



LIBRARY OF
CONGRESS

**Partnering with State Institutions:
National Digital Newspaper Program**

Teri Sierra, Chief

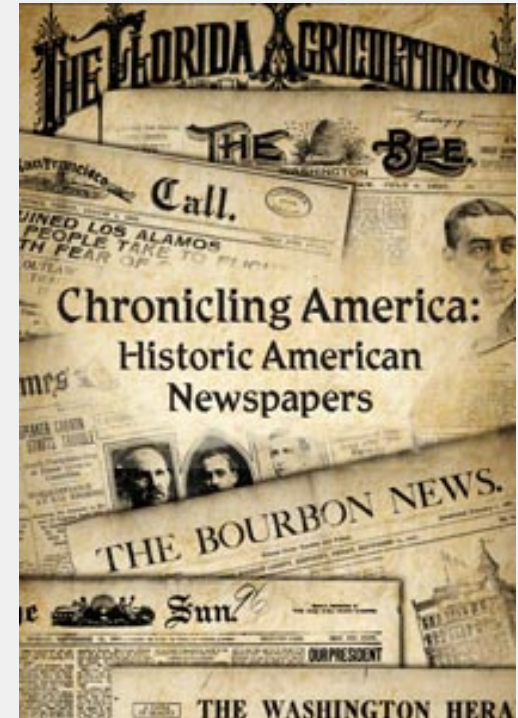
Serial and Government Publications Division



Program Description

National Digital Newspaper Program

- The National Digital Newspaper Program is a long-term effort to develop an Internet-based, searchable database of U.S. newspapers with descriptive information and select digitization of historic pages.
- Began in 2004; ongoing
- Jointly sponsored by the US Library of Congress and the National Endowment for the Humanities
- Eventually will include participants from all US states and territories
- All US newspapers in the public domain are eligible for digitization (i.e., 1690-1963)



Goals

National Digital Newspaper Program

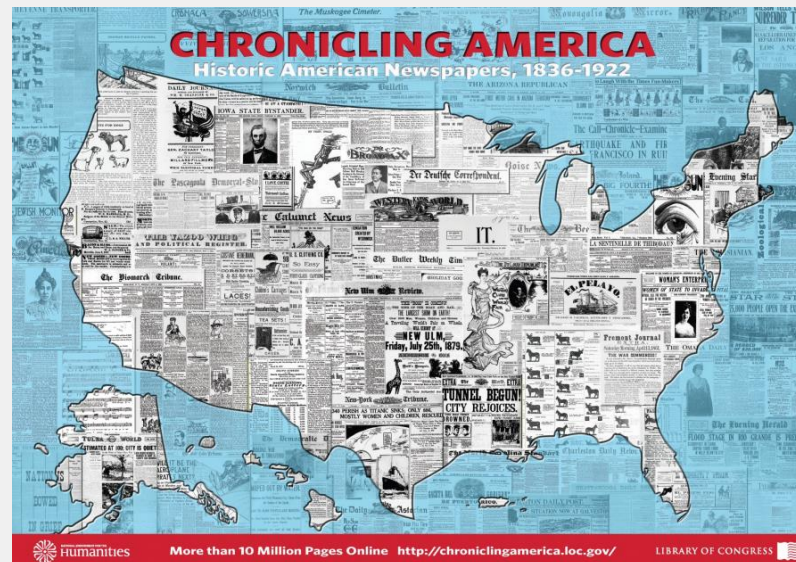
- Enhance access to historic newspapers through digitization
- Build community of shared practice around newspaper digitization
- Build on national investment in identification and preservation of newspapers (US Newspaper Program, 1982-2011)
- Through shared technical specifications and guidelines, build uniform and sustainable digital collection
- To provide free and open access to all content



Content

National Digital Newspaper Program

- U.S. newspapers in the public domain (1789-1922)
 - 11 million+ newspaper pages
 - 1.5 million+ newspaper issues
 - 2060+ newspaper titles
 - English, Finnish, French, German, Italian, Spanish
 - 40 states, Puerto Rico and Washington, DC
- Brief newspaper histories for each digitized title
 - 1100+ essays
- U.S. Newspaper Directory
 - 153,000+ bibliographic records (MARC)
 - Approx. 500,000 holdings records
- Recommended Topics
 - 250+ Topic Guides
 - Dates, search terms, sample article links



