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LIBRARY OF CONGRESS MAGAZINE
MAY/JUNE 2016



AMERICA'S PUBLIC LIBRARIES *EVOLVING AND THRIVING*

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Imagery of U.S.
Public Libraries

Shared Riches of
Private Libraries

PLUS

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CONGRESS

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"Falling Books," a four-story sculpture by Frank Eliscu, hangs on the front of the Library's James Madison Memorial Building. *Shawn Miller*

MADISON



LIBRARY OF CONGRESS MAGAZINE

Library of Congress Magazine
Vol. 5 No. 3: May/June 2016

MISSION OF THE LIBRARY OF CONGRESS

The Library's central mission is to provide Congress, and then the federal government, and the American people with a rich, diverse, and enduring source of knowledge that can be relied upon to inform, inspire, and engage them, and support their intellectual and creative endeavors.

Library of Congress Magazine is issued bimonthly by the Office of Communications of the Library of Congress and distributed free of charge to publicly supported libraries and research institutions, donors, academic libraries, learned societies and allied organizations in the United States. Research institutions and educational organizations in other countries may arrange to receive *Library of Congress Magazine* on an exchange basis by applying in writing to the Library's Director for Acquisitions and Bibliographic Access, 101 Independence Ave. S.E., Washington DC 20540-4100. LCM is also available on the web at loc.gov/lcm/. All other correspondence should be addressed to the Office of Communications, Library of Congress, 101 Independence Ave. S.E., Washington DC 20540-1610.

pao@loc.gov
loc.gov/lcm
ISSN 2169-0855 (print)
ISSN 2169-0863 (online)

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ON THE COVER: This sculpture titled "Psyche" by Ralph Helmick and Stu Schecter, featuring books and butterflies in the shape of a head, hangs in Salt Lake City's Main Library. *Robert Dawson, Public Library Survey Collection, Prints and Photographs Division*

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THE MOTHER OF MOTHER'S DAY

ONE WEST VIRGINIA DAUGHTER SUCCEEDED IN MEMORIALIZING MOTHERS EVERYWHERE.

Greeting cards, flowers, candy, dining out—Mother's Day is big business. Sales figures for the popular retail holiday topped \$20 billion in the U.S. last year.

No one was more dismayed by the commercialization of Mother's Day than Anna Jarvis (1864-1948), the woman who spearheaded the effort to memorialize mothers more than a century ago.

The ninth of 11 children, Jarvis was born in Webster, West Virginia, on May 1, 1864. Her mother, Ann Reeves Jarvis, was a social activist who founded Mothers' Day Work Clubs to combat poor health and sanitation conditions in the area. Only four of her children survived to adulthood. The others succumbed to such diseases as measles, typhoid fever and diphtheria, which were common in Appalachian communities. She also led her community's effort to tend to wounded soldiers—the Blue and the Gray—during the Civil War.

After the war, Mrs. Jarvis continued to unite the deeply divided community by spearheading "Mothers Friendship Day" for the families of Confederate and Union soldiers. During one of her Sunday school lessons, she told the children that she hoped and prayed someone would devote a day to honor mothers.

The sentiment wasn't lost on her daughter. Following her mother's death on May 9, 1905, Anna began a campaign to honor her mother and mothers everywhere. Three years later, Andrews Methodist Episcopal Church in Grafton, West Virginia, was the site of the first official Mother's Day celebration. The church has since been designated the "International Mother's Day Shrine."

Jarvis continued to campaign for a national holiday. Her efforts culminated in legislation passed by Congress and signed by President Woodrow Wilson on May 9, 1914, that declared flags be flown "on the second Sunday in May as a public expression of our love and reverence for the mothers of our country." The first national celebration was held on May 10, 1914.

A victim of her movement's success, Jarvis spent much of the rest of her life railing against the increasing commercialization of the holiday all over the world. Her protests, which began first with florists, escalated to arrests for public disturbances. She even took first lady Eleanor Roosevelt to task for using the holiday to promote the health and welfare of women and children—a cause that her mother championed. Increasingly erratic, Jarvis died in a sanitarium in 1948.

—Audrey Fischer

MORE INFORMATION

Research Mother's Day in Historic Newspapers
loc.gov/rr/news/topics/mothers.html



▲ Anna M. Jarvis, half-length portrait | *Prints and Photographs Division*

The "Mother With Children" statue by William Douglas Hopen is outside the International Mother's Day Shrine, at the Andrews Methodist Episcopal Church in Grafton, West Virginia. *Carol M. Highsmith Archive, Prints and Photographs Division*

The birthplace of Anna Jarvis is in the unincorporated town of Webster in Taylor County, West Virginia. *Carol M. Highsmith Archive, Prints and Photographs Division*

Background image: Andrews Methodist Episcopal Church, the International Mother's Day Shrine, is in Grafton, West Virginia. *Carol M. Highsmith Archive, Prints and Photographs Division*

HAPPY BIRTHDAY, JAMES MADISON

THE "FATHER OF THE CONSTITUTION" ALSO HELPED CONCEIVE THE NATION'S LIBRARY.



The nation's fourth president also helped establish—and later re-establish—the nation's library. James Madison first proposed the idea of a congressional library in 1783. That year, a committee chaired by Madison submitted a list of approximately 1,300 books to the Confederation Congress that were "proper for the use of Congress." Madison urged that "it was indispensable that Congress should have at all times at command" authorities on

public law whose expertise "would render . . . their proceedings conformable to propriety; and it was observed that the want of this information was manifest in several important acts of Congress." His proposal was defeated because of "the inconveniency of advancing even a few hundred pounds at this crisis."

The Library of Congress was established through an act of Congress signed by President John Adams on April 24, 1800. Fifteen years later, President Madison approved an act of Congress appropriating \$23,950 for the purchase of a large collection of books belonging to Thomas Jefferson to replace the nascent congressional library that was burned by the British during the War of 1812.



For their unique connection to the institution, Jefferson, Adams and Madison are each memorialized with a Library of Congress building on Capitol Hill bearing their name.

Opened on April 24, 1980, the Library's James Madison Building serves as the nation's official memorial to the fourth president. A statue of Madison by sculptor Walker Hancock is the focal point of Madison Hall, which is also adorned by the statesman's quotations.

In close proximity to Madison Hall, the Library's Manuscript Division houses the James Madison Papers, which document his activities as a member of the Continental Congress, his role in the Constitutional Convention of 1787, his tenure as secretary of state during the presidency of Thomas Jefferson and his two terms as president. Madison's papers and related documents are available on the Library's website.

MORE INFORMATION

Guide to the Library's Digital Resources on James Madison
loc.gov/rr/program/bib/presidents/madison/

▲ The James Madison Memorial Building | *Shawn Miller*

◀ James Madison's statue is in the Library's Madison Memorial Hall. *Carol M. Highsmith Archive, Prints and Photographs Division*



▲ This illustration by John Tenniel depicts Alice and the Cheshire Cat.

Opposite: This frontispiece from the earliest editions of "Alice's Adventures in Wonderland" is by John Tenniel.

ALICE'S ADVENTURES IN THE LIBRARY OF CONGRESS

"Alice's Adventures in Wonderland"—a book that has never been out of print since its original publication 150 years ago—did not get off to a good start.

The classic tale about a little girl who falls down a rabbit hole into a fantasy world populated by an odd cast of characters was first published in Oxford during the summer of 1865. Displeased with the quality of the printing, illustrator John Tenniel persuaded the author, Charles Lutwidge Dodgson (1832-1898)—who would become famous under his pen name, "Lewis Carroll"—to recall that edition of 2,000 copies, except for about 50 copies that had already been distributed to friends. The still unbound sheets of the 1865 "Alice" were sold to the American firm of D. Appleton and Co., which published the work in New York in 1866 with a new title page. A copy of the "Appleton Alice" came to the Library in the

personal book collection of Chief Justice Oliver Wendell Holmes, following his death in 1935.

