



Submitted on: 06.05.2024

**Session ID:** 128

**Title of the Session:** “Learning from pitfalls and embracing the promises of Open Educational Resources in collection development”

**Theme:** "Best practices for Open Educational Resources in collection development"

**Date:** Tuesday, 22 August 2023 , 03:00 PM – 04:15 PM

**Location:** Room- Rotterdam B

**Type:** Congress Programme

**Organizers:** Acquisition and Collection Development Section

**Presentation Title:** Free or not free? That is the Question: Discovery and access is the answer!

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**Abstract:**

*The gateways to discovery of the Open Electronic Resources at the Library of Congress are through the Online Public Access Catalog (OPAC) <https://catalog.loc.gov> for the Library’s digital collections that are not rights restricted and the Electronic Resource Online Catalog (EROC) <https://eresources.loc.gov> for electronic resources from external digitized collections. Recommending librarians select the Library’s collections for digitization and e-databases, e-books, and e-journals from external sources using criteria such as research value, ease of searching and “free access” to the resources, but other electronic resources are selected that must be used onsite only. Navigating the Library’s digital collections is explored with tips on using the metadata in the online display for retrieval and downloading freely accessible resources. Also, the subject as well as area studies categorization schemes are highlighted for best practices to deliver the maximum access to digital content on specific topics.*

*Thousands of electronic books, periodicals and newspapers that are rights restricted have been ingested into a platform called Stacks that is accessible only in certain research centers. Ways of discovering the holdings of the journals and newspaper content in Stacks is explored using the OPAC holdings records.*

*The new Emerging Nations Article Exchange Program is highlighted with access to free scanned articles from the Library’s books and periodicals for qualifying countries.*

**Keywords:** e-resources. online, freely accessible. electronic databases, online retrieval

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## **Free or not free? That is the Question: Discovery and access is the answer!**

### **Introduction**

The Library of Congress has amassed a wealth of freely accessible open educational electronic resources recommended over the years by subject specialist reference librarians. Metadata librarians have provided access to them in the Online Public Access Catalog (OPAC <https://catalog.loc.gov>) for its own digitized collections and the Electronic Resource Online Catalog (EROC) <https://eresources.loc.gov> for electronic resources from external digital collections on these public facing websites. These electronic resources cover a wide range of languages, cultural and regional studies, and academic subject disciplines, but are not well known outside the Library. Also, in the EROC freely accessible electronic resources are mixed in with paid subscription resources that must be used onsite only. The purpose of this paper is to raise awareness of these electronic resources and determine which ones are freely accessible and how to help researchers locate the best free sources for their research.

### **Locating, Evaluating and Recommending e-Resources:**

The Library of Congress is comprised of 20 research centers that house special material formats such as books, periodicals, photographs, maps, newspapers, journals, moving images etc., and are staffed by reference librarians with specializations across a full spectrum of academic subject disciplines and language expertise. These reference librarians are recommending officers who are selected for this role based on their knowledge and expertise in the field they are assigned. Recommending officers recommend all materials that are within the diverse and inclusive scope of the Library's Collections Policy Statements (<https://www.loc.gov/acq/devpol/cps.html>), and that are needed for the Library's collections, both analog and digital.

### **Digitizing Library of Congress Analog Collections**

Reference librarians recommend the Library of Congress analog materials for digitization that are rare, unique, endangered, fragile, and in the public domain for digitization. Each item must be cataloged using metadata for the digital display and given a permalink in the Online Public Access Catalog (OPAC <https://catalog.loc.gov>) to the digital surrogate for discovery and access.

## Digital Collections

### Featured Content



Historic American Buildings Survey/Historic American Engineering...

