

The Library of Congress

“Founded in 1800, the Library of Congress is the nation’s oldest federal cultural institution and serves as the research arm of Congress. It is also the largest library in the world, with millions of books, recordings, photographs, maps and manuscripts in its collections.”

Source: *About the Library*: <http://www.loc.gov/about/index.html>



The Library seeks to spark the public’s imagination and celebrate human achievement through its programs and exhibits. Experience the world’s largest collection of knowledge, culture, and creativity at the Library of Congress in Washington, DC. The Library is open to all visitors.

Adapted from *About the Library* <http://www.loc.gov/about/publications.html> and *Library of Congress*, <http://www.loc.gov/about/mission.html>



https://web.archive.org/web/20120214080902/http://myloc.gov/_assets/_video/history640.wmv

Keep in mind that even though the Library of Congress’ holdings are large and diverse ...
*it does not have everything ever published,
it is not encyclopedic, and
not all of the Library’s holdings are available online.*

All subject areas are represented in the collections, but...
*the Library does not attempt to collect comprehensively in the areas of **clinical medicine** and **technical agriculture**, which are covered by the National Library of Medicine and the National Agricultural Library, respectively.*

The Library of Congress is distinct from the National Archives...
which is the major repository for the official records of the United States government.

Adapted from the Research and Reference Frequently Asked Questions, <http://www.loc.gov/rr/res-faq.html>