Even rarer than the Appleton edition of "Alice" is the Library's copy of the first approved edition of "Alice," published in November 1866 in London by Macmillan & Company. The Library's copy, which it purchased in 1924, has two original pencil drawings by Tenniel (sketches of the "Seven and Five of Hearts" and "Alice, the Duchess, and the Flamingo") tipped in. These drawings most likely were commissioned from Tenniel subsequent to the book's publication.

"Alice" grew out of a fanciful tale that Carroll told the three daughters of Henry Liddell, Dean of Christ Church, Oxford, during a boat trip in the summer of 1862. Several years later, he presented one of the daughters—Alice—with his handwritten and self-illustrated manuscript copy of the story titled "Alice's Adventures Under Ground," which she had urged him to put in writing for her. Purchased by Eldridge Reeves Johnson, inventor of the Victor Talking Machine, the manuscript was exhibited at the Library of Congress from October 1929 to February 1930. After Johnson's death in 1945, the manuscript was purchased at auction by a group of Americans led by Lessing Rosenwald, A.S.W. Rosenbach and Librarian of Congress Luther Evans. On Nov. 13, 1948, Evans presented the manuscript to the British Museum as a gift to Great Britain from a group of anonymous Americans in gratitude for Britain's heroic efforts in holding Hitler at bay until the United States entered World War II.

When the Alice books were published, they were copyright protected for 42 years after the first publication or seven years after the author's death, whichever was longer. Thus, the work itself entered the public domain in 1907, thereby inspiring numerous illustrated editions, comic books and adaptations for film, stage and television over the past century. Most notable are the 1951 Disney film and Tim Burton's 2010 film. Most recent is an online version with annotations from 12 Carroll scholars offered by The Public Domain Review to mark the 150th anniversary of the timeless tale.

—August and Clare Imholtz have been collecting "Alice" books for more than 30 years. Their exhibition, "Alice 150 Years and Counting... The Legacy of Lewis Carroll," is on display at the University of Maryland, College Park through July 2016.



LEWIS CARROLL SCRAPBOOK

Perhaps the rarest Carroll treasure owned by the Library is a scrapbook he kept from 1855 to 1872. Carroll spent his whole adult life at Christ Church, Oxford—first as an undergraduate and later as a mathematics lecturer. The scrapbook consists of more than 100 items, mostly of clippings from newspapers and periodicals, which offer an interesting window into Carroll's mind.

They include reviews of his own published works, pages from the humor magazine "Punch," clippings on Oxford and British politics, theater reviews, poetry, major news events of the day and cartoons that evidently appealed to Carroll's sense of humor and his fascination with nonsense and the absurd. A review of his "Formulae of Plane Trigonometry" from the Athenaeum of July 27, 1861, shared a page in the scrapbook with a memorial poem on the death of Prince Albert from "Punch."

Frederic Louis Huidekoper, an American undergraduate at Christ Church, purchased the scrapbook at a sale of Carroll's effects shortly after his death in 1898. Col. Huidekoper, who distinguished himself in World War I and was awarded the Chevalier de Legion of Honor, became a respected and prolific military and naval historian. In 1934, he donated Carroll's scrapbook to the Library just six years before his death in a trolley car accident in Washington, D.C.

—August and Clare Imholtz (pictured above)

► MORE INFORMATION

Lewis Carroll Scrapbook
frontiers.loc.gov/intldl/carrollhtml/lchome.html

Rare Book and Special Collections Division
loc.gov/rr/rarebook/



VOLUNTEER AT THE LIBRARY

THE LIBRARY OF CONGRESS RELIES ON VOLUNTEERS to greet the nearly 1.6 million visitors, who come each year to its Capitol Hill campus. The volunteers use their knowledge and experience as they lead tours of the magnificent Thomas Jefferson Building and help visitors find their ways to the Library's treasures and many public programs and resources. The following opportunities exist for people outside the Library and those on staff.

1. Volunteer docents lead informative tours of the historic Thomas Jefferson Building, explaining its art and architecture as well as the history and work of the Library. Many docents develop specialized tours on specific topics or exhibitions. On average, they lead two tours each month.
2. Orientation/Information Desk volunteers welcome visitors as they enter the Jefferson and Madison Buildings and inform them of learning opportunities available during a visit to the Library. They also accommodate visitors by responding to any specific needs, such as directions on first steps to becoming researchers, requests for wheelchairs, restrooms, elevators and food services.
3. Researcher Guidance Desk volunteers support new researchers in navigating the Library's website and determining which reading rooms are most relevant to their research.
4. Young Readers Center volunteers are also needed to work with visiting children (up to age 16) and their families.

MORE INFORMATION

Volunteer Information loc.gov/visit/volunteer/
Young Readers Center read.gov/yrcc/

for you AT THE LIBRARY

TOURS OF THE THOMAS JEFFERSON BUILDING



WHAT: Tours of the Thomas Jefferson Building
WHERE: Thomas Jefferson Building, 10 First Street S.E., Washington, D.C.
WHEN: Monday through Saturday at 10:30 a.m., 11:30 a.m., 1:30 p.m., 2:30 p.m. and 3:30 p.m. (2:30 p.m. is the last tour on Saturdays).
COST: FREE; reservations are not required for groups of fewer than 10 individuals.

LIBRARY OF CONGRESS VISITORS can view current exhibitions and take a tour of the historic Thomas Jefferson Building. Free one-hour walking tours of the building are led by volunteer docents who tell the story of the Library of Congress—America's oldest cultural institution—its history, art and architecture, collections, and services for congress and the nation. The Library's buildings are fully accessible. A limited number of wheelchairs are available.

Thomas Jefferson Building Tours
loc.gov/visit/tours/guided-tours/thomas-jefferson-building/

DOCUMENTING THE OTHER HALF

BARBARA BAIR, A HISTORIAN IN THE MANUSCRIPT DIVISION, HIGHLIGHTS ITEMS FROM THE LIBRARY'S NEW EXHIBITION ON SOCIAL REFORMER JACOB RIIS.

1. STUDIO PORTRAIT

Journalist, photographer and social reformer Jacob Riis (1849-1914) is pictured in this famous photograph by Francis Benjamin Johnston taken during the height of his celebrity.

Jacob A. Riis | Frances Benjamin Johnston, circa 1903, Frances Benjamin Johnston Collection, Prints and Photographs Division



2. "HOW THE OTHER HALF LIVES"

Riis's path-breaking first book was written while he was still working as a police reporter. Riis modified his popular "Other Half" slide lecture into an article for the December 1889 issue of Scribner's Magazine. He then produced his 1890 book with the now very famous title. It became a bestseller and a classic in the "muckraking" social-reform tradition.

"How the Other Half Lives, Studies Among the Tenements of New York," Jacob Riis, New York: Charles Scribner's Sons, 1890 | Rare Book and Special Collections Division

MORE INFORMATION

View "Jacob Riis" exhibition
loc.gov/exhibits/



5. CHILD LABOR

Riis was very concerned about the impact of poverty on the young. This example of his exposé photography is one of many of his images of children who lived and worked in the tenement neighborhoods of New York's Lower East Side. Child labor and homelessness were important issues Riis addressed in his lecture shows and writings.



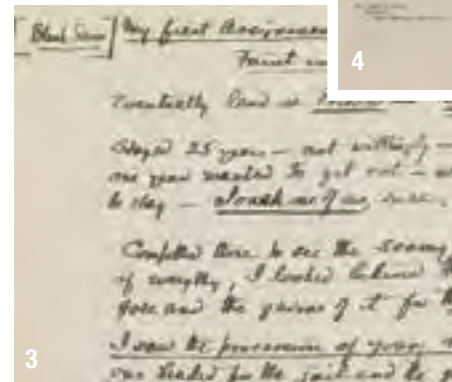
"3 AM in the Sun Office" [newsboys], Jacob Riis, 1891-1892 | Museum of the City of New York. Gift of Roger William Riis (90.13.4.131)

4. ROOSEVELT AND RIIS

Theodore Roosevelt and Jacob Riis first met when Roosevelt was a police commissioner and they worked

together to clean up New York City's vice-ridden police lodging houses. The two remained friends. In 1904, Riis published "Theodore Roosevelt, the Citizen." The following year Roosevelt invited Riis to his inauguration.

