



American Federal Libraries/Information Centers Chronology

- 1780 Military garrison at West Point establishes library by assessing officers at the rate of one day's pay per month to purchase books—arguably the first federal library since it existed when the country was founded (predecessor to U.S. Military Academy Library)
- 1789 First official federal library established at the Department of State
- 1795 War Department Library established in Philadelphia as a general historical military library by Henry Knox, the first Secretary of War
- 1800 The Navy Department Library established on March 31 by direction of President John Adams to Secretary of the Navy Benjamin Stoddert
- 1800 Library of Congress (LoC) founded on April 24
- 1800 War Department Library collections destroyed in fire at War Office Building on November 8, soon after relocation to Washington
- 1802 The President and Vice President authorized to use LoC collections
- 1812 Supreme Court Justices authorized to use LoC collections
- 1812 Congress appropriates \$50,000 for the procurement of instruments and books for Coast Survey
- 1814 British burn both State Department Library and LoC collections during War of 1812
- 1815 Congress purchases Thomas Jefferson's private library to replace LoC collections and opens collections to the general public
- 1817 Earliest documentation of book purchasing for Department of Treasury library
- 1820 Army Surgeon General James Lovell establishes office collection of books and journals
- 1821 The USS FRANKLIN deploys with "Seaman's Library" of 1500 books purchased with funds raised by the crew
- 1830 Executive agencies authorized to use LoC
- 1831 Congress appropriates \$500 to the Office of the Attorney General for purchase of books

American Federal Libraries/Information Centers Chronology (continued)

- 1832 Naval regulations require that each ship have a library for technical materials
- 1836 The Library of Office of the Surgeon General of the Army established from Lovell collection (see 1820 listing, above)
- 1837 LoC named official agency of U.S. government for foreign exchanges of documents
- 1843 Library for the Headquarters, U.S. Marine Corps established by Commandant Archibald Henderson (with authorization of Secretary of Navy David Henshaw)
- 1845 U.S. Naval Academy Library founded
- 1846 Smithsonian Institution established
- 1848 Samuel Hein named first librarian of Coast Survey Library
- 1850 Department of the Interior circulating library established with \$1,000 appropriation
- 1850 Congress appropriates \$1,000 for Librarian of Congress to purchase books for Department of Treasury library
- 1860 Government Printing Office established
- 1862 Department of Agriculture establishes library
- 1865 Attorney General James Speed establishes office of librarian at annual salary of \$1,400
- 1865 First Veterans' Hospital Library established at National Home for Disabled Soldiers, Togus, Maine; as service expanded, chaplains given primary responsibility for collections
- 1866 Smithsonian library collection (40,000 volumes) moved to fireproof housing at LoC after fire in Smithsonian Castle; becomes known as "Smithsonian Deposit"
- 1870 LoC named sole copyright agency for U.S. government and recipient of copyright deposits
- 1870 War Department Signal Office establishes 600-volume library to support weather reporting and forecasting
- 1871 Commission of Fish and Fisheries Library begins when Commission is created
- 1871 Secretary of the Navy directs Hydrographic Office to set up library containing works of hydrography, voyages of discovery, meteorology, marine surveying, etc., "with a catalogue of such works, arranged under their proper heads" (now Naval Oceanographic Office Library)

American Federal Libraries/Information Centers Chronology (continued)

- 1875 Military garrison and regimental libraries number over 78 and range in size from 385 volumes at Fort Bayard, New Mexico Territory, to 2,556 volumes at Fort Columbus, New York City
- 1876 State Department Library relocated to space in the State, War and Navy Building (now the Old Executive Office Building)
- 1879 Navy Department Library relocated to the State, War and Navy Building, room 474 (now The Indian Treaty Room)
- 1879 First volume of the *Index Medicus* published by Army Surgeon General's library
- 1879 U.S. Geological Survey establishes library
- 1881 Smithsonian Secretary Baird donates his private collection to form nucleus of an official National Museum Library at the new U.S. National Museum
- 1882 LoC begins accepting "gifts to the nation" from private citizens
- 1882 Mary B. Cummings becomes first woman to serve as librarian for Department of Justice
- 1885 Library collection assembled at the Bureau of Labor
- 1887 First Librarian of the U.S. Supreme Court appointed in Capitol Building location
- 1888 War Department Library relocated to permanent space in the State, War and Navy Building (now the Old Executive Office Building)
- 1895 Federal Depository System established at the Government Printing Office
- 1896 Eighth Circuit Court (St. Louis) hires its first librarian; many other Circuits had libraries and librarians by the end of the 19th century
- 1897 LoC Jefferson Building opens
- 1897 Congress appropriates \$1,200 to the Department of Treasury to appoint a professional librarian
- 1901 Congress appropriates \$10,000 to establish the Army War College library "for the collection and dissemination of military information"
- 1901 Library established in the legislation that authorizes the new Hygienic Laboratory (renamed National Institutes of Health in 1930)
- 1901 LoC begins interlibrary loan services

