New Name for Smithsonian Institution Libraries

The Smithsonian Institution Libraries announced today that it is changing its name to Smithsonian Libraries. This change is to simplify and strengthen the Libraries as part of an overall re-branding in the modern era.

The Smithsonian Libraries is a dispersed system of twenty libraries and central support services that provides information and scholarly resources to Smithsonian scientists, curators, and historians and, through the Libraries’ website, to the general public. With over two million items (including 50,000 rare books and manuscripts) in its print and digital collections, the Libraries also administers reference services and exhibition and educational activities that embrace the mission of the Smithsonian and highlight the collections. A book conservation laboratory and digital imaging center help to preserve valuable items and broaden access to the Libraries’ holdings. The Libraries staff answers 50,000 queries and engages nearly three million web visitors annually.


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The Smithsonian Libraries maintains a collection of more than 2 million volumes and serves as an educational resource for the Smithsonian Institution, the global research community and the public. The Libraries are located in Washington, Edgewater, Md., New York City and the Republic of Panama. For more information, visit the Smithsonian Libraries website.