Chronicling America
“Turning Points in History”

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Webinar Tips

Use the Q&A panel to ask questions.

This presentation will be recorded and available for viewing afterwards in the Library's Event Videos collection.

loc.gov/collections/event-videos/
“Turning Points in History”

National History Day
Turning Points in History

“A turning point in history is more than just an important event that happened a long time ago. It is more than a new idea or a particular action taken by an individual. A turning point is an idea, event, or action that directly, or sometimes indirectly, causes change.”

(National History Day, NHD.org)
Next Steps:

Narrow General Ideas to Topics
- Define Interests

Select a Topic
- Fit the Theme
- Variety of Sources
- Historical Impact

Develop a Historical Argument or Thesis
- Explain significance to the theme
- Roadmap for your project
- Make a disputable claim
- Support arguments using historical evidence
Early American Innovation and Technology

Next Steps Example:

The invention of the Cotton Gin

The introduction of the Cotton Gin became the turning point in Early American History and Industrialization because it increased productivity at cotton plantations leading to mass slavery.

What are they and how do you find them?

Historical Newspapers
What are Historical Newspapers?

“Historical” Newspapers are newspapers published between the 17th to mid-20th century. Known as "first draft" of U.S. history as recorded in the press.

• May reflect the language and attitudes of their time.
• May contain biased, offensive, and outdated words and images that may be hurtful to particular groups or people.

From Print to Microfilm to Digitization

Historical newspapers were first printed on paper and then preserved as microfilm. Now microfilm are being digitized.

A growing amount of historical newspapers are digitized and can be found available online, free of access while others are available through subscription databases.

Digitization is an important preservation measure and it improves discoverability of newspaper content: digitized newspapers are typically word-searchable, while microfilm is not (it must be examined page by page).
Chronicling America (chroniclingamerica.loc.gov)

- Searchable digital collection of Historical American newspaper pages produced under the National Digital Newspaper Program (NDNP).
- The National Digital Newspaper Program (NDNP) is a joint partnership between the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) and the Library of Congress (2005-Present).
- Provides free and open-use access to millions of newspapers published through 1963.
- Chronicling America does not have every U.S. newspaper ever published, but there are newspapers from every state and territory, including three thousand newspaper titles and millions of pages.

For a list of NDNP State Awardees, see: https://www.loc.gov/ndnp/awards/
Title Essays

Filipino forum

The brainchild of editor, writer, and publisher Vittorio Velasco, the Seattle Filipino Forum was one of the many newspapers aimed at the early 20th century’s growing Filipino community in Seattle and the broader Pacific Northwest. Velasco had previously edited the Philippine Seattle Colonist, the Seattle Philippine American Review (later the Philippine Review), and a handful of canny newsletters. The Filipino Forum published bi-weekly from October 1928 until 1937, and then monthly after returning from a hiatus in 1943. The Forum reached, at its height, 4,000 subscribers in the Seattle area and beyond.

Though only briefly the paper’s masthead motto, Filipino Forum held itself to the standard of “Independent but not Neutral” throughout its printing. It was consistently a pro-labor, pro-Philippine Independence voice in the region. Labor issues in the canny industry were of particular relevance to the paper’s audience, as the Filipino population swelled in the early part of the 20th century thanks to industry’s need for workers. So, too, was news from the Philippines. Sometimes placed in the section “Philippine News in Brief,” sometimes simply on the front page, international news coverage was a priority over the life of the paper. Covering such diverse stories as The Tydings-McDuffie Act, Philippine independence after World War II, and the election of Ferdinand Marcos in the waning days of the paper, news from across the Pacific was always granted prominent placement.

Back home in Seattle, sections such as “Bremerton News,” “Here and There,” “News from Minnesota,” “News from Pullman,” “Chinatown Whispers,” and “Brevities” covered local beauty pageants, social gatherings, graduations, weddings, society news, and gossip about who was seen with whom and on what occasions. Local coverage incorporated labor issues, especially in the sections on Bremerton and Pullman. The paper also covered local news beyond the participation of Filipino Seattleites. The Seattle World’s Fair, or Century 21 Exposition, is one example of that coverage. Beyond the news of the day, the paper also featured poetry in English and Filipino in the section “Filipiniana,” aphorisms in wit and humor, and advertisements for local businesses and products.

