

The Library of Congress Labs

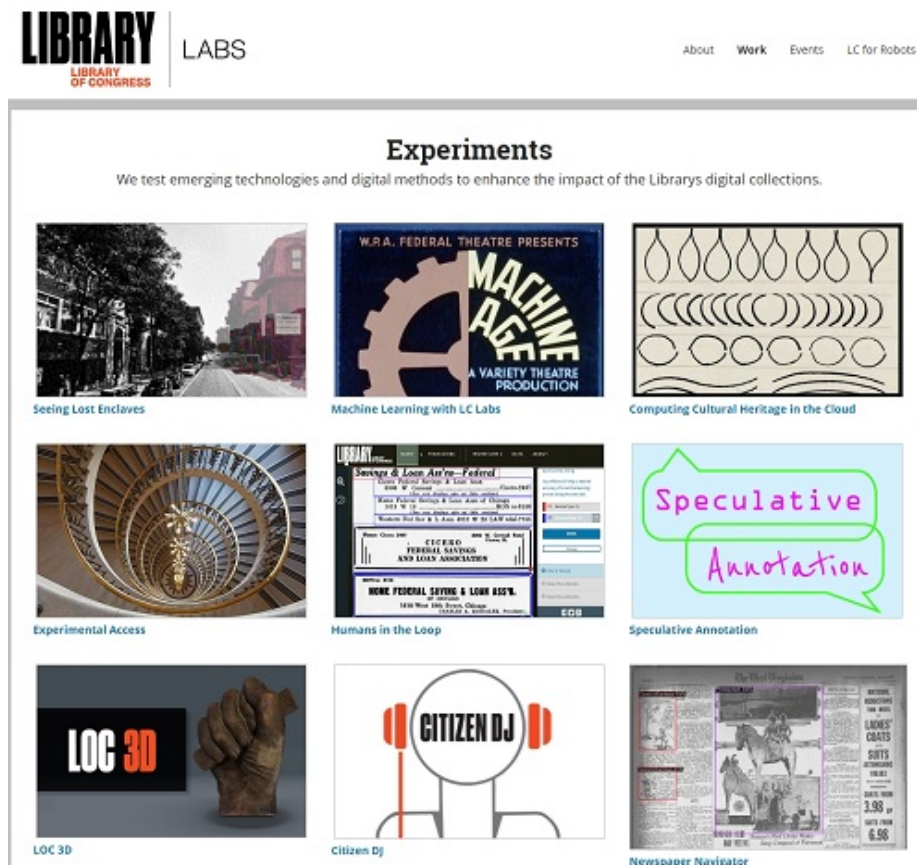
Libraries

Constructionism

Social Learning

Photo

[The Library of Congress Labs](#) is a website by the United States Library of Congress, which has the purpose of taking the contents of the Library of Congress and making them available and easy to navigate on the Internet. Its "[experiments](#)" section contains a number of different tools used to interact with the library's contents. The Library of Congress (LOC) provides a plethora of **primary sources**, giving students a taste of culture from older times that textbooks alone might not provide. There are a total of 12 tools that have some interactive component, all of which allow the user to either be shown information from the library in a novel way or use the information to **create something new**. In this way, it is a knowledge-centered product, used to help students interface with the contents of the library and construct new knowledge.