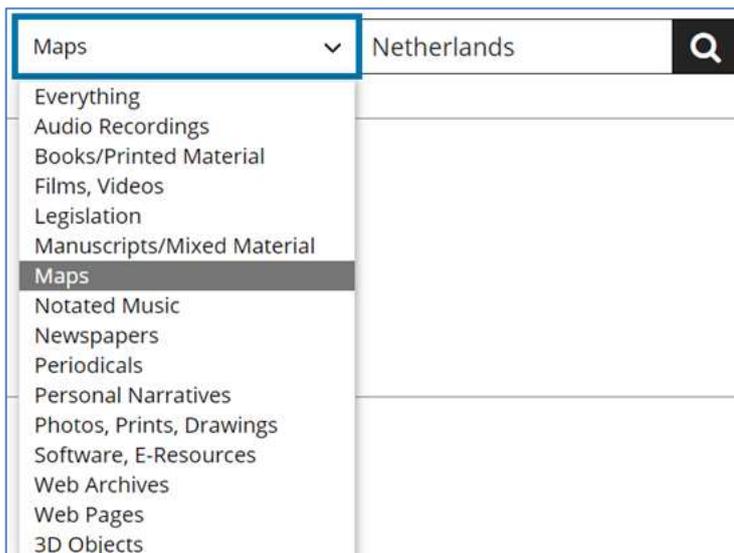


Chronicling America: Historic American Newspapers



Farm Security Administration/Office of War Information ...

These digital collections (<https://www.loc.gov/collections>) include manuscripts, books, photos, maps, recordings, videos etc. and can be discovered using the drop-down menu and selecting the format then entering terms in the search box.



Sample freely accessible map <https://www.loc.gov/item/2021668587/>

# Accurately Delineated Ichnographic Plans of All the Cities and Towns in the 17 Provinces of the Netherlands.

Theatrum ichnographicum omnium urbium et præcipuorum oppidorum Belgicarum XVII

[← Back to Search Results](#)



Metadata on the display page

## About this Item

### Title

Accurately Delineated Ichnographic Plans of All the Cities and Towns in the 17 Provinces of the Netherlands.

### Other Title

Theatrum ichnographicum omnium urbium et præcipuorum oppidorum Belgicarum XVII

### Summary

Theatrum ichnographicum omnium urbium et præcipuorum oppidorum Belgicarum XVII Provinciarum peraccurate delineatarum (Accurately delineated ichnographic plans of all the cities and towns in the seventeen Provinces of the Netherlands), commonly known as the De Wit Atlas, is a city atlas containing maps and prints of key monuments in Dutch cities. The name comes from its creator, Frederick de Wit (1630-1706), an influential cartographer, engraver, and publisher in Amsterdam. Such atlases were popular among wealthy members of the bourgeoisie and nobility in the 17th century. The huge tomes were not designed to be carried on a stroll through the city; this particular atlas weighs more than seven kilograms. The maps are extremely detailed, which makes them perfect for "armchair tourism." The map of Haarlem, for example, offers a very good impression of the old city center. Even today residents can easily identify their own homes on the map. In the 16th century, Antwerp was the center of European cartography. When King Philip II of Spain captured Antwerp in 1585 during the Dutch Revolt against Spanish rule, many cartographers headed north, and Amsterdam became the new cartographic capital. To survey an area for the purpose of drawing new maps, a land surveyor would walk through the city streets and measure the length of the straight stretches by counting the number of steps or by using a geodetic chain or Gunter's measurement. At each curve and intersection the surveyor took a compass reading or used a geometric square or a circumferentor (a predecessor of the theodolite), known locally as a Hollandse cirkel or "Holland circle," to measure the angles of the streets. This generated a network of line segments that formed the framework of the map. Houses, canals, trees, and sometimes even people then were

### Part of

[National Library of the Netherlands \(22\)](#)

[World Digital Library - Partner Items \(5,089\)](#)

[World Digital Library \(19,405\)](#)

[Library of Congress Online Catalog \(1,379,818\)](#)

### Format

[Map](#)

### Contributor

[Wit, Frederik De](#)

### Dates

[1699](#)

### Location

[Belgium](#)  
[Netherlands](#)

### Language

[Dutch](#)  
[Flemish](#)  
[French](#)

OPAC Catalog Record with metadata for the display page and link to the digital surrogate.

# Accurately Delineated Ichnographic Plans of All the Cities and Towns in ...

[Full Record](#)   [MARC Tags](#)

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Main title  
Accurately Delineated Ichnographic Plans of All the Cities and Towns in the 17 Provinces of the Netherlands.

Published/Created  
Amsterdam : Frederick de Wit, [1699 to 1706]

[Request this Item](#)   [Item Availability](#)



Map

[PRINT RECORD](#)

[SAVE RECORD](#)

[EMAIL RECORD](#)

Links   <https://hdl.loc.gov/loc.wdl/wdl.14419> Link to the digital surrogate.