In the paper’s first issue, a letter to the editor stated: "We need such a medium to bring closer together all the Filipinos that are scattered in the city and in neighboring towns. It will promote better cooperation and a more concerted action of the Filipino community not only in the city of Seattle where there are no less than one thousand but also in the other cities of the state and in fact throughout the whole Pacific Northwest. I pray that this enterprise which you have just started will find a long and serviceable life..." The paper lived up to that wish, serving the Seattle Filipino and Filipino American community long enough to feature Vittorio Velasco’s obituary in its latter days.

Example: The Filipino Forum

https://chroniclingamerica.loc.gov/essays/1541/
Topics in Chronicling America

Check our Research Guides for inspiration: https://guides.loc.gov/chronicling-america-topics

Guides by Themes in History

This research guide gathers together a collection of topical guides that tell various stories of America through the newspapers available in Chronicling America. Listed here are research guides, organized by themes in American History. Intended to be a starting point for research. If you have any questions or need assistance, use the Ask a Librarian contact form.
Assassination of Archduke Franz Ferdinand: Topics in Chronicling America

Two shots in Sarajevo ignited the fires of war and drew Europe toward World War I. Just hours after narrowly escaping an assassin's bomb, Archduke Franz Ferdinand, the heir to Austro-Hungarian throne and his wife, the Duchess of Hohenberg, are killed by Gavrilo Princip. A month later, Austria-Hungary declares war on Serbia and Europe rapidly descends into chaos. Read more about it!

The timeline below highlights important dates related to this topic and provides a suggested search strategy for further research.

**Timeline**
- **June 28, 1914**: Archduke Franz Ferdinand and his wife are killed by an assassin's bullet just hours after they escaped another assassination attempt. Gavrilo Princip is immediately arrested for the shooting and Nedeljko Cabrinovic is caught firing after the bomb attempt.
- **June 29, 1914**: Martial law is declared in Sarajevo in the wake of the assassination. On the same day, Sir Thomas Barcfay of England predicts the danger of war in central Europe is greatly lessened by the assassination.
- **July 23, 1914**: Austria-Hungary issues an ultimatum to Serbia.

Search Strategies

- Use the following terms in combination, proximity, or as a phrase: Archduke Franz Ferdinand, Austria-Hungary, Bismarck, Bosnia, Emperor Franz Joseph, Francis Ferdinand, Gavrilo Princip, Hapsburg, Habsburg, Hohenberg, Serbo, Servia.
- It is important to use a specific date range if looking for articles for a particular event in order to narrow your results.
- The names of people are often spelled differently in different publications, because of different transliterations from the Cyrillic alphabet. For instance, Cabrinovic and Gabricovic are alternate spellings of Cabrinovic, just as Zarejko, Sarajevo, and Sarajevo are for Sarajevo, and Gavrilo Prinzip is an alternate form for Gavrilo Princip.

Selected Articles

- "Heir to Austrian Throne Assassinated: Wife by His Side Also Shot to Death; Earlier Attempt on Their Lives Failed" New-York Tribune (New York, NY). June 29, 1914, Page 1, Image 1, Col. 7.
- "Durch Morderhand" Tagliches Cincinnatii Volksblatt (Cincinnati, Ohio). June 29, 1914, Page 1, Image 1, Col. 3.
- "Austria is to Sift Plot in Duke's Death" Rock Island Argus (Rock Island, IL). June 29, 1914, Page 1, Image 1, Col. 1.
- "Condolences From All Points Pour Into Austrian Capital" The Ogden Standard (Ogden, UT). June 29, 1914, Page 1, Image 1, Col. 1.
- "Victims of Assassin's Bullets" The Democratic Banner (Mt. Vernon, Ohio). June 30, 1914, Page 1, Image 1, Col. 1.
Effectively Using Historical Newspapers in National History Day Research
Newspapers as Primary or Secondary Sources

**Primary Sources**
- Created by people at the time of the event.
- May provide conflicting perspectives, accounts or opinions.
- Essential for understanding an event or time because they were created by people who experienced it.
- “Primary sources are the raw materials of history original documents and objects which were created at the time under study.”

