

## Library of Congress Main Page – [www.loc.gov](http://www.loc.gov)



### Mission Statement:

“The primary mission of the Library of Congress is to serve Members of the Congress and thereafter, the needs of the government, other libraries, and members of the public.”

### A. Reference Services – (Under the “Ask a Librarian” button)

- 1) Chat with a Librarian – chat with a librarian using the online reference service. Please note that the scope of the services does not include: compilation of extensive bibliographies, requests for information connected with contests, completion of school or work assignments, translations, or research in heraldry or family history.
- 2) Virtual Reference Shelf – selected Web resources compiled by the LC.
  - a. Alcove 9 – annotated list of reference websites which includes “Portals to the World”. (see page 3)
  - b. Librarians’ Internet Index – links to reliable websites on topics from law to recreation.
  - c. refdesk.com – portal of facts that you can customize includes quotes; games; news sources, photos, and videos; weather; world and atomic clocks, and words e.g. SAT prep\*.
  - d. Internet Public Library Reference Center – provides almanacs and a perpetual calendar.
  - e. Other Reference Sites – comprehensive list of Internet resources.
  - f. In the News – links to a variety of news services by location plus search engines.
- 3) Virtual Programs and Services
  - a. Web Guides – comprehensive coverage prepared by LC librarians on a variety of subjects including the Titanic, Brown v. the Board of Education, and poetry criticism.
  - b. Video conferences – free helps on the orientation to the digital library and one-hour jumpstarts on music and dance, genealogy, and women.
  - c. Webcasts – “Journeys & Crossings” from LC curators.
  - d. Luminary Lectures – fresh perspectives on librarianship.

## B. Digital Collections & Programs

- 1) American Memory, the flagship of the Library's digital services, offers multimedia collections of digitized documents, photographs, recorded sound, motion pictures, and text from the American historical collections of the Library and other institutions. American Memory now offers more than 7 million primary sources from more than 100 historical collections.
- 2) THOMAS - provides access to legislative information.
- 3) Performing Arts Encyclopedia – explore music, theater, and dance.
- 4) Additional topics are the Veterans History Project, Chronicling America (historic newspapers), and Global Gateway (international) to name a few.

## C. Library Catalogs

- 1) LC Online Catalog – main online catalog contains 12 million bibliographic records for books, serials, manuscripts, music, and more. Search and download MARC records.
- 2) Access other catalogs, such as Copyright Records: Registrations and Documents, SONIC (Sound Online Inventory and Catalog), Prints & Photographs Online Catalog, and Other Libraries' Catalogs (a multitude of university catalogs).

## *Alcove 9: An Annotated List of Reference Websites*

The Main Reading Room of the Library of Congress has eight alcoves. This ninth "virtual alcove" is a collection of websites selected and annotated by Humanities and Social Sciences Division subject specialists. All of these websites have components that are free and available to the public; some might require user registration, or may have links to fee-based services. Please read the [standard disclaimer](#) regarding these links.

The Library of Congress also administers [Portals to the World](#), an annotated collection of websites organized by country. The Humanities and Social Sciences Division maintains the country Portals for [Australia](#), [Canada](#), [Ireland](#), [New Zealand](#), and the [United Kingdom](#).

### Subject Index

- [Addresses and Telephone Numbers](#)
- [Arts, Fine and Decorative](#)
- [Arts, Performing](#)
- [Biography](#)
- [Books and Booksellers](#)
- [Classical and Medieval History](#)
- [Computers and the Internet](#)
- [Education](#)
- [Geography, Weather, Time](#)
- [Humanities and Social Sciences \(General\)](#)
- [Indians of North America](#)
- [International Relations](#)
- [Journalism and Media](#)
- [Language and Linguistics](#)
- [Libraries, Archives, and Consortia](#)
- [Literatures in English](#)
- [Maritime History](#)
- [Psychology](#)
- [Religion](#)
- [Sociology](#)
- [Sports and Recreation](#)
- [Statistical Databases and Data Sets](#)
- [Military History and Military Science](#)
- [U.S. Government, Law, and Politics](#)
- [U.S. History](#)
- [Women's Studies](#)

### *Tips and Tricks – [www.loc.gov/learn/start/howtos.html](http://www.loc.gov/learn/start/howtos.html)*

- Search tips and strategies
- Tips on linking and bookmarking American Memory collections
- Explanation of special viewers needed to view and listen to certain collections
- Guidelines for printing and saving web pages and images
- Examples of proper citation and pointers to copyright information
- Answers to questions about copyright and fair use
- Instructions on how to use historical collection offline

## The Learning Page - [www.loc.gov/learn](http://www.loc.gov/learn)

The Learning Page... especially for teachers

- getting started
- lesson plans
- features & activities
- collection connections
- community center
- professional development

news!

Don't miss... The Source | E-Mail Updates | Chat

Preview our new look and new features and let us know what you think.

More Educational Resources - Around and Beyond The Library

Selected for 101 BEST WEB SITES ISTE Publications 2005-2006

Let us be your "front door" to more than 100 American Memory collections! Here is a "teacher's eye view" of over 7 million historical documents, photographs, maps, films, and audio recordings. You will find lessons, features, activities, and tips and tricks for using these collections in your classroom. Please join us!

The Learning Page is designed to help educators use the American Memory Collections to teach history and culture. It offers tips and tricks, definitions and rationale for using primary sources, activities, discussions, lesson plans and suggestions for using the collections in classroom curriculum.

