THE LIBRARY OF CONGRESS:
A DOCUMENTARY HISTORY

Guide to the Microfiche Collection

Edited by John Y. Cole
With a Foreword by Daniel J. Boorstin
The Library of Congress: A Documentary History

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The Library of Congress, the world's largest library, is also the world's largest Multi-Media Encyclopedia. In its extraordinary collections, from books and manuscripts to television programs and computer tapes, we discover the spiritual and intellectual wealth of our nation, the legacy we inherit from all the world. The Library of Congress is an open national library which requires no credentials for entry or enjoyment. Taking all knowledge for its province and a whole nation as its audience, it is a symbol and an instrument of a free people and their self-government.

As this documentary history illustrates, the Congress founded this Library to serve the legislature of a small coast-bound nation in 1800. By incorporating Thomas Jefferson's library in 1815, they enlarged the Library's concerns to include the whole record of human achievement. The Congress has created a world-encompassing cultural treasury that had not existed nor even been imagined elsewhere. The lawmakers of a great democratic people drawn from the ends of the earth have affirmed in this Library that they need the knowledge which all history and all the world can bring them, and that the people also need that knowledge. Here Congress has wisely proclaimed that we cannot know ourselves if we study only ourselves.

To know ourselves we must study the world. Most other great national libraries are primarily collections in the official language or languages of their nation. But here in the Library of Congress, nearly three-quarters of the books and a large proportion of other materials are in languages other than English. In the United States, a nation of immigrants, of all nations on earth, our national library like our people must be international.

Any history of the Library of Congress celebrates the efforts of its staff, of those who for nearly two centuries have attracted, collected, cataloged, cared for, and served up the nation's treasures. Here is the harvest of thousands of men and women, past and present, who have worked in the Library of Congress. With our other benefactors, they have built this institution and they keep it alive and growing.

DANIEL J. BOORSTIN
The Librarian of Congress
Preface

This collection of manuscripts and printed and graphic materials about the Library of Congress is but an introduction to the institution which is the largest and probably the most complicated library in the world. Through a careful selection of primary source material and books, articles, and reports, it seeks 1) to provide insights about the development of the Library of Congress as a legislative, national, and international institution; 2) to stimulate research about the Library and its relation to American politics, scholarship, librarianship, and culture.


The Library of Congress: A Documentary History on microfiche publishes, for the first time, the Guide to the Archives of the Library of Congress (Microfiche No. 1-1-1) and the Guide to the MARC Archives (Microfiche No. 3-6-1). It also brings together, in Section I, important printed histories, catalogs, and reports. A set of the Library's annual reports is included (Microfiche No. 1-3-1861 to Microfiche No. 1-3-1985); the reports for 1861-1899 are scarce and now available to many students for the first time. Documents from the Archives of the Library of Congress being published for the first time include the Librarian's annual report for 1862 (Microfiche No. 1-3-1862), the 1867 cataloging rules (Microfiche No. 3-4-1), and index to names in the Library's borrowers ledgers 1800-1867 (Microfiche No. 3-8-1), and the 1940 report of the Librarian's Committee on the Library's processing operations (Microfiche No. 2-9-3).

A special effort has been made to point out "neglected" topics or subjects where more research is needed, especially in cultural and intellectual history. The introduction to Section I contains many suggestions. Moreover, many of the essays in Sections II and III deal with topics that need further investigation, e.g. the Library and American cultural nationalism, the reading habits of Congress, the development of the largest collections of Chinese and Japanese research materials outside of China or Japan and the protection of the Library's collections during World War II.

A caveat is in order about the Archives of the Library of Congress, which are located in the Manuscript Division. They are in a state of transition between operating records and processed archival records. For example, the MacLeish-Evans materials (1939-1953) were only recently transferred from the Library's Central Services Division to the Manuscript Division. Other
records are constantly being transferred to the Archives from various departments and divisions. However, all the material listed in the Guide to the Archives and discussed or reproduced in this collection is available for use.

The editor is responsible for the organization of *The Library of Congress: A Documentary History* and for the selection of the items included, but he would like to acknowledge help that came from several directions. John D. Knowlton, the Manuscript Division’s specialist in Library of Congress History and Archives enthusiastically shared his knowledge of the archives and their organization. August A. Imholtz, Jr. of Congressional Information Service, Inc., supported the project at every turn. Several specialists in library history offered useful suggestions, especially Donald G. Davis, Jr. of the University of Texas, Jane Rosenberg of the National Endowment for the Humanities, and Wayne A. Wiegand of the University of Wisconsin at Madison. Advice was received from specialists in the Library’s Rare Book and Special Collections Division, Central Services Division, and Prints and Photographs Division. The Photoduplication Service cooperated fully and efficiently. My thanks and appreciation to all.

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JOHN Y. COLE  
Director  
*The Center for the Book in the Library of Congress*
Introduction

The Library of Congress and Its Multiple Missions

by John Y. Cole

On December 10, 1986, Daniel J. Boorstin, the Librarian of Congress announced that he would resign, effective June 15, 1987. Less than a month after his announcement, the New York Times was speculating about the leading candidates to succeed him as Librarian.1 It is not surprising that the selection of a new Librarian of Congress has become a noteworthy event in the nation's intellectual and cultural life. In the first place, it does not take place very often. The first Librarian was appointed in 1802 and Daniel J. Boorstin was only the twelfth person to hold the job. Secondly, the job itself is unique. The Library of Congress is part of the legislative branch of government, but the Librarian of Congress is nominated by the President of the United States. The Senate did not have the power to confirm the President's choice until 1897. At the same time, the office of Librarian of Congress was granted unique powers: the authority and responsibility for making the Library's rules and regulations and for hiring the Library's employees was transferred from the Joint Committee on the Library to the office of Librarian.

Finally, the Library of Congress itself occupies a unique place in American civilization. Established as a legislative library, it grew into a national institution that today is the largest library in the world, containing over 20 million volumes and 80 million pieces of research material, and employing more than 5,200 persons. In fiscal year 1985, the Congress appropriated over $225 million for its operations. The Library is an international as well as a national institution, collecting materials from all parts of the world which, in turn, are made available to librarians, scholars, government agencies, and citizens from around the world. The comprehensive scope of its collections, probably unmatched by any library in any era, is the foundation for cultural programs offered nowhere else. In summary, the traditions and the resources of the Library of Congress provide each Librarian of Congress with a unique opportunity to shape and influence American librarianship, scholarship, and culture.

The bringing together of the common concerns of government, scholarship, and librarianship through the Library of Congress has not been without its difficulties or controversies. In 1962, Douglas W. Bryant, associate librarian of Harvard University, accurately observed: "The major functions of the Library of Congress might have been assigned to three or four agencies...an explanation of why they have been combined would call for a study of history rather than of administrative logic."2 Controversies about the Library's functions come primarily from the tug and pull between its legislative and national responsibilities. Even though it is widely recognized as
the de facto national library of the United States, the Library of Congress, is not legally or officially that national library. In fact, its primary purpose is and always has been reference and research service for the U.S. Congress. Nonetheless, both the legislative and the national functions are inherent parts of the institution’s fabric.

The Library of Congress is a product of American nationalism. This nationalism is the unifying force among Congress, the Library, and the Nation, and the basic reason why the Library and its services have never been the exclusive property of the legislative branch of the American government. But the "glue" of this nationalism has loosened in recent decades as the Library and the demands of its six principal constituencies have grown. The six constituencies, listed roughly in the order in which they obtained access to the Library’s collections and services are: 1) the Congress; 2) the Federal Government; 3) the general public; 4) authors and publishers; 5) scholars and researchers outside Washington, D.C. and 6) libraries and librarians outside Washington, D.C.3

An understanding of the historical evolution of the Library of Congress and the ambiguities, compromises, and personalities that shaped it, is a prerequisite to understanding what the Library of Congress may or may not be able to do in the future. But the history of the Library of Congress also sheds important light on those aspects of American culture with which the Library is permanently entwined: Congress, the government, authorship, printing, and publishing; scholarship, literature, and the arts; and libraries and librarianship. This brief historical summary emphasizes the services that each of the twelve Librarians of Congress has felt the Library of Congress should provide.

The Library of Congress in the Nineteenth Century4

Historians of the Library of Congress such as David C. Mearns and Frederick W. Ashley have concluded that the institution’s first 64 years, from its founding in 1800 up to the administration of Librarian Ainsworth Rand Spofford, were relatively undistinguished. And it is true that the Library, then housed in the west front of the Capitol, was inconspicuous and only sparingly used by the legislators. It also is true that its accomplishments in later years were far more spectacular. Nevertheless, there were three developments between 1800 and 1864 that permanently established the Library's national roots—and the shape of its future growth. First, the Library was created by the national legislature, which took direct responsibility for its operation. Secondly, the Library of Congress served as the first library of the American government. Since the second decade of its existence, it has been used by executive agencies, the judicial branch, and even the general public, as well as by the Congress. Finally, through the purchase of Thomas Jefferson’s library in 1815, the scope of the Library's collections was permanently expanded. This point is of crucial importance, since the functions of the Library through the years have derived from its collections.

The Library of Congress was established as the American legislature prepared to move from Philadelphia to the new capital city of Washington. In section five of "An Act Making Further Provision for the Removal and
Accommodation of the Government of the United States,” signed by President John Adams on April 24, 1800, a sum of $5,000 was appropriated “for the purchase of such books as may be necessary for the use of Congress.” A month later the Joint Library Committee, consisting of bookish members of Congress, placed the first order of books from the London booksellers, Cadell and Davies. On January 26, 1802, President Thomas Jefferson approved the first law defining the role and functions of the new institution. This measure created the post of Librarian of Congress and made it a presidential appointment. It gave the Congress the authority to establish the Library’s rules and regulations and supervise its operation, but it also granted access to the president and the vice-president, as well as to members of Congress.