LCCN Permalink   <https://lccn.loc.gov/2021668587>

## e-Resources from External Sources.

### Library of Congress E-Resources Online Catalog

[Databases](#) | [E-Journals](#) | [E-Books](#) | [Web Sites](#) | [All Resources](#) | [Other Search Tools](#) | [About this Catalog](#)

The Electronic Online Resources Catalog <https://eresources.loc.gov> is comprised of:

- **Databases**- provide information from catalogs, as well as indexing and abstracting services, and contain bibliographic records, abstracts, full-text documents, images, statistics, etc. These are primarily licensed databases that limit access to registered users on-site and library staff. However, included are many free access databases of great value to external researchers.
- **E-Journals**-provides access to electronic versions of print journals, or journal-like electronic publications. E-journal records are provided in standard bibliographic format and contain links to the digital surrogates.
- **E-Books**-offers a selection of electronic versions of print books. The Library of Congress offers access to electronic books through the Library's database subscriptions, as well as to free e-books cataloged in the Library's Online Catalog. E-Book records are provided in standard bibliographic format.

- **Web Sites**-are a selection of freely accessible web resources recommended by the Library's reference staff. Web site records are provided in standard bibliographic format with links to the website. Some websites may be removed or changed to a different URL resulting in lack of access.

### Recommending E-Resources for the Electronic Resource Online Catalog (EROC)

Recommending librarians may view vendor demonstrations and ask acquisitions librarians for a free trial. These trial databases are accessed from the Trial Databases box.



Once the vendor provides access to the free trial, the recommending librarians evaluate the database using the online evaluation form. Criteria include: frequency of use, search capabilities, quality of content, printing and saving options, and helpfulness for research. Once the trial is over the recommending librarian can request that the acquisitions librarians negotiate the price and acquire the database within budget allotments.

**Evaluation**

**Database:**

How often have you used the trial database so far?

Daily  
 Weekly  
 Seldom  
 Never

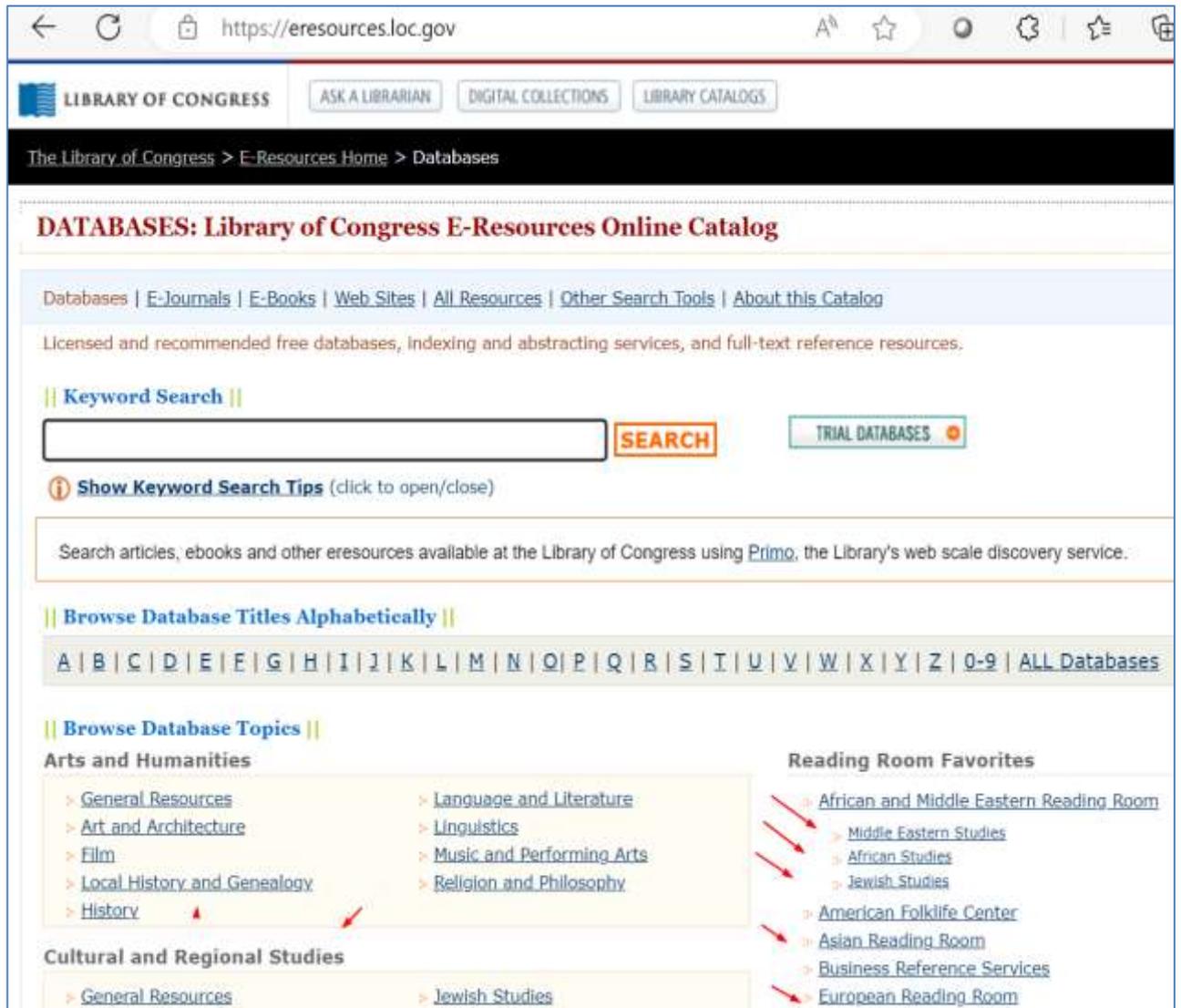
Searching: How would you rate the search capabilities of this database?

