

**Title of Session:** Library of Congress Learning Page - We the People  
**Moderator:** Leni Donlan  
**Guest Speaker:** Donald Ritchie  
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BJ drops 2003/04/17 LOC Learning Page - We the People).

BJ [Helpdesk] says, "We usually start all the discussions with introductions..."

BJ [Helpdesk] says, "I'm a teacher in Pennsylvania and a helpdesk volunteer for TAPPED IN"

TrudyFL says, "I'm Trudy Loop, an instructional technology specialist in Birmingham"

LeniD [Library of Congress] says, "Thanks, BJ. We appreciate your help getting us started."

BJ [Helpdesk] exclaims, "I know that Leni has lots of great information to share!"

KarenSN ["Primary Source Heaven"] says, "Hello, my name is Karen Needles. I am a former education specialist with the LOC and now have my own company called Documents on Wheels. I present workshops on how to use the resources from the LOC and the National Archives."

Topher [guest] says, "Topher" is an alias for Chris Compston -- I'm a former teacher, author, and consultant for Oxford University Press."

LeniD [Library of Congress] says, "I'm Leni Donlan, the coordinator of the Learning Page, Library of Congress."

DonaldAR says, "I'm Don Ritchie, associate historian of the U.S. Senate."

LynnGi says, "Hi, I am Lynn, and instructional technology curriculum specialist with An Adventure of the American Mind, a grant project of the Library of Congress and overseen by the Education and Research Consortium of Western North Carolina, a grant"

LeniD [Library of Congress] says, "It looks like we have some members of the "choir" with us tonight :-)"

LeniD [Library of Congress] says, "I suspect that spring break has taken some of our participants."

LeniD [Library of Congress] says, "I did have a message from a regular, this afternoon. He asked is I would send him the transcript as he would have to miss our session for a church service."

LeniD [Library of Congress] exclaims, "So...let's get started!"

LeniD [Library of Congress] says, "Our theme for this session is, "We the People"...and we are very pleased to have Don share in presenting, tonight."

LeniD [Library of Congress] says, "As you know, schools hold a special and historic responsibility for imparting civic competency and civic responsibility."

LeniD [Library of Congress] says, "Beginning in the earliest grades and continuing throughout the educational process,"

LeniD [Library of Congress] says, "civics education exists to prepare tomorrow's citizens with the knowledge, skills, compassion and virtue necessary to preserve and improve America's constitutional democracy."

LeniD [Library of Congress] says, "So tonight, we want to provide you with both historical and current resources..."

LeniD [Library of Congress] says, "to help you teach civics, government, and the history of our constitutional tradition."

LeniD [Library of Congress] says, "I'm going to move quickly through sharing some Library of Congress resources.."

LeniD [Library of Congress] says, "then I'll turn the honors over to Don."

LeniD [Library of Congress] says, "Are you ready? :-)"

TrudyFL says, "yes"

DonaldAR says, "Yes."

KarenSN ["Primary Source Heaven"] says, "yes"

Topher [guest] says, "Yes"

LeniD [Library of Congress] says, "Buckle up..."

LynnGi exclaims, "Absolutely!"

LeniD [Library of Congress] says, "Let's start with Alcove 9: Annotated links to Reference web sites (U.S. Politics, Government, and Law"

LeniD [Library of Congress] projects the URL:

<http://www.loc.gov/rr/main/alcove9/usgov/usgov.html>

LeniD [Library of Congress] exclaims, "poke around a bit...there are some gems here!"

LeniD [Library of Congress] says, "Remember, the links will be in the transcript...so..."

LeniD [Library of Congress] says, "moving along...."

LeniD [Library of Congress] says, "American History as Seen in Congressional Documents, 1774-1873"

LeniD [Library of Congress] projects the URL:

<http://lcweb2.loc.gov/ammem/amlaw/lwtl.html>

LeniD [Library of Congress] says, "and another site from the American Memory collections..."

LeniD [Library of Congress] says, "Declaring Independence, Drafting the Documents"

LeniD [Library of Congress] projects the URL:

<http://www.loc.gov/exhibits/declara/declara1.html>

LeniD [Library of Congress] asks, "Are you still with me?"

BJ [Helpdesk] checks to make sure everyone is getting the projections

KarenSN ["Primary Source Heaven"] says, "yes"

LeniD [Library of Congress] says, "Thanks, Karen :-)"

DonaldAR says, "Yes, very impressive"

LeniD [Library of Congress] says, "And who could forget our presidents..."

Topher [guest] says, "This is great stuff."

LeniD [Library of Congress] says, "The George Washington Papers at the Library of Congress (Time Line: Colonial Period)"

LeniD [Library of Congress] projects the URL:

<http://lcweb2.loc.gov/ammem/gwhtml/gwtime.html>

LeniD [Library of Congress] says, "That it is, Chris :-)"

LeniD [Library of Congress] says, "And to share with older students..."