Jefferson appointed his friend and former campaign manager John Beckley, who was also serving as Clerk of the House of Representatives, to be the first Librarian of Congress. After Beckley’s death in 1807, Jefferson appointed the new Clerk of the House, Patrick Magruder to serve concurrently as Librarian. As political appointees with other duties, neither Beckley nor Magruder were in a position to do much more than carry out Library tasks assigned by President Jefferson or Library Committee chairman Samuel Latham Mitchell. But the Library’s collection grew slowly and steadily. Moreover, as the 1812 Catalogue attests, its scope began to expand beyond that of a legislative library. (See Microfiche No. 1-4-3) Catastrophe struck in August 1814, however: the British army captured Washington and burned the Capitol, including the 3,000 volume Library of Congress. Librarian Magruder was away from his post when the invasion took place, and in 1815, in the face of a Congressional investigation, he resigned his job as Clerk of the House and, by inference, as Librarian of Congress. (See Microfiche No. 2-2-4)

Before its destruction, the Library was developing into a small but adequate collection. Moreover, with the approval of Congress, it was becoming accessible to a wider range of users. In 1812, a joint resolution authorized the justices of the Supreme Court to use it in accordance with the “same terms, conditions, and restrictions as Members of Congress.” In the same year, members of the general public were permitted, for the first time, to borrow books, subject to the discretion of the Librarian and if a security deposit was left.

The broadening of the scope of the Library’s collections has been the cornerstone for the extension of the rest of the Library’s services—to Congress and to the rest of the nation. The most important early expansion of the collection was the 1815 purchase of ex-President Thomas Jefferson’s private library to replace the books lost in 1814. Moreover, because of this acquisition and Jefferson’s earlier interest in the Library, it is clear that Thomas Jefferson was the most important early influence on the Library of Congress. It is fitting that, in 1980, the Library’s Main Building was renamed the Thomas Jefferson Memorial Building.

The 1815 purchase of Jefferson’s 6,487-volume library doubled the size of the Library of Congress and permanently changed the nature of the collection. The first Library of Congress collection consisted chiefly of historical and legal works. Jefferson’s personal books reflected his own interests in philosophy, geography, science, and literature, as well as history, politics,
and law. Anticipating the argument that his library might be too comprehen-
sive in scope to be useful to a legislative body, Jefferson used a phrase which,
to this day, justifies the comprehensive collecting policy of the Library of
Congress:

I do not know that (my library) contains any branch of science
which Congress would wish to exclude from their collection; there
is, in fact, no subject to which a member of Congress may not
have occasion to refer.

Librarian Magruder’s resignation occurred on January 28, 1815, two
days before President James Madison approved the Jefferson purchase. On
March 21, Madison named a new Librarian. He was George Watterston, a
local novelist, journalist, and civic promoter. He also was the first Librarian
who did not also serve as Clerk of the House of Representatives. An ardent
nationalist, Watterston was one of the first advocates of the idea of the
Library of Congress as a national library. He favored a separate building for
the Library of Congress, since he felt the United States should have a library
“equal in grandeur to the wealth, the taste, and the science of the nation.”

In November 1815, the Library published a new catalog of its holdings.
Of course, essentially it was a catalog of Jefferson’s library. While prepared
by Watterston, the catalog was arranged according to a classification scheme
devised by Jefferson which followed Sir Francis Bacon’s classification of
knowledge. This scheme, with slight modifications, would be used by the
Library of Congress until the end of the century. The title of the 1815 volume
(See Microfiche No. 1-4-4)

In politics, Watterston was an outspoken Whig. His librarianship came
to an abrupt end on May 28, 1829, when newly elected President Andrew
Jackson, a Democrat, replaced him with another Democrat: John Silva
Meehan, a local printer and publisher. Meehan was an efficient and passive
Librarian of Congress who demonstrated none of Watterston’s ambition for
the institution. Under Meehan, who served as Librarian until 1861, the
legislative function of the Library dominated. This was especially true after
1845, when a conservative and strong-willed Democrat, Senator James A.
Pearce of Maryland, became chairman of the Joint Committee on the
Library.

From today’s perspective, the limited view of the Library held by
Librarian Meehan and the members of the Joint Library Committee in the
antebellum years seems unduly narrow. Many opportunities were missed. But
one reason why the bookmen and intellectuals who served on the Library
Committee in the 1840s and 1850s were content to see the Library of Con-
gress serve primarily as a small legislative library was because they hoped to
create a large national library elsewhere; at the Smithsonian Institution,
which was established in 1846.

Indeed, in the early 1850s, it appeared that the Smithsonian Institution
might become the American national library. Its talented and aggressive
librarian, Charles Coffin Jewett, tried to move the institution in that direction
and make it into a national bibliographical center as well. Jewett’s efforts
were opposed, however, by Smithsonian Secretary Joseph Henry, who
insisted that the Smithsonian focus its activities on scientific research and publication.

On July 10, 1854, Henry dismissed Jewett, ending any possibility that the Smithsonian might become the national library. Moreover, 12 years later Henry transferred the entire 40,000-volume library of the Smithsonian Institution to the Library of Congress.

In all, the Library of Congress suffered difficult times in the 1850s. First, it was overshadowed by the Smithsonian. Secondly, the growing intersectional rivalry between North and South was not conducive to strengthening or enlarging any government institution, especially in a "National" direction. Furthermore, in late 1851, the most serious fire in the Library's history destroyed two-thirds of its 55,000 volumes, including two-thirds of Jefferson's library. Congress responded quickly and generously: in 1852 a total of $168,700 was appropriated to restore the Library's rooms in the Capitol and to replace the lost books. But the books were to be replaced only, with no particular intention of supplementing or expanding the collection.

Members of the public could still use the Library in the late 1850s, consulting the books on the premises, but Library officials did not object as several of its more important services to the government slipped away. On January 28, 1857, President Franklin Pierce approved a joint resolution that transferred the responsibility for the international exchange of books and documents and for the distribution of public documents, heretofore functions of the Library of Congress, to the State Department and the Bureau of Interior, respectively. Back in 1846, when the Smithsonian Institution was founded, both the Smithsonian and the Library of Congress were designated repositories for U.S. copyright deposits, an inexpensive way for each institution to build its collection. On February 5, 1859, with the consent of Library of Congress officials, the law was repealed.

Two years later, a new President replaced Librarian Meehan. On May 24, 1861, President Abraham Lincoln appointed John G. Stephenson, a Republican physician from Terre Haute, Indiana and an ardent Lincoln supporter, to be Librarian of Congress. The new Librarian soon hired Ainsworth Rand Spofford, a bookseller and journalist from Cincinnati, as an assistant, and left the administration of the Library to Spofford while he served as a volunteer aide-de-camp for the Union army.

Stephenson had little effect on the Library during his three and a half years in office, but Assistant Librarian Spofford pushed forward several improvements that prepared the way for future expansion.

Librarian Stephenson submitted his resignation in late 1864 and, on December 31, 1864, President Lincoln appointed Spofford as the sixth Librarian of Congress. At the time, the Library had a staff of seven, a collection of approximately 82,000 volumes, and an annual appropriation of about $20,000.

Ainsworth Rand Spofford, Librarian of Congress 1864-1897

Ainsworth Rand Spofford served as Librarian of Congress from the last day in 1864 until July 1, 1897. He is the individual responsible for transforming the Library of Congress into an institution of national significance. This
was his single-minded goal and he accomplished his task by permanently linking the legislative and the national functions of the Library, first in practice and then, through the 1896–1897 reorganization of the Library through law. Spofford’s concept of the Library of Congress as both the legislative library for the American Congress and the national library for the American people was accepted by Congress and has been wholeheartedly endorsed by all his successors as Librarian of Congress. Since 1865, the Library’s collections have increased steadily and its services to Congress and the rest of the nation (and the world) have expanded accordingly. The growth of the Library reflects the institution’s deep roots in the political and cultural life of the nation. As historian Ralph Gabriel has observed, “the story of the rise of the Library of Congress epitomizes, in a sense, the evolution of American intellectual life.”

Spofford revived the idea of an American national library, which had been languishing since Charles Coffin Jewett’s departure from the Smithsonian in 1854. He successfully convinced first the Library Committee and then Congress itself that the Library of Congress should be the national library. His principal achievements were the rapid development of comprehensive collections of Americana, which made the Library the largest library in the United States only three years after he took office, and the construction of a separate Library building, a 26-year struggle not completed until the new building was occupied in 1897. That building, located just across the east plaza from the Capitol, was a national monument and widely-praised national achievement. What else could such a structure house but a national library?

Ainsworth Spofford always believed that the Library of Congress was the national library, that by virtue of its establishment in Washington in 1800 it belonged to the American Congress and to the people they represented. His particular view of the proper function of a national library was patterned after the European model, particularly the British Museum: essentially, a national library was a comprehensive accumulation of a nation’s intellectual product.

Immediately after the Civil War, American society began a rapid transformation; the rapid expansion of the federal government was one of the major changes. Spofford took full advantage of this favorable political and cultural climate, and an increasing national confidence, to promote the Library’s new role. One of his favorite arguments, reminiscent of one used by Librarian Watterston, was repeated frequently in his annual reports: “In every country where civilization has attained a high rank there should be at least one great library.” Cultural nationalism was at the heart of his appeals. For example, in his 1867 report recommending the purchase of Peter Force’s library of Americana, Spofford lamented that “the largest and most complete collection of books relating to America in the world is now gathered on the shelves of the British Museum.”

Spofford’s most impressive collection-building feat was the centralization in 1870 of all U.S. copyright deposit and registration activities. This law ensured the continuing development of the Library’s Americana collections and enhanced its position within the American government. It also eventually forced the construction of a separate Library building, for by 1875 all the shelf space was gone.
In the long struggle for a separate Library building, Spofford enlisted the support of many powerful public figures. Many of these Congressmen, cultural leaders, journalists, and even Presidents had been only dimly aware of the Library’s existence. Now they found themselves endorsing not only a separate building but also the concept of the Library of Congress as the national library.

To Spofford must also go primary credit for establishing the Library’s tradition of broad public service. In 1865, he extended the Library’s hours so it was open every day of the week. In 1869, he began advocating evening hours, but this innovation was not approved by Congress until after the new building was opened. In 1870, he reinstated the earlier policy of lending books directly to the public if an appropriate sum of money was left on deposit. This procedure remained in effect until 1894, when preparations were started for the move from the cramped quarters in the Capitol to the spacious new building across the plaza.

