

Woodrow Wilson House

Accessing the Library of Congress

Your research at the Woodrow Wilson House has the opportunity to take you many places. Washington D.C. provides unmatched access to primary source documents in places like the Library of Congress (LOC) and the National Archives among other resources. Luckily, a lot of these resources are digitized and can be accessed online for example- the Woodrow Wilson Papers. Linked below:

<https://www.loc.gov/collections/woodrow-wilson-papers/about-this-collection/>

It is exciting and rewarding to go and get the chance to experience the documents first hand in the Library of Congress! The Manuscript Reading Room in the James Madison Memorial Building has the Wilson-McAdoo Collection which has correspondance, personal essays and Christmas Cards belonging to the women of the Wilson family. Getting to read their documents firsthand provides an opportunity for an intimate look at the lives of Woodrow Wilson and his family. To access the Library of Congress you need a Library of Congress Reader Card.

Step 1

- You must pre-register online at this link. Proof of pre-registration is necessary to access the Madison Building, where the card will be finalized and printed.
 - <https://reader-registration.loc.gov/readerreg/remote/>

Step 2

- It is best to call ahead to see if the files you're looking for are stored on-site. If they're not, you must schedule an appointment time so that they can be delivered to the Manuscript Reading Room ahead of your arrival.

Step 3

- If you are clear on what you're looking for, and it is stored on site or you have an appointment- head over to ; 101 Independence Avenue, SE!

Step 4

- Once inside, follow the signs to room LM 133, the reader registration room. You will need to present a valid Government ID, as well as proof of your pre-registration to obtain your Library of Congress Reader Card!



Woodrow Wilson House

Congrats!! You're a reader!!

- This card is entirely free, and good for use for two years!
- You can use the card to go to the Manuscript Reading Room, and check out files firsthand!
 - Something to note: a lot of the personal correspondence is handwritten and difficult to decipher. You will find the type-written documents easier to read.



Watch this video made by the Library of Congress to get a more detailed look at how the Manuscript Reading Room works, but do not be intimidated! The folks there are happy to help and will explain everything the video tells you when you are there in person.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RoLqJObGSXQ>

If you are interested in the main building of the LOC (the Jefferson Building), be aware that timed tickets are required to enter; however, for the Madison Building and the manuscript reading room—you can just pull up off the street!

Happy Reading!!