

The Library of Congress, which sits on Capitol Hill Washington, DC, contains over 170 million items in its collection and is the nation's oldest cultural institution. From one of the world's three perfect Gutenberg Bibles to an original *Batman* comic book illustration, the library collects prints, photographs, instruments, films, sound recordings and more!

With 10,000 new items added daily and rapid digitization of its catalog, the library's website offers children and families endless resources for research and inquisitive play. Here are a few highlights to welcome you into the world's largest library collection:

The library's exhibits offer visitors a totally unique learning experience. A highlight of the permanent collection includes [Thomas Jefferson Library](#), with the former president's own books displayed in the round, as he designed. Other recent long-term exhibits have included a retrospective on the **Gershwins** (piano and all), as well as a showcase on [Rosa Parks](#), comic arts, and baseball. Library educators offer [Virtual Student Workshops](#) on several topics to connect curious children to the Library's collection from afar. Log in and see where your imagination takes you!

Start your day off with a slice of history using the Library's [Today in History](#) feature, which delves into the past while highlighting items from the Library's vast collection. Curious what happened on your birthday? With a search bar at the top of the page, you can check any date on the calendar.

Speaking of dates on the calendar, one of the most anticipated dates every year for the library is its annual [National Book Festival](#). With a full weekend of programming for children and adults, the festival has welcomed the book-loving public each fall since 2001. Many videos and interviews are archived online. Scan the list of the 2020 [participating authors](#) to find facts and interviews with your KidLit favorites.

If your reader is excited to hear from authors, be sure to follow the Library's [National Ambassador for Young People's Literature](#) program. Each Ambassador serves a two-year term, and these children's literature luminaries tour the country touting their platform to raise awareness about the importance of literature while encouraging children to become life-long readers.

Programs like the Library's author talks are generally open to the public, but if the Library isn't easily accessible for you in person be sure to follow their [media channels](#) for streaming events as well as suggestions for ways to access the Library's resources from home, wherever you live.

The library launched a blog for families in July 2020 to encourage families to flex their imaginations and take advantage of the library's vast resources. Called [Minerva's Kaleidoscope](#), in honor of the Roman goddess of learning and wisdom who appears in an enormous mosaic in the Library's Jefferson Building, the blog connects kids to the Library's collection for their own creative use. Dive in and see what you find!

Get to know the library's collections, including artwork like the Minerva mosaic, by reading books that connect to each of the 12 areas of the library. With reading suggestions that connect to the Geography & Maps Division, Prints and Photographs, International Collections and more, you can even [download a BINGO card](#) to help you keep track of the 12 areas and the books you read!

The Library's many [Reading Rooms](#) are generally open only to researchers, but public exhibits rotate and many will suit school-aged visitors. Be sure you stop by the Young Readers Center (YRC) to say hello! The YRC is open to children and families six days a week and is the only place in the library where you can take a book off the shelf, sit down and read. Staff will happily recommend books to your young reader and answer lingering questions about the library's collection.