Reorganizing for a New Century, 1896–1899

In 1896, on the eve of the move to the new building, the Joint Committee on the Library held hearings about the Library of Congress, its “condition,” and its possible expansion and reorganization. The hearings provided an occasion for a detailed examination of the Library’s history and functions, furnished by Librarian Spofford, as well as for a review of what new functions the Library might perform once it occupied its new building. The American Library Association, involving itself in the affairs of the Library of Congress for the first time, sent six witnesses, including future Librarian of Congress Herbert Putnam, then director of the Boston Public Library, and Melvil Dewey of the New York State Library. Congressmen listened with great interest to the testimony of Putnam and Dewey, who in contrast to the 72-year old and more traditional Spofford, represented a new breed of professional library administrator. Both Putnam and Dewey felt that the national role of the Library of Congress should be greatly expanded. They felt the Library of Congress now could become a true national library, “a center to which the libraries of the whole country can turn for inspiration, guidance, and help.”

The 1896 hearings, published in 1897, are an important document in American library history. Current library practice is described in great detail. The testimony helped shape the reorganization of the Library of Congress, a reorganization incorporated into the Legislative Appropriations Act approved February 19, 1897. But the hearings also raised false hopes among many American librarians that the Library of Congress might be officially designated the “National Library” and someday might even be transferred to the executive branch of government.

In accordance with the recommendations of Spofford, Putnam, Dewey, and others who testified at the hearings, the Legislative Appropriations Act of February 19, 1897, expanded all phases of the Library’s activities. The size of the staff was increased from 42 to 108, and separate administrative units for copyright, law, cataloging, periodicals, maps, manuscripts, music, and
graphic arts were established. During his 32 years in office, and with the consent of the Joint Library Committee, Librarian Spofford had assumed full responsibility for directing the Library's affairs. This authority formally passed to the office of Librarian of Congress in the 1897 reorganization, for the Librarian explicitly was given sole responsibility for making the "rules and regulations for the government" of the Library. The same reorganization act stipulated that the President's appointment of a Librarian thereafter was to be approved by the Senate. After nearly a century, the Congress obtained a role in the appointment of "its" Librarian.

With the assent of Librarian Spofford, President William McKinley appointed a new Librarian of Congress to supervise the move from the Capitol and to implement the new reorganization. The appointment was political, but the appointee, a journalist and former diplomat named John Russell Young, was a skilled administrator who worked hard "to build the library into the future, to make it a true library of research." Young took office on July 1, 1897, and immediately appointed Spofford to be Chief Assistant Librarian. Young's concept of the Library's national role coincided with Spofford's: it was to be a grand national accumulation of the nation's literature, open to all for use but not involved in interlibrary loan, centralized cataloging, or the other services to libraries advocated by librarians Putnam and Dewey in the 1896 hearings.

In spite of poor health, Young did a remarkable job in the year and a half he served as Librarian. On November 1, 1897, the new Library of Congress building officially opened. The Library's national stature was greatly enhanced by the monumental building, the largest library structure in existence at the time and itself a celebration of American cultural nationalism. Young's principal concerns, however, were organizational. He was flooded with applications for the new positions and he chose well, especially in the leadership positions. His first annual report, submitted on December 6, 1897, described several major changes that were underway, including an impending reclassification of the collections. He also decried the use of cheap, nondurable paper by publishers, prophetically warning that many of the books coming into the Library "threaten in a few years to crumble into a waste heap."

In retrospect, Young's tenure as Librarian is important for another reason. Since his administration, the personal qualifications of a candidate for the job of Librarian of Congress have been more important than a candidate's political affiliation. This is ironic, since Young himself was foremost a political appointee. It also is a tribute to his personal integrity. John Russell Young's career as Librarian of Congress was productive, but brief; after a year of serious illness, he died on January 17, 1899.

Herbert Putnam, Librarian of Congress, 1899–1939

Young's successor, Herbert Putnam, served as Librarian of Congress for 40 years, from 1899 to 1939. The first experienced librarian to hold the post, Putnam established a working partnership between the Library of Congress and the American library movement. In fact, three years after Putnam took
office, the Library of Congress was the leader among American libraries. This rapid turn of events was in accord with Putnam's view of the proper role of a national library, a view he expressed in 1896 when he testified at the hearings on the Library of Congress. Instead of serving primarily as a great national accumulation of books, a national library should, he felt, actively serve other libraries. Building on the traditions created by Librarian Spofford and strengthened by Librarian Young, Putnam established a systematic program of widespread service. The full dimensions of his plan were outlined in a July 1901 speech at the annual meeting of the American Library Association, an organization which had played a key role in his appointment as Librarian. He explained that in addition to the Library's duties as a legislative library, a federal library, and a scholarly institution, "there should be possible also a service to be extended through the libraries which are the local centers of research."

Putnam's actions in 1901 were imaginative and decisive and were approved by both the Joint Library Committee and the professional library community. In that year, the first volume of a completely new classification scheme, based on the Library's own collections was published; an interlibrary loan service was inaugurated; the sale and distribution of Library of Congress printed cards began, a partial fulfillment of Charles Coffin Jewett's dream of a centralized catalog system for all libraries; the equivalent of a national union catalog was started; and finally, appended to the 1901 annual report was a 200-page manual describing the organization, facilities, collections, and operations of the Library—a description that set high standards for all other libraries.

Already respected as a library expert in an age of efficiency experts, Putnam further enhanced his Congressional support through appeals to national pride and patriotism. Moreover, like Spofford, he also enlisted the aid of Presidents, particularly President Theodore Roosevelt. In 1914, Putnam established a separate Legislative Reference Service within the Library, responding to Congressional interest in such a specialized service tailored to legislative needs.

After extending the Library's services to other libraries during his first decade in office, then strengthening service to Congress in his second, Putnam continued to expand the Library's functions in the 1920s and the 1930s. In 1925, for example, he established the Library of Congress Trust Fund Board, which enabled the Library to accept, hold, and invest gifts and bequests. The Library's role as a center for research was developed through the creation of a series of chairs and consultanishmentships for scholars and subject specialists. A new role, that of patron of the arts, evolved through generous endowments obtained by Putnam. These gifts enriched the Library's Music Division and made the institution a national center for the encouragement and performance of chamber music. An Annex Building, today known as the Adams Building was authorized in 1930 and completed in 1938. And when America's "sacred documents," the Declaration of Independence and the Constitution, were transferred to the Library and put on public display in 1924 in a specially-constructed "Shrine" in the Great Hall, the Library itself became a symbol of American democracy:
Archibald MacLeish and Luther H. Evans, 1939-1953

It was the growing importance of the Library as a repository of the American cultural tradition and symbol of American democracy that attracted the next two Librarians of Congress, Archibald MacLeish (1939-1944) and Luther H. Evans (1945-1953) to the Library. MacLeish was a writer and a poet, and Evans a political scientist, and each viewed the Library of Congress as “more than a library.” MacLeish was nominated by President Franklin D. Roosevelt because the President felt “a scholarly man of letters” would make a good Librarian of Congress. MacLeish, who also assisted President Roosevelt in several administrative capacities during the first years of World War II, resigned in late 1944 to become an assistant secretary of state. Evans, who served as MacLeish’s principal assistant, was nominated for the job by President Harry Truman in 1945. He continued the administrative innovations established under MacLeish and attempted to expand the Library’s national role dramatically.

In his 1940 annual report, Librarian MacLeish described the dual nature of the Library of Congress, pointing out that Congress long ago had extended the use of its library to others, enabling “the People themselves” to make use not only of the rich collections but also “the skilled services of the scholars, the technicians, and the experts in various fields whose first duty was to make the collections serviceable to Congress.” During Putnam’s 40-year term of office, new functions and services had simply been appended to the institution’s administrative structure. MacLeish’s most significant accomplishment was a complete administrative reorganization. With the aid of staff committees and outside advisors from the library community, the staff of over 1,000 persons was divided into six functional departments. A key document was a 303-page report of a special “Librarian’s Committee” which was highly critical of the Library’s processing operations.

MacLeish’s 1940 annual report, like Putnam’s 1901 report, is a key document in the Library’s history. It includes specific statements of the Library’s objectives. They were divided into two sections: objectives “with regard to the character of the collections,” termed “Canons of Selection,” and objectives of the Library viewed “as an agency research and reference work.” The statements incorporated earlier practices and did not present any new concepts, but they also clearly reflected the priority accorded Congress by its Library.

While administrative reorganization and the framing of objectives were significant achievements, they were also part of MacLeish’s accomplishment. He also enhanced the Library’s reputation as a major cultural institution by bringing many prominent poets and writers to the institution. Relationships between the Library and scholarly and literary communities were improved through a new program of resident fellowships for young scholars and the formation of the Fellows of the Library of Congress, a group of prominent writers and poets. In 1942, he formed the Librarian’s Council, composed of distinguished librarians, scholars, and book collectors, who would make recommendations “for the conduct of our services, the development of our collections, and the initiation and control of bibliographical studies.” A staff Information Bulletin was started, along with a Quarterly Journal for report-
MacLeish, a wartime librarian, was a leading American spokesman for the cause of democracy, a role that quickly helped him mend relations with professional librarians. For example, speaking before the American Library Association in May 1940, he asserted that librarians “must become active and not passive agents of the democratic process.” The members of the association that had bitterly opposed his nomination a year earlier because he was not a professional librarian gave him a thundering ovation.

After MacLeish resigned in 1944, President Roosevelt offered the job to another “scholarly man of letters,” Julian Boyd, the librarian at Princeton University. Boyd declined, and Roosevelt died without having appointed a new Librarian. Acting Librarian Luther H. Evans, although not its first choice, was acceptable to the American Library Association. President Truman preferred Evans, however, and appointed him. When the new Librarian took the oath of office in June 1945, the Library had a book collection of 7 million volumes, a staff of over 1,200, and an annual appropriation in fiscal 1945 of over $4.5 million.