Theodore Roosevelt to Jacob Riis, Jan. 29, 1905. Typed letter signed, with envelope | Jacob A. Riis Papers, Manuscript Division



3. LIFE STORY

Riis's autobiography "The Making of an American," published in 1901, was outlined in a slide lecture he gave to varied audiences. It tells a "rags to riches" story of the hardships Riis faced as a young Danish emigrant to the United States, the love story of his marriage and his work exposing the injustices and need for reform in the poorer neighborhoods of New York City.

"The Making of an American," handwritten lecture notes | Jacob A. Riis Papers, Manuscript Division

"Jacob Riis: Revealing 'How the Other Half Lives'" is on display at the Library of Congress through Sept. 5, 2016. The exhibition is a co-presentation of the Library of Congress and the Museum of the City of New York.



THE RICHES OF PRIVATE LIBRARIES

BY AUDREY FISCHER

Acquired through donation, purchase or an Act of Congress, private libraries in the Library of Congress contain a wealth of items made accessible to the public.



Thomas Jefferson famously said, “I cannot live without books.” Following his presidency, Jefferson sold his prized personal book collection of 6,487 volumes to Congress in 1815 to rebuild its legislative library, which had been burned by the British the previous year. Jefferson’s library—on public display at the Library and open to researchers—is the nucleus from which today’s modern Library of Congress grew.

Under the purview of the Rare Book and Special Collections Division, Jefferson’s library is one of a great number of important private libraries that the Library of Congress has acquired. In 2004, the Library received a major collection of more than 4,000 rare books, manuscripts, historic documents, maps and art of the Americas from the Jay I. Kislak Foundation. Businessman Jay Kislak began amassing his comprehensive collection after he moved to Florida in the 1950s.

Opposite: Close-up of volumes from Thomas Jefferson’s library

Rare Book and Special Collections Division staff members Eric Frazier and Anna Bryan re-shelve books in Thomas Jefferson’s library. *Abby Brack Lewis*

“From my days in college, books held strong appeal, and my book-collecting started in a traditional way—beautiful bindings, classics such as Shakespeare and Dickens,” said Kislak.

To encourage today’s college students in collecting, the Jay I. Kislak Foundation provides major support for the National Collegiate Book-Collecting Contest. Since 2010, the Library’s Center for the Book and Rare Book and Special Collections Division, along with the Antiquarian Booksellers’ Association of America, the Fellowship of American Bibliographic Societies and the Grolier Club, have administered the contest. The three top winners of the 2015 contest collect in the areas of musical scores of repressed Soviet composers, the Spanish Civil War and the life and work of author and pilot Antoine de Saint Exupéry (1900-1944).

“[Collecting] is a disease, it’s a sickness,” joked Kislak at the awards ceremony. “If you start collecting you’re going to continue to collect, if you’re a real collector.”

► MORE INFORMATION

Special Collections in the Library of Congress
loc.gov/rr/rarebook/select.html

Thomas Jefferson’s Library
loc.gov/exhibits/thomas-jeffersons-library/

Exploring the Early Americas: The Jay I Kislak Collection
loc.gov/exhibits/exploring-the-early-americas/

GOING PUBLIC

Below are just a few examples of private libraries in the Library of Congress that contain rare and unique items. Selected items may be viewed on the Library’s website.

Early Americas



The Kislak Collection contains some of the earliest records of indigenous peoples in

North America and objects from the discovery, contact and colonial periods, especially for Florida, the Caribbean and Mesoamerica.

Women’s Suffrage



In 1903, Susan B. Anthony (1820-1906), one of the founders of the

women’s suffrage movement in America, presented her personal library of feminist and antislavery literature to the Library of Congress. The annotated volumes help scholars today study the fight for American women’s right to vote.

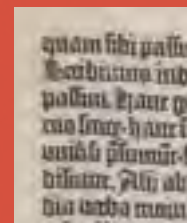
Hebraica



The Library’s extensive Hebraica collections can be traced to Jacob H. Schiff’s gifts

(1912 and 1914) of more than 14,000 books and pamphlets from the private collection of Ephraim Deinard, a well-known bibliographer and bookseller. The collection, which contains material from more than 300 localities and spans four and a half centuries, sheds light on the history of Jews in America and the world.

Rare Bibles



Two rare 15th-century bibles—on permanent display at the Library of Congress—were once

held in private hands. Through an Act of Congress in 1930, the Library purchased the collection of German industrialist Otto Vollbehr (1872-1946), which contained one of three surviving perfect copies on vellum of the Bible produced by Johannes Gutenberg in Mainz, Germany in 1455—the first book printed with movable type in the western world. The private library of Sears, Roebuck and Company president Lessing J. Rosenwald (1891-1979), which came to the Library in a series of gifts beginning in 1943, contained the Giant Bible of Mainz. The illuminated manuscript was transcribed by an unknown monk in 1452-1453.

Law and Literature



The book and print collection of Chief Justice Oliver Wendell Holmes (1841-1935), donated

to the Library in 1935 through his bequest, represents the combined libraries of several generations of the Holmes family. In addition to hundreds of works on jurisprudence and constitutional law, the collection contains American literature collected by Justice Holmes’ father, Dr. Oliver Wendell Holmes (1809-1894). One of many gems is the first U.S. edition of Lewis Carroll’s “Alice’s Adventures in Wonderland” (1866).

DIVERSITY OF THE AMERICAN LIBRARY

Photographer Robert Dawson views the country through the lens of its public libraries.



Robert Dawson photographs the Main Library in Detroit, Michigan. Walker Dawson, courtesy of Robert Dawson

Inspired by the nation's long history of photographic survey projects, photographer Robert Dawson decided to focus his camera on America's public libraries at the turn of the 21st century.

"Since coming of age during the Vietnam War, I've always been interested in the things that help bind us ... [like] the shared commons of public libraries," said Dawson.

From 1994 to 2015, Dawson photographed 526 of the 16,536 public libraries in 48 states and the District of Columbia, often traveling more than 11,000 miles at a time on summer road trips with his son Walker Dawson. The images document the wide range of America's public libraries in locations ranging from big cities to small towns, shopping malls to Indian reservations, and parking lots to national parks.

The Library of Congress recently acquired 681 photographic prints from Dawson's photographic survey titled "The Public Library: An American Commons."

"Robert Dawson's extensive survey provided the perfect opportunity for the Library of Congress to represent the many roles of contemporary public libraries. His photographs also offer a fascinating comparison to our interior and exterior views of

Opposite from top: Built in 1800, this building has housed the Shepherdstown (West Virginia) Public Library since 1921.

The 12-by-14 foot Roscoe (South Dakota) Library was one of the smallest public libraries in the nation when it closed in 2002.

Seattle (Washington) Central Library, which opened in 2004, was designed by architects Rem Koolhaas and Joshua Ramus.

All photos | Robert Dawson, *Public Library Survey Collection, Prints and Photographs Division*



About the Collection

Robert Dawson's Public Library Survey Collection is the largest acquisition of public library photography by the Library of Congress since the early 1900s. Dawson's contemporary photographs significantly expand the Library's holdings that describe the American public library—as architecture, community spaces and a reflection of the contemporary social landscape. The collection contains 25 exhibition prints (16-inch by 20-inch) from large-format negatives and 656 prints (8-inch by 10-inch) from both large format negatives as well as digital files. When the full archive is received, it will have all his negatives, scans, field notes, correspondence, maps and other records from the 21-year photography project.

The images range from the nation's smallest library (now closed) in Harland Four Corners, Vermont, to the architecturally-acclaimed Salt Lake City (Utah) Main Library. Images include temporary libraries and bookmobiles, such as those serving residents affected by Hurricanes Katrina and Sandy.

The Public Library Survey Collection is available for viewing by appointment and will be available on the Library's website in the future.



Opposite, clockwise: The Caliente (Nevada) Branch Library is housed in the former Union Pacific railroad station.

The Mockingbird Branch Library in Abilene, Texas, is located steps from Family Dollar and Super Bingo.

The George Washington Carver Branch Library in Austin, Texas features this mural by John Fisher called “Voyage to Soulsville.”