Poor  
 Adequate  
 Excellent

**Comments on Searching:**

### Organizing e-Resources by Subjects and Area Studies

Once the e-Resource is acquired, metadata is supplied in the EROC and the links are added to the subject and area studies categories to aid in discovery. Databases can also be searched by title or browsed alphabetically.



### Free or Not Free-onsite only

The e-Resources records are listed with a title hyperlink to the database, a description, coverage and a box to identify the contents. Also, in the right corner is a box indicating if the database is **Free Access** or **On-Site Only**. If the database has free access, anyone outside the Library of Congress can directly access the contents and use the resource. If the resource indicates On-Site Only, the researcher must register and come to one of the 20 researcher centers in the Library of Congress and use the EROC at a designated reading room workstation.

**Middle Eastern Studies**

- ADB** from Asian Development Bank FREE ACCESS

**Description:** The Asian Development Bank (ADB), a multilateral development finance institution, promotes economic and social progress by fighting poverty in Asia and the Pacific. ADB extends loans and provides technical assistance to its developing member countries for a broad range of development projects and programs. It also promotes and facilitates investment of public and private capital for economic and social development.

**Coverage:** Various Dates

[CONTENTS of RESOURCE](#)
- Afghan Serials Collection: Partisan Publications from The Wahdat Library (DA-ASC)** from East View Information Services ON-SITE ONLY

**Description:** The Afghan Serials Collection is an essential collection of partisan serials from the Wahdat Library, the most comprehensive private collection of rare newspapers and journals from Afghanistan. This collection is a major contribution to the preservation of the history of the region and is comprised of the careful selection of more than 2,500 individual issues of 46 newspapers and journals published in Persian, Pushto, Arabic, Urdu, and English. Documenting the breadth of Afghanistan's political epochs, the Afghan Serials Collection covers the use of the press by many groups that sought to shape Afghanistan's social and intellectual landscape including the Communist People's Democratic Party (PDPA); exiled loyalists to the deposed Afghan monarchy; independent humanitarians and intellectuals seeking to better their country; anti-Soviet mujaheddin groups from a range of political movements; the Taliban; and minority political parties that have emerged following the post-2001 transition towards democracy. The digitization of the Wahdat collection, complete with robust descriptions and periodical metadata, represents a significant step forward in the preservation of Afghanistan's history that will be of critical service to academics and area experts.