Librarian Evans immediately began assessing the Library’s functions and goals in the post-war world, to “revise and rebuild and reconstitute it” for the “new world.” The result of Evans’ appraisal was a detailed plan for a major expansion of all phases of the Library’s activities that called for nearly a doubling of the institution’s budget. The Librarian bluntly termed his lengthy budget request for fiscal year 1947, “the most important state paper to issue from the Library since the Report of the Committee on Library Organization in 1802,” and reproduced it in the 1946 annual report. The House of Representatives Appropriations Committee did not approve of the document or its contents, however, maintaining that “the kind of Library of Congress proposed by the estimates had not been endorsed in clear policy terms by Congress itself.”

The cool Congressional reaction to the budget estimate put the Library on the defensive. As a result, considerable effort during the Evans years was spent in explaining and justifying the Library’s manifold activities. The Story Up to Now, David C. Mearns’ brief and delightful history of the Library up to 1946 is one example. A Library of Congress Planning Committee was created “to consider what should be the functions of the Library.” The committee, chaired by Keyes D. Metcalf, director of libraries at Harvard, painstakingly reviewed the Library’s relationships with Congress and other users. (See Microfiche No. 2-10-5 for the unpublished draft of the committee’s report.) The Planning Committee Report, published in the Library’s 1947 annual report, strongly urged the expansion of the Library’s national role.

In spite of such recommendations, the Library appropriation grew comparatively slowly during the Evans administration. Nonetheless, both the legislative and national roles of the Library were expanded. The Legislative Reorganization Act of 1946, for example, was a significant milestone in strengthening direct services to Congress. The cultural role of the Library also was expanded. Funds were donated to establish a poetry room and support literary programs; a full-scale exhibits program was launched; and chamber music programs were broadcast nationwide for the first time. Evans also took
a special interest in cooperative microfilming projects with other institutions, the development of the motion picture collection, and services to the scientific and technical community.

Two of Librarian Evans' most significant accomplishments were the expansion of the Library's foreign acquisitions program and the increased involvement of the Library on the international scene. Both of these developments had their origins in the MacLeish administration and reached fruition during the administration of L. Quincy Mumford, but it was Luther Evans who built the foundation for the Library's international role. This role has not always been a popular one with Congress, particularly in times of budget constraints. But it accurately reflected Evans' personal view of the Library of Congress as a worldwide institution, one that should gather materials from everywhere. This belief, plus Evans' involvement with the activities of international organizations such as UNESCO, stimulated new Library programs to acquire research materials from other countries, the development of area studies reference units, and several new bibliographical publications.

By the early 1950s, Evans was heavily involved in UNESCO activities. He also was severely criticized by certain Members of Congress for not spending more of his time at the Library of Congress. In mid-1953, he was selected as the new director general of UNESCO and on July 1, 1953, he submitted his resignation as Librarian of Congress to President Dwight D. Eisenhower.

L. Quincy Mumford, Librarian of Congress 1954–1974

In April 1954, President Eisenhower nominated L. Quincy Mumford, director of the Cleveland Public Library and president-elect of the American Library Association, to be the next Librarian of Congress. The first professionally trained librarian to be nominated as Librarian, Mumford had strong political support from the entire Ohio Congressional delegation. He took office in September and proceeded to guide the Library of Congress through the greatest period of expansion in its history. In the 30 years Mumford was Librarian, the Library's book collection grew from 10 to 16 million volumes, its staff from 1,100 to 4,400 and its annual appropriation from $10 million to more than $100 million.

The first years were primarily years of consolidation. Relations between Librarian Evans and Congress had been difficult, and Mumford came into office with a warning from the House of Representatives Appropriations Committee: "The new Librarian should be mindful that the Library is the instrument and the creature of Congress. Its duties historically have been to meet the needs of the Members of Congress first." The Librarian's first efforts were internal and concentrated on strengthening the Library's own collections and services. But the growth of the Library increased space problems and in 1958 an intensive study of the requirements for a third Library building was begun (an Annex had been opened in 1939).

The James Madison Memorial Building, located across Independence Avenue from the original 1897 building, was authorized in 1965. Construction started in 1971. Like Spofford's great building, Mumford's Madison
Building was the world’s largest library structure when it was completed nine years later.

Debate about the Library’s constituencies and priorities of service continued into the Mumford administration. In 1959, the Brookings Institution sponsored a study of federal departmental libraries; the director was former Librarian of Congress Luther H. Evans, who also prepared the final report. A principal recommendation of the Brookings study was that the Library of Congress be transferred to the executive branch of government, a conclusion strongly disputed by Librarian Mumford. In 1962, at the request of Senator Claiborne Pell of the Joint Library Committee, Douglas W. Bryant of the Harvard University Library prepared a memorandum on “what the Library of Congress does and ought to do for the Government and the Nation generally.” Bryant urged further expansion of the Library’s national activities and services; many of his proposals, in fact, paralleled those made by the Library of Congress Planning Committee in 1947. Mumford replied to the Bryant memorandum in the Library’s 1962 annual report, strongly defending the Library’s position in the legislative branch of government and reiterating his opposition to changing or altering the Library’s name to reflect its national role: “The Library of Congress is a venerable institution, with a proud history, and to change its name would do unspeakable violence to tradition.”

A major development during the Mumford administration was the expansion of the Library’s overseas acquisitions and cataloging programs. In 1958, the Library was authorized to acquire books by using U.S.-owned foreign currency under terms of the Agricultural Trade Development and Assistance Act of 1954 (Public Law 480). Increasing federal funding for libraries and new scholarly interest in foreign cultures helped stimulate the development of the Library’s overseas programs throughout the 1960s. In 1965, Title II-C of the Higher Education Act authorized the establishment of the National Program for Acquisitions and Cataloging, greatly expanding the Library’s foreign procurement program and inaugurating, for use by American research libraries, a centralized cataloging system for foreign acquisitions.

During the 1960s, the Library of Congress benefited from the increased federal funding available for education, libraries, and research. In addition to expanded acquisitions and cataloging programs, new automation efforts were inaugurated, particularly for the distribution of cataloging information in machine-readable form. Another major program with broad implications for the future was started: an effort to deal with the preservation of “brittle books” and other disintegrating library materials. Finally, as if to keep a balance, on the legislative side, Congress approved the Legislative Reorganization Act of 1970, which redesignated the Library’s Legislative Reference Service as the Congressional Research Service, broadened its responsibilities, and provided it with research capabilities.

Daniel J. Boorstin, 1975–1987

Librarian Mumford retired in 1974. The last years of his administration were difficult internally, primarily because of the Library’s lack of growth space.
and controversy over its personnel and employment policies. Both problems had to be faced by the next Librarian of Congress. The American Library Association suggested the names of several professional librarians for the job, but on June 20, 1975, President Gerald R. Ford nominated Daniel J. Boorstin, senior historian at the Smithsonian Institution to be the twelfth Librarian of Congress. The nominee had wide support in Congress, particularly after he assured Congress that his personal research and writing would not be done on government time. His nomination was opposed, however, by the American Library Association for the same reason it opposed MacLeish in 1939: the nominee had no experience in administering a library. Also, several Library of Congress employee groups opposed Boorstin on the grounds that his past record made him unsympathetic to the needs of ethnic and minority groups. The nomination was confirmed without debate on September 26, 1975. On November 16, in a ceremony in the Library’s Great Hall that signaled Boorstin’s sense of tradition, as well as his insistence on the importance of the Library in American politics and culture, the new Librarian was sworn in. With President Gerald R. Ford and Vice President Nelson A. Rockefeller looking on, the oath of office was administered by Carl Albert, the Speaker of the House of Representatives, and taken on the Thomson Bible from the Library’s Jefferson Collection.

Boorstin immediately faced three challenges: the need to review the Library’s organization and functions, lack of space for both collections and staff, and lingering internal unrest about the Library’s personnel policies. His response to the first was the creation of a Task Force on Goals, Organization, and Planning, a staff group which conducted, with help from outside advisory groups, a one-year review of the Library and its role. Many of the Task Force’s recommendations were incorporated into a subsequent reorganization. Other Task Force recommendations concerned personnel management and affirmative action, issues that were dealt with simultaneously and effectively by the Library’s management. The move into the Library’s James Madison Memorial Building, which began in 1980 and was completed in 1982, relieved administrative as well as physical pressures, and enabled Librarian Boorstin to focus on what he deemed most important: the strengthening of the Library’s ties with Congress, and the development of new relationships between the Library and scholars, authors, publishers, cultural leaders, and the business community.

An early Boorstin innovation was the establishment by law, in 1977, of the Center for the Book. It was created to use the Library’s prestige and influence to stimulate public interest in books, reading, and the printed word. In 1980, Boorstin established a Council of Scholars, an advisory group that established closer links between the Library and the world of scholarship. Both the Center for the Book and the Council of Scholars brought the Library increased public visibility. Both are also supported primarily by private contributions.

Increased public visibility for the Library was an important Boorstin contribution at many levels. In 1980, the James Madison Memorial Building was dedicated in a ceremony attended by President Ronald Reagan. The renovation and restoration of the Library’s Jefferson (formerly Main) and Adams (formerly Annex) Buildings was begun with a Congressional appropriation of $81 million in 1984 for this purpose. The renaming of the Main
and Annex Buildings was itself an example of Boorstin's concern with tradition and with making the Library of Congress a more recognizable and accessible institution.

The Library of Congress grew steadily during Boorstin's administration, with its annual appropriation increasing from $116 million to over $250 million. Like MacLeish, Boorstin relied heavily on his professional staff in technical areas such as cataloging, automation, and library preservation. But he took a keen personal interest in aspects of collection development, including the strengthening of the Library's foreign language collection, in copyright, in the symbolic role of the Library of Congress in American life, and in the Library as "the world's greatest Multi-Media Encyclopedia."

Boorstin never avoided controversy. In his first year in office, he defended the Library's occupation of the Madison Building against attempts to use the building for Congressional office space. In 1986, he forcefully and eloquently protested deep cuts in the Library's budget. He also objected to Congressional action that withheld funds to produce Playboy magazine in braille, arguing that censorship of any kind "has no place in a free society." While Librarian of Congress, but working on his own time, he completed work on The Discoverers, a widely-admired historical work that became a main selection of the Book-of-the-Month Club. In all, Boorstin's style and accomplishments increased the visibility of the Library and its Librarian to the point where a New York Times reporter, in January 1987, called the post of Librarian of Congress "perhaps the leading intellectual public position in the nation." This is a bright, but not inappropriate spotlight for the Library of Congress.

