



NATIONAL DIGITAL LIBRARY PROGRAM

DURING FISCAL 2000, the National Digital Library (NDL) program continued to receive widespread acclaim as a provider of free, high-quality, educationally valuable American cultural and historical resources on the Library's American Memory Web site. The program reached its five-year goal of making a critical mass of American historical materials freely available to all Americans on the Internet by the year 2000, the Library's Bicentennial year. At year's end, 5.6 million Library of Congress items, including approximately 1.1 million items from collaborating institutions, were available online or in digital archives.

In fiscal 2000, nineteen new multimedia historical collections were added to the American Memory Web site, bringing the total to eighty-seven. Twelve existing collections were expanded with 1.5 million digital items. In addition, eight new Library exhibitions were mounted on the Library's Web site. The online exhibition of *American Treasures of the Library of Congress* was periodically updated to include rotating collection items (see also appendix H: Online Collections and Exhibitions).

NDL staff members contributed to the creation of America's Library, a Web site designed to introduce children and families to American history in a fun and exciting way. This site combines exciting graphics and images from the Library's American Memory Web site with educational anecdotes on events and



Selected collections from the American Memory Web site.

people in American history. NDL staff members conducted research for and wrote many of those anecdotes. They also combed through the Library's collections to select those archival images that best illustrate the richness and diversity of American history.

COLLABORATIVE INITIATIVES

Five award-winning LC/Ameritech collections debuted online this year, bringing the total to twelve. Beginning in 1997, the Library of Congress sponsored this three-year competition with a gift from the Ameritech Corporation to enable public, research, and academic libraries, museums, historical societies, and archival institutions (with the exception of federal institutions) to digitize American history collections and to make them available on the Library's American Memory Web site. Those digital collections complement and enhance the Library's online resources. Thirty-three institutions have now received \$1.75 million of support to digitize twenty-three projects.

The Library of Congress is a cosponsor of phase II of the Digital Libraries Initiative, a multiyear research grant program led by the National Science Foundation that aims to advance the use and usability of globally distributed, networked information resources and to encourage existing and new communities to focus on innovative applications areas. An important aspect of the Library's sponsorship is an offer to make American Memory collections available to grantees to support research that will benefit users of digital information in all libraries. During 2000, the NDL director participated in the interagency program management team, which operated the evaluation process for the awards. Two projects will use selected text and images from the American Memory Web site as part of a research test bed.

Through a grant from the Mellon Foundation, the Library of Congress col-

laborated with the New-York Historical Society and the Chicago Historical Society to integrate historically significant content from those important institutions into the Library's American Memory Web site. During the year, most of the scanning and cataloging for both projects was completed. The Library also collaborated with Cornell University to enhance public access to 750,000 pages from popular nineteenth-century serials, including titles such as *Scientific American* and *Century*. Approximately 1,500 books digitized by the University of Michigan were also incorporated into the American Memory Web site. In addition, a congressional appropriation will support the California Digital Library's digitization of materials relating to the culture and experience of the many different ethnic groups that have settled in California. Those materials will be digitized over a two-year period and incorporated into the American Memory Web site.

EDUCATIONAL OUTREACH

NDL continued to provide outreach to grade K-12 educators through online features such as Today in History, the Learning Page, the 2000 Educator's Institute, and the new onsite Learning Center, as well as other related outreach activities.

The Today in History site, an online feature highlighting events in American history in brief essays that are linked to the Library's digitized collections, celebrated its third anniversary in April. The site remained popular with history and social studies teachers for use in their classrooms.

The Learning Page provided search and curriculum guidance to teachers and students who use primary source materials from the American Memory Web site. The Learning Page also supported the NDL's teacher-training initiative and other educational outreach efforts that were available to all classrooms with Internet access. During the year, ten original, teacher-created lesson plans were added to the Learning Page, along with a resource for National History Day. An American Memory time line comprising seven major historical eras and specific themes was also added to the Learning Page. The time line provides specialized access to the collections according to major curriculum themes. The pathfinder index, which provides access by topic, was updated to include twenty-seven new American Memory collections. Twenty-six Summary of Resources pages were created for new American Memory collections. Sixteen new "Learn More About It" collection-level documents for classroom use were created. Those documents describe the major themes present in a collection and link directly to sample documents or images. A special feature about



Media specialists Laurie Williams, Evanston Township High School, Evanston, Illinois, and Margaret Lincoln, Lakeview High School, Battle Creek, Michigan, discuss how to share primary sources with students, during the fourth American Memory Fellows Institute held at the Library during the summer of 2000. (Photo by Linda White)

presidential elections was redesigned into an interactive presentation for classroom use. The “Big Picture,” a student activity, was also redesigned to be more interactive.

In fiscal 2000, the Library of Congress held its fourth American Memory Fellows Institute, which brought fifty educators from twenty-one states to Washington, D.C., to develop lesson plans that draw on the American Memory online collections. Those teacher-developed lesson plans and materials are then shared with other educators nationwide through the Learning Page. Library staff members also created an American Memory Fellows Web site for course curricula. Through that site, educators across the nation will be able to access training materials developed by the Library of Congress and to re-create the experience of the participants in the American Memory Fellows Institute.

During the year, the Library held the first Adventure of the American Mind Institute for North Carolina teachers under the sponsorship of the Education and Research Consortium of Western North Carolina. Twenty educators from rural areas of western North Carolina and four undergraduate education students came to Washington, D.C., to learn about the Library of Congress and its historical collections.

The Library held both the American Memory Fellows Institute and the Adventure of the American Mind Institute in its newly renovated Learning Center. The sixteen-seat classroom and videoteleconference center also hosted a va-

riety of educators, including classroom teachers, librarians, school media specialists, library science graduate students, and undergraduate education majors. During the year, more than forty videoteleconferencing events were held. The Learning Center also regularly hosted foreign scholars and dignitaries, as well as members of Congress and their guests. NDL staff members offered 587 programs for 7,818 visitors and answered more than 3,400 queries electronically. Seventy-three workshops were held in the classroom for a total of 990 guests, and forty-four workshops served 700 participants through the center's state-of-the-art video teleconference facility. The staff hosted 315 theater-style programs serving 4,951 guests, 120 programs in the alcove of computer workstations for 248 guests, and 35 programs with 929 guests in the Learning Center's spaces.