Online Office Hours

We’ll get started at 2 ET
Welcome! We are glad you’re here.
Please use the chat box to introduce yourself.

Let us know:

- Your first name
- Grade/Subject
- State
Amara Alexander
Danna Bell
April Is Poetry Month
Celebrate poetry by browsing collections, watching readings and learning about the U.S. Poet Laureate.
Teachers

The Library of Congress offers classroom materials and professional development to help teachers effectively use primary sources from the Library’s vast digital collections in their teaching.

Find Library of Congress lesson plans and more that meet Common Core standards, state content standards, and the standards of national organizations.

Search Our Classroom Materials by Standards
- Common Core
- State Content
- Organizations

Classroom Materials

- Online Office Hours for Education Every Tuesday and Thursday from 2:00 – 3:00 pm ET
- Women’s Suffrage Movement Idea Book for Educators from HISTORY
- Webinar: Scientific Literacy, Citizenship, and Historical Primary Sources Register Now
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Three Questions with Juliana Mestre, Spring 2019 Teaching with Primary Source Intern
April 9, 2020 by Danna Bell

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Professional Development

The Library of Congress provides primary source-based, ready-to-use resources for teachers and facilitators:

- Guides for Facilitators: “Build and Deliver”

Or consider training with Library of Congress staff:

- Summer Teacher Institutes

@TeachingLC
Three Questions with Juliana Mestre, Spring 2019 Teaching with Primary Source Intern

April 9, 2020 by Danna Bell

Meet Juliana Mestre, the Spring 2019 Teaching with Primary Sources (TPS) program Intern in the Library of Congress Young Readers Center. After you read about her experiences, you might be interested in applying for this internship, and more information is available here. The deadline to apply for Fall 2020 is May 4.

What was the most powerful part of the internship?

Each day brought a new opportunity. As the TPS intern I was able to help with a reorganization project, interact with visitors, collaborate on the design and implementation of programming, meet authors, go on tours of different departments, explore reading rooms, research a wide variety of topics, and work alongside some incredible people.

The daily routine also left me curious about the origins of librarianship, which informed my primary source research project. I built my project around the history of traveling libraries, focusing on the ways information was spread at the beginning of the 20th century and the individuals who were involved.

Using primary sources, I aimed to create an engaging introduction to research for middle school students and to help
Let's Ride: Roller Coaster Design and Primary Sources

March 31, 2020 by Danna Bell

This post was written by Amara L. Alexander, 2019-20 Library of Congress Albert Einstein Distinguished Educator, and Matthew Bryant, 2019-20 Albert Einstein Distinguished Educator-Congressional Fellow.

Lina Beecher’s Flip Flap Railway was the first looping roller coaster in North America, debuting at New York’s Coney Island in the late 1890s, and was known for its engineering design and feeling of acceleration on the passenger’s body—during the ride. Students can analyze the engineering design of this historical roller coaster and then apply what they learn to their own design.
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TEACHING WITH THE LIBRARY OF CONGRESS BLOG

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Source Teacher Institute

@TeachingLC
Classroom Materials

Created by teachers for teachers, these ready-to-use materials provide easy ways to incorporate the Library’s unparalleled primary sources into instruction.

Search Our Classroom Materials by Standards  Common Core  State Content  Organizations

Primary Source Sets
Sets of primary sources on specific topics.

Lesson Plans
Teacher-created lesson plans using Library of Congress primary sources.

Presentations & Activities
Media-rich historical context and opportunities for both teachers and students to explore.
States.
Student Discovery Set — free ebook on iBooks

The Dust Bowl
Photographs, recorded music, and song lyrics document the daily ordeals of rural migrant families from the Great Plains during a decade marked by both the Dust Bowl and the Great Depression.
Student Discovery Set — free ebook on iBooks

Found Poetry
Using primary source texts on a variety of subjects, students select words to retell the historical content in poetic form

The Harlem Renaissance
Photographs, authors’ drafts, sheet music, an audio recording, and newspaper articles let students explore the artistic and literary legacy of the Harlem Renaissance.
Student Discovery Set — free ebook on iBooks

Hispanic Exploration in America
Songs, maps, drawings, paintings, written documents and presentations outline the role of Hispanic explorers in the discovery, exploration, and development of America

Immigration: Challenges for New Americans
Photographs, maps detailing immigration patterns, official documents, song sheets and streaming audio recount the immigrant experience in America, their reasons for leaving their homelands, and the reactions of established Americans.
Student Discovery Set — free ebook on iBooks

The Industrial Revolution in the United States
Maps, songs, photos, and political cartoons tell the story of the United States’ transition to an industrial nation
Student Discovery Set — free ebook on iBooks