NOTES


4 For details see William D. Johnston, History of the Library of Congress, Volume 1, 1800-1864 (See Microfiche No. 1-2-3); David C. Mears' The Story Up to Now: The Library of Congress, 1800-1946 (See Microfiche No. 1-3-1946); biographical essays about Librarians of Congress, John Beckley (See Microfiche No. 2-1-6); Patrick Magruder (See Microfiche No. 2-2-1), George Watterston (See Microfiche No. 2-3-1), John Silva Meehan (See Microfiche No. 2-4-1), and John G. Stephenson (See Microfiche No. 2-5-1); and Thomas Jefferson's letter of September 21, 1814, offering his library for sale to the Congress (See Microfiche No. 2-2-2).

5 For details see biographical accounts of Spofford's career and librarianship. (See Microfiche Nos. 2-6-1, 2-6-2, 3-1-2).

Details about the reorganization and these four crucial years in the Library's history are found in the special report of the Librarian of Congress, December 3, 1895 (See Microfiche No. 2-6-7), the report of the Joint Library Committee on the 1896 hearings (See Microfiche No. 2-6-8), and biographical accounts of Librarian of Congress Ainsworth Rand Spofford (See Microfiche No. 2-6-1) and John Russell Young (See Microfiche No. 2-7-1).

For details see biographical accounts of Putnam (See Microfiche Nos. 2-8-1, 2-8-2), Putnam's statements about the Library's purposes (See Microfiche Nos. 2-8-3, 2-8-4), and Putnam's 1901 annual report (See Microfiche No. 1-3-1901).

For details see MacLeish's 1940 annual report (See Microfiche No. 1-3-1940), the 1940 report of the Librarian's Committee (See Microfiche No. 2-9-3), Evans' 1946 (See Microfiche No. 1-3-1946) and 1947 (See Microfiche No. 1-3-1947) annual reports, and biographical account of Librarians MacLeish (See Microfiche No. 2-9-1) and Evans (See Microfiche No. 2-10-1).

For details see Librarian Mumford's confirmation hearings (See Microfiche No. 2-11-2) his 1962 annual report, (See Microfiche No. 1-3-1962), the biographical article by Benjamin E. Powell (See Microfiche No. 2-11-1), and the description of the Mumford administration in John Y. Cole, "The Library of Congress 1800-1975" (See Microfiche No. 1-2-7).

For details see Librarian Boorstin's confirmation hearings (See Microfiche No. 2-12-2), the 1976 report of the Task Force on Goals, Organization, and Planning (See Microfiche No. 2-12-6), and the biographical article by Wayne A. Wiegand (See Microfiche No. 2-12-1).
I. Resources for the Study of the Library

Studying the Library of Congress: Resources and Research Opportunities

by John Y. Cole

Publications

David C. Mearns, one of the Library's most knowledgeable historians, once described the Library of Congress as perhaps "the most completely fenestrated institution of its kind in the world." And it is true that the Library's extensive documentation of its own activities, principally in the Annual Report of the Librarian of Congress, the weekly Library of Congress Information Bulletin, and the Quarterly Journal of the Library of Congress furnishes the student with an almost overwhelming amount of printed information. Furthermore, since 1897, the Library has published several thousand specialized bibliographies, pamphlets, catalogs, indexes, and descriptive guides which contain detailed information about the institution and its activities. A sampling of these publications is included in this documentary history, items such as the 1919 pamphlet Instructions to Deck Attendants (see Microfiche No. 2-8-11) and The Library of Congress: Some Notable Items That It Has and Examples of Many Others It Needs (see Microfiche No. 3-1-3), published in 1926. Many of these books and pamphlets are listed in Publications Issued by the Library Since 1897 (see Microfiche No. 3-9-6), published in 1935. Most of the older publications can also be located through the Library card catalog. Information about the availability of recent publications is in Library of Congress Publications in Print. The 1985 edition of this booklet lists 656 publications, 62 folk and music recordings, and 30 literary recordings.

The Annual Report of the Librarian of Congress (1866-) is the best published source for the history of the Library of Congress and its relations with government, scholarship, and librarianship. The reports for the years 1897 through 1947 are especially rich in historical materials, with many important documents included as appendices. These appendices, often overlooked by students, are often included in the annual report citation in this companion guide. Three reports must be mentioned as especially significant: Herbert Putnam's report of 1901 (see Microfiche No. 1-3-1901), the most comprehensive in the Library's history; Archibald MacLeish's 1940 report (see Microfiche 1-3-1940), which describes MacLeish's formulation of a set of objectives for the Library and his impending reorganization; and Luther Evans' 1946 report (see Microfiche No. 1-3-1946), which includes the Librarian's sweeping budget request and justification for fiscal 1947 and David C. Mearn's delightful history, The Story Up to Now: the Library of Congress, 1800-1946. William Dawson Johnston's History of the Library of
Congress, 1800-1864 (see Microfiche No. 1-2-3), which reproduces many official documents that have since disappeared, serves as an “unofficial annual report” for the years it covers.

Special note should be taken of the Library’s annual appropriation hearings, which are part of the Legislative Branch hearings. These documents, which have been published since 1890 and are available on microfiche from Congressional Information Service, Inc., contain operational details found in no other publication. The 1896 hearings on the condition and reorganization of the Library (see Microfiche No. 2-6-8) are a landmark in the history of the Library and in the history of American librarianship. Other Congressional documents on topics such as the construction of the Main Building and the creation of the Legislative Reference Service (see Microfiche No. 3-9-2) should not be overlooked, nor should the published hearings on the confirmation of Librarian L. Quincy Mumford (see Microfiche No. 2-11-2) and the confirmation of Librarian Daniel J. Boorstin (see Microfiche No. 2-12-2). The Library’s Rare Book and Special Collections Division houses many early Congressional publications relating to the Library, as well as many of its early catalogs.

The Quarterly Journal of the Library of Congress, published from 1943 until 1983, is a rich source of information about the Library and particularly about its collections. Many articles from the Quarterly Journal are included in this microfiche collection. The Journal was launched in 1943 by Librarian of Congress Archibald MacLeish as the Quarterly Journal of Current Acquisitions. Library of Congress Poetry Consultant Allen Tate was its first editor. Correspondence from the Library’s Archives about the establishment of the Quarterly Journal is included in this collection (see Microfiche No. 2-9-6), along with the first pages of the first issue (see Microfiche No. 2-9-7). Poetry Consultant Robert Penn Warren edited the journal from July 1944 to July 1945, when editorial responsibility was transferred to the Library’s Acquisitions Department. The content of the Quarterly Journal varies from detailed descriptions of the Library’s book, manuscript, and graphic arts collections to articles about cultural themes that are only loosely connected to the collections of the Library. The Journal ceased publication at the end of calendar year 1983 because of insufficient paid circulation. The acquisitions reports from various divisions have been continued in a new series of publications, Library of Congress Acquisitions. There is a brief history of the Quarterly Journal in its Winter 1979 issue.

Recordings
An interesting perspective on the Library’s history can be gained from numerous recordings made by the Library. All are available in the Motion Picture, Broadcasting and Recorded Sound Division. An especially fertile period was the administration of Luther H. Evans, who took a personal interest in oral history and in the interpretation of the Library’s past. Many recordings of the proceedings of meetings and orientations during the Evans years are available. Perhaps the most interesting, however, is a series of recordings made in late 1949 as the Library approached its sesquicentennial year. Librarian Evans, aided by his assistants Verner W. Clapp and David C. Mearns, undertook a recorded survey of the Library’s functions through
interviews with various specialists and division chiefs. In addition, Evans, Clapp, and Mearns interviewed each other about the Library's history and functions. The result is a unique group of recordings that combine historical facts with the personal opinions of the Library's principal officers. A partial list of these 15-minute recorded interviews can be found in the January 9, 1950 issue of the Library's Information Bulletin.

Plans, Drawings, and Photographs

The Prints and Photographs Division is the custodian of the Library's photographic archives and the architectural plans and drawings for its buildings. Of special interest are the plans submitted by the architects in the design competition for the Library's Main (now Jefferson) Building and early renderings of the plans of Smithmeyer & Pelz, the competition winner. A selection of these plans and drawings is reproduced in Section IV, The Buildings of the Library (see Microfiche No. 4-2-3). The division also houses an extensive series of photographs taken during the construction of the Jefferson Building from 1886-1897; a selection is in Section IV (see Microfiche No. 4-2-4). Herbert Small's Handbook of the New Library of Congress (see Microfiche No. 4-2-2), published in 1897, is still the best guidebook about the Jefferson Building. Students should also consult the exhibit catalog Ten First Street S.E. and the October 1972 issue of the Library's Quarterly Journal.

Personal Papers

The Librarian of Congress has a remarkable degree of autonomy in administering the Library and shaping its activities. Thus the personal papers of the Librarians both supplement and illuminate the official records in the Library of Congress Archives. The Library's Manuscript Division holds the papers of George Watterston, Ainsworth Rand Spofford, John Russell Young, Herbert Putnam, Archibald MacLeish, Luther H. Evans, and Daniel J. Boorstin. Guides to the papers of Spofford, Young, Putnam, MacLeish, and Evans are included in this documentary history (see Microfiche Nos. 1-1-3 to 1-1-7). There is no printed guide to the Watterston papers, but they have been microfilmed by the Library of Congress. There is no collection of personal papers for Librarian of Congress L. Quincy Mumford, but his administration is thoroughly documented in official records available to researchers through the Library's Central Services Division.