**Coverage:** 1968-2015

[CONTENTS of RESOURCE](#)
- American Institute for Yemeni Studies** from The American Institute for Yemeni Studies FREE ACCESS

## Contents of Resource

The Contents of Resource box is linked to a comprehensive list of subjects, access provisions and link to the database.

<b>Access:</b>	Free Public Access -- scroll down to view individual titles	<a href="#">Permanent Link to this Title</a>
<b>Database Title:</b>	ADB	<b>Authorized Users</b> Free public access.
<b>Alternate Title(s):</b>	Asian Development Bank	<b>Terms of Use (Public)</b> Use materials in accordance with <a href="#">Fair Use Provisions</a> .
<b>Coverage:</b>	Various Dates	
<b>Description:</b>	The Asian Development Bank (ADB), a multilateral development finance institution, promotes economic and social progress by fighting poverty in Asia and the Pacific. ADB extends loans and provides technical assistance to its developing member countries for a broad range of development projects and programs. It also promotes and facilitates investment of public and private capital for economic and social development.	
<b>Provider:</b>	Asian Development Bank	
<b>Topics:</b>	African and Middle Eastern Reading Room Free Resources	

## Access to Rights Restricted Digital Materials

The Library of Congress has digitized newspapers and journals that are rights restricted and also acquired e-books in PDF format from publishers under Copyright deposits. **Stacks** is the primary system for onsite-only access to rights restricted digital materials in the permanent collections in contrast to public domain and unrestricted content that is widely available on the

public digital collection website or the subscription and licensed content that is available in the EROC.

**LIBRARY**  
LIBRARY OF CONGRESS

STACKS

Everything Search

Rights and Access

Advanced Search

**Welcome!**  
Here you can browse digital collections that are available onsite at the Library of Congress.  
Library staff should consult these Frequently Asked Questions for guidance when using the resources available in Stacks.

**Getting Started**  
To begin, search any title or keyword using the search box in the top right corner of the screen. Learn more about:  
1. How to print materials  
2. Viewing items with simultaneous readers  
3. Using advanced search

**Stacks at a Glance**

**Current number of books:**  
**166,361**

**Current number of newspaper titles:**  
**796**

**Current number of newspaper issues:**  
**373,898**

Researchers can identify titles in stacks via the Library of Congress OPAC <https://catalog.loc.gov> and determine a date range of newspaper holdings. For example, after searching the title “*Mujahid*” from Afghanistan, the researcher is presented with a screen indicating the title is in stacks and given the URL to the content.

**Mujāhid**

Full Record MARC Tags

Uniform title  
Mujāhid (Kabul, Afghanistan)  
(Kabul, Afghanistan) مجاهد

Main title  
Mujāhid.  
مجاهد.

Published/Produced:  
Kābul : Jam'iyat-i Islāmi-i Afghānistān  
کابل : جمعیت اسلامی افغانستان

Request this Item LC Find It Item Availability

Links  
Available onsite via Stacks. July 25, 1988 - August 5, 2017 All issues within this range might not be available.  
<https://hdl.loc.gov/loc/gdc/stacksnewspaper.2020210219>

When an offsite researcher clicks on the link in catalog to one of these restricted access titles, they will be presented with Rights-Restricted Content screen and given the list of reading rooms with designated workstations that have access to Stacks and then researchers can only print selected pages, not download and save content.

**LIBRARY** CATALOG LOGIN

LIBRARY OF CONGRESS

LC Catalog Quick Search SEARCH OPTIONS

## Rights-Restricted Content

### Access to Rights-Restricted Content

Access to this rights-restricted content is only available onsite at the Library of Congress to registered researchers. Contact reference staff corresponding to your research area from the following list of reading rooms for more information about the Library's rights-restricted digital content currently available in Stacks, the primary system for accessing rights-restricted digital materials in the Library of Congress's permanent collection.

