General Photography and Video Guidelines for Visitors* to the Library of Congress

- **TIME LIMIT:** Photography/video sessions must not last more than one hour. To avoid overcrowding, it is best to come before 10:30 a.m. or after 3:30 p.m. Monday–Saturday.

- **EQUIPMENT:** Specialized equipment (e.g. tripods, bipods, monopods, selfie sticks, lights) for private shoots (e.g. weddings, graduations, etc.) is prohibited.

- **GROUP SIZE:** Groups are limited to 5 people, including the photographer or videographer.

- **REstrictions and Prohibitions:**
  - Photography/video sessions:
    - Must not interfere with the movement of visitors or block passage, including stairways, landings, doorways, exhibitions, etc.
    - Is not permitted in restricted areas, including the reading rooms or areas closed to the general public.
    - Must comply with all designated areas where photography or flash are prohibited.
    - Is not permitted in the Main Reading Room overlook, on or near the stairways or landings, or in exhibition galleries.

  In addition:
  - It is prohibited to move furniture or set up backdrops or sets.
  - Appropriate clothing and shoes are required. Changing facilities are not available.
  - Unsafe activities (e.g., climbing, running, dancing, sliding down banisters) are prohibited.

- **Photographing/Videotaping of Others:**
  - Photography/videotaping other visitors, staff and volunteers is not permitted without their written permission.
  - Photography/videotaping Police, guards or security areas is prohibited.
  - Please respect others’ privacy.

- **Security Checks:** All camera equipment must go through the x-ray machine on entry. Bags will be checked upon departure. Bags and accessories must remain with owners at all times.

- **Exterior:** Photographing/videotaping exteriors of Library buildings must be requested in advance. Contact U.S. Capitol Police (202-224-8891 or www.uscapitolpolice.gov/special_events.php)

*Failure to comply with these guidelines or any directives from appropriate Library staff or U.S. Capitol Police can result in eviction from the premises.*

*News media and commercial productions, including photography shoots requiring location agreements, potentially intrusive professional equipment such as tripods, or interference with Library operations must contact the Office of Communications (news@loc.gov, 202-707-2905) for approval and permits.*