



General Photography and Video Guidelines for Visitors* to the Library of Congress

- **TIME LIMIT:** Photography/video sessions must not last **more than one hour. To avoid overcrowding, it is best to come before 10:30 a.m. or after 3:30 p.m. Monday–Saturday.**
- **EQUIPMENT:** Specialized equipment (e.g. tripods, bipods, monopods, selfie sticks, lights) for private shoots (e.g. weddings, graduations, etc.) is prohibited.
- **GROUP SIZE:** Groups are limited to 5 people, including the photographer or videographer.
- **RESTRICTIONS and PROHIBITIONS:**
 - Photography/video sessions:
 - must not interfere with the movement of visitors or block passage, including stairways, landings, doorways, exhibitions, etc.
 - is not permitted in restricted areas, including the reading rooms or areas closed to the general public.
 - must comply with all designated areas where photography or flash are prohibited.
 - is not permitted in the Main Reading Room overlook, on or near the stairways or landings, or in exhibition galleries.
 - In addition:**
 - It is prohibited to move furniture or set up backdrops or sets.
 - Appropriate clothing and shoes are required. Changing facilities are not available.
 - Unsafe activities (e.g., climbing, running, dancing, sliding down banisters) are prohibited.
- **PHOTOGRAPHING/VIDEOTAPING OF OTHERS:**
 - Photography/videotaping other visitors, staff and volunteers is not permitted without their written permission.
 - Photography/videotaping Police, guards or security areas is prohibited.
 - Please respect others' privacy.
- **SECURITY CHECKS:** All camera equipment must go through the x-ray machine on entry. Bags will be checked upon departure. Bags and accessories must remain with owners at all times.
- **EXTERIOR:** Photographing/videotaping exteriors of Library buildings must be requested in advance. Contact U.S. Capitol Police (202-224-8891 or www.uscapitolpolice.gov/special_events.php)

Failure to comply with these guidelines or any directives from appropriate Library staff or U.S. Capitol Police can result in eviction from the premises.

*News media and commercial productions, including photography shoots requiring location agreements, potentially intrusive professional equipment such as tripods, or interference with Library operations must contact the Office of Communications (news@loc.gov, 202-707-2905) for approval and permits.