- African & Middle Eastern Reading Room, Jefferson Building, Room LJ-229
- Asian Reading Room, Jefferson Building, Room LJ-150
- Folklife Reading Room, Jefferson Building, Room LJ-G53
- European Reading Room, Jefferson Building, LJ-249
- Geography & Map Reading Room, Madison Building, Room LM-B01
- Hispanic Reading Room, Jefferson Building, LJ-240
- La Follette Congressional Reading Room, Madison Building, Room LM-202 (for Members of Congress and their staff only)
- Law Library Reading Room, Madison Building, Room LM-242
- Manuscript Reading Room, Madison Building, Room LM-101
- Microform and Electronic Resources Center (MERC), Jefferson Building, Room LJ-139
- Moving Image Research Center, Madison Building, Room LM-336
- Newspaper and Current Periodical Reading Room, Madison Building, Room LM-133
- Performing Arts Reading Room, Madison Building, Room LM-113
- Recorded Sound Research Center, Madison Building, Room LM-113
- Science and Business Reading Room, Adams Building, Room LA-508

### Using Google Translate.

Use Google Translate to enter the URLs below and select the language needed to translate from English, for example Turkish.

<https://translate.google.com>

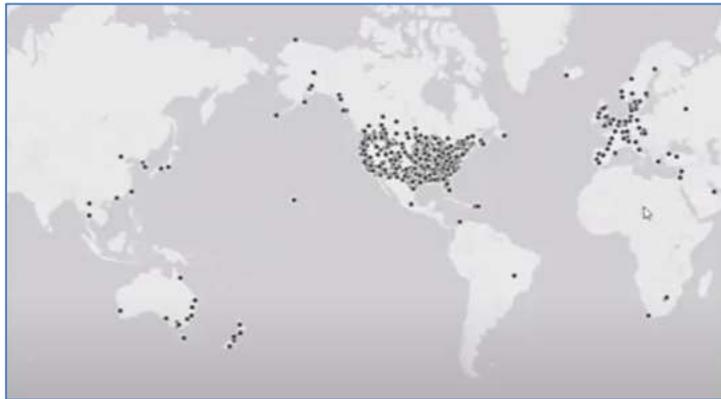
The screenshot shows the Google Translate interface. The input language is set to English and the output language is set to Turkish. The URL <https://eresources.loc.gov> is entered in the input field, and the translated URL is shown in the output field.

The EROC is translated into Turkish.

The screenshot shows the Library of Congress website in Turkish. The header includes the Library of Congress logo and navigation links: ASK A LIBRARIAN, DIGITAL COLLECTIONS, and LIBRARY CATALOGS. The main heading is **VERİTABANLARI: Library of Congress E-Kaynaklar Çevrimiçi Katalog**. Below the heading, there are links for Veritabanları, E-Dergiler, E-Kitaplar, Web Siteleri, Tüm Kaynaklar, Diğer Arama Araçları, and Bu katalog hakkında. At the bottom, there is a note: Lisanslı ve önerilen ücretsiz veritabanları, indeksleme ve soyutlama hizmetleri ve tam metin referans kaynakları.

## Overview of the Emerging Nations Article Exchange Program

The purpose of this program is to provide free access to articles from the Library of Congress collection via interlibrary loan for which the Loan and Reader Registration Section would normally charge libraries outside the USA, a fee of \$16 dollars. The Interlibrary Loan Office noticed that the majority of the international requests came from Europe with a few from the East Pacific, especially Australia. There seemed to be a disparity in ILL requests due to financial reasons.



Library of Congress, Loan & Reader Registration Section

For this pilot program, libraries from emerging nations with a GDP-PPP of less than \$31,000 according to [Global Finance Magazine](#) will be able to request articles from periodicals and books. Articles can be from the Library's electronic and print sources, as well as book chapters. The Library can scan up to 25 exposures which translates into around 50 pages for a regular size book or 25 pages for an oversized book. However, this program does not include loans of books or other items. Nations are chosen based on their economic status. At the moment there are 35 libraries from 20 countries that have signed up for this program using an online form. Contact [ill@loc.gov](mailto:ill@loc.gov) for information.

## Conclusion

Reference Librarians across the research centers in the Library of Congress have recommended major collections within the Library that are in the public domain for digitization as well as e-resources that are freely accessible from outside sources. E-resource librarians have provided rich metadata to enhance discovery and access. Yet many in the research communities are unaware these electronic resources exist. The ongoing challenge is to raise awareness of these freely accessible e-resources with anyone who has Internet access and to provide them strategies to uncover hidden gems, as well as how to overcome barriers to access for rights restricted content.