American Federal Libraries/Information Centers Chronology (continued)

- 1901 LoC begins offering copies of its catalog cards and classification schedules to libraries
- 1903 U.S. government agencies begin transferring surplus books to LoC
- 1903 Historical and Presidential papers transferred to LoC from Department of State
- 1907 Department of the Interior abolishes its circulating library
- 1914 War Department Library transferred and consolidated with collection of the Army War College Library at the Washington Barracks (now Fort Lesley J. McNair)
- 1914 Department of Commerce main library established
- 1917 The Librarian of Congress named Director of the American Library Association (ALA) Library War Service, forerunner of the Army Library Service
- 1917 Department of Labor Library established through consolidation of Children's Bureau and Bureau of Labor libraries
- 1918 Carnegie Corporation of New York funds 36 library buildings at major Army installations
- 1918 Air Service, War Department (forerunner of Air Force) establishes three technical libraries: McCook Field Library (now Wright Patterson AFB), San Antonio Intermediate Air Depot Library (Kelly AFB) and the Air Service Library in Washington, D.C.
- 1918 First female ALA Library War Service librarian hired
- 1918 ALA Library War Service extended to hospitals caring for soldiers and veterans, providing patients with materials for recreation, education and therapy
- 1918 ALA Library War Service establishes Paris office to support soldiers in France
- 1919 Military and veterans ALA libraries staffed by 145 librarians and 6 supervisors
- 1919 ALA library services extended to Public Health Service Hospitals and National Soldiers Homes
- 1919 Department of the Navy creates the Library Services Branch to provide a professionally directed, ship and shore library program for Navy and Marine Corps (now the Naval General Library Program)
- 1920 ALA Library War Service (books, buildings and equipment) turned over to the Army
- 1921 Army Library Service formally established as an activity of the Adjutant General's Office in War Department

American Federal Libraries/Information Centers Chronology (continued)

- 1921 ALA veterans hospital libraries become part of Public Health Service and Civil Service
- 1921 President Warren Harding directs transfer of original copies of the Declaration of Independence and the Constitution from the State Department Library to the Library of Congress
- 1921 Bureau of the Budget's General Counsel begins law collection in Old Executive Office Building
- 1922 U.S. Veterans Bureau (later renamed Veterans Administration) assumes responsibility for veterans affairs, and Congress mandates that each veterans hospital have at least one library
- 1922 Library of the Office of the Surgeon General (Army) renamed Army Medical Library
- 1925-1926 Veterans Bureau mandates that each veterans hospital have 2 libraries--medical and patient
- 1927 Ruth Hutchins Hooker hired to run the one-room library at the Naval Research Laboratory; the library begins its ascent to become a first class science library (now named for Hooker)
- 1934 The National Archives Act creates the National Archives as an independent government agency, and R.D.W. Connor becomes the first Archivist of the United States
- 1935 Supreme Court Library moves to the historic Supreme Court Building at 1 First Street, SE in Washington, D.C.
- 1937 Department of the Interior consolidated library established with 285,000 volumes
- 1939 Bureau of the Budget Library established by amalgamating collections of the Bureau of Efficiency and the Central Statistical Board with the General Counsel's law collection
- 1939 Franklin D. Roosevelt Library established as the first Presidential archival depository, the first of the libraries now comprising the Presidential Library System
- 1940 Permanent Army Library Service staff position established in Morale Branch of the Adjutant General's Office to select and purchase books for Army posts and Air Corps stations and advise the War Department on library matters
- 1942 National Institutes of Health Library combines with Public Health Service Library to form collections exceeding 40,000 volumes
- 1942 Office of War Information Library established from small newspaper morgue in New York