The Library of Congress Labs homepage screenshot

Tool Snapshot

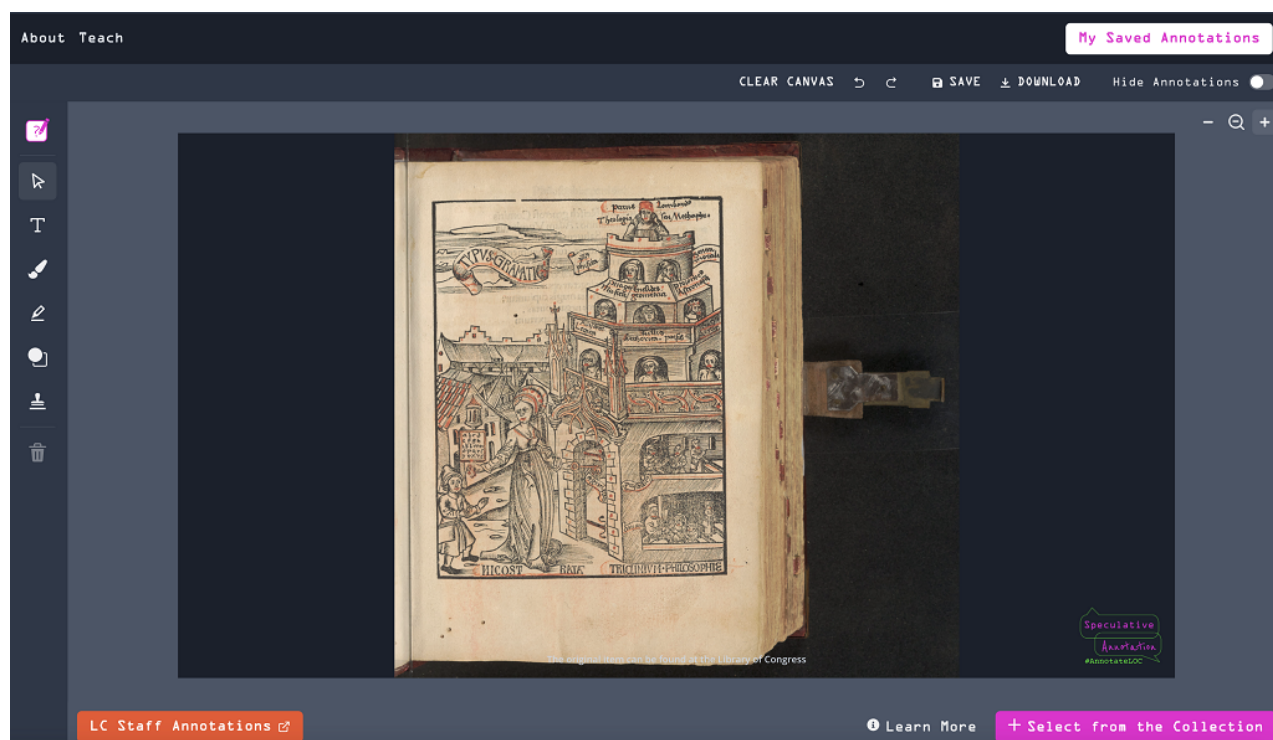
Price	Free
Learning	Constructionism & Social Learning
Ease of Use	★★★★☆☆
Privacy	★★★★☆☆
Accessibility	★★★★☆☆
Class Size	Unlimited
Login	No
ISTE*S	Knowledge Constructor & Global Collaborator
COPPA/ FERPA	COPPA: Yes. No FERPA policy found. Check with your school IT administrator.

Price

These tools do not cost any money and are entirely free to the public, funded by the United States federal government.

Type of Learning

Many of the activities in the LOC labs are focused on the production of new content using the material within the library. For example, students can remix sounds from the library into beats or annotate images from the library. In this way, it supports constructionist education. There is also a focus on sharing, such as the sharing of annotated artifacts from the collection, enabling social learning education.



LOC Annotated Artifact

Ease of Use

Though most of the concepts are simple and straightforward, it is not designed in a way that is particularly intuitive. Dead links, activities, and miscellaneous articles are all grouped, and descriptions of what things tend to be wordy and difficult to understand. Many of the apps within the website are fairly simple, but the tutorials range from comprehensive to frustratingly vague.

Privacy

The Library of Congress is a government institution and as a result, it does not participate in any for-profit actions. While it does collect some data for basic reasons, it does not share it except under very specific circumstances. The data it does collect includes your internet domain, your IP address, when you visit, which pages on the site you visit and what you download, the specs of the device you are using, and what search terms were used to find the site. It is [COPPA compliant](#). While it is not FERPA compliant, it collects so little data from students that it's not a risk for them.

Accessibility

The accessibility statement, while making a declaration that the Library of Congress was determined to meet accessibility standards, also plainly states that it does have several old pages which are not fully updated to be accessible. The labs are likely part of this group of old pages, considering how the pictures lack alt text altogether. On the upside, it is fairly easy to navigate the page without a mouse. I was able to get anywhere on the site with only a keyboard without any difficulty, though a couple of apps weren't functional without a mouse.

Class Size

There are not any limitations on how many people can use this tool at the same time on their own devices.

