



Videoconferencing with the Library of Congress: Programs for General Audiences

All programs are interactive with the Library's resources and staff. Content on the Library's Web site is useful in the study of American literature and language, U.S. history, government, social studies, and geography; photography and the visual arts; music and dance; and American culture and customs. World history and geography comprise a small but growing segment of the Library's online digital materials.

(About the Library)

Gifts to the Nation: American Treasures of the Library of Congress

These are the gifts of generations past. They describe the exploits, strivings, accomplishments, beliefs and attitudes of those who contributed, for better or for worse, to making us who we are as a nation. They were not given lightly – danger lurked on the high seas or in acts of treason against the King of England; continuing failures preceded ultimate success; the spark of imagination required years of work to come to fruition

They are here, at the Library of Congress, and now on display through the Library's Web site, for all generations, present and future. Join us as we take you on a journey through a sampling of the more than 250 items that have been selected to represent the treasures that the Library holds.

From Monticello to Capitol Hill: Thomas Jefferson and His Library

After nearly two centuries, Thomas Jefferson's library has again been recreated at the heart of the Library of Congress for all to see. How did catastrophe vie with vision and innovation to transform Jefferson's library into the Library of Congress? Join us as we take you on a virtual journey across the Web, blending a nineteenth-century story with twenty-first-century technical innovation to bring you online resources that are both the oldest and the newest treasures the world's greatest library has to share.

(General Interest)

Batter UP! Baseball at the Library of Congress

From Civil War POWs to the World Series, Americans have found a way to play baseball. Explore Americans' fascination with baseball through song sheets, photographs, personal accounts, and memorabilia – including baseball cards from 1887!

Congress Present: Searching THOMAS

What are your members of Congress doing? What are their positions on the issues? How can you contact them? Explore THOMAS, the Library of Congress Web site for congressional materials, and become an active participant in the legislative process!

Declaring Independence: Beyond the Fourth of July

Everybody knows we celebrate the 4th of July because that's the day we declared independence. But there's more to the Declaration of Independence story than just one day or even just one document. Library of Congress staff will show the Declaration of Independence as it evolved from an idea to an event, looking at a variety of drafts and editions of Declaration and related documents.

Extra! Extra! More Than 2.6 Million Newspaper Pages Now Online!

Extra! Extra! Read All About It! Get the news of yesteryear here! Stock market reports, election results, baseball scores, earthquakes, and more! It's the news you want and the news you need from Chronicling America, the Library of Congress gateway to America's historic newspapers. Join Library of Congress staff for a sampling of century-old headlines and articles of significant events that echo in the headlines of today.

Presidential Elections and Inaugurations: 1789 to the Present

The Library of Congress Web site contains a wide variety of resources that document the history of presidential elections and inaugurations. From George Washington to Obama v. McCain, learn how to navigate the Library's site to find election-related resources such as manuscripts, government documents, photographs, cartoons, films, and sound recordings.

Recipes & Cookbooks: A (Tasty?) Window into Our Past

The contents of cookbooks – measurements, ingredients, preparation methods, captions, side notes, and diagrams – conjure up images of campfires, hearthside kettles, electric stoves, and ovens yielding fragrant aromas. They reflect the influences of native peoples, immigration and migration, hard times, and advances in technology. Through shared recipes, we glimpse another side of our history: celebrations and ceremonies; hard times; and the resourcefulness and ingenuity of the human spirit. Join Library staff for a journey through the tasty resources on the Library of Congress Web site.

Sleuthing With Maps *(two-hour workshop)*

Maps are windows to the cultural, political, and physical world around us. They capture a space in time and define it according to parameters set by the mapmaker for an intended audience. Who is that audience? What did they want to know? What did the mapmaker want to portray? Why? Unlock these answers and more as we delve into an exploration of historical maps and the surprises they yield.

The Spy Map and General Washington

It is December 31, 1776. The Declaration of Independence was signed a little more than five months ago and Britain has sent troops to quell the rebellious Colonials. There have been skirmishes, with the British remaining victorious. It is bitterly cold, the colonial troops are hungry, poorly clothed and ill-equipped, unpaid, and ready to return home. General Washington receives timely information from a “very intelligent young gentleman” and formulates a plan. Using the spy’s map, accompanying letter, and the official Revolutionary War battle map, learn what General Washington learned and trace his path in this very important battle of the Revolutionary War.

(Poetry)

"Feeling a little poetic this evening": Abraham Lincoln and Poetry

Abraham Lincoln loved poetry: he read, memorized, recited, and wrote poems throughout his life. During an era when poetic tributes to heroes and leaders were common, Lincoln, while president, received and saved many of them; and after his death, he was memorialized in poems by average citizens and leading poets alike. Join Library of Congress staff and explore the many facets of Lincoln as a reader, writer, recipient, and subject of poetry.

