I am pleased to deliver a snapshot of the Law Library’s successes in 2013.

We were fortunate this year to present several major public events while continuing our ongoing service to Congress, the Executive Branch, and the federal judiciary. These outreach programs allowed us to raise awareness of Law Library staff expertise and collections. We relied on collaborations with our partners in the public, non-profit, and private sectors to bring some of the most gifted minds in law to the Library. We look forward to another year of successful programming and services.

Best wishes to all for a new year filled with good health, fortune, and cheer.

— David S. Mao, Law Librarian of Congress

In fiscal 2013, the Law Library prepared 376 legal research reports, special studies, and memoranda in response to congressional inquiries. Reports related to many pressing U.S. legislative issues, including firearms control, mental health provisions, judicial tort systems, laws on the sale of human organs, government authority to conduct electronic surveillance, humanitarian exemptions from import duties, and European Union merger regulations. Many of these reports are available to the public on the Law Library’s website, www.Law.gov.

This year marked the mid-way point of our 5-year strategic plan. At the beginning of this fiscal year, the Law Library leadership team began planning an organizational realignment to bring together the Law Library’s research and collection units in a way to take advantage of resource sharing; to make services more efficient and consistent; and to facilitate collaboration with other Library of Congress units. In May of 2013, the Law Library officially implemented the realignment, and the transition to the new organizational structure was smooth.

The Law Library helped to craft and issue two legislative challenges via Challenge.gov (http://challenge.gov) focusing on the application of the Akoma Ntoso framework (a proposed XML standard for legislative materials) to U.S. laws. The results of the challenge will help advance the exchange of legislative information worldwide.

The Congressional Record – a substantially verbatim account of remarks made during the proceedings of the House and Senate – became part of Congress.gov, expanding the site’s already rich content.

The Librarian of Congress approved the Law Library’s proposal to stage a major exhibition celebrating the 800th anniversary of Magna Carta. Planned for late fall 2014, the exhibition will feature an exemplification of Magna Carta from 1215.
HIGHLIGHTS
FOR FISCAL 2013

- Held annual Law Day event on the topic of “The Movement in America for Civil and Human Rights”

- Presented a panel discussion on the role and impact of Islamic law in transitioning Arab Spring countries


- Celebrated Constitution Day with a keynote speech from Professor Risa L. Goluboff on “How the Constitution Changes: Social and Political Aspects of the Law”


WEBSITE and SOCIAL MEDIA

15,159 Followers on @Congressdotgov Twitter account
37,123 Followers on @LawLibCongress Twitter account
15,804 Email subscribers to the Global Legal Monitor
12,070 “Likes” on Facebook
263 Blog posts published on In Custodia Legis blog
267,524 Page views for In Custodia Legis blog
3,178,577 Page views for all Law Library online products

PRODUCTS and SERVICES

376 Legal research reports, special studies, and memoranda created for Congress
375 Articles written for the Global Legal Monitor
3,959 Congressional inquiries answered
3,688.75 Hours the Law Library Reading Room was open for congressional staff
41,706 Users served in person, by phone, by correspondence, or electronically
4,267 Inquiries answered through “Ask a Librarian”
20,261 Items from the Law Library’s collection circulated
12,070 “Likes” on Facebook

COLLECTIONS

2.89 Million volumes in the Law Library
17,500 Items sent to Fort Meade
384,176 Volumes re-classified from in-house system to the Library of Congress classification system