
J. Mark Sweeney

Principal Deputy Librarian of Congress



Mark Sweeney was appointed Principal Deputy Librarian of Congress on May 14, 2018, after serving as Acting Deputy Librarian for nearly seven months. He provides executive leadership to advance the priorities of the Librarian of Congress and exercises Library-wide program and management authority to ensure effective delivery of the Library's collections and services to the Congress and the American people.

Prior to his most recent promotion, Sweeney served as Associate Librarian for Library Services—first on an acting basis beginning August 2014, then as permanent appointee effective February 2015. In addition to leading

the agency's largest unit, he was responsible for carrying out Library Services' mission to acquire, organize, provide access to, maintain, secure, and preserve the Library's universal collections, which document the history and further the creativity of the American people and record and contribute to the advancement of civilization and knowledge throughout the world.

During his 34 years at the Library of Congress, Sweeney has also served as the Library's Director of Preservation, Chief of the Humanities and Social Sciences Division, Chief of the Serials and Government Publications Division, Chief of the Preservation Reformatting Division, Head of the Newspaper Section, Reference Specialist, and as a Supervisory Library Technician. He got his start at the Library in the late 1980s, when he took a job as a Library Technician sorting, organizing, and shelving government publications and periodicals.

Additionally, from 2001 – 2005 Sweeney served as the Library's technical advisor to the United States Newspaper Program, a cooperative national effort by the Library of Congress and the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) to locate, catalog, preserve, and make accessible to researchers newspapers published in the United States from the eighteenth century to the present. He then served from 2005 – 2013 as the Library's program manager for the National Digital Newspaper Program, another cooperative initiative with NEH to enhance access to newspapers through the application of digital technology. Both efforts have been highly successful and serve as models of national cooperation for the preservation of newspapers—an important part of America's cultural patrimony.

He has presented at numerous professional meetings and serves on national and international boards and committees. Sweeney holds a B.A. in history from McGill University and an M.S. in Library & Information Science from The Catholic University of America.