The Library of Congress received the largest private gift in its history on July 26, 2007, when the Packard Humanities Institute (PHI), officially transferred the new audio-visual conservation center in Culpeper, Va., to the American people. On December 6, 2010, Greg Lukow, gave an amazing 3-hour tour of the facilities to federal librarians.

***Courtyard of the Packard Campus*. While being built, much care was not taken to disrupt the landscape.**

The campus is built into the side of Mount Pony, the highest slope in Culpeper County, and features an adaptive reuse and expansion of a previously existing underground Federal Reserve facility.

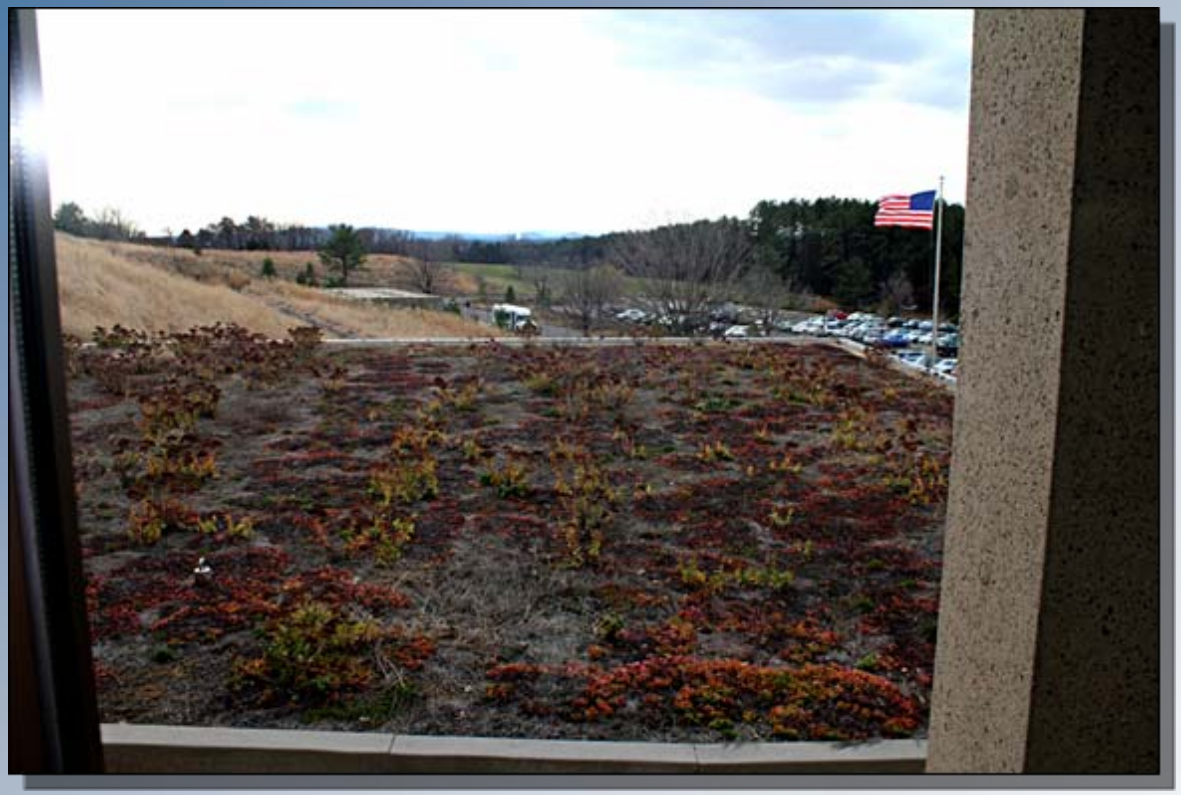


***Photo of a sod roof taken from the main campus*. The facility is primarily underground with sod roofs blending into the existing landscape. Only the Conservation Laboratory building appears from the hill in a semi-circular terraced arcade.**

***View of Culpeper from the 2nd floor of the Conservation Laboratory*.**
This building was constructed to allow natural light into the administration and work areas.

This third floor conference room has a 360-degree view.

Workspaces have a great view of Culpeper and the courtyard!

The central doors leads to an employee break room with live palm trees and skylights.

This Christmas tree that was located in the reception area was decorated with old movie posters and record album covers.

Vintage album covers are on display in the reception area.