The Inventive Wright Brothers
Wilbur and Orville Wright went from repairing bicycles to inventing the airplane. Photographs, newspapers articles, personal letters and telegrams, and official army documents record their experiences and their experiments

Jamestown
The Inventive Wright Brothers

Teacher's Guide

Start here for historical context, teaching suggestions, links to online resources, and more:

The Inventive Wright Brothers Teacher's Guide (PDF, 644 KB)

To help your students analyze these primary sources, get a graphic organizer and guides:

Analysis Tool and Guides »

Find out which standards this resource meets

- Common Core
- State Content
- Organizations

Primary Sources

Click the thumbnail for the original item, the caption for information on the item, or download a PDF or MP3.

- Orville Wright to Bishop Milton Wright
  - View PDF (1.01 MB)

- Penaud-style Ornithopter
  - View PDF (51 KB)

- West Side News
  - View PDF (144 KB)

- Wilbur Wright in Bicycle Shop
  - View PDF (665 KB)

- Wilbur Wright to Octave Chanute, 5/13/1900
  - View PDF (1.44 MB)
April Is Poetry Month

Celebrate poetry by browsing collections, watching readings and learning about the U.S. Poet Laureate.
PHOTO, PRINT, DRAWING

Recycle.

1 print: color silkscreen; sheet 60 x 41 cm (poster format) | Poster shows a heap of trash.

Date: 1971

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PHOTO, PRINT, DRAWING

Recycle.

1 print: offset; sheet 61 x 39 cm (poster format) | Poster shows pile of objects.

Date: 1970
PHOTO, PRINT, DRAWING

Children collecting bronze household goods for the gov’t.

1 photographic print. Photograph shows group of children carrying metal objects.

Date: 1915

PHOTO, PRINT, DRAWING

Save scrap for victory! Save metals, save paper, save rubber, save rags.

1 print on board (poster): silkscreen, color. Poster for the Philadelphia Salvage Committee encouraging scrap drives to aid the war effort.

Contributor: Federal Art Project

Date: 1941
About this Item

Title
Manpower, junior size. It takes a good right arm to collect all the household scrap that’s needed for the nation’s armaments, and these Roanoke, Virginia youngsters have just what it takes. Note the badge on the boy’s collar; it reads: “Lieutenant: Junior Commando Salvage Drive”

Contributor Names
Sarra, Valentino, 1903-, photographer
United States. Office of War Information.

Created / Published
1942 Oct.

Subject Headings
- United States--Virginia--Roanoke

Headings
Nitrate negatives.

Genre
Nitrate negatives

Notes
- Actual size of negative is C (approximately 4 x 5 inches).
- Title and other information from caption card.
- More Information about the FSA/OWI Collection is available at http://hdl.loc.gov/loc.pnp/pp.fsaowi
- Film copy on SIS roll 33, frame 259.
Wednesday, April 22 at 4:00 pm ET

Scientific Literacy, Citizenship, and History: Analyzing Primary Sources from the Library of Congress
Teachers

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  Register Now

Teaching with the Library of Congress Blog

- "The 21st Century School: History, Civic Engagement, Risk, and Social Media"  
  October 25, 2013

Professional Development

The Library of Congress provides professional development opportunities for educators to enhance teaching and learning with the Library’s vast digital collections.
Notice: Out of an abundance of caution, all Library of Congress research centers will be closed to the public (including researchers and others with reader identification cards) until further notice, to reduce the risk of transmitting COVID-19 coronavirus. All Library-sponsored public programs are also postponed or canceled through July 1. Online resources and reference services, such as Ask a Librarian, will continue to be available during this time. For more information, see: www.loc.gov/coronavirus.
Celebrate Innovators and Changemakers on National Inventors Day! Learn about Aviation Pioneers Orville and Wilbur Wright
February 11, 2019 by Ellen Terrell

This post was written by Michelle Cadoree Bradley, a Science Reference Specialist in the Science, Technology and Business Division.

“For some years I have been afflicted with the belief that flight is possible to man,” wrote Wilbur Wright in a letter to Octave Chanute in May 1900. (Octave Chanute Papers: Special Correspondence—Wright Brothers, 1900, in Octave Chanute Collection at the Library of Congress).

Brothers Wilbur and Orville Wright spent years working on powered flight, doing research, and corresponding with others in the field. The process was not smooth and a record of their progress and failures can be found in their diaries and in photographic evidence, such as the picture of their wrecked plane above. Their hard work and perseverance paid off, and on December 17, 1903, they achieved their dream of powered, sustained flight.

