

The Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library

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WHAT RESOURCES ARE PROVIDED IN THE ALPL?

The Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library was formerly called the Illinois State Historical Library. It continues to collect, preserve, and make available information and resources that tell the story of Illinois. To that end, the ALPL collection is rich in Illinois history, geography, genealogy, and biography. In addition, the collection is rich in resources relating to Lincoln and the era of the Civil War. There are also resources to study United States and presidential history. The Library collection contains books, maps, pamphlets in printed/published collections, manuscripts, newspapers on microfilm, and an audio-visual collection.

WHAT SERVICES ARE AVAILABLE?

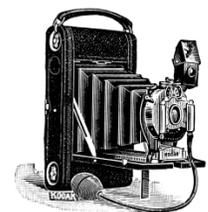
Reference librarians and other staff at the service desks on the first and second floor can assist users with their reference/research needs.



In the Main Reading Room on the first floor, staff can assist users with the online card catalog, Internet access (fifteen minute limit) and access to various online databases that are available, including Ancestry, Heritage Quest, Illinois State Archives database, and the Civil War Soldiers and Sailors database. Staff can also assist visitors who are interested in conducting genealogical research but staff cannot print out a genealogy or family tree while the visitor waits. Genealogist should have some basic knowledge of their own family before visiting the ALPL or any other repository that has genealogical resources.

In the second floor departments, staff is available to assist users with accessing the more than 90,000 reels of microfilm, most of which are Illinois newspapers. Many of the newspaper titles in the collection date to the nineteenth century and titles are available from all 102 Illinois counties. However, the collection does not contain every paper and/or every issue of a newspaper that was ever published.

In the Audio-Visual department, staff is available to assist users who have requests for images. The collection contains more than 300,000 prints, photographs, broadsides, audio and visual tapes. There is an outstanding collection of Civil War cartes-de-visites, broadsides, and other types of images. Images of cities and towns are included as well as persons from Illinois and national history.



The Manuscripts department staff is available to assist visitors who are interested in primary source materials. The collection contains nearly 6500 subject/topical categories made up of over ten million artifacts including Civil War letters and diaries; papers of the Illinois governors, senators, representatives and other politicians; papers of organizations; manuscripts relating to women, labor, the ante-bellum era; and almost any topic relating to Illinois history.

LINCOLN COLLECTION

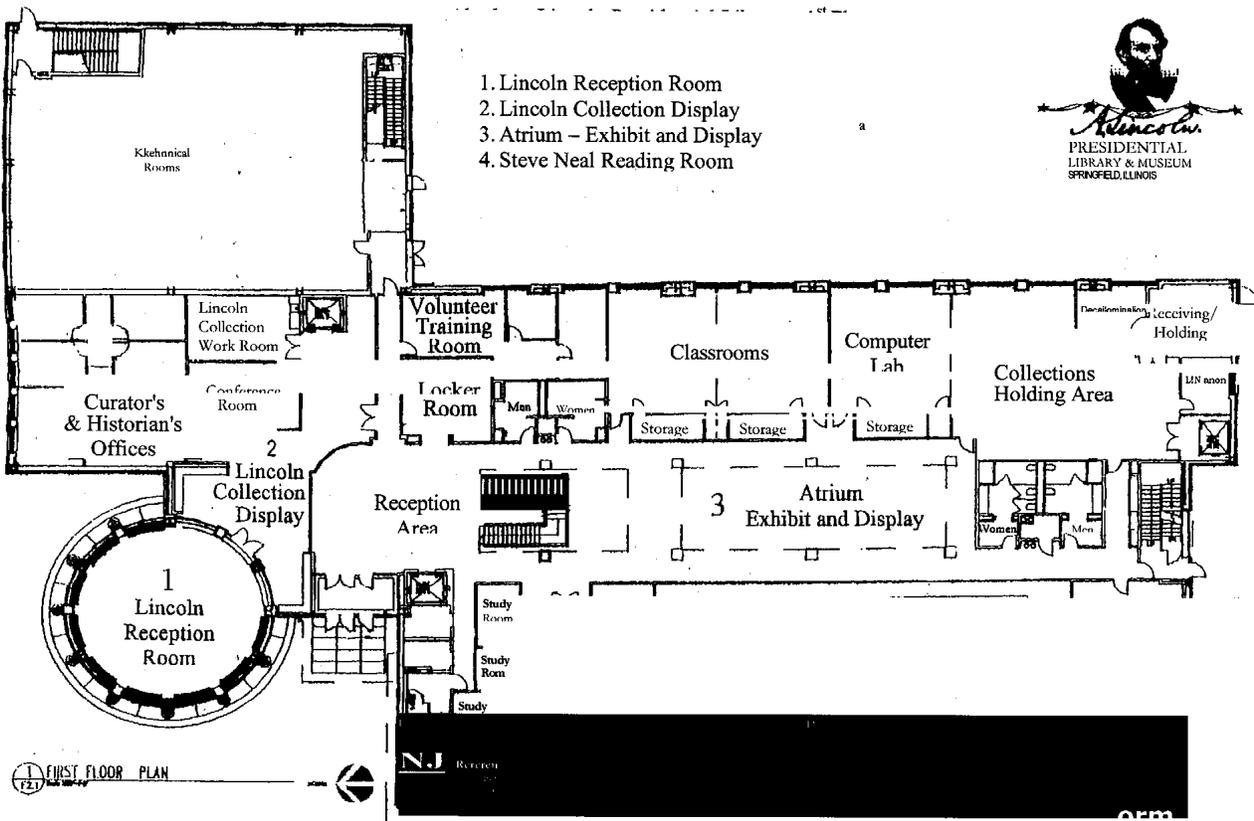
The staff in the main reading room desk is able to assist Lincoln researchers on a very limited basis. Visitors who have extensive research needs should make an appointment with the Lincoln collection staff in order to receive the best service.

OTHER DEPARTMENTS

The ALPL has support departments that are not open to the public: Acquisitions and Cataloging, Photography Lab, Microfilm Lab, and Conservation Lab.

The ALPL is not a part of the Presidential Library System that is operated and funded by the National Archives and Records Administration (NARA). Currently, there are twelve libraries and museums in the NARA system. The ALPL is operated and funded by the Illinois Historic Preservation Agency.

The ALPL is a special/research library and no library cards are issued nor are most materials available through inter-library loan. All materials must be used on-site.



Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library - 2nd Floor