Partnerships and Collaborations

National Digital Newspaper Program

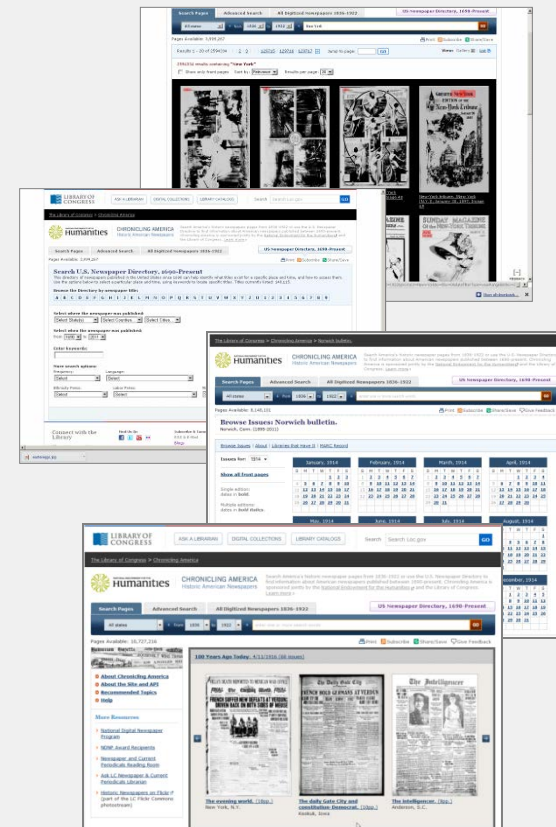
- **Library of Congress**
 - Establish technical specifications
 - Support awardee digitization activities
 - Sustain and provide permanent access to aggregate digital collection
- **National Endowment for the Humanities**
 - Select and fund a cultural heritage institution from each state to participate
 - Awardees must have:
 - Access to state newspapers and understanding of newspaper collections
 - Experience with digitizing cultural heritage material, particular newspapers
 - Technical infrastructure to support large digital conversion project (approx. 100,000 pages; 5+ Tb created by each award)
- **State awardees**
 - Select titles for digitization
 - Digitize newspapers (primarily from microfilm) to specifications established by LC
 - Author newspaper history essays
 - Deliver complete digital objects and metadata to LC for aggregation and preservation
 - Reuse data in local systems for integration with other state resources



Services

National Digital Newspaper Program

- Search
 - Simple full-text page search (limit by state, year)
 - Advanced full-text page search (limit by state, date, date range, and/or/proximity, front page, language etc.)
 - Visual search results (hit highlighting – thumbnails and full page)
- View and Navigate
 - View newspaper page image at full-resolution (pan and zoom)
 - Page and issue sequential navigation (Previous/Next)
 - Calendar view of available issues and editions
- Save/Send
 - Download alternate file types
 - Clip detail images
 - Share/Email
- Browse digitized newspapers
- Search US Newspaper Directory (derived from OCLC WorldCat API)
- API Access through standard protocols (Open Search, RDF, Atom, RSS)
- Recommended Topics
 - One-page guides to selected topics (e.g., Sinking of the RMS Titanic, New York Subway, Babe Ruth, etc.)
 - Each page includes Timeline, Suggested Search Terms, Sample Article Links
 - More than 250 Topics available
- Ask-a-Librarian Service



Ask-A-Librarian
www.loc.gov/rr/askalib/



Users and Usage

National Digital Newspaper Program

- General interest
- Historians/researchers
- Teachers/Students
- Family historians
- Librarians

- Jan 2015-Dec 2015
 - 3.9 million Visits
 - 44.7 million Page Views
 - Full page newspapers viewed 21 million times
- On average, approx. 80% US users
- Approx. 40% of users spend >10 minutes on site
- Majority of users link from Google keyword searches (full text)



Sustainability

National Digital Newspaper Program

- Open standards and documented technical specifications
 - Common file formats
 - Standard metadata (descriptive, technical, administrative, preservation)
 - Validation and conformance checks
- Open access to all data for use and re-use
 - View, harvest, publish, derivative, etc.
- Multiple copies
 - Repository services
 - Inventory control
 - Archival storage
- Shared responsibility for program (NEH, LC, awardees)
 - Formal agreements
 - Shared funding for development
 - Long-term view and commitment
- Plan for change



Future Directions and Challenges

National Digital Newspaper Program

- Geographic expansion to all states and territories
 - 2016 awards just announced – Alaska, Colorado, Maine, New Jersey
- Chronological expansion to all public domain (i.e., 1690-1963)
- Expansion of supported languages (ISO 639-2, 500+ languages)
- Improvements for use on mobile devices

- Anticipating technology changes
 - What will the user want next?
 - Transforming to new platforms
- Ensure ongoing funding and infrastructure support



National Digital Newspaper Program

Ms. Teri Sierra

Chief, Serial & Government Publications Division

Library Services

Email: ndnptech@loc.gov

NDNP Public Web: www.loc.gov/ndnp

Chronicling America: Historic American Newspapers

<http://chroniclingamerica.loc.gov>