- 1) Getting Started – Introduction and instructions on primary sources, searching, finding links, and the site map.
- 2) Lesson Plans – Lesson plans developed by education professionals to help you create your own lessons and integrate American Memory primary sources.
- 3) Features and Activities:
  - ✓ Activities offer interactive “hands on” student participation under the direction of a teacher.
  - ✓ Features provide a way to investigate curricular themes found in the American Memory collections.
- 4) Collection Connections – Activity ideas to use both American Memory (U.S. History) and Global Gateway (World History) to develop critical thinking skills. Reading lists.
- 5) Community Center – Place to share ideas with other educators and “chat” with LC staff on themed discussions and contribute to “The Source”, a newsletter of practical teaching ideas for American Memory users. You can also sign up for email updates and add your favorite titles to the bibliographies.
- 6) Professional Development – Opportunities to participate in American Memory workshops through various media, reproduce handouts, and download presentation files to help teach yourself and others ways to use primary sources and the LC website.

## America's Library - <http://www.americaslibrary.gov>

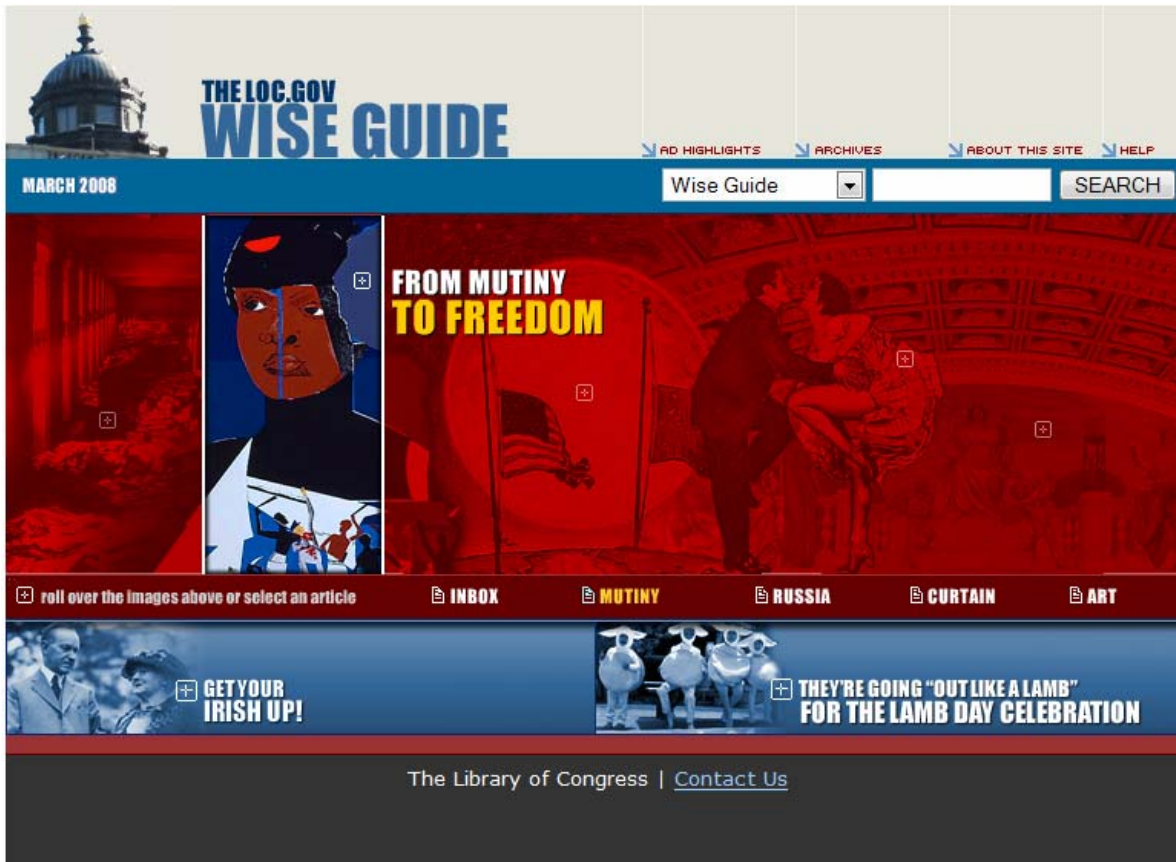


Launched on April 24, 2000, this site combines kid-friendly graphics with historical collections in more than 4,500 stories about our nation's past. It was named one of the "Hot Sites" for 2000 by USA Today.

### Sections:

- Meet Amazing Americans – introduces some of the nation's most fascinating historical figures, such as George Washington and Frank Lloyd Wright. It also offers "Scavenger Hunt" and Dynamite Presidents" games.
- Jump Back in Time – shares what happened on any day in history.
- Explore the States – provides interesting facts and stories about each of the states and the District of Columbia through a "Treasure Hunt".
- Join America at Play – engages users to "play ball" in the "Batter Up" game, send postcards, and other activities.
- See, Hear & Sing – makes many of the multimedia collections of sound and audio available. "Jammin' Jukebox" lets kids hear such popular tunes of the past as "Over There".

## WiseGuide – [www.loc.gov/wiseguide](http://www.loc.gov/wiseguide)



Launched in 2002, this Web magazine introduces newcomers and casual visitors to educational and useful resources on the Library of Congress web site. It is a monthly magazine which features seven “articles” linked to Web pages containing online materials. The archives provides all past issues since October 2002.

Some highlights are:

- February 2008 – “All Hail the Stinky Cheese Man” – Jon Scieszka appointed the first National Ambassador for Young People’s Literature.
- December 2007 – “In Case of Fire . . .” - In response to the fires in Southern California and the resulting damage to personal and public collections, the Library of Congress has updated its preservation Web page on emergency care.
- July 2007 – “Taking the Mystery Out of Copyright” – Announces a new website targeted to middle-school children with the goal of explaining U.S. copyright law