The Packard Campus includes a beautiful 200-seat screening facility, complete with pipe organ for silent films.

Greg Lukow, chief of Motion Picture, Broadcast and Recorded Sound (MBRS) and director of the conservation center, addresses members of the FLICC tour group.

Main campus office work space.

Audio and video material waiting to be catalogued, preserved and stored.

A librarian views the tape cassettes stored at the Packard Campus.

Throughout of the campus workspace there were displays of antique audio and video equipment.

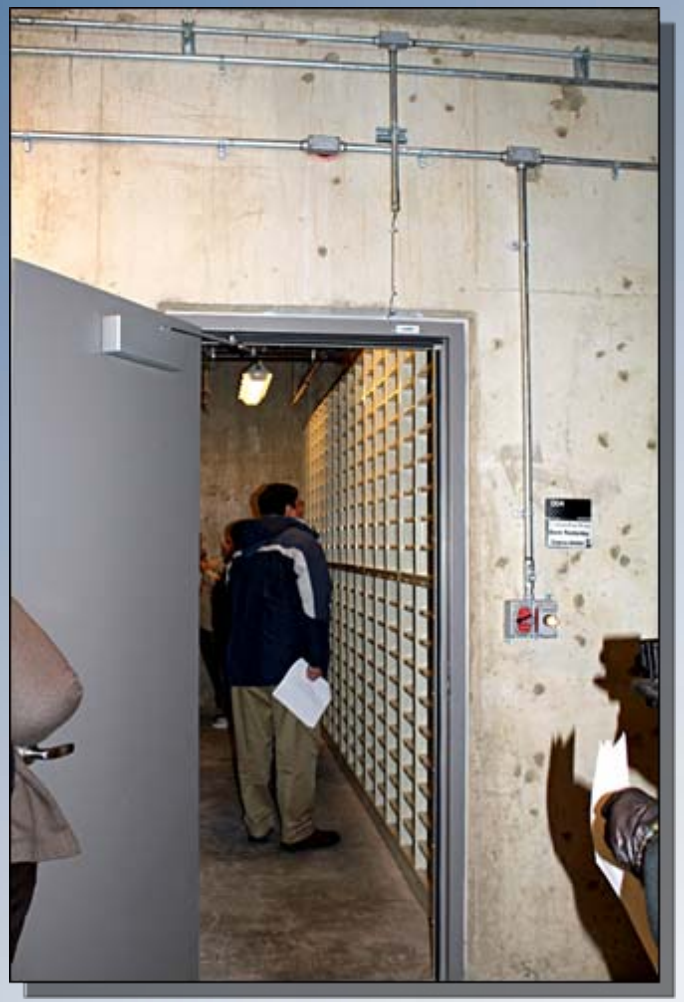
Newly arrived “canned” films await cataloging, storage and/or preservation in the Conservation building processing area.

The Nitrate vault film storage, where delicate and/or flamable audio-visual materials housed, are at a constant 39 degrees Fahrenheit with a relative humidity of 30 percent.

The vaults feature listings of the films stored inside.

The Packard Campus has 124 nitrate film vaults—the largest vault in the Western Hemisphere.

Lukow and federal librarians tour the nitrate vaults.



A federal librarian reviews the storage capability in one of the nitrate vaults.

This device measures the environmental conditions inside the film vaults.

Librarians tour an environmentally controlled film vault.

Additional film storage in one of the many environmentally controlled vaults.

The campus collection also includes millions of record albums. The term "record album" originated from the fact that 78-RPM phonograph disc records were kept in a bound container resembling a photograph album.