Login

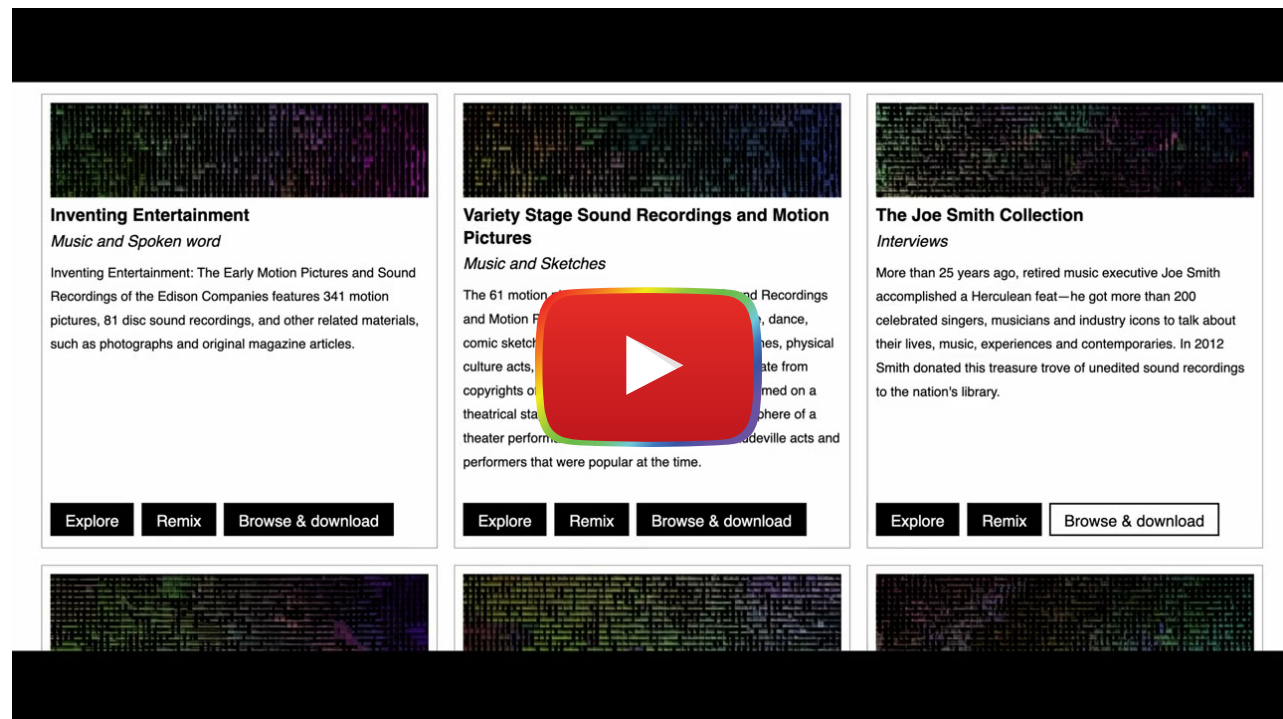
Login is needed for one of the tools: By the People. Login is not needed to use the other tools.

ISTE Standards

The Library of Congress Labs encourages students to be knowledge constructors through a number of its interactive activities, such as the one which allows you to add annotations to historical documents or that allows you to make musical tracks using sounds from the library as samples.

The Library of Congress Labs encourages students to be global collaborators in how its activities involve collaborative processes. Specifically, [By the People](#) allows the user to contribute to the library by transcribing words from images in the library, and working with others around the country to contribute to the library.

Library of Congress Guide Video



[Watch on YouTube](#)

[Video transcript](#)

LOC & the SAMR Model

Here is an example of how **Library of Congress Labs** might fit within the SAMR model:

- **Substitution:** The historical data in the library, accessible through the labs, could be used as a substitute for other primary sources in a history class.
- **Augmentation:** Students could be allowed to search the library themselves, finding their own primary sources rather than just being given them.
- **Modification:** Students can use the wiki data browser extension to easily find information from the library relevant to anything they find online.
- **Redefinition:** Students can engage directly with the process of adding to the library by transcribing documents.

Learning Activities

Math

Look for political cartoons by the same cartoonist and calculate the frequency that the cartoonist produced cartoons.

Science

Use RSHHGG (Revue de la Société Haïtienne d'Histoire, de Géographie et de Géologi) Lab to find scientific articles relating to a topic you are interested in and write a report about them.

English/Language Arts

Transcribe a conversation from audio and check to see if it matches the transcription made by the "Speech to Text Viewer" App.

ID	Title
afc2014021_02120	"Adelina Martinez, interview, audio."
afc2014021_01660	"Alice Redding, interview, audio, Part 2"

"Adelina Martinez, interview, audio." (afc2014021_02120)

