The Delaware Digital Newspaper Project (DDNP) and Chronicling America

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Overview

- National Digital Newspaper Program (NDNP)
- Delaware Digital Newspaper Project (DDNP)
- Chronicling America (ChronAm)
  - Tutorial
  - Content limitations
National Digital Newspaper Program (NDNP)

- Funded by the National Endowment for the Humanities
- Supported by the Library of Congress
- NDNP timeline: 2005 - present
- Includes digitized microfilm, 1690 - 1963
- 48 states, 2 U.S. territories, Washington, D.C.
- ~100K pages per grant phase
- Over 15 million pages included in Chronicling America database (and growing)

NDNP Website: https://www.loc.gov/ndlndp/
NDNP Spatial Coverage

National Digital Newspaper Program, 2005-2019

https://www.loc.gov/ndlpi/images/map_2019.png
Delaware Digital Newspaper Project (DDNP)

2015-2017 -- Focus on newspapers with available master microfilm (1789-1922)

2017-2019 -- Focus on long runs, titles of note (1888-1922)

2019-2021 -- Proposed focus on Southern Delaware (including some post-1922 content)

DE Progress

• ~195K pages
• 106 titles
• Primarily New Castle County

DDNP Website: https://library.udel.edu/ddnp/
Chronicling America Database

What is Chronicling America?

- Database that provides full-text searching of digitized historic newspapers
- Includes historic essay for each title
- Freely-accessible, no login required
DDNP / ChronAm Video

Shareable Link: https://library.udel.edu/instruction/tutorials/chroniclingamerica/
https://capture.udel.edu/media/Chronicling+America+Tutorial+-+%28Prize+Announcement%29/1_eazgzaki
Coverage Limitations

Be careful drawing conclusions

- Length of involvement by states
- Grant funding limitations
- Advisory board decisions
- Underrepresented minority papers
- Some content in other databases is behind a paywall
- Quality of originals, ability to save print

Impossible to include everything!
Other Limitations

- Grant limitations on dates
- Copyright
- Inconsistent/mixed fonts
- Fading text
- Missing characters
- Page bleed-through

- Column confusion
- Tight gutters/missing text
- Poor-quality originals

ChronAm cannot search everything!
Something is better than nothing.
Key Takeaways

- A lot of historical content available for full-text searching
- Valuable, free primary resource
- Content from the majority of the U.S. (lacking MA and NH)
- Be mindful of database / content / searching limitations
- We are available for questions about DDNP or Chronicling America
Additional Resources

Chronicling America: About -- https://chroniclingamerica.loc.gov/about/

Chronicling America: Historic American Newspapers (Video Tutorial) --
https://library.udel.edu/instruction/tutorials/chroniclingamerica/

Delaware Digital Newspaper Project -- http://library.udel.edu/ddnp/

Delaware Newspapers Research Guide -- http://guides.lib.udel.edu/delawarenewspapers

Extra! Extra! NDNP Extras! (Teaching Resources) -- https://www.loc.gov/ndnp/extras/
  ● Includes searching tips, lesson plans, videos, etc.

National Digital Newspaper Program (NDNP) -- https://www.loc.gov/ndnp/

Teacher’s Guide: Preparing for National History Day. EDSITEment! National Endowment for the Humanities. --
https://edsitement.neh.gov/teachers-guides/preparing-national-history-day
Contact Information

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