The NEW Search Tool

The Library made a much requested and anticipated change to the search process! These changes make the “hunt” for primary sources more streamlined and successful. Here are some of my personal highlights after I typed railway mail in the search box!

1. **Recommended terms!** The site suggests additional words that will help me with my search and offers suggestions that I hadn’t thought about!

2. **Organize** the items found. While thrilled to have 2604 matches for railway mail, we are also able to…

   - **Sort by Relevance, Title or Date**
   - **Change the view!** List, Gallery or Grid

3. The **Refine Your Search** menu includes a variety of variables as well as the number of items found for each attribute. *Let’s look at the results for our Railway Mail search:*

   - **Available Online** – You can choose to see only matches that are digitized or all matches. All items will result in a higher number, but only the digitized items are available on the site.
   - **Original Format** – The formats in which items were originally presented to the Library of Congress are represented here. The formats represented in our search are Photograph, Print & Drawing; Web Page; Legislation; Map; and Film & Video.
   - **Online Format** – Here we find the format in which items are available for us to access or download.
   - **Subject** – Key words, people, events and more are provided in a list that is unique for each search.
   - **Site** – This section indicates which divisions of the Library site include items from our search.
   - **Contributor** – The individual or organization that provided the item is listed here.
   - **Date** – The date that item was created, published, etc.