

# THE LIBRARY OF CONGRESS

## *Educational Resources* *A Manual for Congressional Offices*





## **Congressional Access to the Library of Congress' Educational Resources**

The Library wants to help your office make its education resources and materials available to your constituents. Through our Web site we offer access to more than 15 million primary source materials including maps, photos, historical documents, films, sound recordings and more. There are more than 85 ready-to-use, teacher-tested lesson plans on topics that range from history to literature to civics and government.

Congressional offices can access a special section related to education via LCNET [www.loc.gov/lcnet/](http://www.loc.gov/lcnet/). Once you access the education section by clicking on the Educational Programs tab on the left side of the page, you will be able to:

- Download a link for your Web site to include information for teachers and students on the Library's educational resources directly from your Web site. Click on "Link to the Library" on the left hand side of the page and scroll down to the link to the Teachers Page. The HTML Code to link your Web site to the Library's Teachers Page is located here.
- Download the letter on the next page detailing the Library's education resources and share this information with your school districts, teachers, principals, education associations and more.
- Include information on the Library's educational resources in your newsletter to constituents – the Library can provide up-to-date information for your newsletters as often as you like.
- Add your email address to the email listing the Library maintains and receive regular updates on key events at the Library, including educational briefings.
- Download and link to "Top Primary Sources for Teachers and Students" in our collections that pertain to your state (including maps, photographs, manuscripts and more)!
- Schedule a convenient time for the Library to come to your office and provide a presentation on our educational resources by calling the Congressional Relations Office at 707-6577. The Library has an educational outreach team designed to work directly with educators to help them effectively use the Library's resources in their classrooms. We are also able to set up workshops through video conference with individual schools or school districts in your state.

**Sample Letter for Members to send to School Districts, Education  
Associations, Teachers and Principals**

Dear :

As you may know, the Library of Congress, located in Washington, D.C., but accessible world wide through its Web site, offers an amazing array of educational resources for teachers and students.

The Library has more than 15 million unique primary source documents including maps, photographs, historical documents and more on its Web site. It also offers a "Teachers Page" <http://www.loc.gov/teachers/> designed exclusively for teachers and offering tutorials, interactive student activities, Webcasts and more than 85 lesson plans on topics ranging from history to literature to civics and government. All of the material is teacher-tested, standards-based, and draws from the Library's extensive online collections.

The Library also has an educational outreach team designed to work directly with teachers to help them effectively use the Library's educational materials in their classrooms. Free professional development opportunities, designed to assist teachers with their continuing education requirements, are also available on the Library's Web site. Please visit <http://www.loc.gov/teachers/professionaldevelopment/> to learn more about professional development opportunities.

Even younger learners have the opportunity to learn about our nation's leaders and cultural heritage in a fun and engaging way through the Library's Web site. The site, <http://www.americaslibrary.gov>, introduces young students to the great stories of our nation's history through games, puzzles, and interactive activities.

I encourage you to explore all that the Library of Congress has to offer educators. If you would like more information or would like to schedule a distance learning workshop with the Library of Congress, please contact my office. I will be happy to put you in touch with the Library of Congress.

Sincerely,

(This letter is available electronically @ <http://www.loc.gov/lcnet/education>)

## **Professional Development Opportunities for Your Teachers**

The Library also provides professional development opportunities for teachers, library media specialists, staff development and technology coordinators and administrators who are able to visit Washington, DC, as well as for those who cannot. Visit <http://www.loc.gov/teachers/professionaldevelopment/> on the LCNet site for details.

- **Workshops**

The Educational Outreach Division conducts on-request workshops for teachers on using the Library's education resources in their classrooms. Subject matter focus can include literature, poetry, history, performing arts, immigration, the Civil War, and a full range of other topics. Contact the Library at: [edoutreach@loc.gov](mailto:edoutreach@loc.gov) for further details.

- **Teacher Institutes**

Each summer, the Library's Educational Outreach Division conducts several three- to four-day Summer Institutes. Teachers from across the country attend and learn methods for using Library resources effectively. Previous workshops have included: Using the Library's Collections in the Classroom and Incorporating the Library's Education Materials into the Teaching Process. The topics and schedules of the Summer Teacher Institutes are posted online each January, along with an application form, at <http://www.loc.gov/teachers/professionaldevelopment/facilitatedtraining/teacherinstitute/>.

- **Videoconferences**

The Library's Reference staff offer several core and enrichment workshops via videoconference. Topics include: Analyzing Primary Sources; Treasure Hunting; Gathering Community Stories; and Sleuthing and Maps. Videoconferences can be reserved by filling out the online form at: <http://www.loc.gov/teachers/professionaldevelopment/facilitatedtraining/videoconferences/>.

- **Customizable Professional Development**

The Library's nationally-reviewed professional development curriculum is available through a new online system, Teaching with Primary Sources (TPS) Direct <http://www.loc.gov/teachers/professionaldevelopment/tpsdirect>. TPS Direct offers any educator, at any time, the ability to customize professional development activities for use at the school, district or state level for delivery in a face-to-face, online or blended format. The system includes a professional development plan builder and self-directed modules, which can be used to meet teacher continuing education requirements.



## Library of Congress Primary Source Websites

- **The Teachers Page** provides educators with access to millions of primary source documents and the tools to put them in use in the classroom. <http://www.loc.gov/teachers>
- **The World Digital Library** gives users access to digital material (manuscripts, maps, prints and photos, books) from 45 partner institutions in 29 countries and functions in seven languages: Arabic, Chinese, English, French, Portuguese, Russian and Spanish. [www.wdl.org](http://www.wdl.org)
- **American Memory** contains over 11 million primary sources related to American history and culture. <http://memory.loc.gov/ammem/index.html>
- **America's Library** brings history to life for young learners through interactive educational games and stories about America's cultural heritage. <http://www.americaslibrary.gov/cgi-bin/page.cgi>
- **Thomas** provides up to the minute legislative information from the current as well as past Congresses. <http://thomas.loc.gov>
- **Global Gateway** serves as a portal to the Library's international collections. <http://international.loc.gov/intldl/intldlhome.html>
- **The Veteran's History Project** site features first-hand accounts of soldiers who have served their country both at home and abroad. <http://www.loc.gov/vets/>
- **Lifelong Literacy** shows ways to celebrate and encourage reading at all ages. <http://www.loc.gov/literacy>
- **Library of Congress Experience** provides a virtual tour of the Thomas Jefferson Building and offers personalized interaction with exhibition content. <http://myloc.gov>

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