

Search Strategies for www.loc.gov

A note about the Library, its collections, and what's NOT collected:

- The Library has in its collections more than 100 million items, in hundreds of different languages and virtually every format (e.g., prints, drawings, government documents, photographs, films, sound and video recordings).
- The Library **does not** have every book ever published.
- While virtually all subject areas are represented in the collections, 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](http://www.nlm.nih.gov) and the [National Agricultural Library](http://www.nal.usda.gov), respectively.
- The Library of Congress is distinct from the [National Archives](http://www.archives.gov), the major repository for the official records of the United States government, and the [Smithsonian](http://www.smithsonian.gov), the world's largest museum and research complex.

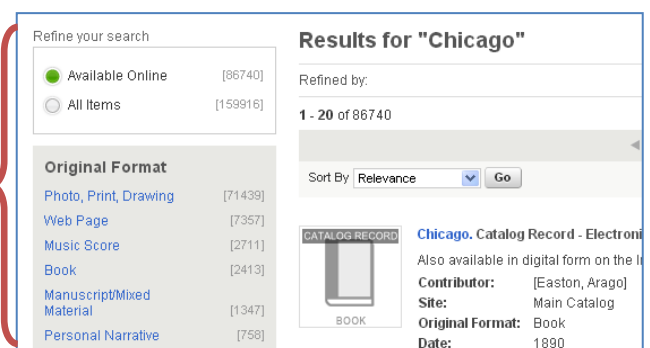
Navigating loc.gov from the homepage:

You can search the loc.gov website and collections from the main page using **Search box** or browse using the **toolbar** above it. All formats are displayed by default, but you may also select to limit your search by format (e.g., audio, book, film, video, legislation, etc.)



Searching loc.gov:

1. Type a search term in the **Search box**.
2. Select a **Format** from the drop down and click **GO**
3. Refine your results using the left column of the Search results page.



Browsing loc.gov via the toolbar and homepage:

Browsing can be done by any format of media in the LOC collection, via collection, or by catalog/finding aid. It is important to remember that browsing via the toolbar will NOT return all the collections or records in the LOC collection. Instead, the toolbar provides a quick overview of more popular/accessed materials.

The screenshot shows the Library of Congress homepage. At the top, there are links for LOC.GOV, CONGRESS.GOV, and COPYRIGHT.GOV. The main navigation bar includes Discover, Services, Visit, Education, Connect, and About. Below this, there are several sections: CATALOGS & FINDING AIDS, FORMATS, MULTIMEDIA, and COLLECTIONS. The FORMATS section is highlighted with a red box and labeled "Browse by format". The COLLECTIONS section is highlighted with a red box and labeled "Digital Collections". The MULTIMEDIA section is highlighted with a red box and labeled "Exhibits & Programs". The bottom section features "POPULAR" items and "Exhibits" including "The Civil War in America", "National Book Festival", and "Historic Newspapers".

Browse by format

Digital Collections

Exhibits & Programs

For more specific collection browsing, consider using the “collection highlights” and “topics” navigation in the center of the homepage, or the materials linked from the teacher resources page.

The screenshot shows the "Collection Highlights" and "Topics" sections of the Library of Congress homepage. The "Collection Highlights" section is highlighted with a red box and labeled "Collection Highlights: American Memory, Prints & Photos, etc.". The "Topics" section is highlighted with a red box and labeled "Topic guides and collections". The "Especially for" section is highlighted with a red box and labeled "Especially for: Teachers, Kids & Families, etc.". The "Especially for" section includes links for Kids & Families, Publishers, Teachers, Researchers, and Librarians.

Collection Highlights:
American Memory, Prints & Photos, etc.

Topic guides and collections

Especially for:
Teachers, Kids & Families, etc.

Search Tips:

- **Think like a historian** when selecting search terms. Start by brainstorming or researching some terms that were popular during the time period you are studying. For tips on search terms, visit <http://www.loc.gov/search/help/>.
- Whenever you enter a search string of more than one word, **Boolean searching** is happening in the background:
 - Your results will return items with the **exact phrase first**, followed by items with **all the words**, followed by items with **any of the words** in the search string.
 - **Capitalization and quotation marks are ignored**, but **word order affects the order of results** displayed.
 - **Spelling counts**; misspellings will result in accurate or poor results.
- Remember to **save sources** via the green “share/save” button on each page:

 Print  Subscribe  Share/Save  Give Feedback

Searching American Memory

- The Library is converting American Memory pages into a newer format, so some collections within American Memory will look different.
- As with the main page, Boolean searching is always happening in the background:
 - Your results will return items with the **exact phrase first**, and then items with **all of the words** in the item's records next in the results list.
 - **Punctuation marks, including quotes, are ignored.**
- Some more **advanced search features** are available within individual collections, such as limiting to certain search fields, or including word variants
- For more tips, visit http://www.memory.loc.gov/ammem/help/search_help.html.

