



Tip of the Week:

Napa Valley College - McCarthy Library

Library of
Congress
Research &
Reference



[Detail] The Foundation of American Government

Tip #20

April, 2013



Reading Room of the Library of Congress 1980.



Lee Family of Virginia & Maryland, 1886

Brought to you by Librarians @ McCarthy Library

▶ The Library of Congress is a treasure trove of information. Within their Research and Reference Services are amassed some great online collections and research tools.

▶ Brief Historical Background:

The Library was founded in 1800, making it the oldest federal cultural institution in the nation. On August 24, 1814, British troops burned the Capitol building (where the Library was housed) and destroyed the Library's core collection of 3,000 volumes. On January 30, 1815, Congress approved the purchase of Thomas Jefferson's personal library of 6,487 books for \$23,950. Today, the Library of Congress is the largest library in the world with millions of books, recordings, photographs, maps and manuscripts in its collection.

<http://www.loc.gov/rr/>

▶ Especially impressive are the General and International Collections:

[Main Reading Room](#)

[Business](#)

[Children's Literature](#)

[Law Library](#)

[Local History & Genealogy](#)

[Newspaper & Current Periodical](#)

[Science & Technology](#)

[African & Middle Eastern](#)

[Asian](#)

[European](#)

[Hispanic](#)

▶ The Library of Congress **Virtual Reference shelf** is worth exploring in detail:

<http://www.loc.gov/rr/askalib/virtualref.html>

▶ The Library offers materials and professional development to teachers in the use of primary sources from their vast digital collections

<http://www.loc.gov/teachers/>

Napa Valley College—McCarthy Library (707) 256-7430

We hope you found this tip helpful!

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Ask a Librarian

