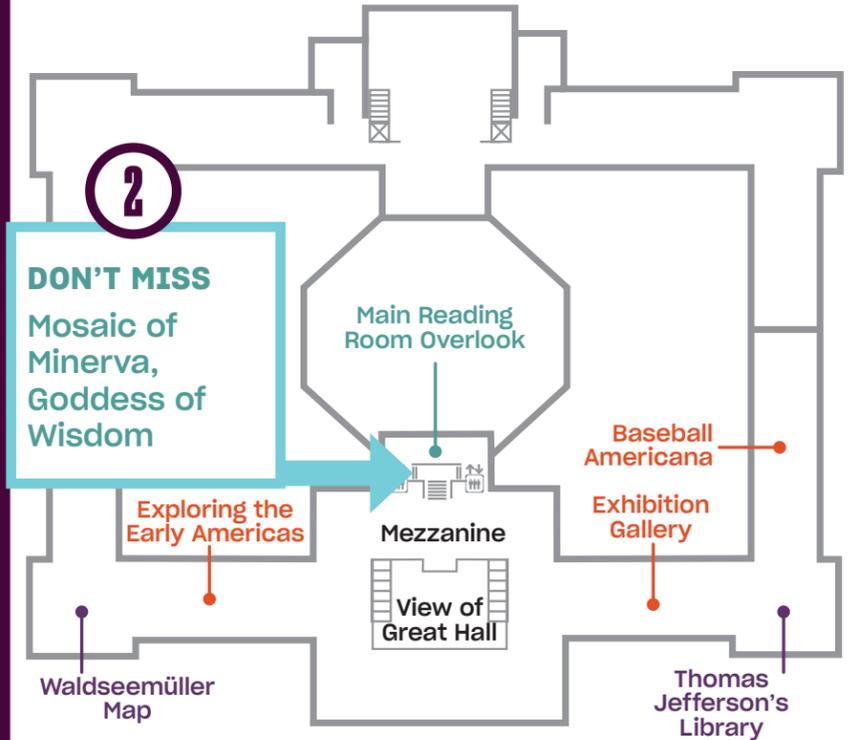


Information

FIRST FLOOR



SECOND FLOOR



The Great Hall

The decorations, art and architecture celebrate learning, creativity and achievement. Names of important writers and thinkers surround the stained-glass ceiling and top the columns.

On the marble staircases, children illustrate occupations and hobbies of the 1890s. The larger children holding globes represent Africa, America, Europe and Asia. One old and one young man on each side of the central arch represent life-long learning.



The Main Reading Room

Open to researchers 16 and older, the Main Reading Room is the largest of 20 reading rooms. 125 feet above the floor, a circular mural depicts 12 countries, cultures or time periods and their contributions to Western civilization. Between the stained-glass windows, 8 plaster female figures represent different areas of study or achievement. The bronze statues below them portray men famous for their work in these fields, such as Beethoven and Michelangelo for Art and Homer and Shakespeare for Poetry.



The Gutenberg Bible

Made in Germany in the 1450s, it is the first book made in Europe on a printing press using moveable metal type. The semi-circular paintings on the walls show how knowledge was passed on through the ages. The last panel shows Johannes Gutenberg holding a page from his printing press.

TREASURE



Thomas Jefferson's Library

In 1815, Thomas Jefferson owned the largest personal library in the United States.

He sold his 6,487 books to the nation to replace the congressional library destroyed during the War of 1812.

LEARN MORE

Film and interactive stations



The Ceremonial Office

The Librarian of Congress uses this office for special meetings.

Decorations include owls representing wisdom and Latin quotations celebrating learning.

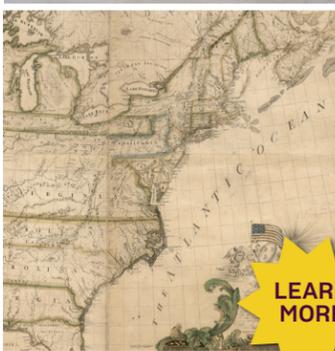


The Waldseemüller Map

One of the Library's greatest treasures. The 1507 map was the first to use the name America, to show America as a separate continent and to depict the Pacific Ocean. This original is the only surviving copy.

LEARN MORE

Interactive Stations



Mapping a Growing Nation

Abel Buell's New and Correct Map of the United States of North America is the first map of the newly independent United States compiled, printed and published in America by an American.

LEARN MORE

Interactive Screen



Exploring the Early Americas

This exhibition provides insights into Mesoamerica and the many changes that came from the meeting of the American and European worlds.

DON'T MISS

The section on pirates and privateers!