LeniD [Library of Congress] says, "Guide to Law Online - an annotated guide to sources of information on government and law available online"

LeniD [Library of Congress] projects the URL:

<http://www.loc.gov/law/guide/index.html>

Pam [guest] has arrived.

LeniD [Library of Congress] says, "Welcome Pam :-)"

Pam [guest] says, "hello"

LeniD [Library of Congress] says, "We've already done our introductions but would love to know a bit about you...where you are from and what you teach or your role in education."

BruceAM arrives from nowhere. little white call duck follows BruceAM to here.

BJ [Helpdesk] waves to Bruce

LeniD [Library of Congress] says, "Welcome to Bruce (and his duck!) :-)"

LeniD [Library of Congress] asks, "Ready to move to our next destination?"

Pam [guest] says, "do your students have a difficult time searching this site?"

KarenSN ["Primary Source Heaven"] says, "Don't forget the Papers of the Continental Congress [http://memory.loc.gov/ammem/bdsds/bdsd\\_home.html](http://memory.loc.gov/ammem/bdsds/bdsd_home.html) and the Thomas Jefferson Papers

<http://memory.loc.gov/ammem/mtjhtml/mtjhome.html>"

LeniD [Library of Congress] says, "I'm far from finished, Karen...let me finish before you have additions:-)"

LeniD [Library of Congress] says, "Pam, the site can be difficult for students. The Learning Page serves as a great "front door"...we are working on some new how to pages that should help a LOT."

LeniD [Library of Congress] says, "Here's our next stop..."

LeniD [Library of Congress] projects the URL:

<http://www.loc.gov/exhibits/madison/>

Pam [guest] says, "Great -- what ages of students, does this work best with"

LeniD [Library of Congress] says, "Madison's Treasures."

LeniD [Library of Congress] says, "Most educators feel that children from upper elementary through high school can use some of the collections with guidance."

LeniD [Library of Congress] says, "Strong middle school students and high school students often teach their "teachers" about using the site :-)"

LeniD [Library of Congress] says, "This next one is fascinating to me..."

LeniD [Library of Congress] says, "Religion and the Founding of the American Republic"

LeniD [Library of Congress] projects the URL:

<http://lcweb.loc.gov/exhibits/religion/religion.html>

LeniD [Library of Congress] says, "Karen mentioned this site, I believe..."

LeniD [Library of Congress] projects the URL:

<http://lcweb2.loc.gov/ammem/bdsds/intro01.html>

LeniD [Library of Congress] says, "To Form a More Perfect Union: The Work of the Continental Congress and the Constitutional Convention"

DeliaC says, "Welcome, this is my first time using this site so I am not quite sure how this works."

LeniD [Library of Congress] says, "Ahh...we are glad you are here, Delia. When I share a page with you, your browser should jump to the site I'm showing."

LeniD [Library of Congress] asks, "Did you see "To Form a More Perfect Union"?"

LynnGi says, "Pam, the "Religion and ..." would be a great site for our curriculum in our community."

DeliaC says, "Ok, so then I would review the page and share my opinions. No I did not see "To Form a More Perfect Union"?"

LeniD [Library of Congress] says, "And two features from the Learning Page are worth a peek for this topic."

LeniD [Library of Congress] projects the URL:

<http://learning.loc.gov/learn/features/election/>

LeniD [Library of Congress] exclaims, "Delia, this is sort of a "show and

tell" session, where we are sharing resources, but you may certainly ask questions and comment...in fact we hope you will!"

LeniD [Library of Congress] says, "and this one..."

LeniD [Library of Congress] projects the URL:

<http://memory.loc.gov/ammem/ndlpedu/features/inaug/>

LeniD [Library of Congress] asks, "Did you get that one, Delia?"

LeniD [Library of Congress] says, "And some resources for students..."

LeniD [Library of Congress] says, "A Rare Civics Lesson..."

DeliaC says, "Yes, thank you."

LeniD [Library of Congress] says, "Good! :-)"

LeniD [Library of Congress] projects the URL:

<http://www.loc.gov/exhibits/treasures/tri058.html>

LynnGi says, "Yes, this site is great! We at AAM have constructed curriculum by using this site."

LeniD [Library of Congress] exclaims, "Click on the calendar...it's really lovely!"

LeniD [Library of Congress] says, "and back to another Learning Page activity..."

LeniD [Library of Congress] says, "American Political Parties Past...a matching exercise"

LeniD [Library of Congress] projects the URL:

<http://www.loc.gov/learn/features/election/partysys3.html>

LeniD [Library of Congress] says, "Any whiplash out there? :-)"

LeniD [Library of Congress] asks, "Is everyone getting the sites?"

