

Newspaper Research

- Newspapers can be found all over the place!
 - Libraries
 - Archives
 - Historical societies
 - Library of Congress
 - Microfilmed by the Family History Center
 - Digitized and online
 - Indexed and online
- Newspapers come and go.
 - First newspaper regularly published was the *Boston News-Letter* in 1704
 - In 1950 there were 1772 daily newspapers
 - In 2000 there were 1480 daily newspapers
 - Many small towns still publish a weekly or bi-weekly paper
- Newspapers may be found in many different forms
 - Microfilm and microfiche
 - Digitized and online
 - Transcribed into books
 - Original copies in some libraries and archives
- Researchers need to determine exactly what is and is not available.
- Determine whether a newspaper existed for the desired time and location.
- Newspaper research checklist
- Don't believe everything you read!
- Remember, newspapers are secondary sources. (A secondary source is a record created after the event by a person who was not at the event.)
- Search for a primary source to prove the event. (A primary source is a record created at or near the time of the event by a person with first-hand knowledge of the event)
- Only a fraction of the historic newspapers are visible online.
- Many companies are digitizing newspapers and publishing them online.
- Set up a Google Alert for the topic, location and newspaper you want.
- When Google finds a match, it will send you an email with a link to the webpage.
- Preplanning will lead to a more successful conclusion.
 - Identify what you want to find
 - Determine the timeframe
 - List the location(s)
 - Attach a family group sheet
 - May include a timeline
 - Research Worksheet – handout
- Identify newspapers that fit your criteria.
- Which newspapers existed at the time and place you wish to search?

- When you locate the article, be sure to copy the source of the information.
 - Title of paper
 - Date
 - Page number
 - Name of repository
 - Microfilm roll number
 - Online database
- One suggestion is to make a copy of the front page of the paper for historical perspective.
- Start with Big Picture Websites
 1. Stanford Newspaper Visualization
 - www.stanford.edu/group/ruralwest/cgi-bin/drupal/visualizations/us_newspapers
 2. Newspaper Map
 - www.newspapermap.com
 - Newspaper Map is spelling and case sensitive
 3. World Cat-largest network of library content & services
 - www.worldcat.org
- Online Digitized Free Newspaper Collections
 - 50 States
 - Chronicling America
 - Clayton Library Center for Genealogical Research
 - Google News Archive
 - Heritage Quest
 - HistoryBuff.com
 - Legacy: National Obituary Registry Service
 - Lexis Nexis
 - National Obituary Archives
 - Newspaper Abstracts
 - Newspaper Indexes Online
 - Obituaries Help
 - The Olden Times – Newspaper Genealogy Archives
 - Proquest
 - Rag Linen
 - Small Town Papers
 - USNPL
- Online Digitized Newspaper Collections \$\$\$
 - Ancestry
 - American Ancestors, NEHGS

- [Library of Congress - Chronicling America](#) - over 40 states are represented and the site is growing. Over time I suspect that this will become the largest site in the country in terms of quantity.
- [Old Fulton NY Post Cards](#) - This New York state collection is amazing in that basically it has been a labor of love for one person to create it. Much admiration on my part. Oh yes - and there are over 34 million pages available, including recently the addition of other states' newspapers.
- [Google News Archive](#) - although its searchability appears to be changed recently, it does cover a ton of smaller newspapers around the country. It remains to be seen as to whether Google will add newspapers in the future.
- [Portal to Texas History](#) - Over 600 newspapers in this collection, and the user interface provides a nice method for honing in on the search results. Many of the newspapers have short runs, but the sheer magnitude of the collection is outstanding.
- [California Digital Newspapers Collection](#) - i have to admit to some partiality here as this is my home state and where much of my newspaper research has been conducted. However, the user interface is excellent and has a feature that most other sites don't have. Since the OCR process for very old newspapers sometimes is not very good because of the quality and condition of the source materials - this site provides registered users with the ability to correct the OCR'd text - thereby improving future searches. A genealogy "pay it forward" if you will.
- [Wyoming Newspaper Project 1849-1922](#) - Yes - little Wyoming (in terms of population), has a terrific site. And when 336 of the some odd 500 newspapers ever published are available online - I say - good for Wyoming.
- [NY State Historic Newspapers](#) - a fairly new collection that is growing by leaps and bounds and at this publication date has over 5.3 million pages.
- [Iowa](#) - there is no centralized collection; however since the subscription-based site Newspaper Archive is headquartered in the state, there are a lot of free county-wide and library-based collections available, based on their software. The link here is to my article about the state collections and how to find them.
- [Florida Digital Newspaper Library](#) - an interesting interface, but almost 2 million pages along with several special collections as well.
- [Historic Oregon Newspapers](#) - over 100 newspapers with long runs.