Above: The Tulare County Free Library in Allensworth, California, was built by former slaves, including Allen Allensworth.

The Queens (New York) Library Bookmobile served area residents in the aftermath of Hurricane Sandy.

libraries newly built at the start of the 20th century,” said Helena Zinkham, director for Collections and Services at the Library of Congress.

As Dawson travelled the country to photograph public libraries, he witnessed many changes, such as library closings, temporary facilities that became permanent and the coming of the digital age of computers and the Internet. Dawson’s work has been influenced by the photographers of the Farm Security Administration in the 1930s-1940s and, more recently, by the photographic surveys funded by the National Endowment for the Arts in the 1970s.

According to Bill Moyers, who wrote the foreword to Dawson’s book “The Public Library: A Photographic Essay,” Dawson’s collection of photographs comes at a propitious time.”

“When the library is being reinvented in response to the explosion of information and knowledge, promiscuous budget cuts in the name of austerity, new technology and changing needs ... Dawson shows us ... what is at stake—when the library is open, no matter its size or shape, democracy is open, too.”

All photos | Robert Dawson, *Public Library Survey Collection, Prints and Photographs Division*

▶ MORE INFORMATION

View more images of and about public libraries, old and new.
go.usa.gov/ceFch

An American Commons

The following is an excerpt from Robert Dawson’s introduction to “The Public Library: A Photographic Essay.”

Our national public library system goes a long way toward uniting these United States. A locally governed and tax-supported system that dispenses knowledge and information for everyone throughout the country at no cost to its patrons is an astonishing thing—a thread that weaves together our dreams, our memories, our cultures and ourselves.

This project has allowed me a means of viewing much of our country over the last two decades. During that time libraries have changed dramatically, especially with the introduction of computers. However, since this nationwide odyssey, [my son] Walker and I have come to some similar conclusions: We Americans share more than what divides us. Most people work hard at their jobs and care about their families as well as their communities and the places they call home. And many care passionately about their libraries.

This project has only reinforced my belief in the basic decency of most Americans. It has been a privilege to complete this study of our nation’s public libraries. And it has been a rare opportunity to see what we have in common through the lens of the local public library.



AMERICA'S PUBLIC LIBRARIES **EVOLVING AND THRIVING**

BY YVONNE DOOLEY

MORE POPULAR THAN EVER, PUBLIC LIBRARIES ARE CHANGING TO MEET THE NEEDS OF THE COMMUNITIES THEY SERVE.

Despite dire predictions of their demise, America's public libraries—about 17,000 nationwide—are thriving. Once thought of as a repository and lending place for books, public libraries are now centers for learning, innovation and collaboration. The digital age—with its rapidly changing technology—has required public libraries to evolve or risk becoming obsolete.

More Popular Than Ever

Americans love their libraries. In 2007–2008, during the nation's economic downturn, public libraries saw an all-time high in usage throughout the country. The Institute of Museum and Library Services reported 1.5 billion in-person library visits in 2008. Patrons came to libraries in droves to use computers, look for jobs and attend classes, in addition to checking out materials. As they did during the Great Depression, people turned to their local public libraries during their greatest time of need. Today, those usage levels have remained unchanged.

Opposite: Jaime Mears, a National Digital Stewardship Resident at Martin Luther King Jr. Memorial Library in Washington, D.C., instructs Alex Santos on how to scan and digitize family photos in the Memory Lab. *Shawn Miller*





Above from left: The Watha T. Daniel/Shaw branch of the D.C. Public Library, designed by the firm of Davis Brody Bond, has been recognized for its creative use of space since it opened in 2010. *Shawn Miller*

Library programs using Legos support the STEM curriculum. *Courtesy of Montgomery County (Maryland) Public Libraries*

A 2013 Pew Research Report on “How Americans Value Public Libraries in Their Communities” found that 90 percent of Americans ages 16 and older said that the closing of their local public library would have an impact on their community, with 63 percent saying it would have a “major” impact.

A 2012 “Public Library Funding and Technology Access Study” found that libraries are helping to bridge the digital divide: The study reported that 62 percent of libraries are the only source of free Internet access in their communities; 76 percent offer access to e-books and 39 percent of libraries provide e-readers for check-out by patrons.

Yet, as demand surges, library funding continues to dwindle. The “Public Library Funding and Technology Access Study” also reported that 23 states cut funding in 2012 for public libraries and more than 40 percent of states decreased library support three years in a row.

When facing budget shortfalls, U.S. mayors report that library budgets are among the first items cut. Donna Howell, the director of Mountain Regional Library System in Georgia sums up the issue: “Our funding has been cut so low that we’re really at the end of our financial tether ... but the fact that we’re still relevant enough to our community for them to keep coming back in such large numbers gives me hope for our future.”

What's New at the Public Library?

Today’s public libraries offer something for everyone—at all ages and levels of ability. The District of Columbia Public Library system, for example, is a bustling network of 26 library locations that offer services well beyond those initially conceived by Congress when it established a free public library for the District on June 3, 1896. Not only can District residents check out the latest

bestseller or issue of *People* magazine but they also have free access to the Internet for research or job-hunting, or they can use one of the hands-on “makerspaces” (complete with a 3D printer) available at the central Martin Luther King Jr. Memorial Library branch. Opened in 1972, the historic MLK Library is scheduled for a major renovation to provide state-of-the-art library services. Several other D.C. public libraries have been renovated in recent years with designs that reflect changes in how the community uses the modern public library.

This is not unique to the D.C. area—the evolution is happening in 9,000+ public library systems all over the United States. In October 2014, the Aspen Institute released the report “Rising to the Challenge: Re-envisioning Public Libraries” in an effort to guide critical conversations regarding the future of public libraries. “It is a time of particular opportunity for public libraries with their unique stature as trusted community hubs and repositories of knowledge and information,” the report concluded. “Public libraries must align library services in support of community goals.”

The American Library Association agrees. In October 2015 it launched “Libraries Transform,” a new public awareness campaign to showcase the critical role that libraries play in the digital age.

“The Libraries Transform campaign communicates the message that libraries are neither ‘obsolete’ nor ‘nice to have’—libraries are essential,” said ALA President Sari Feldman. “It is clear that today’s libraries are less about what we have for people and more about what we do for, and with people to create individual opportunity and community progress.”

With support from the American Library Association’s “the American Dream Starts @ your library” initiative, institutions like the Waukegan (Illinois) Public Library are giving new Americans the skills and confidence to improve their lives. Waukegan’s programming includes English Conversation workshops for those for whom English is a second language. Adult ESOL programs are a mainstay of public library programming throughout the nation.

Above: Public libraries like the Watha T. Daniel/Shaw Library, pictured above, offer patrons access to computer and Internet. *Paúl Rivera, courtesy of D.C. Public Libraries*



“Los Angeles is a gateway city and serving our immigrant communities is an extremely high priority for us,” said John Szabo, city librarian of the Los Angeles Public Library. “In 2012, we launched a partnership with the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services—the agency that oversees naturalization—to provide resources that assist new Americans in taking their first steps on the path to citizenship. Our program has become a national model and is evolving into an even more robust immigrant integration effort. This work is beautifully aligned with the values of libraries and librarianship and is strategically important to our present and our future.”

Today’s public libraries are bright, airy, inviting meeting spaces, with comfortable furniture in open floorplans. In addition to makerspaces, some even include coffee shops, toy lending collections, passport acceptance centers—the list goes on and on.

Makerspaces allow the creative community to take advantage of new tools to produce products and take them directly to the marketplace on the web. Makerspaces also foster interest in STEM (science, technology, engineering, and math). More than 30 libraries in the state of Idaho have implemented STEM programming that encourages the use of new technology and tools. Montgomery County (Maryland) Public Libraries offer “creating with Legos” programs for elementary school children that support the STEM curriculum.

For reluctant young readers, many public libraries offer a “Read to a Dog” program. For reluctant users of technology, the public library is the place to go to learn how to download e-books to mobile devices.

But as wonderful as all these new public library programs are, they mean nothing if people do not take advantage of them. Like a best-selling novel that gets shelved in the nonfiction section, if no one finds and uses it, it might as well not be there.