**Secondary Sources**
- Created by someone who did not participate in the event.
- Secondary sources use and cite primary sources and for historical research, secondary sources are generally scholarly books and articles.
- Help build the historical research from multiple perspectives and give historical research context.
- Secondary sources are documents from a time and place after the event that help historians analyze and draw conclusions. Secondary sources “retell, analyze, or interpret events, usually at a distance of time or place.”
### Analyze each Newspaper Article

Before committing yourself to using an article, first analyze it and ask yourself:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Question</th>
<th>Answer</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Reliability</strong></td>
<td>Is the source of the newspaper article known and reliable, trustworthy, and accurate?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Relevance</strong></td>
<td>Is the newspaper article relevant to the topic?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Perspective</strong></td>
<td>Whose perspective or opinion is present in the newspaper article?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Missing or Excluded Perspectives/Opinions</strong></td>
<td>Are there any missing perspectives or opinions?</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Some Issues with Newspapers

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Historic Vocabulary:</th>
<th>Difficulty in identifying the author and their perspective</th>
<th>Articles written in-the-moment sometimes have incomplete information or statistics</th>
<th>Opinions by opposing groups may not be fully or accurately represented</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| • Words change over time and you may not find what you're looking for if you don't use the correct term.  
• Current terms vs. terms used in the past may vary and yield different results ex. "women's rights" v. "suffrage").  
• Different regions refer to events, names, and places differently. | • Most by-lines in historic newspaper articles are not present. | • A topic or event spanning multiple days will require more research and analysis to ensure information was correct.  
• Sometimes newspapers will post corrections to their articles, sometimes they won't. | • For example, newspapers written for and by various Ethnic or labor groups will focus on their audience and their concerns rather than opinions and news that do not represent or involve them. |
Tips and Suggestions in dealing with Newspapers

Establish Context
- Newspaper articles came from a particular time and space in history
- Consider what was happening during that time and if any of that could relate to the newspaper article, potential bias, or how people/events were portrayed.

Read Articles several days after the moment
- After in-the-moment events happen, more information becomes available
- Seek articles from different Newspaper Titles/Publishers

Use additional types of sources
- Including secondary sources!
- This may help you validate and verify numbers, statistics, and dates

Check the Newspaper’s Title Essay
- If it is digitized in Chronicling America, it will have a Newspaper Title Essay submitted by an NDNP State Awardee
Created by partners in the National Digital Newspaper Program, this resource hopes to serve researchers at all levels through demonstrations and explanations of search terms related to race and ethnicity in Chronicling America.

https://edsitement.neh.gov/media-resources/race-and-ethnicity-keyword-thesaurus-chronicling-america
Searching Tips

Chronicling America
Basic Search

- Start your research with a few simple keywords to see how much you can find, and add more specific terms or filters later, to narrow your search results.
Basic Search- List of Results

The basic search returns all supported languages and the results listed first are most likely to be relevant to your search. Results will appear higher in the list when they contain:

- exact matches of your search terms;
- more of your search terms;
- repeated search terms;
- search terms that occur near each other.
Basic Search

- Narrow list of results by relevance, state, title, or date.
- Check the “Show Front Pages Only” box.
Basic Search - Article from the Holbrook Argus (Holbrook, AZ)

- Search terms are highlighted.
- Title of the newspaper appears at the top, along with the institution that provided the microfilm used to create the digital file.
- Citation appears at the bottom of the page.
Basic Search - Don’t forget to save!

- Don’t forget to save what you find—download the PDF of the page or use the clipping tool to get a smaller section. Zoom in on the section you want, press the blue scissors symbol, and save an image of your clipping!
Basic Search – Note on Language

- Because language changes, be sure to use search terms used at the time the materials were created, even if those terms are now obsolete. For example, historic terms will produce more results than their modern-day counterparts. For example,
  - filling station for gas, or service station
  - Afro American, colored man or women, or Negro for Black or African American
  - suffrage for voting rights.
Basic Search-About the Newspaper

Title essays are provided by NDNP award recipients and summarize the history, scope, and general content of the newspaper as concisely as possible.
Basic Search—Don’t Forget to Cite!

And remember to always cite your sources. It gives credit to the source of your information. Under every newspaper page in the database, there is an available citation. Copy, paste, and you’re done!
Advanced Search Option

An advanced search in Chronicling America allows the researcher to limit results by state, by a particular newspaper, a specific date range, or language.
Advanced Search—Proximity

Remember, common words such as **and**, **not**, and **the** are ignored by the search engine.

And, the case of letters is ignored—simply type in, “madam cj walker.”

Results Displayed as Gallery or List View.
Advanced Search - Search Phrase

Select the Advanced Search tab and enter your phrase in the appropriate "...with the phrase" search box.

When searching for a phrase, enter the words in the order they are most likely to occur.

The order of search words does not affect the scope of the search results, but it will affect the order of their display.

Example: Type “madam cj walker” as a search phrase.
All Digitized Newspapers Tab

Allows you to view and download all newspaper titles within the collection or limit by state, ethnicity, or language of newspaper. Ex: African-American newspapers
Searching Tips

Too Many Results –
Research basic dates of when someone lived in a place, or the dates of important milestones, can help you to narrow down your searches.