The personal papers of several key Library of Congress employees also shed light on the Library and its many roles. Guides to the papers of the following employees constitute Microfiche Nos. 1-1-8 to 1-1-14 in this history: Solon J. Buck, former Chief of the Manuscript Division and Assistant Librarian; Verner W. Clapp, former Chief Assistant Librarian; John C. Fitzpatrick, former Chief of the Manuscript Division; Worthington C. Ford, former Chief of the Manuscript Division; William Dawson Johnston of the Catalog Division and an historian of the Library; David C. Mearns, former Assistant Librarian and another historian of the Library; and Thorvald Solberg, former Register of Copyrights. Special note of the enormous contribution to the Library by Verner W. Clapp is made in Verner W. Clapp: A Memorial Tribute (see Microfiche No. 2-11-5).
Archival Records and Unpublished Source Material

The official records of the Library of Congress are, by regulation, the administrative responsibility of the Library's Central Services Division. Since 1930, records have been transferred to the Manuscript Division to become part of what is now known as the Archives of the Library of Congress. Occasional gifts and purchases of material relating to the Library have been added to this collection since early in this century. The Library's Archives, while available for use, are being reorganized. An initial version of The Guide to the Archives of the Library of Congress (see Microfiche No. 1-1-1) was prepared in October 1982 by Marlene Morrisey, the Manuscript Division's first Specialist in Library of Congress History and Archives. It has been updated and considerably expanded by John D. Knowlton, the current Specialist.

Documentation of the Library's activities has not always been as abundant as it is today. In fact, the Library's own records were not systematically preserved until the advent of Herbert Putnam's librarianship in April 1899. For this reason, there are many gaps in the 19th century records. Nonetheless, there are two series of early records that are especially important: the Librarian's Letterbooks, 19 volumes containing correspondence—letters sent—from 1843 to 1886 and from 1897 to 1899; and 13 volumes of incoming correspondence received during the administration of John Russell Young, July 1897-January 1899. Shirley Pearlove's 1949 Guide to Manuscript Materials Relating to the History of the Library of Congress (see Microfiche No. 1-1-2) includes an analysis of Librarian John Silva Meehan's Letterbook for 1843-1849.
A. Guides to Archival and Manuscript Collections


This unpublished work has been made available to researchers in the Main Reading Room. For the period 1800-1900, individual items and containers of materials are described; after 1900, summary descriptions cover groups of materials. A letterbook of John Silva Meehan for 1843-1849 is analyzed as an example of the librarians’ letterbook series.

1-1-3 Guide to the papers of Ainsworth Rand Spofford. 4 p.

1-1-4 Guide to the papers of John Russell Young. 10 p.

1-1-5 Guide to the papers of Herbert Putnam. 12 p.

1-1-6 Guide to the papers of Archibald MacLeish. 55 p.

1-1-7 Guide to the papers of Luther H. Evans. 1 p.

1-1-8 Guide to the papers of Solon J. Buck. 18 p.


1-1-10 Guide to the papers of John C. Fitzpatrick. 8 p.


1-1-12 Guide to the papers of William Dawson Johnston. 2 p.


1-1-14 Guide to the papers of Thorvald Solberg. 8 p.
B. General Histories


This chronological history discusses in brief paragraphs over 1500 important events in the Library's history from the Continental Congress' August 31, 1774 request of the directors of the Library Company of Philadelphia that the Library loan the Congress "such books as they may have occasion for" up to Dr. Daniel J. Boorstin's taking the oath of office as the twelfth Librarian of Congress on Nov. 12, 1975. An index to the volume (p. 181-196) enables the reader to locate particular individuals and subjects within the book's chronological organization.


The catalog entries cover 123 items of significant historical interest. Included are Elbridge Gerry's proposal in 1790 that Congress have its own library and a 1947 photograph of Dr. Luther Evans examining the Abraham Lincoln papers deposited in the Library by Robert Todd Lincoln on the condition that they not be made public until twenty-one years after his death.


Johnston's comprehensive volume is unsurpassed for the period 1800-1864. It is itself an important documentary source for it reprints the texts of many Congressional reports and of other early documents that have since disappeared.
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A subject and name index may be found on pp. 523–534.

Preliminary notes and chapters for a second and never completed volume are in Johnston's personal papers described on Microfiche No. 1-1-12. The folders of material for the second volume are labeled: (1) Notes for history of the Library of Congress: Waterston, Young, Putnam; (2) Notes on construction of the building; (3) A.R. Spofford; (4) Notes on “Copyright”; (5) Notes on special collections: Toner, Stevens, Townsend, Pettigru; (6) Miscellaneous notes; and (7) Printed matter.

This largely typewritten work by the Library's Chief Assistant Librarian (1927–1936), although unfinished, is a rich and unique resource for information about the Library. Ashley's first-hand account of the Putnam administration (1899–1939) is especially valuable.

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Dan Lacy was Deputy Chief Assistant Librarian when he wrote this narrative counterpart to the Library's sesquicentennial exhibition catalog. He focuses first on the development of the collections, and then on the organization and use of the collections. At the conclusion of his account of the Library's sesquicentennium, he would have liked to have been able to predict an untroubled outlook for the Library but world events made that impossible. These are his words: "And so the Library comes to the end of a sesquicentennium. It should be a time to look back with satisfaction and ahead with comfortable assurance. Now it cannot be, for the renewed outbreak of war, this time in Korea, gives greater emphasis to all the responsibilities which the Library of Congress shares with its fellows. The path across the unknown years ahead has taken another turn toward the edge of darkness, and the tasks of American libraries in the preservation of the world of the free mind will take all their strength together."

Goodrum and Dalrymple, in the revised second edition of their book originally published in 1972, focus on the major changes in the Library of Congress during the first seven years of the
administration of Librarian Dr. Daniel J. Boorstin. The concluding chapter poses a number of questions for the future development of the Library as it approaches the beginning of its third century. The book includes a brief bibliography, pp. 317-322, and a subject and name index, pp. 323-337.

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This historical introduction to the report of the 1976
Librarian’s Task Force on Goals, Organization, and Planning traces the development of the Library’s legislative and national roles.

C. Annual Reports


1-3-1869  Report of the Librarian of Congress Showing the Condition of the Library During the Year 1869. 1869. i+5 p. Z663.A2

1-3-1870  Annual Report of the Librarian of Congress Exhibiting the Progress of the Library During the Year Ending Dec. 1, 1870. 1870. 6 p. Z663.A2


1-3-1873  Annual Report of the Librarian of Congress Exhibiting the Progress of the Library During the Year Ending Dec. 1, 1873. 1873. 6 p. Z663.A2

1-3-1874  Annual Report of the Librarian of Congress Exhibiting the Progress of the Library During the Year Ending Dec. 1, 1874. 1874. 9 p. Z663.A2
1-3-1875 Annual Report of the Librarian of Congress for the Year 1875. 1876. 10 p. Z663.A2

1-3-1876 Annual Report of the Librarian of Congress for the Year 1876. 1877. 7 p. Z663.A2

1-3-1877 Annual Report of the Librarian of Congress for the Year 1877. 1878. 8 p. Z663.A2

1-3-1878 Annual Report of the Librarian of Congress for the Year 1878. 1879. 6 p. Z663.A2

1-3-1879 Annual Report of the Librarian of Congress Exhibiting the Progress and Condition of the Library During the Year 1879. 1880. 5 p. Z663.A2

1-3-1880 Annual Report of the Librarian of Congress Exhibiting the Condition and Progress of the Library During the Year 1880. 1881. i+4 p. Z663.A2

1-3-1881 Annual Report of the Librarian of Congress Exhibiting the Condition and Progress of the Library During the Year 1881. 1882. 4 p. Z663.A2

1-3-1882 Annual Report of the Librarian of Congress Exhibiting the Progress of the Library During the Calendar Year 1882. 1883. 6 p. Z663.A2

1-3-1883 Annual Report of the Librarian of Congress Exhibiting the Progress of the Library During the Calendar Year 1883. 1884. 6 p. Z663.A2

1-3-1884 Annual Report of the Librarian of Congress Exhibiting the Progress of the Library During the Calendar Year 1884. 1885. 6 p. Z663.A2

1-3-1885 Annual Report of the Librarian of Congress Exhibiting the Progress of the Library During the Calendar Year 1885. 1886. 8 p. Z663.A2

1-3-1886 Annual Report of the Librarian of Congress Exhibiting the Progress of the Library During the Calendar Year 1886. 1887. 7 p. Z663.A2
1-3-1887  Annual Report of the Librarian of Congress Exhibiting the Progress of the Library During the Calendar Year 1887. 1888. 7 p. Z663.A2

1-3-1888  Annual Report of the Librarian of Congress Exhibiting the Progress of the Library During the Calendar Year 1888. 1889. 5 p. Z663.A2

1-3-1889  Annual Report of the Librarian of Congress Exhibiting the Progress of the Library During the Calendar Year 1889. 1890. 5 p. Z663.A2

1-3-1890  Annual Report of the Librarian of Congress Exhibiting the Progress of the Library During the Calendar Year 1890. 1891. 5 p. Z663.A2

1-3-1891  Annual Report of the Librarian of Congress Exhibiting the Progress of the Library During the Calendar Year 1891. 1892. 6 p. Z663.A2

1-3-1892  Annual Report of the Librarian of Congress Exhibiting the Progress of the Library During the Calendar Year 1892. 1893. 5 p. Z663.A2

1-3-1893  Annual Report of the Librarian of Congress Exhibiting the Progress of the Library During the Calendar Year 1893. 1894. 5 p. Z663.A2

1-3-1894  Annual Report of the Librarian of Congress Exhibiting the Progress of the Library During the Calendar Year 1894. 1895. 4 p. Z663.A2

1-3-1895  Annual Report of the Librarian of Congress Exhibiting the Progress of the Library During the Calendar Year 1895. 1896. 5 p. Z663.A2

1-3-1896  Annual Report of the Librarian of Congress Exhibiting the Progress of the Library During the Calendar Year 1896. 1897. 5 p. Z663.A2

Includes:
Appendix 8. “The Chinese Collection” a catalogue of the collection of works in the Chinese language which came from the library of Caleb Cushing, the first American envoy to China, pp. 76–82.

Includes:
Appendix I. “John Russell Young, 1841–1899” a biographical sketch of the seventh Librarian of Congress, pp. 17–18.


Includes:

Part II consists of “Select List of Recent Purchases in Certain Departments of Literature, 1901–1903,” pp. 109–436.

Includes:
Part II consists of “Select List of Recent Purchases in Certain Departments of Literature, 1903–04,” pp. 289–512.

