

Virginia Research Facilities—Richmond (city)—Library of Virginia

**The Library of Virginia:
The Nation's Story, Virginia's Story, Your Story**



Library of Virginia, Richmond

Library of Virginia

800 East Broad Street
Richmond, VA 23219

Phone: 804-692-3500

Web: <http://www.lva.virginia.gov> and <http://www.virginiamemory.com>

E-mail: archdesk@lva.virginia.gov

Access Services Manager:

Tina Miller

Tina.miller@lva.virginia.gov

Open: Monday-Saturday, 9:00 a.m–5:00 p.m.

Welcome

We are excited about NGS coming to Richmond in May 2014 and look forward to seeing you! If you have a question before then be sure to e-mail us at archdesk@lva.virginia.gov.

Repository

The Library of Virginia's 55 miles of shelves and files contain the stories of famous Americans but they also hold the history of all Virginians. Their stories are told through 116 million books, manuscripts, photographs, maps, newspapers, and more. Here you'll

find Bible records, genealogy notes and charts, military and service records, county records, maps, birth, marriage, and death records, land grants, and tax records.

In addition, to fantastic records the Library has a knowledgeable and helpful staff ready to help you find your history. It's no surprise that the Library of Virginia is one of the nation's foremost centers for family research.

Be Prepared

The Library of Virginia, located at 800 East Broad Street in historic downtown Richmond, is open from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday through Saturday. It is free and open to the public.

Fill out ahead of time the online form for applying for a library card. See the section below at the asterisk (*).

You can use cameras to record your research just no flash or artificial lighting. You can copy microfilm and printed books to USB drives. To make copies you'll need a library card but we will help you get that when you arrive. We do not have coin machines, and prices for items being copied vary.

We also have the Discovery Café, which serves breakfast and lunch. If you are looking for the perfect souvenir be sure to visit the Virginia Shop on the first floor. It offers educational children's books and games, literary gifts, genealogy tools, Virginia-made foods, and gifts with the state seal.

Introduction to the Library and Its Collections

Our Visitors' Guide <http://www.lva.virginia.gov/about/visit.asp> is a great introduction to the Library and offers links to information on using our collections http://www.lva.virginia.gov/public/using_collections.asp. To help you navigate our collections we have created research guides <http://www.lva.virginia.gov/public/guides/bibguides.htm>. You can learn more about the Library through its websites found at <http://www.lva.virginia.gov> and <http://www.virginiamemory.com/>.

Holdings

The Library's collections of books, periodicals, government publications, and microforms totals 1,902,555 items, including 50,705 reels of newspaper microfilm and 686,542 federal government publications.

The Library's Archival Collections now total 78,561 cubic feet, or approximately 117.8 million items. The Archival Collection also includes 49,415 reels of microfilm, an estimated 68,000 maps, and 13,062 architectural plans and drawings.

The Library's Special Collections includes 51,700 Rare Book titles, dating as far back as the 15th century and collected over the past 175 years; Fine Art including paintings and sculptures located largely in buildings in the Capitol Square area, such as the Library, State Capitol, Executive Mansion and Supreme Court; and more than 300,000 prints, photographs, postcards, posters and ephemera in the Prints and Photographs Collection.

The Library of Virginia's Virginia Newspaper Project is part of United States Newspaper Program, a national effort to locate, describe, inventory, preserve, and provide public access to the United States imprint newspapers housed in the commonwealth. Virginia Chronicle is a new digital newspaper resource offered by the Library of Virginia that is fully text searchable and free to all patrons. The online resource contains all the titles found at the Library of Congress' Chronicling America site with additional titles that are either out of scope for the National Digital Newspaper Program or titles the Library believes to be of special interest, such as the Farm Bureau News and Our Church Paper, to name just two examples.

Accessing materials at the Library of Virginia

Researchers should get a library card if:

- You will be making physical copies from microfilm or books or printing out pages from a library PC. Your card will double as a copy card.
- You will be looking at materials from the closed stacks. It will allow you to take materials away from the Circulation Desk into the reading rooms.

Researchers will not need a card to:

- Enter into the reading rooms and use materials on the shelves or use the computers to access your e-mail, our catalog and databases.
- Use our WiFi, log in as LVA Guest.
- Scan images from books or microfilm to a USB/flash drive or take digital photos (without the flash). You will need to bring your own USB drive (8GB or less) or you may purchase a 4GB flash drive at the Circulation Desk. You will need a card to print.

***To register for a library card**

- For those who wish to get a library card, the form is available online. <http://www.lva.virginia.gov/forms/libcard.pdf>
- Virginia Residents may complete the form and mail it in or submit it via e-mail and allow three weeks for the card to be mailed to your home address. Please include a copy of driver's license or ID with the registration form.
- Non-Virginia Residents must register in person. You may complete the registration form in advance and bring it along with a photo ID with current address to the Circulation Desk to register. The process takes about 5 minutes of your time. Please note that due to licensing agreements library cards issued to out-of-state residents do not allow access to our Find It Virginia and other licensed databases outside of the library.

Researchers will need a photo ID with a current address in order to use material in the manuscripts, maps, and special collections areas.

Photos taken by Prakash Patel

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