KarenSN ["Primary Source Heaven"] says, "yes"

LynnGi says, "Yes."

DonaldAR says, "Yes."

LeniD [Library of Congress] says, "Thanks, Karen and Don :-)"

TrudyFL says, "yes"

LeniD [Library of Congress] says, "Here's one of my favorites..."

LeniD [Library of Congress] exclaims, "Great Trudy!"

LeniD [Library of Congress] says, "For and Against....humor about political parties and groups"

LeniD [Library of Congress] projects the URL:

<http://memory.loc.gov/ammem/ndlpedu/features/election/partysys2.html>

LeniD [Library of Congress] exclaims, "Bet THAT got your attention!"

LeniD [Library of Congress] says, "And for the younger set..."

LeniD [Library of Congress] says, "I Spy...Grays Ferry"

LeniD [Library of Congress] projects the URL:

<http://memory.loc.gov/ammem/ndlpedu/features/inaug/ispy.html> LynnGi exclaims, "This is GREAT!"

LeniD [Library of Congress] asks, "Which one did you like, Lynn?"

MichaelAH [SS Forum] arrives from nowhere.

My 8-Track follows MichaelAH to here.

LeniD [Library of Congress] exclaims, "Michael...welcome!"

MichaelAH [SS Forum] waves to Leni

MichaelAH . o O ( totally forgot about the time change... )

LeniD [Library of Congress] says, "Jump Back in Time...from Americas Library"

LynnGi says, "For and Against"

LeniD [Library of Congress] says, "Thomas Jefferson"

LeniD [Library of Congress] exclaims, "Ahhh...I love that one!"

LeniD [Library of Congress] projects the URL:  
[http://www.americaslibrary.gov/cgi-bin/page.cgi/jb/colonial/jefferso\\_1](http://www.americaslibrary.gov/cgi-bin/page.cgi/jb/colonial/jefferso_1)

LeniD [Library of Congress] says, "Adoption of the Bill of Rights"

LeniD [Library of Congress] projects the URL:  
[http://www.americaslibrary.gov/cgi-bin/page.cgi/jb/nation/bofright\\_1](http://www.americaslibrary.gov/cgi-bin/page.cgi/jb/nation/bofright_1)

LeniD [Library of Congress] says, "Presidents Scavenger Hunt"

LeniD [Library of Congress] projects the URL:  
<http://www.americaslibrary.gov/cgi-bin/hunt.cgi/aa>

LeniD [Library of Congress] says, "All of these resources and more can be found in the Learning Page community center...We the People."

LeniD [Library of Congress] projects the URL:  
[http://learning.loc.gov/learn/community/cc\\_wethepeople.php](http://learning.loc.gov/learn/community/cc_wethepeople.php)

LynnGi exclaims, "I have heavily used the America's Library section in drafting curriculum. The kids love it!"

LeniD [Library of Congress] says, "And coming very soon...next week, I hope..."

LeniD [Library of Congress] asks, "Lynn, what grades do you use it with?"

LeniD [Library of Congress] says, "We have a new activity..."

LeniD [Library of Congress] says, "called "Introducing...THOMAS!"...not quite ready for prime time, yet."

BruceAM says, "Wow! I can see you've put a lot of work into these pages...these aren't "your father's web pages"..."

LeniD [Library of Congress] says, "It will introduce the THOMAS Site..."

LeniD [Library of Congress] projects the URL:  
<http://thomas.loc.gov>

LynnGi says, "I design curriculum for grades 3 through 12 and have used it for all said grades."

LeniD [Library of Congress] says, "You are right about that, Bruce :-)))"

LeniD [Library of Congress] says, "Ahh...good to know, Lynn."

LeniD [Library of Congress] says, "Our activity will tour you through THOMAS...and AMAZING site for teaching civics and government..."

LeniD [Library of Congress] says, "and will include a scavenger hunt for your students."

LeniD [Library of Congress] exclaims, "Seems we have lost Don, our next speaker! YIKES!"

LeniD [Library of Congress] asks, "While we wait for him to find his way back...questions? comments?"

BruceAM asks, "Is Don introducing the Thomas tour?"

MichaelAH [SS Forum] can easily see how Thomas would work well with his senior government students

LeniD [Library of Congress] says, "Nope...I will be doing that through a Learning Page activity, Bruce."

Topher [guest] says, "Let me fill in for a moment. I have been taking a course on citizenship at the Massachusetts State House. As I look at these wonderful materials, I realize that many of the adults in my class will be just as interested as students in your classes. I can't wait to share."

LeniD [Library of Congress] exclaims, "Stop by the Learning Page next week...I'm working on it feverishly!"

LeniD [Library of Congress] says, "You are right, Chris."

LeniD [Library of Congress] exclaims, "Welcome back Don...was just going to turn the floor over to you!"

