



VISITOR GUIDE

November 2023

In November we give thanks for family, friends, and freedom. And because we all have access to the world's greatest library, we should add the Library of Congress to that list! When the Jefferson Building opened in November 1897, more than 4,700 visitors came by on Thanksgiving Day to enjoy the beauty of the building and the bounty of its resources. When you visit Washington, let us know if you would like a tour.



Library of Congress Fascinating Facts

- The first Library was in the Capitol prior to a stand alone building. Initially located in Senator McConnell's front office, it was moved near the Speaker's balcony as collections grew. [See LOC timeline.](#)
- Construction for the Jefferson Building began in 1888. A total of 409 cu ft of granite; 500,000 enameled bricks; 22,000,000 red bricks; 3,800 tons of steel & iron; 73,000 barrels of cement, 2,165 windows; and 15 types of marble were used. Plus, it was fully wired for electricity.
- The Library Tunnel (1895) that once conveyed books to the Capitol predates the current tunnel system (1910).
- Cost was approx. \$6.5 million (\$213,443.40 less than expected).
- Over 175.77 million items including the world's smallest book, "[Old King Cole](#)" and all Tweets, beginning with the first in 2006 through 2017. Nearly 10,000 items are added daily, most via the [Copyright Division](#).
- Resources in over 470 languages; plus braille, e-braille, audio and video assisted formats.
- Read more [fascinating facts here!](#)

LOC Publications

- [LOC Magazine \(2012 - Present\) Fully Archived Online](#)

CONTACT US

Discover the history, architecture, and life on the Hill. Please contact **Julianne Young** at Julianne.Young@mail.house.gov to schedule.



MORE LIBRARIES IN TOWN

[Carnegie Library](#)- DC History Center

[Daughters of the American Revolution \(DAR\)](#)- Focused on genealogical research and the American Revolutionary War period

[Smithsonian Libraries & Archives](#)- Nearly 3 million items in [21 branch libraries](#)

[DC Public Library](#)- 26 locations



GRAND RE-OPENING THIS MONTH

[Folger Shakespeare Library](#)- Library, Museum & Theater. World's largest collection of Shakespeare's First Folios and MORE.