American Federal Libraries/Information Centers Chronology (continued)

- 1943 Joint project of U.S. Government and private publishers begins production of 123 million copies of Armed Services Edition paperback books (4 ½ oz. pocket size reprints of 1300 best sellers and classics) for distribution to troops overseas
- 1944 Pentagon Library established in Pentagon Building (War Department Memorandum No. W. 210-44, 16 February 1944), based on recommendations of Keyes Metcalf (Director, Harvard University Libraries) to consolidate 28 military libraries
- 1945 Army Air Forces Library Program (now Air Force Library Program) established as an entity separate from the Army Library Service
- 1945 Defense Technical Information Center (DTIC) established as Air Documents Division of the Intelligence Department Headquarters, Air Technical Service, Army Air Force (name changes in 1948 and 1951, and in 1963 becomes Defense Documentation Center; becomes DTIC in 1979)
- 1945 Army Library Service establishes branch offices in London and Paris to support soldiers in European Theater of Operations
- 1945 Publications Board (forerunner of National Technical Information Service) established to declassify and disseminate American and enemy war-related technical documents to the public
- 1946 On recommendation of the Librarian of Congress and ALA, Veterans Administration libraries reorganized into 13 decentralized district offices with new standards and requirements
- 1946 National War College established; library formed from collections of the Army War College
- 1946 Air University Library established at Maxwell Field (now Air Force Base), Montgomery, Alabama
- 1946 The Law Library of Judge Advocate General (Army) transferred to the Pentagon Library
- 1946 Armed Forces Staff College established in Norfolk, Virginia, on a 55-acre site formerly housing the U.S. Naval Receiving Station; library established in October
- 1947 Atomic Energy Commission Library established
- 1947 War Department Library renamed The Army Library with the passage of the National Security Act of 1947 (War Department Memorandum 3-50-1, 2 January 1947)
- 1947 Central Intelligence Agency Library established

American Federal Libraries/Information Centers Chronology (continued)

- 1947 State Department Library relocated from Old Executive Office Building to the Department of State headquarters building
- 1948 Congress authorizes all Circuit Courts to hire librarians
- 1949 Department of the Interior establishes 8 bureau libraries and the Geological Survey and Division of Geography libraries under the technical supervision of the Librarian of the Department
- 1950 National Technical Information Service established within the Department of Commerce as the central clearinghouse for technical information
- 1951 Army War College Library reestablished in Carlisle Barracks
- 1952 The Army Medical Library renamed the Armed Forces Medical Library
- 1952 Original copies of the Declaration of Independence and the Constitution transferred from LoC to the National Archives
- 1952 Veterans Administration reports 545 libraries, 436 librarians, over 1.5 million volumes, and over 13 million items in circulation annually
- 1953 Smithsonian Secretary Carmichael agrees that the Library of Congress may integrate the Smithsonian deposit volumes into LC collections
- 1953 Former Office of War Information collection merged with State Department libraries for Press and Publications and for Propaganda to form library for newly-created U.S. Information Agency
- 1953 Army establishes U.S. Army Special Service Library in Korea
- 1955 Air Force Academy Library established
- 1955 Public Document Room established at Atomic Energy Commission (renamed and expanded as Nuclear Regulatory Commission Public Document Room in 1975)
- 1956 placed The Armed Forces Medical Library designated the National Library of Medicine and under the Public Health Service
- 1957 First Military Librarians Workshop held at Air University, Maxwell Air Force Base, Alabama
- 1960 DTIC forerunner (Armed Services Technical Information Agency) initiates Project MARS (MACHine Retrieval System); publishes Thesaurus of ASTIA Descriptors to enhance searching

American Federal Libraries/Information Centers Chronology (continued)