Laurels and Lyrics: Poetry Resources at the Library of Congress

The Library of Congress Web site is a rich resource for poetry lovers. This program introduces the Library's many poetry offerings - including web guides on U.S. poets laureate, webcasts of poetry readings, exhibits on famous poets, and, of course, poems themselves - to educators and members of the general public wishing to explore American poetry and its presence in everyday life.

Poetry on High: A History of U.S. Poets Laureate

Does your state have its own poet laureate? What do poets laureate do on the job (besides write poetry!)? Explore the history, missions, and activities of U.S. national and state poets laureate. Learn how the position of U.S. Poet Laureate was created and has changed over the years.

(Special Interest)

Capturing the Memories: How You Can Contribute to Our Veterans' Legacy

Dads, brothers, moms, sisters, aunts, uncles, cousins, friends, and neighbors – we've all been touched by their experiences in times of conflict and war. Now you have an opportunity to record those stories and save them for future generations. Join Library of Congress staff and learn how you can contribute your own story or that of a loved one to the Veterans History Project.

Gathering Community Stories *(two-hour workshop)*

Gain a unique perspective on your community's history and cultural identity by gathering oral history interviews. This workshop introduces the layperson to the process of collecting oral history and focuses on a critical phase of the process, the interview. Practice establishing rapport, sharpening interview listening skills, and asking open-ended questions to develop a foundation for further exploration into the process as a classroom activity.

Invisible Ancestors: Ideas & Strategies for Recreating Their Stories

Many ancestors - early immigrants and pioneers, slaves, women, native peoples, and others - do not have compiled biographies. They are invisible except in the historical record, through the census or other data collection entities. Where there are gaps in their history, the stories can be told through early travelogues, letters, diaries, other texts and printed ephemera, photographs and other visual media, and maps.

Join Library of Congress staff for ideas and strategies for combining physical and online materials that go beyond the data and recreate the stories of these individuals. We invite you to take this opportunity to sample the Library's online materials and locate items that will enrich the stories of those whom you would like to know better.

(Professional Interest)

Library of Congress ONLINE! *(two-hour workshop)*

Take a guided tour of the Library of Congress Web site! Discover Edison's films; examine Bell's scientific notebooks, Morse's code, and maps of exploration and world events; pour over photographs of home towns and exotic places; listen to America's voices in songs, conversations, and speeches; track current legislation or contact your Congressman; and visit unique exhibitions without leaving your home town. To help you take advantage of these wonderful primary sources, sample the Library's services and resources, including Ask A Librarian, Today in History, Places in the News, American Memory, Global Gateway, and more! Requires Internet-connected computers for hands-on practice.

Searching loc.gov *(two-hour workshop)*

Feeling overwhelmed when trying to search the Library of Congress's Web site? Where do you begin? How? Different needs require different strategies when searching. Learn the characteristics and scope of different search tools on the Library of Congress Web site and its sub-sites. Practice using various resources designed to streamline the search process. Develop search strategies that can be adapted, modified, and translated into classroom success. Requires Internet-connected computers for hands-on practice.

Audience:

Programs are appropriate for adult groups such as historical societies, genealogists, library staff, adult educators and their students, parents of middle and high school students, and general audiences who have an interest in the materials held by the Library.

Cost:

All programs are free. We ask that you dial us, thus any connect charges are yours.

Scheduling:

Events may be scheduled Monday – Friday, during normal working hours, Eastern time. Times are flexible, depending on Library staff availability, time zone differences, and varied work schedules across the country. All programs are one hour unless otherwise noted.

Library of Congress' Role:

- 1) Tailor the program to meet your needs and goals for your participants.
- 2) Provide a presenter(s) with expert knowledge in the topic.
- 3) Provide handouts for the host site to photocopy and distribute.
- 4) Facilitate the event, with co-facilitation by the host site.

Your Role:

- 1) Contact us at <http://www.loc.gov/rr/program/videoconf/formvideo.php> . Use the Comments box at the bottom of the form to request programs for general audiences.
- 2) Provide the Library with information to make the event relevant to participants; e.g., goals for the event, number of participants, and description of the audience.
- 3) Facilitate the presentation locally. Have extra support staff to assist in computer lab if needed.
- 4) Create resources and handouts per Library instruction. If needed, download files for the program from the Library Web site prior to the event.
- 5) Schedule and conduct an equipment compatibility check no later than a week prior to the event.

Technical Specifications:

- 1) ISDN and IP-based video conferencing capability compatible with the Polycom 8000 system.
- 2) For workshops, a computer lab setting with a presentation system viewable by participants; machine to participant ratio of 1:2 or 1:1.
- 3) Web browsers should be able to play multimedia files in American Memory. See “American Memory Viewer Information” at <http://memory.loc.gov/ammem/amviewer.html> for file types and suggested players.