Yvonne Dooley is a reference librarian in the Science, Technology and Business Division and president of the D.C. Library Association.

Above from left: “Read to a Dog” programs at public libraries motivate reluctant young readers. *Courtesy of Montgomery (Maryland) County Public Libraries*

Opened in 2012, the Francis A. Gregory branch of the D.C. Public Library was designed by the architecture team of Adjaye Associates and Wiencek Associates. *Maxine Schnitzer, courtesy of D.C. Public Libraries*



The Nation’s Library

The Library of Congress is open for in-person research to all patrons age 16 and above after obtaining a reader ID card. Many of the Library’s 20 reading rooms are open six days a week for exploration into the print and electronic resources. Researchers of all ages located anywhere can use the Ask a Librarian service and explore the Library’s digitized collections through the Library’s website.

► MORE INFORMATION

Information for Researchers
loc.gov/rr/

LIBRARY HISTORIAN, PROFESSOR AND AUTHOR WAYNE WIEGAND DISCUSSES WHY AMERICAN LOVE LIBRARIES.

I’ve recently published “Part of Our Lives: A People’s History of the American Public Library.” My goal was to find out historically why people love these ubiquitous civic institutions.

“Part of Our Lives” features the voices of generations of public library users. Some are published in memoirs, autobiographies and biographies of the famous. Some are in manuscript collections in public library archives across the country. The vast majority are found in thousands of U.S. newspapers and periodicals digitized since the 1990s into huge databases. By using public libraries as a search term, I found thousands of voices in letters to the editor, thousands more quoted in newspaper stories about local libraries. And almost all of those newspapers I read in the Library of Congress.

As I analyzed this data, I was surprised at how quickly it could be organized into three main categories. People have loved their public libraries for the useful information they made accessible, for the public spaces they provided and for the transformative potential of commonplace stories that helped users make sense of their world.

Here are a few examples of the power of providing information:

At a Cincinnati public library desk in 1867, Thomas Edison spent time reading works on electricity, a friend recalled.

In 1899, Wilbur and Orville Wright came upon an ornithology book in the Dayton Public Library that rekindled their interest in human flight, one of their biographers writes.

In 1971, 10-year-old Barack Obama returned to Honolulu from Jakarta. “First place I wanted to be was a library,” he recalled. There he found a book on East Africa and learned more about Kenya, birthplace of his father, a Luo tribe member.

These examples illustrate the importance of the library as place:

During 1939 at the Atlanta Public Library’s African-American Branch, 10-year-old Martin Luther King Jr. came to the library many times during the week, library director Annie Waters recalled.



In 1969, the Gary (Indiana) Public Library sponsored a local talent contest at which a group soon to be known as the Jackson Five competed. Although they didn’t win, little Michael was an audience favorite.

Now let me turn to the transformative potential of commonplace stories that public libraries have circulated by the billions for generations.

Ronald Reagan visited the Dixon (Illinois) Public Library twice a week in the early 1920s. He credited “That Printer of Udell’s” by Harold Wright with shaping his sense of morality.

“Reading commonplace stories was an open door for freedom in my life, and allowed me to see that there was a world beyond my grandmother’s front porch in Mississippi,” said Oprah Winfrey.

Supreme Court Justice Sonia Sotomayor recalled burying herself in reading at her Bronx library after her father died. “Nancy Drew had a powerful hold on my imagination.” Like Nancy, young Sonia was “a keen observer and listener. I picked up on clues, I figured things out logically.”

In my lifetime of research into American library history, I’ve read thousands of statements like, “Public libraries are not just warehouses of books anymore.” If “Part of Our Lives” accurately represents public library history, they never were.

—Wayne Wiegand is the F. William Summers professor emeritus at the School of Library and Information Science at Florida State University. This essay is excerpted from his book talk at the Library of Congress last fall.

► MORE INFORMATION

Listen to the Wayne Wiegand lecture
go.usa.gov/cfMC3

A HAIR-RAISING TALE OF UNREQUITED LOVE

AN UNUSUAL ARTIFACT CHRONICLES A FUTURE PRESIDENT'S DOOMED LOVE AFFAIR.

While James Madison was an impressive historical figure, the nation's fourth president may have been less than appealing to the ladies in person.

Madison was small of stature and known to be in delicate health. Records indicate that he was only five feet, four inches tall and never weighed more than 100 pounds. He was also known to be socially introverted. However, he had a keen mind and was a very diligent scholar, which at the time was thought to exacerbate his health conditions.

Most men of Madison's era married by their mid-twenties. Yet Madison did not offer a marriage proposal until the relatively advanced age of 32. Catherine "Kitty" Floyd, the daughter of a Continental Congress delegate, caught his eye. In 1783, as tokens of their mutual love, Madison and Floyd exchanged ivory miniature portraits of themselves by the artist Charles Willson Peale. As a special sign of esteem, Madison included a braided lock of his hair. Unfortunately, this love was not destined to last. Kitty fell in love with another suitor and sent Madison a rejection letter. Understandably, Madison was crushed.

This short courtship is frozen in time by Peale's beautifully delicate and charming portraits. Peale went on to become a prolific artist, painting the portraits of prominent men of his time including Benjamin Franklin, John Hancock, Thomas Jefferson and Alexander Hamilton.

While Madison's love life did not travel an easy course, it did have a happy ending. It was not until 11 years later that he offered another marriage proposal. This time he was successful. On Sept. 15, 1794, at the age of 43, he married Dolley Payne Todd. Seventeen years his junior, Dolley was a widow who Madison likely encountered at social events in the nation's capital. She was known for her social graces, which likely helped Madison's popularity as president. The ever consummate hostess and decorator, Dolley defined the role of the American president's wife.

—Elizabeth Gettins is a digital library specialist in the Collections and Services Directorate.

▶ MORE INFORMATION

Guide to the Digital Resources on James Madison
loc.gov/rr/program/bib/presidents/madison/



▲ James Madison and Kitty Floyd exchanged miniature portraits of themselves by artist Charles Willson Peale—his containing a braided lock of his hair. *Rare Book and Special Collections Division*

MANUSCRIPTS FROM A MOVEMENT

THOUSANDS OF MANUSCRIPTS AND PHOTOGRAPHS THAT ONCE BELONGED TO CIVIL-RIGHTS ICON ROSA PARKS ARE NOW AVAILABLE ONLINE.

In 1955, Rosa Parks refused to give up her seat to a white passenger on a segregated bus in Montgomery, Alabama. She was arrested and convicted of violating a segregation ordinance—a conviction that led to the Montgomery Bus Boycott, a pivotal event in the civil-rights movement.

Parks' courageous stand made her an icon of that movement and, over the decades, a global symbol of the fight for equal rights. Her personal papers and photographs—many documenting that struggle—are on 10-year loan to the Library from the Howard G. Buffett Foundation, a private family foundation that works to improve the standard of living for the world's most impoverished populations.

The Library received the materials—about 7,500 manuscripts and 2,500 photographs—in late 2014. The collection formally opened to researchers in the reading rooms in February 2015 and, now, has been digitized and placed online for maximum access to the public.

In addition, the Library created a video telling the story of the acquisition and preparation of the Parks collection, from its arrival through organizing, cataloging, preservation and digitizing to public displays and teachers institutes.

The video describes the work done to conserve Parks' Bible, a volume that also contains a handwritten registry of births and deaths in the Parks family dating back to the late 1800s.

The piece also features commentary from many members of the Library staff, the Rosa Parks Institute, Rep. John Conyers and foundation Chairman Howard G. Buffett, who recalls the inspiration for purchasing the collection and placing it on loan to the Library.

"An African-American woman in the 1950s ... showed how much difference one person can make. It's important for our children to see that and to really embrace it and understand it," Buffett said. "And so, I thought we should make

sure that this was in a place where millions of people can see it and benefit from it."

She was honored for her work around the world and at home: Parks received the Presidential Medal of Freedom in 1996 and the Congressional Gold Medal in 1999. She died in 2005 at the age of 92 and became the first woman and only the third non-government official to lie in honor in the rotunda of the U.S. Capitol.

