



AMERICA'S LIBRARY

The Library of Congress has something for everyone

Ask a librarian:

The librarians provide different services depending on the subject you're researching, but some of the common tasks are:

- Basic research assistance related to the specialty you're searching
- Answers to queries requiring resources unique to the Library of Congress
- Resources for teachers
- Response within five business days

Services they don't provide:

- Answers for student assignments
- Answers for contests, puzzles or games
- Copies of books and periodicals

General Collections

- Business
- Humanities/Social Sciences
- Law (US & International)
- Local History/Genealogy
- Newspapers/Periodicals chat
- Science/Technology
- International Collections
- African/Middle Eastern
- Asian
- European
- Hispanic

Digital Collections

- American Memory Historical Collections chat
- Digital Reference Section chat
- Resources for Teachers
- World Digital Library

Special Formats and Genre

- American Folklife Center
- Geography & Map
- Manuscript
- Microform
- Motion Picture & Television
- Music & Performing Arts
- Prints & Photographs
- Rare Book & Special Collections
- Recorded Sound
- Veterans History Project

Other Programs and Services

- Access to Collections
- Borrowing Accounts
- Interlibrary Loan
- National Library Service for Blind/Physically Handicapped
- Poetry Office
- Preservation

Where would you go if you needed to research a question on international law, listen to a 1939 recording of Clarence Chambers whistling the "Flat-Foot Blues," view photos from the Civil War, browse through Thomas Jefferson's library and register a copyright? The Library of Congress' website, www.loc.gov, of course.



KEVIN O'NEILL
InSites

The online version of the legislative branch of the government's library is a densely packed treasure trove of information, images, videos, recordings, maps and more.

The Library of Congress is the largest library in the world and the nation's oldest federal cultural institution. It was created to assist U.S. representatives and senators in their research while drafting the nation's laws. Part of its mission is also "to sustain and preserve a universal collection of knowledge and creativity for future generations."

The site has so much content covering so many different subjects it's hard to know where to begin if you're just browsing. Dozens of links to different subjects crowd the home page, including links to the library's Facebook, Twitter, YouTube and Flickr pages. If you're looking for something specific, there's a search function on the homepage, and the various collections on the site have their own search capabilities.

Here's a sampling of some of the resources the site has to offer:

The World Digital Library

A cooperative effort of the Library of Congress, the United Nations Educational Scientific and Cultural Organization, and partner libraries, archives, and educational and cultural institutions worldwide. The project brings together rare and unique books, journals, manuscripts, maps, prints and photographs, films, and sound recordings from cultures around the world.

Teachers

Classroom Materials

- Primary Source Sets
- Themed Resources
- Lesson Plans
- Collection Connections
- Presentations and Activities

Professional Development

- Build and Deliver
- Take Online Modules
- Train with the Library of Congress

Digital Collections

- American History & Culture
- Historic Newspapers
- International Collections
- Legislative Information
- Performing Arts
- Prints and Photographs
- Website Archiving

Spotlight on Kids & Families

- America's Library
- American Memory
- Today in History
- Music, Theater and Dance
- Portals to the World
- Song of America Tour
- Wise Guide to loc.gov
- Lifelong Literacy
- Local Legacies
- Everyday Mysteries
- Places in the News
- Center for the Book
- Book Festival Webcasts
- Veterans History Project

American Memory

- Advertising
- African American History
- Architecture, Landscape
- Cities, Towns
- Culture, Folklife
- Environment, Conservation
- Government, Law
- Immigration, American Expansion
- Literature
- Maps
- Native American History
- Performing Arts, Music
- Presidents
- Religion
- Sports, Recreation
- Technology, Industry
- War, Military
- Women's History

THOMAS

Named for Thomas Jefferson, this section contains legislative information from the Library of Congress, including pending bills, and minutes and live video of current congressional sessions.

KEVIN O'NEILL is a graphic artist for The Times-Tribune. Contact him at koneill@timeshamrock.com with links to your favorite websites.