LeniD [Library of Congress] says, "Perhaps you would like to reintroduce yourself to those who came in late."

LynnGi says, "Feverishly" now that's a word with which I can connect."

DonaldAR says, "I'm Don Ritchie, associate historian of the US Senate."

LeniD [Library of Congress] asks, "Shall I share the senate site, Don?"

DonaldAR says, "Yes, please."

LeniD [Library of Congress] projects the URL:

<http://www.senate.gov>

DonaldAR says, "You can also access it via Thomas."

DonaldAR exclaims, "The Senate may be in recess, but its web site is still up and running!"

LeniD [Library of Congress] says, "It's lovely, too, Don."

LeniD [Library of Congress] says, "The seal is gorgeous (web designer in me notices these things). :-)"

DonaldAR says, "The Senate Historical Office now receives daily inquiries from students..."

LynnGi exclaims, "What a site!"

BruceAM says, "I like the way you make it very accessible and "browsy" with the Historical minutes, oral history project, etc."

DonaldAR says, "who search the site and have additional questions."

LeniD [Library of Congress] projects the URL:

[http://www.senate.gov/pagelayout/art/a\\_three\\_sections\\_with\\_teasers/art\\_hist\\_home.htm](http://www.senate.gov/pagelayout/art/a_three_sections_with_teasers/art_hist_home.htm)

DonaldAR says, "We are now posting full transcripts of oral history interviews..."

DonaldAR says, "With senators and senior Senate staff."

DonaldAR says, "The interviews give a more personal glimpse of the institution."

DonaldAR says, "For instance, Jesse Nichols was the first African American clerk in the senate..."

DonaldAR says, "at a time when Capitol Hill was still segregated."

TrudyFL asks, "what year and where was he from?"

LeniD [Library of Congress] exclaims, "Real "insiders" stories!"

DonaldAR says, "He was born in Mississippi and came to Washington in the 1930s."

DonaldAR says, "And served on the Finance Committee from 1937 to 1971."

TrudyFL says, "wow"

DonaldAR says, "We find that students often want some explanation of events or issues."

DonaldAR says, "So we try putting out information in small chunks."

DonaldAR says, "Such as this day in history, etc."

LeniD [Library of Congress] says, "Good idea...especially for web savvy kids."

DonaldAR says, "But I am impressed with the range of programs available through the LC."

DonaldAR exclaims, "I wish they were available when I was a student!"

LeniD [Library of Congress] says, "So am I, Don...I find something new every day! :-)"

LeniD [Library of Congress] says, "We are working hard at the Library these days..."

DeliaC asks, "Where exactly do you find all of these items?"

LeniD [Library of Congress] says, "at making the resources more accessible to all our users."

LeniD [Library of Congress] asks, "Delia, is your question to Don, or all of us?"



DonaldAR says, "At the Senate Historical Office we have been collecting material for the past 25 years..."

DeliaC says, "It is for everyone."

DonaldAR says, "But the Internet gives us an opportunity to share it more widely."

Topher [guest] asks, "One of the key elements of democratic government is the free press. Don, can you tell us something about the role of the press in covering the Senate?"

LeniD [Library of Congress] says, "Most of the resources I shared are from the Library of Congress Web sites."

DonaldAR says, "Actually, the media has also been making good use of the web site."

DonaldAR says, "They usually want statistical information, and we provide many lists."

DonaldAR says, "Our objective is to provide straightforward information so they can get the story right."

LeniD [Library of Congress] says, "It's an excellent place to do your research BEFORE the interviewing."

DonaldAR says, "Sort of the same way we approach students and teachers."

LeniD [Library of Congress] says, "Agreed, Don."

LeniD [Library of Congress] says, "folks...the next chat is in the wings...."

LeniD [Library of Congress] says, "sorry to bring this to a quick conclusion..."

DonaldAR says, "Please feel free to contact the Senate Historical Office via our web site if you have any other questions."

BruceAM says, "Thanks, I like the way these sites bring primary source material to the students."

LynnGi says, "This has been a great informative session. Thank you."

LeniD [Library of Congress] says, "Please give us some feedback if you wish..."

TrudyFL says, "Thanks Leni and Donald...lots of useful information I can pass on to our teachers"

LeniD [Library of Congress] projects the URL:

<http://memory.loc.gov/learn/community/chat/chateval.html>

Topher [guest] exclaims, "Thanks to you both!"

LeniD [Library of Congress] exclaims, "thanks for joining us!"

DonaldAR says, "It was my pleasure."

LeniD [Library of Congress] says, "Don...we very much appreciate the expertise you shared."

LeniD [Library of Congress] says, "We will leave you here, folks. Good Night..thanks for joining us."

[Ed note: The next LOC discussion will be on May15, 2003]