Try using more specific terms and/or limiting to a specific state of publication or a particular newspaper title.

Use the search box options in combination to narrow your results.

Too Few Results –
Try alternate terms or broader subjects and relax any limiting criteria (date ranges, state limitations, etc.).

If you need more help, you can find some useful information on the Help page.
Topics in Chronicling America Research Guides

Introduction
Chronicling America provides the access to millions of historic American newspaper pages published through 1922. Listed here are topics widely covered in the American press of the time. Each guide contains a brief introduction to the topic, recommended search strategies, and selected articles from Chronicling America meant to jump start your research process. If you have questions or would like to suggest other topics, use the Ask a Librarian contact form.

HIGHLIGHTS

- Assassination of Archduke Franz Ferdinand: Two photos in Sarajevo igniting the First World War (1914). This guide provides access to materials related to the assassination of Archduke Franz Ferdinand.
- World War I: Declarations: From 1914 to 1918, newspapers published declarations of war over 200 times. This guide provides access to materials related to World War I.
- Spanish American War: A guide for researching the topic of the "Spanish-American War," which took place from 1898 to 1902, of the collection of Chronicling America digital collection of Hispanic newspapers.

Guides by Themes in History

- Change and Revolution
- Communication and Exchange
- Conflict and Diplomacy
- Discovery and Exploration
- Rights and Responsibilities
- Science and Technology
- Tragedy and Triumph
- Work and Leisure

About Chronicling America
Chronicling America is a digital collection of historic newspaper pages from 1777-1922 sponsored jointly by the National Endowment for the Humanities and the Library of Congress. Included in the website is a Directory of US Newspapers in American Libraries, a descriptive index to newspapers published in the United States since 1869 which switch
Jim Thorpe, Native American Athlete: Topics in Chronicling America

Jim Thorpe was a Native American multi-sport athlete in track and field, baseball, football, and even basketball. This guide provides access to material related to "Jim Thorpe" in the Chronicling America digital collection of historic newspapers.

Introduction

Search Strategies & Selected Articles

Newspapers & Current Periodicals

Ask a Librarian

Have a question? Need assistance? Use our online form to ask a librarian for help.

Chat with a Librarian, Monday through Friday, 12-2 pm Eastern Time (except Federal Holidays).

About Chronicling America

Chronicling America is a searchable digital collection of historic newspaper pages from 1770-1963.

Considered the best all-around athlete of modern times, Native American James "Jim" Thorpe won gold medals in both the pentathlon and the decathlon in the 1912 Stockholm Summer Olympics. Scandal struck in late January 1913 when he was stripped of his titles by the Amateur Athletic Union after admitting he had played professional baseball prior to the Games. Within days of the judgement, however, Thorpe had signed on with the New York Giants and went on to play years of professional baseball, football, and basketball. Read more about it!

The information in this guide focuses on primary source materials found in the digitized historic newspapers from the digital collection Chronicling America.

The timeline below highlights important dates related to this topic and a section of this guide provides some suggested search strategies for further research in the collection.
Various maps and visualizations created using Chronicling America newspaper data to allow different ways of exploring the collection.
Chronicling America

Additional Resources

Other Digitized Newspapers Collections:

https://loc.gov/newspapers/collections
Subscribe for regular updates!

**Headlines and Heroes Blog**
https://blogs.loc.gov/headlinesandheroes/

**Chronicling America: Historic American Newspapers**

**Recent Additions to Chronicling America: Historic American Newspapers**
Additional Resources

NEH/NHD/LOC

• NEH Teacher’s Guide: Preparing for National History Day
  • [https://edsitement.neh.gov/teachers-guides/preparing-national-history-day](https://edsitement.neh.gov/teachers-guides/preparing-national-history-day)

• National History Day – Library of Congress Resources
  • [https://www.nhd.org/library-congress-tps](https://www.nhd.org/library-congress-tps)

• LOC Teachers: Getting Started with Primary Sources
Follow @ChronAmLOC on Twitter

Chronicle America Historic Newspapers

News from the Chronicling America historic newspapers collection, sponsored by @LibraryCongress and @NEHgov as part of the National Digital Newspaper Program.

Washington, DC  chronicleamericana.loc.gov  Joined July 2021

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Thank you for attending today’s session!

Send additional questions to Ask-a-Librarian

https://ask.loc.gov/newspapers-periodicals

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