For teachers and students wishing to access primary source materials see:

- The Wilbur and Orville Wright Papers at the Library of Congress
- The Inventive Wright Brothers: Teacher’s Guide

Explore the Wilbur and Orville Wright Papers at the Library of Congress at //www.loc.gov/collections/wilbur-and-orville-wright-papers/about-this-collection/#overview
How can you tell the difference between a butterfly and a moth?

One of the easiest ways to tell the difference between a butterfly and a moth is to look at the antennae. A butterfly's antennae are club-shaped with a long shaft and a bulb at the end. A moth's antennae are feathery or saw-edged.
Resources for Students & Teachers

Science Subject Guide

Biographies of Women Scientists: For Girls and Young Women (Science Reference Guide)


Family Fun! Discovering Science at the Library of Congress (Science Reference Guide)

Girls & Science Education: How to Engage Girls in Science (Science Reference Guide)

Latinos in Math & Science: Resources for kids, young adults and teachers (Science Reference Guide)

Resources for Teachers (Selected Internet Resources)

School Gardens: A Guide to Selected Resources (Selected Internet Resources)

Selected Lesson Topics Using the Library of Congress Science Reference Service Resources (Selected Internet Resources)

Teaching Astronomy (Science Reference Guide)

Additional resources to consult:
- General and Multidisciplinary Science (Science Subject Guide)
- Biography History of Science (Science Subject Guide)
- Everyday Mysteries
- LC Science Tracer Bullets
- Science, Technology & Business Division Webcasts
- American Memory (Browse Collections: Technology, Industry)
- Electronic Databases - Many are available only on Library premises; some are freely available elsewhere

Top of Page
Webcasts from the Science, Technology & Business Division

This guide links to webcasts of talks sponsored by the Science, Technology & Business Division

Introduction

The Library's Science, Technology & Business Division sponsors a regular series of lunchtime talks given by experts in various fields. Since 2001, these talks have been recorded—and most past events are available on the Library of Congress Webcasts pages. Many of these talks can also be found through YouTube: Topics in Science from the Library of Congress.

To find out about upcoming events sponsored by the Science, Technology & Business Division, check the listing on the Science Reference Services home page. Or see Events at the Library of Congress.

Featured Webcast

Apollo at 50: The Lasting Effect of Exploration of the Lunar Surface on Our Current Exploration of the Moon

Authors:
Alison Kelly, Science Research Specialist, Science, Technology & Business Division

Created: January 9, 2019
Last Updated: February, 2020
## Science & Technology

The following guides were created by librarians in Science Reference Services. More guides can be found via their website at [www.loc.gov/rr/scitech](http://www.loc.gov/rr/scitech).

### A-Z Database List

Full list of databases the library subscribes to, including trial access.

### Showing 23 Subjects

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Subject</th>
<th>Count</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>African American Studies</td>
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<td>Agriculture and Horticulture</td>
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<td>American History</td>
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<td>Anthropology</td>
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<td>Applied Science, Engineering and Technology</td>
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<td>Art and Architecture</td>
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<td>Biology, Life Sciences and Genetics</td>
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<td>Environment and Natural Resources</td>
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<td>Food &amp; Nutrition</td>
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<td>Gender and Women's Studies</td>
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<td>Health &amp; Medicine</td>
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<td>Hispanic Studies</td>
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<td>History</td>
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<td>Military Science</td>
<td>1</td>
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<td>Physics and Astronomy</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
Online Reference Service Available

Ask a Librarian when you need research or reference help -- trained experts standing by.
Have a question? Need assistance?

Use our online form to ask a librarian for help now.

Ask a Librarian

Have a question? Ask us now! Librarians are available to answer your questions and help with your research. We are happy to help you, but ask for your patience, as many of us are working remotely, and this may impact our access to some Library of Congress materials and our ability to fully respond to your question at this time (but we will do our best!). For more information about the Library’s current operating status, see: www.loc.gov/coronavirus

For more specific questions you may also use one of the forms below. Some areas offer online chat during limited hours, indicated by the icon.

Topics
- Business
- Film
- Humanities and Social Sciences
- Law (U.S. & International)
- Local History and Genealogy
- Music and Literature
- Science/Technology

Programs and Services
- Advance Reserve
- Congress.gov
- Interlibrary Loan and Accounts
- Preservation
- Teacher Resources
- Veterans History Project

Formats
- Audio Recordings
- Digital Collections
- Film, TV, Video
- Geographic Names
- Manuscripts
- Performing Arts
- Newspapers, Periodicals

Languages and Regions
- African/Middle Eastern
- Asian
- European
- Hispanic

Want to report an error or send a comment to Library staff?
Use the Web Site Comments Form >