



Reach Out & Touch: Videoconferencing With the Library of Congress

All programs are interactive with the Library's resources and staff. Content on the Library's Web site is useful in the study of American literature and language, U.S. history, government, social studies, and geography; photography and the visual arts; music and dance; and American culture and customs. World history and geography comprise a small but growing segment of the Library's online digital materials.

(Core Programs)

Library of Congress ONLINE! *(one-hour demonstration or two-hour workshop)*

Take a guided tour of the Library of Congress Web site! Discover Edison's films; examine Bell's scientific notebooks, Morse's code, and maps of exploration and world events; pour over photographs of home towns and exotic places; listen to America's voices in songs, conversations, and speeches; track current legislation or contact your Congressman; and visit unique exhibitions without leaving your home town. To help you take advantage of these wonderful primary sources, sample the Library's services and resources, including Ask A Librarian, Today in History, Portals to the World, the Learning Page, and more!

Treasure Hunting *(one-hour demonstration or two-hour workshop)*

Feeling overwhelmed when trying to search the Library of Congress's Web site? Where do you begin? How? Different needs require different strategies when searching. Learn the characteristics and scope of different search tools on the Library of Congress Web site and its sub-sites. Practice using various resources designed to streamline the search process. Develop search strategies that can be adapted, modified, and translated into classroom success.

Analyzing Primary Sources *(two-hour workshop)*

What do primary sources tell us? What questions do they raise? Practice the skill of Object Observation and unlock the answers to these questions and more! Learn how the Object Observation analysis tool can be used with primary sources and how this technique can be used within the body of a lesson.

Make It and Take It! *(two-hour workshop, minimum)*

Primary sources should be seen, felt, examined, and heard! Transform the digital versions of Library of Congress primary sources into real objects that can be used off-line, or combine them in multi-media presentations.

(Enrichment Programs)

Congress Present: Searching THOMAS *(one-hour workshop)*

What are your members of Congress doing? What are their positions on the issues? How can you contact them? Explore THOMAS, the Library of Congress Web site for Congressional materials, and become an active participant in the legislative process!

Gathering Community Stories *(two-hour workshop)*

Gain a unique perspective on your community's history and cultural identity by gathering oral history interviews. This workshop introduces the layperson to the process of collecting oral history and focuses on a critical phase of the process, the interview. Practice establishing rapport, sharpening interview listening skills, and asking open-ended questions to develop a foundation for further exploration into the process as a classroom activity.

The Internet: Fact or Fiction; Web Site Evaluation Strategies *(one-hour workshop)*

How do you locate sites that are accurate, relevant, current, and unbiased? How can you help others evaluate web sites and the information they provide? Join Library of Congress staff to examine web sites and create evaluation criteria that make the World Wide Web the research tool it can be.

Sleuthing With Maps *(two-hour workshop)*

Maps are windows to the cultural, political, and physical world around us. They capture a space in time and define it according to parameters set by the mapmaker for an intended audience. Who is that audience? What did they want to know? What did the mapmaker want to portray? Why? Unlock these answers and more as we delve into an exploration of historical maps and the surprises they yield.

The Spy Map and General Washington *(one-hour workshop)*

It is December 31, 1776. The Declaration of Independence was signed a little more than five months ago and Britain has sent troops to quell the rebellious Colonials. There have been skirmishes, with the British remaining victorious. It is bitterly cold, the colonial troops are hungry, poorly clothed and ill-equipped, unpaid, and ready to return home. General Washington receives timely information from a “very intelligent young gentleman” and formulates a plan. Using the spy’s map, accompanying letter, and the official Revolutionary War battle map, learn what General Washington learned and trace his path in this very important battle of the Revolutionary War.

“To Light Us to Freedom and Glory Again”: *Civil War Poetry with a Purpose* *(one-hour demonstration or two-hour workshop)*

Poetry written during the Civil War was used as a vehicle for the individual to express opinions and attitudes. Using the Library of Congress's online collections, we will explore how poetry written by soldiers and citizenry from the North and the South helped unify citizens, inspire troops, memorialize the dead, and overcome the anger and resentment of both sides in the aftermath of the war.

Audience:

Programs are appropriate for teachers, librarians, media specialists, and university faculty.

Cost:

All programs are free. We ask that you dial us, thus any connect charges are yours.

Scheduling:

Events may be scheduled Monday – Friday, during normal working hours, Eastern time. Times are flexible, depending on Library staff availability, time zone differences, and varied work schedules across the country.

Library of Congress’ Role:

- 1) Tailor the program to meet your needs and goals for your participants.
- 2) Provide a presenter(s) with expert knowledge in the topic.
- 3) Provide handouts for the host site to photocopy and distribute.
- 4) Facilitate the event, with co-facilitation by the host site.

Your Role:

- 1) Contact us at <http://memory.loc.gov/learn/educators/video/vcform.html>.
- 2) Provide the Library with information to make the event relevant to participants; e.g., goals for the event, number of participants, grade levels and professions represented, prior acquaintance and use of the Library’s primary source materials.
- 3) Facilitate the presentation locally. Have extra support staff to assist in computer lab if needed.
- 4) Create resources and handouts per Library instruction. If needed, download files for the workshop from the Library web site prior to the event.
- 5) Schedule and conduct an equipment compatibility check no later than a week prior to the event.

Technical Specifications:

- 1) ISDN-based video conferencing capability compatible with the Polycom FX system.
- 2) For workshops, a computer lab setting with a presentation system viewable by participants; machine to participant ratio of 1:2 or 1:1.
- 3) Internet browsers should be able to play multimedia files in American Memory. See “American Memory Viewer Information” at <http://memory.loc.gov/ammem/amviewer.html> for file types and suggested players.
- 4) The Make It & Take It workshop requires graphics software that can crop and resize images in .gif, .jpg, and .tif (groups III and IV) formats. Photoshop Elements and Paint Shop Pro are examples of inexpensive software applications with these capabilities.