

Exercise #2 Reading Paragraphs

Instructions: Use one or both of these paragraphs for your feedback exercises.

The Library of Congress occupies three massive structures on Capitol Hill, near the U.S. Capitol. The Jefferson Building, opened in 1897, is a grand monument to civilization, culture, and American achievement. The functional Adams Building was opened in 1939. The modern Madison Building, completed in 1980, is by far the largest structure. About two million researchers, scholars, and tourists visit the Library of Congress each year and millions more use its services.

Since its creation, the Library of Congress has been part of the legislative branch of the American government, and even though it is recognized as the de facto national library of the United States, it does not have that official designation. Nevertheless, it performs those functions performed by national libraries elsewhere and has become a symbol of American democracy and faith in the power of learning.

Excerpted from *Jefferson's Legacy: A Brief History of the Library of Congress* by John Y. Cole
<http://www.loc.gov/loc/legacy/toc.html>