- 1961 Department of State Foreign Service Institute Library established
- 1962 National Agricultural Library established from Department of Agriculture library
- 1964 National Library of Medicine's Medical Literature Analysis and Retrieval System (MEDLARS) becomes operational
- 1965 Redstone Scientific Information Center, Army Missile Command/Marshall Space Flight Center, implements the first automated Integrated Library System (batch system) in the U.S.
- 1965 The Federal Library Committee established at LoC by agreement with Bureau of Budget
- 1965 The Medical Library Assistance Act is signed into law, authorizing National Library of Medicine's programs of grant assistance and a Regional Medical Library network
- 1965 Department of Housing and Urban Development Library established from libraries of three predecessor agencies: Federal Housing, Housing and Home Finance, and Public Housing
- 1966 LoC introduces MARC (Machine-Readable Cataloging)
- 1966 Atomic Energy Commission establishes Bethesda Technical Library
- 1966 Army Special Services establishes library system in Vietnam, growing to more than 20 large libraries by end of the decade
- 1967 Library established to serve the Court of Claims and the Court of Customs and Patent Appeals (now Federal Circuit Court Library)
- 1967 U.S. Army Military History Research Collection established (later renamed Military History Institute)
- 1968 Two positions to staff the Federal Library Committee funded in the LoC appropriation
- 1968 Smithsonian Secretary Ripley establishes the Smithsonian Institution Libraries under a single, centralized director to manage the library resources of the Institution
- 1968 DTIC implements Defense Research, Development, Test and Evaluation Online System (DROLS), enabling users to conduct online bibliographic searches of DTIC database
- 1970 With creation of National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, NOAA Library established, consolidating collections from Coast and Geodetic Survey, Weather Bureau and Bureau of Commercial Fisheries

American Federal Libraries/Information Centers Chronology (continued)

- 1971 Following creation of the Environmental Protection Agency in 1970, the EPA Library System is established with 28 libraries (now the EPA Library Network)
- 1971 Executive Office of the President consolidates White House and Office of Management and Budget library collections in the New Executive Office Building Library
- 1972 Library at Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms' National Laboratory Center established
- 1972 American Library Association establishes Federal Librarians RoundTable; FLRT holds first meeting and publishes first issue of newsletter
- 1973 Federal Library Committee establishes first federal bibliographic network, FEDLINK
- 1974 First OCLC MARC record input by the Smithsonian Institution Libraries
- 1974 Federal Energy Office Library forms nucleus of collections from defunct Price Commission Library and becomes part of the National Energy Information Center
- 1974 Bethesda Technical Library becomes the Nuclear Regulatory Commission Library
- 1975 Energy Research and Development Administration Library formed out of collection of former Atomic Energy Commission
- 1976 National Defense University Library established at Ft. McNair
- 1977 Department of Energy Library established from collections of Energy Research and Development Administration, Federal Energy Administration and Federal Power Commission
- 1978 White House Information Center established in Old Executive Office Building
- 1979 Reference Library and Archive of Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Fire Arms established
- 1979 Defense Documentation Center renamed Defense Technical Information Center (DTIC) to reflect evolution to providing information from variety of sources; DTIC assumes administrative control of nine contractor-operated Information Analysis Centers
- 1982 Federal Circuit created and library renamed Federal Circuit Court Library
- 1982 The Army Library renamed the Pentagon Library
- 1982 The White House Law Library established in the Old Executive Office Building (in a room that housed the War Department Library 1888-1914 and then served as an annex of the State Department Library until 1947)

American Federal Libraries/Information Centers Chronology (continued)

- 1983 Department of Energy Library becomes first federal library to be contracted out in its entirety
- 1983 The Executive Office of the President Law Library established in the room that housed the War Department Library 1888-1938 and then the State Department Library until 1947
- 1984 White House Information Center evolves into White House Library and Research Center
- 1984 North Capital Street Branch of Department of Energy Library becomes Library of the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission
- 1988 U.S. Institute of Peace establishes the Jeannette Rankin Library Program
- 1990 The White House Library and Research Center, the White House Law Library, and the Executive Office of the President Library renamed the Executive Office of the President Libraries
- 1993 Marine Corps University Library established as part of the Marine Corps Research Center to support the new Marine Corps University at Quantico, Virginia
- 1993 Electronic Information Access Enhancement Act (GPO Access law) enacted
- 1994 National Library of Education established from Department of Education Library