The National Digital Newspaper Program

GOALS:

- To enhance access to historic American newspapers

- To develop best practices for the digitization of historic newspapers

- To apply emerging technologies to the products of USNP (United States Newspaper Program, 1984-2010)
  - 140,000 titles cataloged,
  - 900,000 holding records created,
  - more than 75 million pages filmed
The National Digital Newspaper Program

- NEH grants **2-year awards (up to $400k) to state projects**, to select and digitize historic newspapers for full-text access (100,000 pages per award).

- LC creates and **hosts Chronicling America Web site** to provide freely accessible search and discovery for digitized papers and descriptive newspaper records.

- State projects **repurpose NDNP contributions for local purposes**, as desired.
Chronicling America: Historic American Newspapers

- >3.7 million pages
- 1859-1922
- >500 titles from 22 states and DC
- http://chroniclingamerica.loc.gov/

Awards 2005-2010
- 2005 awards - CA, FL, KY, NY, UT, VA (1900-1910)
- 2007 awards - CA, KY, MN, NE, NY, TX, UT, VA (1880-1910)
- 2008 awards - AZ, HI, MO, OH, PA, WA (1880-1922)
- 2009 awards - IL, KS, LA, MT, OK, OR, SC (1860-1922)
- 2010 awards - AZ, HI, MO, NM, OH, PA, TN, VT, WA (1836-1922)
  and onward! (next awards announced July 2011)

Coming Soon:
- Content from states added in 2010 (New Mexico, Tennessee, Vermont)
- Newspapers from 1836-1859
Beyond NDNP

- Data specifications in use beyond NDNP
  - National Libraries - METS/ALTO used in
    - UK, France, Australia, New Zealand, Austria, Norway, Slovenia, Slovak Republic …

- Open-Source Software Development –

  - LC Newspaper Viewer in Action
    - e.g., Oregon Historical Newspapers - [http://oregonnews.uoregon.edu/](http://oregonnews.uoregon.edu/)
    - Other awardees and interested parties working on software development collaboration through SourceForge
Working with Historic Newspapers – Image Characteristics

- Scanned from microfilm 2n negatives
- Large format, little tiny type/varying type quality
- Changes in print technology over time – type, illustrations
- Varying quality: print (paper) and film (lighting, focus, process)
- Damage (acid paper, exposure, handling, etc.)
- Color space is grayscale rather than truly “high contrast” (bitonal)
NDNP Data Specifications

- Should be as simple as is practical, producible with current technology
- Data to be created by multiple producers/vendors, and be aggregated into LC infrastructure
- Support desired research functions of the system
- Support enduring access

DIGITAL OBJECT - Issue

- Archival Image: TIFF
- Production Image: JPEG 2000
- Printable Image: PDF
- ALTO XML for OCR
- METS with MODS/PREMIS/MIX metadata objects (issue/reel)
JPEG2000 in NDNP

- Specification derived from "JPEG 2000 Profile for the National Digital Newspaper Program" Report, April 2006 (Prepared by Robert Buckley and Roger Sam)

- Conforms with JPEG 2000, Part 1 (.jp2)
- Use 9-7 irreversible (lossy) filter
- Compressed to 1/8 of the TIFF or 1 bit/pixel
- Tiling, but no precincts
- Identifying RDF/Dublin Core metadata in XML box
- See NDNP JPEG2000 v2.7 profile - http://www.loc.gov/ndnp/guidelines/archive/JPEG2kSpecs09.pdf
## Benefits and Challenges of working with JPEG2000

### Benefits
- Format is free to use
- Efficient compression (limited)
- Data transfer efficiency for access
- Supports tiling and efficient transformation supporting pan/zoom Web functions
- Used for production, reduces amount of storage needed on access servers

### Challenges
- Complex format, little forgiveness
- Complex specification, not available to the public
- Patent encumbered specification
- Commercial tool support – expensive and inconsistent
- Open-source tool support – limited in both conformance and performance
Uses and Alternatives

- How JPEG2000 are used in NDNP:
  - Used in “production” role: used to export JPEG files to Web browser, supports “pan/zoom” behavior; available for download (compact file size)
  - Aware Imaging Library from Python (wrote code)

- Alternatives in use by NDNP Awardees:
  - Direct delivery of JPEG (browser native)
  - Pre-tiled single file in any format (PNG, JPEG, GIF)
  - Lossless compressed TIF (LZW)
  - Dynamic, cached delivery of derivatives (PNG, JPEG, GIF)
Thank you!

- NDNP Public Web [http://www.loc.gov/ndnp/](http://www.loc.gov/ndnp/)
- NDNP Web Service
  *Chronicling America: Historic American Newspapers* [http://chroniclingamerica.loc.gov](http://chroniclingamerica.loc.gov)
- Contact us at ndnptech@loc.gov
- Technical contact: dbrun@loc.gov