The Chronicling America database provides free full text online access to over 15 million pages of digital Historic American newspapers. Funded by the National Endowment for the Humanities and supported by the Library of Congress, Chronicling America has content from state partners.
spanning nearly two centuries.

This resource is free for anyone to access online from home, school, work or anywhere with internet access.

Content continues to grow every year.

In this video you will learn how newspapers can enhance your research and how you can
use Chronicling America to

search, refine, and cite

the information

that you find.

Newspapers are valuable

primary resource

that provide

diverse perspectives

on daily life in

America and reactions to

major turning points in history.

These perspectives come in the form of

articles, letters, obituaries, poems,
advertisements, and more.

Chronicling America

has been use to strengthen

personal research, enhance

National History
Day projects

and create award winning

digital humanities projects.

Chronicling
America gives two

searching options in
tabs at the top of

the main page. Search
Pages, or basic
search, and an advanced search that gives you more filtering options.

When starting your research it is often best to begin with very broad key terms to get a sense of what content is available and then narrow your search.

For instance, if I am interested in women's suffrage I can type the broad topic
of "women's suffrage" in the search pages search box to find over 62 thousand results.

If you look closely at the results page you will see key terms highlighted in the image thumbnails. The more highlighting you see the more times your key terms
If your initial key terms do not render the best results try adding or removing words and consider synonyms for search terms already used.

If you receive too many results you can easily narrow down the list by using the advanced search tab to limit by state of publication, date range,
As your topic becomes more specific you can use specific names, places, events, and dates to find the most relevant results.

Keep in mind that historic newspapers had a delay in reporting events.

So make sure to look at a range of dates to capture all of the coverage.
Articles aren't the only thing you can find in Chronicling America.

If you search carefully you can find advertisements, cartoons and other information that can help you put your topic into historical context.

When you find that perfect article or image always remember to cite your resource.
pre-generated citation

85
00:03:08,330 --> 00:03:10,580
at the bottom of
every full image page

86
00:03:10,580 --> 00:03:12,740
to get you started.
But make sure you

87
00:03:12,740 --> 00:03:14,030
follow the citation style

88
00:03:14,030 --> 00:03:15,905
that best matches
your needs.

89
00:03:15,905 --> 00:03:17,990
Keep in mind that
you are searching

90
00:03:17,990 --> 00:03:19,820
digital microfilm
with images that

91
00:03:19,820 --> 00:03:22,040
can be two
centuries old. Faded

92
00:03:22,040 --> 00:03:24,920
text, mixed fonts,
page rips, or other

93
00:03:24,920 --> 00:03:26,780
natural limitations can impact

00:03:26,780 --> 00:03:29,480
full text searching. Use the database to

00:03:29,480 --> 00:03:31,580
narrow results but don't hesitate to

00:03:31,580 --> 00:03:35,730
manually read through the content to find the perfect results.