The Parks collection includes personal correspondence and photographs, letters from presidents, fragmentary drafts of her writings, her Presidential Medal of Freedom and Congressional Gold Medal, presentation albums, drawings by schoolchildren and hundreds of cards thanking her for her work.

The papers span 140 years of Parks family history and document the work and everyday life of an extraordinary person who helped change a nation: handwritten recipes, transcribed Bible verses, letters to her mother, tax returns, writings in which she expressed anger and despair about the discrimination faced by African-Americans.

"There is just so much hurt, disappointment and oppression one can take. ... The line between reason and madness grows thinner."

In another, she describes that day on the bus in Montgomery: "I had been pushed around all my life and felt at this moment that I couldn't take it anymore."

—Mark Hartsell is editor of the *Gazette*, the Library's staff newspaper.

Background: Flyer promoting a lecture by Rosa Parks, 1956 | *Rosa Parks Papers*, Manuscript Division

▶ MORE INFORMATION

The Rosa Parks Papers
loc.gov/collections/rosa-parks-papers/about-this-collection

Rosa Parks Papers Video
loc.gov/today/cyberlc/feature_wdesc.php?rec=7081

Rosa Parks Papers in the Classroom
loc.gov/teachers/classroommaterials/presentationsandactivities/

REFERENCE LIBRARIAN MARY CHAMPAGNE DISCUSSES THE JOB OF CONNECTING RESEARCHERS TO THE LIBRARY'S VAST RESOURCES.

How would you describe your work at the Library?

The main focus of my work is providing reference assistance to researchers in the Main Reading Room, through the Library's online Ask a Librarian service and in research orientation classes. Last year, the Library of Congress responded to more than 1 million reference requests from Congress, the public and other federal agencies. The Humanities and Social Sciences Division alone answered nearly 26,000 in-person questions, over 4,500 online queries and more than 2,600 telephone calls. So, connecting researchers to the Library's resources is at the heart of what we do. As the specialist for post-Civil War U.S. history and anthropology, I also recommend print and electronic materials in my subject areas for inclusion in the Library's collections.

The most flexible (and fun) part of my work is the "other duties as assigned" portion of my job description. Currently I'm assisting with a Library exhibition, writing a post for a Library blog and planning social media initiatives, but next week I may be working on completely different projects.

How did you prepare for your current position?

I graduated from Rhode Island College with a degree in history and political science and earned a master's degree in library science from the University of Maryland. Before joining the Library of Congress in August 2015, I was head of reference at Hood College in Frederick, Maryland.

I came to librarianship relatively late in life after working in many fields: I was a mortgage loan processor at the height of the housing boom, I worked as a legal secretary and I spent many years in retail management. However, once I started library school, I thought, "This is it! These are my people." I don't have any regrets about my long and winding career path because I believe my 25 years of customer service experience led me to what I consider the NFL of library jobs.

How has the availability of online resources affected reference librarianship?

Reference services have always evolved with changing patron needs, varied information resources and new delivery formats. As reference librarians, we adjust our services to the availability of new formats while still serving the needs of researchers who rely on



Shawn Miller

traditional media. Electronic resources certainly haven't made librarians obsolete. In fact, researchers need us more than ever to help them navigate the vast amount of information available to them from a variety of sources. The proliferation of digital resources is exciting and convenient, but it can also be overwhelming! The value we provide as reference librarians lies in our ability to guide users through the process of searching, accessing, evaluating and using resources—regardless of format—and we provide the subject expertise and deep knowledge of library collections necessary to help researchers navigate the information landscape.

What are some of the most memorable reference questions you have received?

Reference questions can range from strange to sweet. I received a letter from a man asking whether the "United States" was an entity separate from the "United States of America," with different constitutional rights for citizens of each entity. He also included a \$5 bill with his letter. (I returned his cash with my response.)

I received a phone call at the reference desk from a woman looking for a children's book written by her relative in the 1950s. The book was out of print, but I guided her through the process of finding and purchasing used copies online. She contacted me a few months later to tell me she bought copies for all of her grandchildren for Christmas.

MORE INFORMATION

Research and Reference Services
loc.gov/rr

Ask a Librarian
loc.gov/rr/askalib



Shawn Miller

MORE INFORMATION:

Location
Center for the Book
James Madison
Memorial Building
Room 650
(Sixth Floor)
101 Independence
Ave. S.E.
Washington, DC 20540
202.707.5221

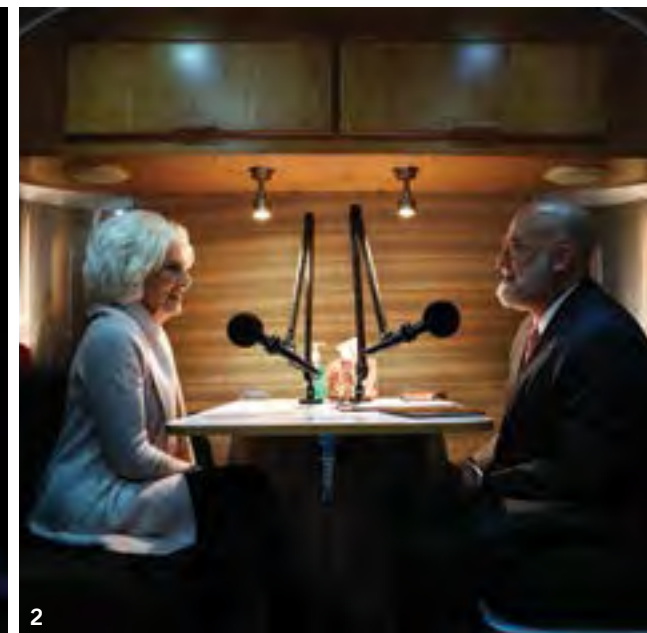
Hours
Monday through Friday
9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Little Free Library
littlefreelibrary.org

Center for the Book
read.gov/cfb

THE LITTLE FREE LIBRARY in the Center for the Book in the Library of Congress invites staff and members of the public to "take a book, return a book." Inspired by philanthropist Andrew Carnegie (see page 27), in 2009, Todd Bol of Hudson, Wisconsin, founded the nonprofit free book exchange known as Little Free Library. One of the Center for the Book's literacy and reading

promotion partners, the organization has since registered more than 36,000 Little Free Library sites in all 50 U.S. states and more than 70 countries—including the Center for the Book's site. The Library of Congress Literacy Awards program, made possible by David M. Rubenstein, recognized the organization in 2015 for its "best practices" in creating a community of literacy.



1. The Martha Graham Dance Company performs “Cave of the Heart” in the Library’s Coolidge Auditorium on April 1.

2. NPR host Diane Rehm is interviewed by her son David in the StoryCorps mobile recording booth at the Library of Congress.

3. Acting Librarian of Congress David Mao (right) presents Peruvian writer, essayist and journalist Mario Vargas Llosa with the Library of Congress Living Legend award on April 11.

4. The Mad Hatter and Alice lead children on a parade through the Library following an April 8 event to mark the 150th anniversary of “Alice’s Adventure in Wonderland.”

5. European Division specialist Regina Frackowiak (center) shows President of Poland Andrzej Duda (right) and Polish Ambassador Ryszard Schnepf (left) items from the 1926 “Polish Declarations of Admiration and Friendship to the United States” during their March 31 visit to the Library.

6. Youth poets Sarita Sol Gonzalez and Elena Izcalli Medina join Poet Laureate Juan Felipe Herrera during Herrera’s “Pioneers of Flower and Song” lecture and performance on April 13.

All photos | Shawn Miller

2016 NATIONAL BOOK FESTIVAL ANNOUNCED

The Library’s 2016 National Book Festival will be held Saturday, Sept. 24, from 9 a.m. to 10 p.m. at the Walter E. Washington Convention Center in Washington, D.C. All programs will be free of charge due to generous private support. The festival will feature more than 100 distinguished authors across many fields and in all genres of writing—history and biography, picture and chapter books, mysteries and thrillers, science and science fiction, poetry and fiction.