Locating the Search Box in American Memory Collections

Old format:



The Library of Congress

From Slavery to Freedom: The African-American Pamphlet Collection, 1824-1909

Search Descriptive Information or Full Text

Search Descriptive Information (Bibliographic Records):

[\[Search Tips\]](#)

Sample searches: abolition, colorization, duty, education, emancipation

Match any of these words
Search in core fields
Include word variants (e.g., plurals)
Return a maximum of bibliographic records.

For more ideas, [Browse Titles](#) | [Authors](#) | [Subjects](#)

Search Full Text:

[\[Search Tips\]](#)

Match any of these words
Include word variants (e.g., plurals)

Rank results by:

☒ best passage of words or
☐ occurrence of words anywhere in [document part](#)

Return a maximum of documents or [parts](#) (e.g. chapters) of long documents.

[Search by Keywords](#) | [Browse by Titles](#) | [Authors](#) | [Subjects](#)

From Slavery to Freedom: The African-American Pamphlet Collection, 1822 through 1909, by African-American authors and others who wrote about personal accounts and public orations to organizational reports and legislative Church Terrell, and Booker T. Washington. From Slavery to Freedom was Perspectives: Pamphlets from the Daniel A. P. Murray Collection, 1818

New Formats:

Search

LIBRARY OF CONGRESS
ASK A LIBRARIAN DIGITAL COLLECTIONS LIBRARY CATALOGS Search 5


Library of Congress > Prints & Photographs Reading Room > Prints & Photographs Online Catalog > All Collections > Collections

**PRINTS & PHOTOGRAPHS
ONLINE CATALOG (PPOC)**

PPOC Home
About PPOC
PPOC Collections
Search Tips
Download Tips

Posters: WPA Posters

Print Subscribe Share/Save



Amateur contest for children, Estelle Levine, 1936

Search All Search This Collection GO Advanced Help

All images are digitized | All jpegs/tiffs display outside Library of Congress | [View All](#)

About this Collection

The Work Projects Administration (WPA) Poster Collection consists of 907 posters produced from 1936 to 1943 by various branches of the WPA. Of the 2,000 WPA posters known to exist, the Library of Congress's collection of more than 800 is the largest. The posters were designed to publicize exhibits, community activities, theatrical productions, and health and educational programs in seventeen states and the District of Columbia, with the strongest representation from California, Illinois, New York, Ohio, and Pennsylvania. The results of one of the first U.S. Government programs to support the arts, the posters were added to the Library's holdings in the 1940s.

The LIBRARY of CONGRESS
AMERICAN MEMORY

HOME BROWSE ABOUT HELP CONTACT

Search all collections

Baseball and Jackie Robinson
The Library of Congress > American Memory Home > Browse Collections

Search this collection GO

More search options
Collection Home
About this Collection

Features:
Timeline
→ 1860 - 1972
Essay
→ Early Baseball Pictures, 1860s-1920s

Browse Collection by:
Subject

View more collections from the Manuscript Division and the Prints and Photographs Division

Collection Connection
Classroom resources for teachers



Front cover of Jackie Robinson comic book
[About this image](#)

Baseball and Jackie Robinson

Jackie Robinson & Other Baseball Highlights, 1860s-1960s

Overview

2007 marks the 60th anniversary of Jackie Robinson's rookie season for the Brooklyn Dodgers. When he stepped onto Ebbets field on April 15th, 1947, Robinson became the first African American in the twentieth century to play baseball in the major leagues -- breaking the "color line," a segregation practice dating to the nineteenth century. Jackie Robinson was an extremely talented multi-sport athlete and a courageous man who played an active role in civil rights. This presentation was created to commemorate his achievements and describe some aspects of the color line's development and the Negro Leagues. Materials that tell his story, and the history of baseball in general, are located throughout the Library of Congress. This web presentation was made possible by a generous gift from the Citigroup Foundation.

Other Collection-Specific Search Guides:

- Congress.gov: <http://beta.congress.gov/help/search-tips-overview/>
- Prints and Photographs: <http://www.loc.gov/pictures/help/#tips>
- Veterans History Project: <http://lcweb2.loc.gov/diglib/vhp/html/search/help-advanced.html>