

Quick Guide to Using the Library of Congress Web Site



The **Library of Congress** web site seems daunting. It is a deep web of information to search through, link after link after link. Following links can be confusing. Parts of the web site have different interfaces so there's no uniform, easy-to-follow look and feel. Some items on the web site refer to physical resources you have to go to Washington to get while others refer to online items you can see at your own computer. It's often not clear which is which.

Some of the best links on the **Library of Congress** web site are listed below. I hope you find these links useful in your own study of this amazing American resource. The **Library of Congress** is truly *America's library* whether you visit it in person or through your computer screen.

Best Navigation Pages

Library of Congress **Main Page**

<http://www.loc.gov/>

Browse by Topic

<http://www.loc.gov/topics/>

Search Options

http://www.loc.gov/search/more_search.html

Digital Collections

<http://www.loc.gov/library/libarch-digital.html>

Web Guides

<http://www.loc.gov/rr/program/bib/bibhome.html>

Exhibitions

<http://www.loc.gov/exhibits/>

Virtual Programs and Services

<http://www.loc.gov/rr/program/>

Help: http://memory.loc.gov/ammem/help/search_help.html

Of Interest to Individual Classes or Courses

Interdisciplinary: American Memory

<http://memory.loc.gov/ammem/index.html> - Example: *Walt Whitman's scanned notebooks*

Browse **American Memory:** <http://memory.loc.gov/ammem/browse/index.html>

English: Read .gov

<http://www.read.gov/> - Examples: *classic books online, podcasts by famous authors*

Studio Art: Performing Arts Encyclopedia

<http://www.loc.gov/performingarts/> - Example: *the Spanish-American War in motion pictures*

Global Issues: Global Gateway

<http://international.loc.gov/intldl/intldlhome.html> - Example: *cybercasts on international issues*

American History: Historic American Newspapers

<http://chroniclingamerica.loc.gov/> - Example: *The New York Tribune back issues to 1922*

American History, U.S. Government: Thomas – Legislative Information

<http://thomas.loc.gov/> - Example: *current health care bills in Congress*

Interdisciplinary: Prints and Photos Online Catalog (PPOC)

<http://lcweb2.loc.gov/pp/pphome.html> - Example: *glass plate prints from Matthew Brady's studio*

Interdisciplinary: Today in History

<http://memory.loc.gov/ammem/today/> - Example: *LOC resources themed around today's date*

Science: Science Reference Services

<http://www.loc.gov/rr/scitech/> - Example: *ideas for science projects and science fairs*

Webcast Tour of the Library of Congress web site: [click here](#)