Authors include two-time Newbery Medal winner Katherine Paterson; journalist and novelist Carl Hiaasen; Shonda Rhimes, the creative force behind such smash TV shows as “Grey’s Anatomy,” “Scandal” and “How to Get Away with Murder;” legal analyst Jeffrey Toobin; journalist Margo Jefferson; humorist Calvin Trillin; and AARP CEO Jo Ann Jenkins.

► **MORE:** loc.gov/today/pr/2016/16-053.html

MARIO VARGAS LLOSA NAMED LIVING LEGEND

The Library of Congress has presented its Living Legend Award to Mario Vargas Llosa, the renowned Peruvian novelist. The award honors those who have made significant contributions to America’s diverse cultural, scientific and social heritage.

Born in Arequipa, Peru, on March 28, 1936, Vargas Llosa is one of Latin America’s most prominent writers, and one of the authors in the forefront of the literary movement of the 1960s known as the Latin American Boom. His plays have been performed in theaters from Lima to Madrid and his books have been translated into more than 30 languages.

His other honors include the Nobel Prize, the Miguel de Cervantes Prize, the Príncipe de Asturias Prize, the Leopoldo Alas Book Prize, the National Prize for Best Novel in Peru, the Instituto Ítalo-Latino Americano de Roma Prize, the Ritz Paris Hemingway Award, and the PEN/ Nabokov Award.

► **MORE:** loc.gov/today/pr/2016/16-041.html

NEWLEN AWARDED MELVIL DEWEY MEDAL

Robert R. Newlen, chief of staff at the Library of Congress, has been awarded the 2016 Melvil Dewey Medal. This annual award, presented by the American Library Association (ALA) and sponsored by OCLC, recognizes “creative leadership of high order, particularly in those fields in which Melvil Dewey was actively interested: library management, library training, cataloging and classification, and the tools and techniques of librarianship.”

Newlen received the award for his long and impressive career at the Library of Congress—including positions at the Congressional Research Service, the Law Library of Congress and currently as chief of staff. Newlen was also recognized for his service to the American Library Association as a member of ALA Council, Executive Board and as an Endowment Trustee. The award will be presented at the ALA President’s program on June 26 during the ALA Annual Conference in Orlando.

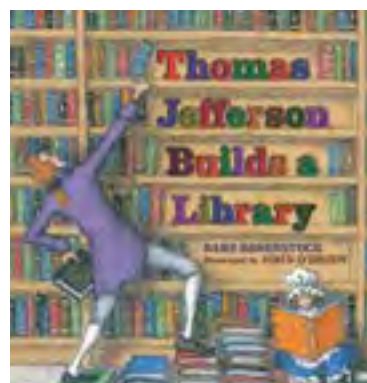
NATIONAL RECORDING REGISTRY ADDITIONS ANNOUNCED

Two cuts at Kurt Weill’s “Mack the Knife” (by Louis Armstrong and Bobby Darin), Billy Joel’s single “Piano Man,” Gloria Gaynor’s “I Will Survive,” the Supremes’ “Where Did Our Love Go,” a recording of the fourth quarter of Wilt Chamberlain’s historic 100-point game and a poignant capture of Mahler’s ninth symphony are among the recordings recently selected for induction into the Library of Congress National Recording Registry.

Under the terms of the National Recording Preservation Act of 2000, the recordings have been recognized for their cultural, artistic and/or historical significance to American society and the nation’s audio legacy. The 25 titles selected for inclusion in the 2015 registry by Acting Librarian David S. Mao span the years 1911-1986. They bring the total of recordings on the registry to 450, a small part of the Library’s vast recorded-sound collection of about 3 million items.

► **MORE:** loc.gov/today/pr/2016/16-056.html

THE LIBRARY OF CONGRESS SHOP offers items that celebrate books and promote the joy of reading.



Thomas Jefferson Builds a Library
Product # 21106739
Price: \$16.95

This 32-page softcover picture book tells the story of how Thomas Jefferson's vast book collection helped to create the Library of Congress.

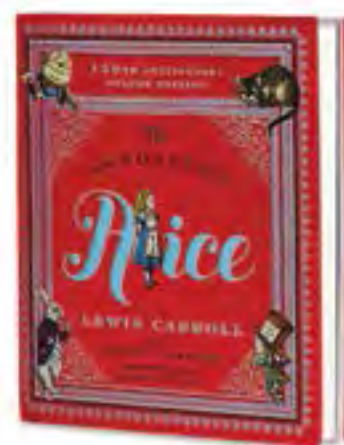


"Jacob Riis: Revealing New York's Other Half"
Product # 211071649
Price: \$65

With more than 600 images, this hardcover book is the companion volume to the Library's Jacob Riis exhibition.



"The Public Library: A Photographic Essay by Robert Dawson"
Product # 21113248
Price: \$35
Photographer Robert Dawson has captured images of hundreds of public libraries throughout the United States.



Annotated Alice
Product # 21108083
Price: \$39.95

The hardcover 150th anniversary collector's edition of "Alice in Wonderland" contains 100 new or updated annotations.



Alice In Wonderland Infinity Scarf
Product #21505148
Price: \$39.99

Characters from Lewis Carroll's classic fill the sepia-toned cream background of this hand-printed scarf. (Poly/cotton jersey).



"American Born Chinese"
Product #211062810
Price: \$18.99

Three tales comprise this award-winning graphic novel by Gene Luen Yang, the Library's National Ambassador for Young People's Literature.

[MORE INFORMATION](#) | Order online: loc.gov/shop | Order by phone: 888.682.2557

FREE TO THE PEOPLE

STEEL MAGNATE AND PHILANTHROPIST ANDREW CARNEGIE NEVER FORGOT THE POWER OF READING.

"The windows were opened in the walls of my dungeon through which the light of knowledge streamed in."

So said industrialist Andrew Carnegie (1869-1919) about having access to the personal library of Col. James Anderson as a child. Anderson not only opened his library of more than 400 volumes each Saturday to the "working boys" of Pittsburgh but served as their librarian. Decades later, Carnegie erected a plaque recognizing Anderson as "the founder of free libraries in Western Pennsylvania."

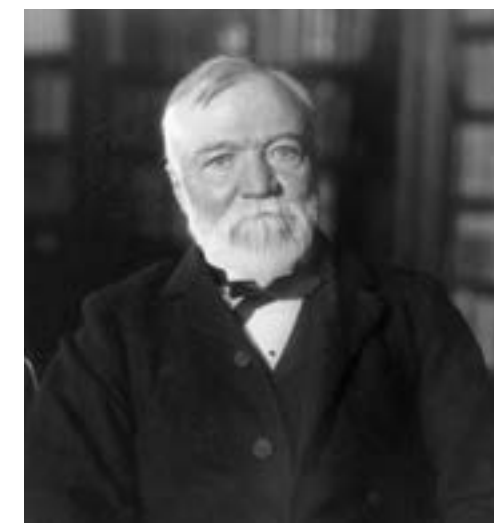
In a monumental example of "paying it forward," Carnegie's renowned philanthropic efforts included the building of 2,509 free libraries in the world between 1883 and 1929. Of the more than 1,680 "Carnegie libraries" built in the U.S., approximately 1,300 still are functioning as libraries today.

"It was from my own early experience that I decided there was no use to which money could be applied so productive of good to boys and girls who have good within them and ability and ambition to develop it, as the founding of a public library in a community which is willing to support it as a municipal institution," wrote Carnegie in his autobiography. "For if one boy in each library district, by having access to one of these libraries, is half as much benefited as I was by having access to Col. Anderson's 400 well-worn volumes, I shall consider they have not been established in vain."

The world's first Carnegie library was built in Carnegie's birthplace—Dunfermline, Scotland—where he lived before immigrating to the United States in 1848, at the age of 13. Opened in 1883, the building's entrance boasts the motto, "Let There Be Light."

Nine of the first 13 Carnegie libraries built in the U.S. are located in Southwestern Pennsylvania and many graced their entryway with the motto "Free to the People."