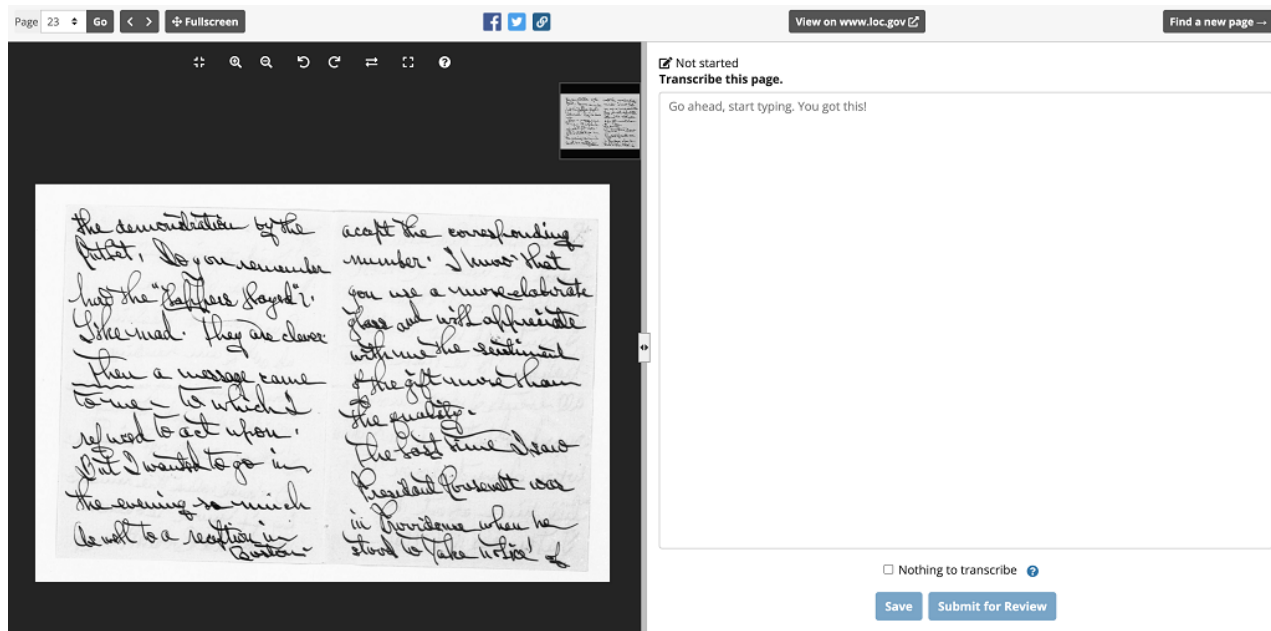
0:10 / 37:29

Time	Text
4.6 – 5.3	the dynamite.
8.2 – 9.5	It's the second, so I can
20.7 – 21.1	Okay.
25.5 – 30.6	What? Well, uh, you know, uh, thank you very much for coming to talk to us today.
34.7 – 39.8	So, first, can you just state your name and tell us the community where you currently
41.8 – 42.5	completo
44.6 – 50.9	mi Nombre es una Martinus? You'll be born here. What I want
54.2 – 63.5	her name is I lean on nothing that we have Todo essentially lives in Hillsboro, Oregon. Some of this I will understand, actually, just a purpose yet.
65.5 – 86.1	And can you tell us where you were born and in what year was seeing something that's he stayed in canyon in the sea and they, uh And let's not only will he go morning, Los quando voc levels in a CNN Lanyu amino synthesis. Something

Example audio transcript

Social Studies

- Learn about the history of Baseball via "[Mapping an American Pastime](#)" and connect it to other historical events that happened at the same time and place.
- [Annotate artifacts](#) and share them with the class.
- Transcribe artifacts to text with [By the People](#).



The transcription tool from the Library of Congress

Resources

- [Library of Congress](#)
- [Speech to Text Basics](#)
- [A Brief History of Political Cartoons](#)
- [Southern Mosaic: The John and Ruby Lomax 1939 Southern States Recording Trip](#)
- [Baseball in America: A History](#)
- [How to install Chrome extensions manually](#)
- [The Teacher's Guide to Helping Students Analyze Political Cartoons](#)
- [Beat Making 101: How to Make a Beat](#)
- [How Reliable is Speech-to-Text in 2021?](#)
- [Frequently Asked Questions](#)

How to Use Library of Congress Labs

1. Go to [Library of Congress Labs](#).
2. Look through the various tools it provides.
3. Select a tool you want to use and follow the instructions within if any.
4. If the tool does not work, it likely is out of service or not meant to be interactable. Go back and check out other tools.
5. Make a list of the tools that you plan to use so that you can easily sift through them in the future to find what you want.

Research.

Shadiev, R., Hwang, W. Y., Chen, N. S., & Huang, Y. M. (2014). [Review of speech-to-text recognition technology for enhancing learning](#). Journal of Educational Technology & Society, 17(4), 65-84.

Houston, N., Zaldivar, M., Director, A., Conte, J., Behnke, S., & Lofton, D. (2012). [Library of Congress Cataloging-in-Publication Data](#).

Zimmer, M. (2015). The Twitter Archive at the Library of Congress: Challenges for information practice and information policy. First Monday, 20(7). <https://doi.org/10.5210/fm.v20i7.5619>

Author

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