

COLLECTION OVERVIEW

NEWSPAPERS AND JOURNALISM

I. SCOPE

This is an overview of the Library's collection of newspapers and journalism. Other materials supporting research in broadcasting media, and the subject of journalism, are also covered here. A newspaper is defined as a serial publication, which is mainly designed to be a primary source of written information on current events, local, national, or international in scope. Newspapers contain a broad range of news on all subjects and activities and are not limited to any specific subject matter. Such news is intended either for the general public or for a particular ethnic, cultural, or national group.

II. SIZE

The Library's newspaper collection comprises over one million loose issues, 37,000 bound volumes, and 700,000 reels of microfilm. Approximately 359 United States and 1,134 foreign newspaper titles are regularly received and retained on a permanent basis. About 1,500 currently published titles from around the world are received each day (or week) and approximately 12,000 reels of microfilm are added to the collection each year. On a current basis, the Library collects the major titles published in all 50 states and territories of the United States, and from 179 foreign countries. This large collection is primarily the responsibility of the Serial and Government Publications Division, with the exception of newspapers assigned to the Library's area studies divisions. The African and Middle Eastern Division is responsible for foreign and domestic newspapers, original and microform, that are indigenous to the western Asian and the northern African regions such as Amharic, Arabic, Aramaic, Armenian, Hebrew, Persian, Turkish, Yiddish and others. The Asian Division is responsible for foreign and domestic newspapers, original and microform, in languages indigenous to Asian countries within the scope of the Division such as Bengali, Chinese, Hindi, Indonesian, Japanese, Khmer, Korean, Thai, Urdu, Vietnamese and others. The European Division has custody of unbound and microfilm newspapers published in Europe (with the exception of those assigned to the Law Library) in any of the Slavic languages, and in Estonian, Latvian, and Lithuanian. This large collection contains approximately 30,000 cataloged newspaper titles.

Furthermore, some titles that by current definition are considered newspapers, but have been classified as periodicals in the past, are located in the general collection, in the Microform Reading Room, and in the Rare Book Division---the latter having in its custody single issues of newspapers, which are a part of special collections. Additional publications, commonly considered to be newspapers but classified as periodicals, are the

underground press, military camp newspapers and other specialized titles such as *Women's Wear Daily* or the *National Catholic Reporter*.

III. GENERAL RESEARCH STRENGTHS

The study of journalism and mass communications covers such diverse areas as journalism history, broadcasting, communication theory, public opinion, and communications law. The Library's newspaper holdings are also complemented by rich collections of monographs, serials, and special format materials in the areas of journalism and medial studies. The Newspaper & Current Periodical Reading Room's reference collection includes indexes to newspapers, biographies of journalists and histories of newspapers, and both online and printed union lists of newspapers.

IV. AREAS OF DISTINCTION

The Library's newspaper collection is the most important and extensive anywhere. This collection contains titles from all areas of the globe, representative of most of the independent countries that have existed during the last 350 years, and holds newspapers printed in almost all modern languages. The Library's holdings include a separate group of originals of hundreds of special commemorative and anniversary newspaper editions reporting selected major historical events, and specialized microfilm assemblages, such as underground newspapers, Japanese and German prisoner of war camp newspaper, and early African-American newspapers.

The Library's holdings of 18th century American newspapers are second only to those of the American Antiquarian Society. The Library has the most comprehensive collection of newspaper microfilm in the world, and the largest collection of newspaper indexes in the United States. The Newspaper & Current Periodical Reading Room has an extensive reference collection on the subject of journalism, including the original working reference collection of the Newspaper Association of America. In addition, the Library has access to myriad electronic indexes of both current and retrospective newspapers, most of which offer page-images of newspaper content.

The Library has the largest and most varied collection of sound recordings, motion picture and television films, and videotapes in the United States. Included in this are broadcasting news collections such as the NBC Radio Collection, Meet the Press, the Office of War Information Collection, the NBC Television Collection, and the Armed Forces Radio and Television Service Collection.

The collections of the Library's Prints and Photograph's Division are rich in material relating to the history and culture of the United States, and include photographic prints and negatives of documentary interest such as news photos, cartoon drawings and printed advertisements. Special collections in the Division related to journalism include the Civil War Photograph Collection, New York World-Telegram and Sun Collection, and the

Washington Press-Photo Bureau Collection, as well as U.S. News and World Report Collection of news and documentary photographs, and the recently acquired personal archives of editorial cartoonist Herbert L. Block.

The Library's Manuscript Division holds the papers of many well-known and influential journalists, such as Horace Greeley, Joseph Pulitzer, Joseph Alsop, Anthony Lewis, Eric Sevareid, and Janet Flanner.

V. ELECTRONIC RESOURCES

Other than several outstanding exceptions, newspaper indexes were relatively unknown until the 1970s. With the advent of the Internet and numerous private and public digitization projects, however, both indexing and page-images of newspapers are now widely available. Products like the National Digital Newspaper Program's *Chronicling America* provide access to information about historic newspapers and an increasing number of select digitized pages of public-domain newspapers from various state projects. The Library also purchases a growing number of digital newspaper files from commercially hosted databases on a subscription bases. *NewspaperDirect PressDisplay*, for example, offers online access to current newspapers from around the world in full-color, full-page format.

ProQuest Historical Newspaper offers full-text, full-image articles, photographs, and advertisements from United States metropolitan daily newspapers like the *New York Times*, *Washington Post*, and *Wall Street Journal*, and several major African-American Newspaper like the *Pittsburgh Courier*. *Gale Cengage's Nineteenth Century U.S. Newspaper Digital Archives* provides full-text content and images of American newspapers published during the 19th century, and *Readex's America's Historical Newspapers* features cover-to-cover reproductions of hundreds of 18th and 19th century newspapers. *Accessible Archives* provides files of 19th century African-American newspapers, Civil War newspapers, and William Lloyd Garrison's abolitionist newspaper *The Liberator*.

The Times Digital Archives, produced by Gale Cengage, contains facsimile images of every issue of the *Times of London* from 1785-1985, and the *19th Century British Library Newspapers* collection contains full runs of newspapers specially selected by the British Library to best represent nineteenth century Britain.

In the future, the Library intends to develop the means to aggregate, preserve, and serve content of retrospective files of U.S. and foreign newspapers, consistent with collection criteria, made available through digital conversion efforts similar to *Chronicling America*. In addition, for those newspaper web sites where content is consistent with the Library's collections policy statement, the Library will employ web harvesting to acquire this content. To the degree that we are able to overcome intellectual property rights with publishers, we will acquire long, unbroken files of newspapers, rather than thematic snapshots.

VI. WEAKNESSES/EXCLUSIONS

While the Library has a sizeable collection of original newspaper issues, the vast majority of the collection is on microfilm. This format represents both a strength (reproducibility, Interlibrary Loan access, printing), as well as a weakness if a researcher needs to examine the newspaper artifact. Another of the collection's weaknesses is in the area of pre-20th century, non-European, foreign newspapers. Moreover, the Library does not collect small, local newspapers, relying on area libraries to do that, and college and university newspapers.