The first U.S. Carnegie library commissioned in the U.S.—but the second to open—was in



◀ The personal papers of Andrew Carnegie, received by the Library both by gift and by purchase, are available to researchers in the Manuscript Division. *Frances Benjamin Johnston, Prints and Photographs Division*

Background: Braddock Carnegie Free Library | *Prints and Photographs Division*

Carnegie's adopted home of Allegheny City, outside of Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. Designed by architects Smithmeyer and Pelz—who also designed the Library of Congress's Thomas Jefferson Building—the library opened in 1890.

A year earlier, the nation's first Carnegie library opened in Braddock, Pennsylvania—9 miles up the river from Pittsburgh and home to one of the Carnegie Steel Company's mills. However, it was fully endowed by Carnegie, while the Free Library of Allegheny was publicly supported by local taxes—giving both libraries bragging rights to "first."

The Braddock Library contained the first Carnegie Music Hall. Designed by William Halsey Wood, the medieval-style national landmark has been used in a number of cinematic productions, most recently serving as Dr. Bennet Omalu's office in the 2015 film "Concussion" starring Will Smith.

—Audrey Fischer

MORE INFORMATION

Andrew Carnegie Papers in the Library of Congress
lccn.loc.gov/mm79015107

Make a Gift to the Library of Congress
202.707.2777
loc.gov/philanthropy/



Andy Ryan

BESTSELLING AUTHOR BRAD MELTZER PAYS HOMAGE TO THE MYSTERIOUS LIBRARIAN WHO SHAPED HIS LIFELONG LOVE OF BOOKS.

I have a few rules I try to live by. One of them is: Mysteries need to be solved. Another is: You need to go thank the people who gave you your start. And so, let's talk about this mysterious librarian.

I don't know her name. I have no idea if she's still alive. But when I was 10 years old, this mysterious librarian changed my life. You see, growing up, my family didn't have a ton of money. But what we did have was my grandmother's library card. It was there, in the public library in Brooklyn, New York, that I remember this librarian who pointed to shelves of beautiful books and told me, "This is your section."

I almost fell over. I honestly thought she meant that all the books were mine (though, really, they were, weren't they?). It was a day that made my world bigger and certainly better. And the best part was who she quickly introduced after that—a new friend, author Judy Blume. "Superfudge" was the first book I ever coveted. But it was Blume's "Are You There God? It's Me, Margaret" that rocked my socks. Since I was a boy, no one understood why I was reading it. But I was a boy trying to figure out how girls worked. I'm still searching for that answer. But thanks to that book, I knew what a bra was. Key first step. From there, she taught me one of the greatest lessons in life—that you must love yourself for who you are.

Today, that lesson inspires every children's book I write—"I am Amelia Earhart", "I am Abraham Lincoln", "I am Rosa Parks", "I am Albert Einstein"—and every other title in our "Ordinary People Change the World" series. Indeed, the series started because I was tired of my own kids thinking that reality TV show stars and loud-mouthed athletes were heroes. I wanted to give them real heroes—people just like themselves, which is what Judy Blume gave me.

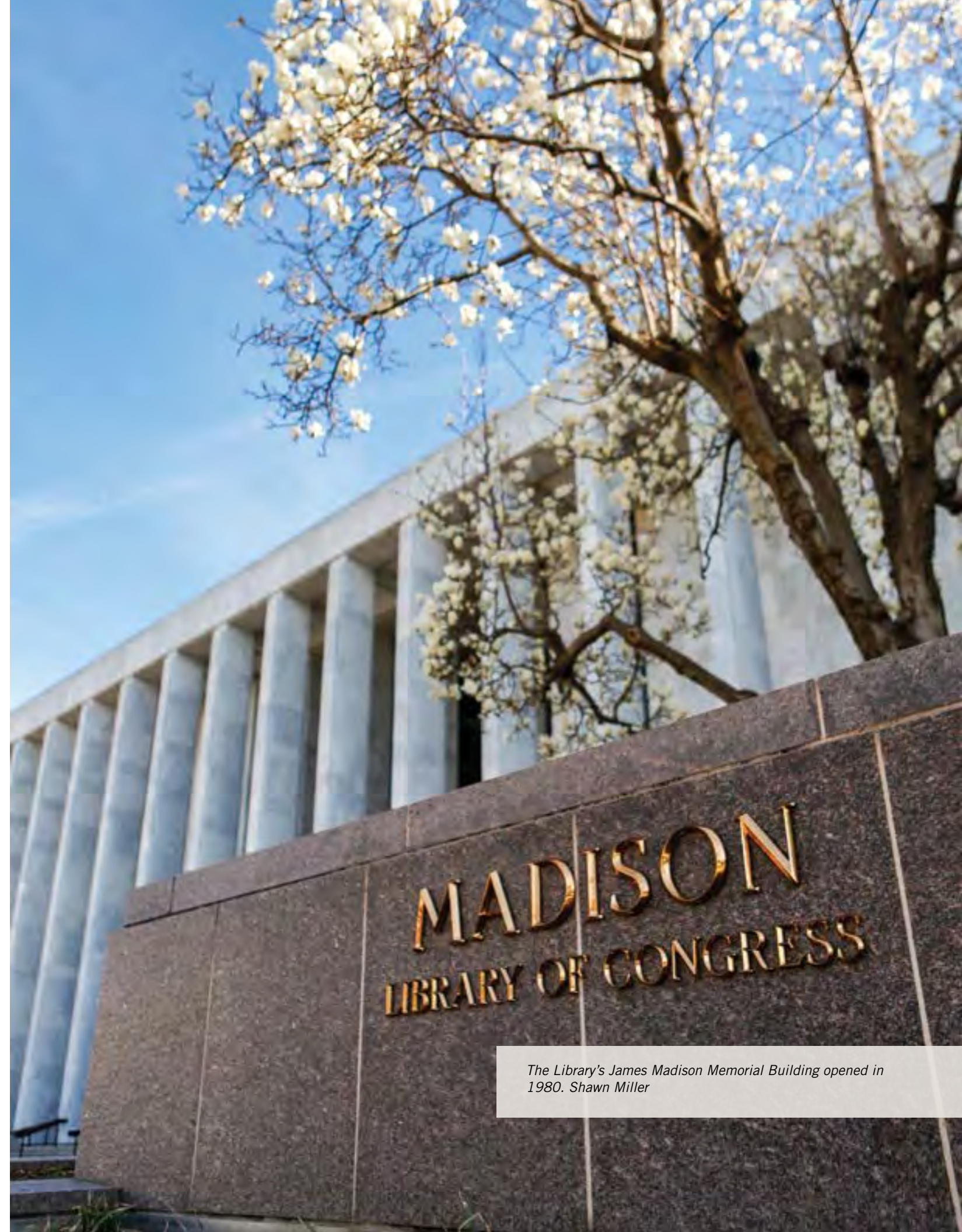
Soon after, that librarian gave me Agatha Christie's novel "Murder at the Vicarage," the first murder mystery I'd ever read. To this day, I still don't know what a vicarage is. And I don't want to. In fact, if you see me somewhere, don't tell me.

Back when I was 10, all I cared about was that on those pages there was a body. A dead body. How'd it get there? Why did it happen? And the most vital question of all: Whodunit? I've been asking that question ever since writing my first thriller, "The Tenth Justice," to my newest, "The House of Secrets." Over the years, Agatha Christie taught me that stories aren't the beauty of what did happen. They're the beauty of what could happen.

Needless to say, for what that librarian gave me, I owe her forever, which leads me back to my original point. Mysteries need to be solved. To this day, I don't know who that librarian is. So in her honor, I'm thanking you—all the librarians who've inspired us and changed our lives.

Today, there are thousands of kids out there who will never know your name. They may never track you down. But do know, they're part of your legacy. And on their behalf, I'm saying thank you.

Brad Meltzer is the #1 New York Times bestselling author of "The President's Shadow" and nine other bestselling thrillers. His other popular works include nonfiction for children and comic books. He is also the host of "Brad Meltzer's Decoded" on History and "Brad Meltzer's Lost History" on H2.



MADISON
LIBRARY OF CONGRESS

The Library's James Madison Memorial Building opened in 1980. Shawn Miller



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**Jacob Riis:
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