Includes:
Appendix VII. “Manuscripts Accessions, 1904–05,” pp. 175–188.
Appendix IX. “List of Prints from the Chalcographie du Louvre and from the German Reichsdruckerei: Kupferstiche und Holzschnitte alter Meister in Nachbildungen,” pp. 223–310.

Includes:
Appendix III. “Copyright Bill. Statement of the Librarian of Congress,” pp. 111–125. (This statement appears in subsequent annual reports as the “Report of the Register of Copyrights.”)

1-3-1907 Report of the Librarian of Congress and Report of the Superintendent of the Library Building and Grounds for the
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Appendix V. "Orientalia" by Walter T. Swingle, pp. 187-194. From 1920 until 1929, a report on oriental language acquisitions appeared, under various titles, as an appendix of the annual reports. From 1930 up to 1940, a section entitled "Division of Orientalia" was a regular part of the annual reports.

Includes:
Appendix IV. "Report on Transcription of Documents from French Archives" by Waldo G. Leland, pp. 177-186.


Includes:
Appendix IV. "Reclassification: Library Service," pp. 196-210. This memorandum was submitted to the Personnel Classification Board in connection with the allocation of existing positions under the Reclassification Act of Mar. 4, 1923.


Includes:
Includes:

Includes:
Appendix IV. "Need of Endowments: Statement to the Press," pp. 279-284. Gifts from William Evarts Benjamin and the Carnegie Corporation were used to fund two "chairs:" one in American History and the other in Fine Arts. The purpose of the chairs was "to provide not for instruction nor for research, but for interpretation; the interpretation of the collections to the inquiring public and in the aid of those pursuing research in them."

In the body of his report (pp. 228-246) the Librarian describes two important projects made possible by grants from John D. Rockefeller: Project A: the acquisition of source material on American history in copy or facsimile from European archives and libraries; Project B: the increase in the scope and capabilities of the bibliographic apparatus of the Library of Congress.
Includes:
Appendix V. "The National Library: Some Recent Developments," pp. 329-343. This address was delivered May 30, 1928 at the annual meeting of the American Library Association.

Includes:


Includes:
Appendix IV. "Archive of American Folk-Song" by R. W. Gordon, pp. 321-324. This section appeared sporadically in subsequent annual reports, sometimes under the section entitled "Americana."

Includes:


Includes:
Appendix IV. "The Annex of the Library of Congress," by Martin A. Roberts, pp. 354-359. This address was read at a meeting of the American Library Association on June 23, 1937.
Includes:  
Appendix IV. "Totals of the Several Collections, 1898-1938," p. 466.


Includes:  
Chapter 1. "The Reference Department," pp. 31-196. An account of the major developments that occurred during the first year of existence of the Reference Department.  
Chapter 2. "The Processing Department," pp. 197-228. A description of how the Processing Department functioned for the first time as one complete and separate Library unit.  
"Attempts to Abuse the Copyright Act," pp. 373-391. A discussion of the instances when the Register had to deny copyright registration because they "constituted attempts to abuse the act and consequently, public interest."

Includes:  
"Custody of Collections and Buildings," pp. 149-156. This report describes the steps taken to protect the Library collections and buildings right after the bombing of Pearl Harbor.

Includes:  
"Library Publications," pp. 65-69. This report seeks to acquaint the public with the extent and character of the Library's publishing activities.
Includes:
Chapter IV. “State of the Collections,” pp. 47–55. A report on the existing collections, depleted as they were by delinquent borrowers, and an account of the efforts expended on placing the collections in different locations for safekeeping during the War years.

Includes:
Annex I. “The Job of the Librarian of Congress,” by Luther Evans, pp. 19–21. As the new Librarian of Congress in the post-War years, Luther Evans expressed the need to readjust the focus of his administration’s attention to peacetime demands and to the expansion of the Library's services.
“Bibliographies and Publications,” pp. 88–101. In 1944, a committee was formed to direct the efforts of the Library in the preparation and publication of bibliographies which will cover all unpublished materials as well as all articles in periodicals found in the Library.

Chapter I contains “The Story Up To Now” by David C. Mearns, pp. 13–227. This is “an introspective and historical statement which seeks to explain the status of the Library and how it got this way.”
Chapter II. “Nineteen Hundred and Forty-Six,” by Luther Evans, pp. 228–234. Evans relates the changes that occurred during the year 1946, including the introduction of the new 40-hour work week and the War veterans' newly-awakened interest in educational opportunities.

Includes:
Appendix II. “Proposal for a National Bibliography and Bibliographical Control,” pp. 109–115. Paul Vanderbilt pro-
poses the development of a "national bibliography which is all-inclusive in coverage."

Includes:
Appendix II. "The Robert Todd Lincoln Collection of the Papers of President Lincoln," p. 125. A list of the more important papers of Abraham Lincoln which were deposited in the Library in 1919 by his son, Robert Todd Lincoln.


Includes:

Includes:
Includes:
Chapter 6. "Bibliographic Services Related to Government-Sponsored Research," pp. 62–77. Describes the services provided by the Technical Information Division which performs large-scale bibliographic and reference services on contract for the Department of Defense. The report likewise explains why the Department of Defense turns to the Library of Congress for such services, why the Library accepts these responsibilities, and the advantages to both as well as to the defense effort.


Includes:
Appendix I. "The Bryant Memorandum and the Librarian's Report on It to the Joint Committee on the Library," pp. 89-111. The memorandum was prepared by Douglas W. Bryant, Associate Director of the Harvard University Library, at the request of Senator Claiborne Pell in order "to consider what the Library of Congress does and what it ought to do for the Government and the Nation generally."


D. Early Book Lists and Printed Catalogs (General Collections)


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E. Printed Catalogs (Special Collections)

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1-5-2 


1-5-3 


1-5-4 

II. The Librarians of Congress and Their Administrations

Editor's Note: The correspondence, reports, and articles reproduced in this Section complement (and often document) the introductory essay, "The Library of Congress and its Multiple Missions." Both are organized chronologically and focus on the individual Librarians of Congress, particularly since the administration of George Watterston (1815-1829), the first full-time Librarian. I have attempted to select key documents and articles that: (1) characterize the administration of each Librarian; (2) are not widely known; and (3) indicate the variety and scope of important research materials available in the Library of Congress Archives. This selection, of course, is only a sampling. There is no substitute for a personal visit to the Archives. The patient researcher will be rewarded.

A. The Library of Congress through the Administration of John Beckley, 1783–1807

Microfiche Number


2-1-4 Record of Books Drawn by Members of Congress, 1800–1802. i + 70 + 4 p.
Includes Salary Act of 1805, Josiah Wilson King petition, and an index. This volume reportedly was removed from the Library by George Watterston upon his dismissal and later returned with children's scribblings marring the final pages.

2-1-5 [Nov. 26, 1805 letter of John Beckley to James Madison requesting the return of certain books.] 1 p.

B. Patrick Magruder, 1807-1815


[Sept. 21, 1814 letter of Thomas Jefferson to Congress through Samuel H. Smith in which Jefferson offers his library for sale to the Congress.] 3 p.

This work contains the papers and commentary delivered at a symposium on Thomas Jefferson sponsored by the Library of Congress in 1977.
It includes:


C. George Watterston, 1815–1829


2-3-3 [Apr. 26, 1815 letter of George Watterston to Thomas Jefferson in which Watterston asks Jefferson’s advice on “the best way to arrange the books.”] 2 p.

2-3-4 [May 7, 1815 letter of Thomas Jefferson to George Watterston on the arrangement of Jefferson’s books.] 4 p.

2-3-5 [July 8, 1826 letter of George Watterston to Hon. William C. Bradley about Watterston’s appointment and duties as Librarian and other subjects.] 4 p.

2-3-6 [Dec. 13, 1826 letter of George Watterston to Representative Edward Everett on leaving too much to the taste and discretion of the Librarian.] 2 p.

D. John Silva Meehan, 1829–1861


2-4-2 [Sept. 25, 1848 letter of John Silva Meehan to Senator James A. Pearce, Chairman of the Joint Committee on the Library, on the Library’s acquisitions program and the role of Alexandre Vattemare therein.] 4 p.
[Dec. 24, 1851 letter of John Silva Meehan to Senator James A. Pearce on the fire in the Library on the same day. Approximately 35,000 of the Library's 55,000 volumes were destroyed.] 2 p.

[Dec. 25, 1851 letter of John Silva Meehan to Congress on the fire of the preceding day.] 2 p.

[Jan. 15, 1852 letter of John Silva Meehan to the booksellers Rich Brothers on rebuilding the Library's collections after the fire of 1851.] 2 p.


[Mar. 8, 1861 letter of Senator James A. Pearce to President Lincoln requesting that John Silva Meehan be allowed to continue to serve as Librarian of Congress.] 3 p.

“Library of Congress Catalogue” (Washington, D.C.: Smithsonian Institution, 1854). This catalog, prepared according to Charles Coffin Jewett's stereotyped block system, covers only ancient history, the first chapter of the Library's classification scheme.

E. John G. Stephenson, 1861–1864


[May 7, 1861 letter of John G. Stephenson to President Lincoln expressing interest in the position of Librarian.] 3 p.

[Sept. 25, 1861 letter of Senator James A. Pearce to Senator William Pitt Fessenden, member of the Joint Committee on the Library, complaining about Librarian Stephenson's neglect of the Library and his purchase of books without the consent of the Committee.] 4 p.
2-5-4 [Diplomatic dispatches and correspondence regarding the offer of the Librarian of the British Museum, Antonio Panizzi, to replace British materials destroyed by the Dec. 24, 1851 fire in the Library of Congress. Includes Nov. 21, 1862 dispatch of Charles Francis Adams to Secretary of State William H. Seward on the offer of the British Librarian, 2 p.; Nov. 15, 1862 letter of Antonio Panizzi to American Minister Charles Francis Adams, 2 p.; Nov. 17, 1862 letter of Charles Francis Adams to Antonio Panizzi, 2 p.; List of Books, 4 p.; and President Lincoln's Dec. 18, 1862 note to the Senate and the House of Representatives on the offer, 2 p.]

2-5-5 [May 2, 1862 letter of Ainsworth Rand Spofford to Henry B. Blackwell on conditions in the Library under the direction of Stephenson.] 8 p.