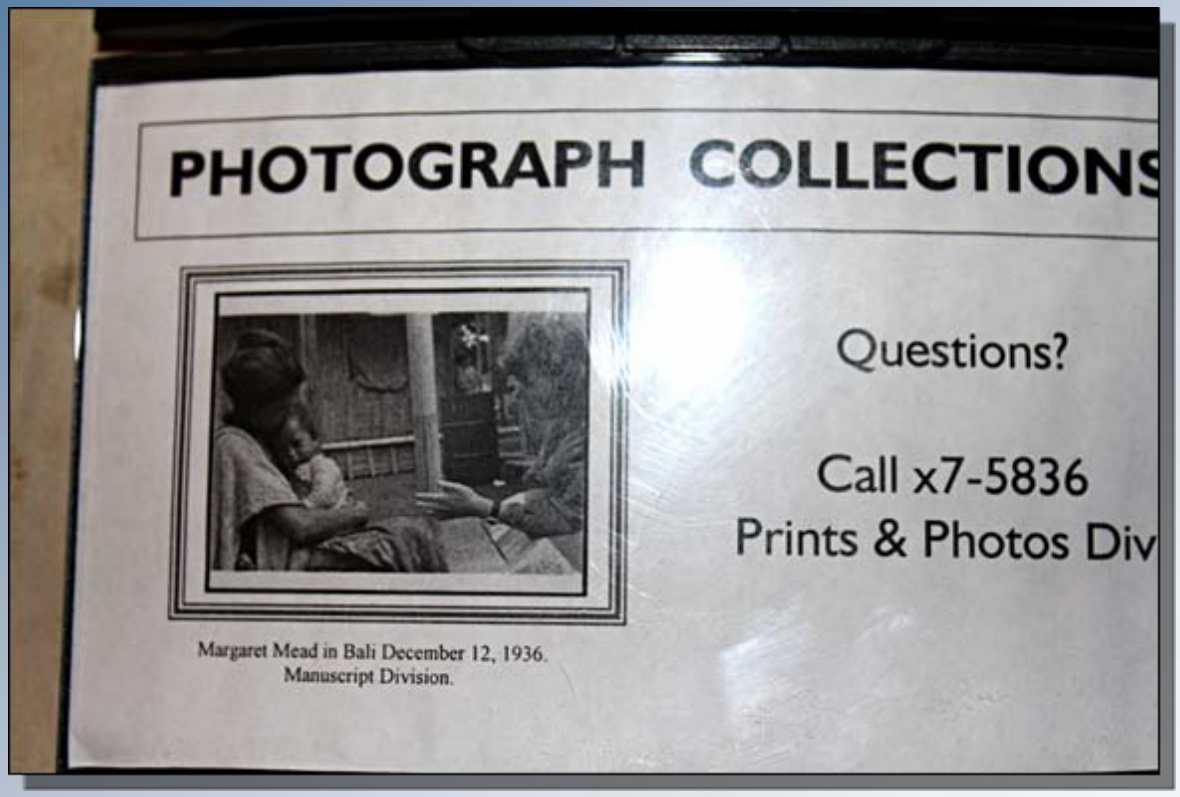
Lukow proudly displays the infamous album “The Beatles Yesterday and Today.” It was issued only in the United States and Canada. The album is remembered primarily for the controversy surrounding its original cover image, known as the "butcher cover”.

Librarians tour the public listening auditorium which is set up for playback of all sound formats.

Librarians tour one of the audio preservation rooms. The large funnels pick up any particles of dusts that may disturb the preservation process.

An audio preservationist and IRENE (Image, Reconstruct, Erase Noise, Etc.), a unique new system that Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory scientists created to help Library of Congress preservationists restore at-risk disc recordings and improve audio quality.

Lukow stands by the audio collection of media pioneer, Tony Schwartz. The Library of Congress acquired the collection in August of 2007. Schwartz had changed the face of radio and television advertising by creating socially conscious campaigns such as the nation's first anti-smoking ad.



A photograph collection of anthropologist Margaret Mead is stored at the campus. Mead gave the collection to the Library in 1978.

The tour continues through another storage area. The facility contains 90 miles of shelving.

Librarians tour the film processing area.

This device is part of the film preservation process.

Another digital storage area.

Workspaces for digitizing the many video and audio collections.

This robotic device in the sound, video and film laboratories operates around the clock transferring content from endangered video tapes to digital files.

One of the third floor preservation systems.

There are displays of antique audio and video equipment throughout the campus.

Multi-colored and multi-process keyboard at one of the digitization work stations.

***The "attic" of the Packard Campus*. Antique and obsolete video and audio equipment live here.**

Panasonic has a home in the campus' "attic."

Known as SAMMA, this device uses a unique configuration of hardware, software and workflow processes migrate recorded content from video cassettes automatically to one or more digital files, including preservation master files and access derivatives.

A room for the TiVo-style capture of television and radio programs and newscasts. **Now the Library can record broadcast programs off the air, as well as from satellite, cable and the Web—a new capability that will greatly enhance the holdings of the Library's American Television and Radio Archive.**