F. Ainsworth Rand Spofford, 1864–1897


2-6-4 [Oct. 8, 1863 letter of Ainsworth Rand Spofford to Secretary of the Treasury Salmon P. Chase on the Library’s budget.] 2 p.

2-6-5 “The Centralization of Copyright at the Library of Congress.” In this letter of April 9, 1870, to Representative Thomas A. Jenckes of Rhode Island, Chairman of the House Committee on Patents and Copyright, Spofford skillfully explains the reasons “why the transfer of the entire copyright business and books to the care of the Library would promote the public interest.” A copy of the letter may be found in the Librarian's

"A "Wholly Distinct" Library Building"
In his annual report for 1872, Spofford outlined the Library's serious space problem and argued that a separate structure outside the Capitol building was a prerequisite for a national library. He was so pleased with this formulation of the argument that he quoted from it for the next 25 years. For the text of Spofford's argument, on pp. 6-11 of the annual report, see Microfiche No. 1-3-1872.


2-6-7 Special Report of the Librarian of Congress, Dec. 3, 1895. (S.Doc. 54-7)
In response to a provision of the Legislative, Executive, and Judicial Appropriation Act of 1895 that "The Librarian of Congress shall make to the next regular session of Congress a full report touching a complete reorganization of the Library of Congress, and whether a separation of the law library from the remaining portion is desirable in view of the completion of the new Library building, Spofford submitted this report. The report was also published in Ainsworth Rand Spofford: Bookman and Librarian edited by John Y. Cole (Littleton, Colo.: Libraries Unlimited, Inc., 1975) pp. 87-99.

"The Function of a National Library"
This essay expresses Spofford's lifelong conviction that the Library of Congress is the nation's national library. It is an affirmative reassertion of Thomas Jefferson's dictum of nearly a century before that, in Spofford's words, "only a library of completely encyclopedic range was adequate to equip Congress for its work". The essay appeared in Handbook of the New Library of Congress (Boston: Curtis and Cameron, 1901) pp. 103-109; see Microfiche No. 4-2-2.

Extracts of Minutes of the Joint Committee on the Library, 1861-1898. 54 p. Brief typewritten entries summarized from the original minutes, which are missing.

G. John Russell Young, 1897-1899


2-7-2 [Aug. 9, 1897 letter of Register of Copyrights Thorvald Solberg to John Russell Young on the Copyright Office, 3 p.; Aug. 14, 1897 letter of Thorvald Solberg to John Russell Young on administrative problems, the opening of mail, ... etc, 2 p.]

2-7-3 [Aug. 18, 1897 letter of John Russell Young to Superintendent of the Reading Room, David Hutcheson, on the inauguration of special services to the blind at the Library of Congress.] 1 p.

2-7-4 [Oct. 18, 1897 letter of John Russell Young to Mr. Babcock of Necedah, Wis. on his anxiety over the appointment of women staff members in the Library.] 1 p.


2-7-6 [Letters of John Russell Young dated Nov. 1, 1897: to Senator John M. Thurston on patronage claims, 9 p.; to Hon. Thomas S. Martin on the appointment of Gary Nichols, 1 p.; to Hon. Alexander Crow, Jr. on the appointment of Mr. Scarlett, 1 p.; to Hon. John C. New ("The Daily Journal," Indianapolis, Md.) on the appointment of Mr. Grubbs, 1 p.; to Gen. Nelson A. Miles, Headquarters, U. S. Army, Washington, D.C., on the appointment of Mr. Brodie, 1 p.; to Hon. H.R. Gibson, House of Representatives, on Mr. Wiley, 1 p.; to James Cardinal Gibbons on the removal of Mr. Vernon Dorsey from the Library staff, 1 p.; to Rev. J. Havens Richards, S.J., Georgetown University, on the removal of Mr. Dorsey, 3 p.]

2-7-7 [Mar. 2, 1898 letter of Ainsworth Rand Spofford to John Russell Young on the state of the Library's and Spofford's duties as Assistant Librarian.] 5 p.
H. Herbert Putnam, 1899-1939

2-8-1 “Herbert Putnam: The Tallest Little Man in the World.”


2-8-3 “The Relation of the National Library to Historical Research in the U.S.” American Historical Association 1901. p. 115-129.


2-8-6 [Apr. 6, 1900 letter of Herbert Putnam to Melvil Dewey on the use of the Dewey Decimal System.] 1 p.

2-8-7 Library of Congress pamphlets for exhibition at the 1904 St. Louis World’s Fair. 72 p.


Representative Simeon D. Fess of Ohio, Chairman of the Joint Committee on the Library, in this speech delivered Dec. 29, 1920 in the House of Representatives reviewed the history of the Library and urged his fellow Congressmen to appropriate funds for the construction of a bookstack in the northeast courtyard, salary increases for Library staff, and the construction of a modern archives building. Z733.U6F4 1921


I. Archibald MacLeish, 1939–1944


2-9-3 Report of the Librarian's Committee to the Librarian of Congress on the Processing Operations in the Library of Congress. Paul North Rice, Andrew D. Osborn, Carleton B. Joeckel. (Washington, D.C.: Library of Congress, 1940) fxj + 303 p. A detailed report critical of the Library's processing operations and its overall organization. The major conclusion is that "the Library cannot be an efficient operating agency until its organic structure has been thoroughly overhauled." This is a key document in the Library's history.

Z733.U57z 1942

2-9-6 Correspondence with Allen Tate about establishing the Poetry Office and the Quarterly Journal of the Library of Congress.
[July 14, 1943 letter of Archibald MacLeish to Augustus Giegengack, the Public Printer, on initial proposal for publishing the Quarterly Journal of the Library.] 2 p.
[July 17, 1943 letter of Augustus Giegengack to Archibald MacLeish requesting more information about the Journal idea.] 1 p.
[July 22, 1943 letter of Archibald MacLeish to Augustus Giegengack suggesting a luncheon meeting to discuss the Journal.] 1 p.
[Aug. 5, 1943 letter of Allen Tate to Archibald MacLeish containing the first draft of the general order to establish the Quarterly Journal.] 2 p.
[Aug. 6, 1943 letter of Archibald MacLeish to Allen Tate inviting him to a conference to discuss the Journal.] 1 p.
[Aug. 9, 1943 letter of Archibald MacLeish to Allen Tate listing ideas to be discussed.] 2 p.
[Aug. 10, 1943 letter of Allen Tate to Archibald MacLeish on the points they had discussed.] 1 p.
[Aug. 12, 1943 letter of Archibald MacLeish to Allen Tate on delaying the general order until Tate's ideas take a more final form.] 1 p.
[Aug. 24, 1943 letter of Allen Tate to Archibald MacLeish containing the draft of the general order.] 2 p.
General Order No. 1202, Aug. 26, 1943, announcing the establishment of the new Quarterly Journal. 2 p.
[Sept. 22, 1943 letter of Allen Tate to Archibald MacLeish offering recommendations on the journal design.] 1 p.
[Sept. 25, 1943 letter of Archibald MacLeish on the journal design decisions.] 1 p.
[Nov. 1943 draft of General Order 1207 by Allen Tate.] 1 p.
[Nov. 11, 1943 letter of Luther Evans to Allen Tate asking Tate to redraft Order 1207 in order to be in conformity with General Order 1202.] 1 p.
[Dec. 6, 1943 letter of Felix Frankfurter to Archibald MacLeish complimenting him on the new journal and on his performance as Librarian.] 1 p.
[Dec. 8, 1943 note to Allen Tate from Miss Berkey enclosing Frankfurter's letter of Dec. 6.] 1 p.
[Dec. 8, 1943 letter of Archibald MacLeish to Felix Frankfurter thanking him for his letter and stating that all the credit for the journal should be given to Tate.] 1 p.


J. Luther H. Evans, 1945–1953


Typescript report. The Planning Committee consisted of: Keyes D. Metcalf, chairman; Herbert Eugene Bolton; Edward U. Condon; Douglas S. Freeman; Waldo C. Leland; Wilmarth S. Lewis; Carl McFarland; Kathryn Meir; Lessing J. Rosenwald; Ralph R. Shaw; and Walter L. Wright, Jr. (See 1-3-1947)


2-11-3 Proposed Codification of Permanent Federal Statutes Relating to the Library. (Washington, D.C.: Library of Congress, 1957) iii + 65 p. This draft text with explanatory notes was submitted to the Joint Committee on the Library in April 1957.


In these hearings the committee considers the nominee's experience, including his lack of experience as a library administrator, and the possibility that his research and writing would interfere with his duties as Librarian.

The report recommends in favor of the confirmation of Daniel J. Boorstin to be Librarian of Congress.


This report was prepared for the Ad Hoc Subcommittee on Computers of the Committee on House Administration. Committee Print.

2-12-6 The Library of Congress in Perspective, 1976. Edited by John Y. Cole. vii–viii+85–147 p. Includes the report of the 1976 Librarian's Task Force on Goals, Organization, and Planning, the reports of two of its subcommittees (Services to Congress, Services to Libraries) and reports from eight outside advisory groups.

Transcript of proceedings. Committee reaction to the Librarian’s reorganization proposal.


III. Major Functions and Services

A. Acquisitions and the Development of the Collections


Purchase of the Peter Force Library of Americana provided the Library of Congress with an unparalleled collection of books, pamphlets, manuscripts, newspapers, and maps dealing with early American history. It also clearly demonstrated the willingness of the Congress to spend large sums of money, in this instance $100,000, to develop its collections.

3-1-3 The Library of Congress: Some Notable Items That It Has and Examples of Many Others It Needs — Desiderata. 1926. vi+113 p.


3-1-5 Report of Lawrence C. Wroth, Consultant, Rare Books. 1943. 11 p.


B. Copyright

See also references to material in appropriate annual reports.


3-2-5 "Thorvald Solberg, the First Register of Copyrights." J. C. M. Hanson. Scandinavia Vol. 1, No. 2. Feb. 1924. pp. 75-78.

3-2-6 "Bibliography of Thorvald Solberg: A List of His Books, Pamphlets and Periodical Contributions on Copyright" [i] + [16] p.

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