Digital Collection Evaluation: Review of a Digital Newspaper Collection held by The Library of Congress, The University of Florida Library, and The University of North Texas Library

James Gross, Drexel University
Assignment#3

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Drexel University, Info 653

Dr. Ding

10/27/2013
This summary will briefly focus on three digital collections. The subject area chosen for this paper is historical newspaper collections. I will briefly discuss 5 criteria, which I used to select and review my chosen repository collections.

[1.] Quality: I selected the three repositories primarily based on subject matter and respective domains. Collection size was examined too. I searched using OALster, but primarily used the OpenDOAR, ROAR, and Google search engines, based on subject. I found the OpenDOAR repository list to be helpful in my repository search. All three selected repositories are considered primary sources. The Library of Congress (LC), Chronicling America, Historic American Newspapers, uses the domain (.gov). Governmental sources are considered to be credible. Its collection size is 6.6 million images. The University of Florida Digital Collections, Florida Digital Newspaper Library (FDNL) is credible as it uses the (.edu) domain. Its collection size is 1.5 million images (UF, 2013a). The University of North Texas Library (UNT) hosts the digital repository, Portal to Texas History (PTH). Its holdings include the Texas Digital Newspaper Program (UNT, 2013a). The (Texas) PTH digital repository is credible, using the (.edu) domain. The TDNP collection size is 1 million pages (UNT, 2013b).

[2.] Selection: According to the LC, materials are selected by the National Digital Newspaper Program. The NDNP selected materials based on catalog records held by state institutions (LC, 2013a). The National Endowment for the Humanities funded state sponsored projects to locate, catalog, and scan select newspapers (LC, 2013a). Multi-year NEH grants will ensure that this project will continue to be funded (LC, 2013a). The (Florida) FDNL Library website states that they “encourage and support collaboration on digital collections and digital scholarship” (UF, 2013b). The (Florida) FDNL website also states that it is constantly growing with new resources (UF, 2013b).

The (Texas) UNT Library has a collections development department and a collections development policy (UNT, 2013c). Its priority is to support the UNT libraries with “guidance and digital services” (UNT, 2013c). They identify scholarly resources, acquire library materials, and perform collection assessments (UNT, 2013d). In addition, they are responsible for evaluation of the collection strengths as well as the identification of needed research resources to support the UNT’s curriculum (UNT, 2013d). Multi-year grants date back to 2000, indicating to me that this repository will continue to receive funding for future digitizing projects (UNT 2013e). The (Texas) UNT Library,” actively seeks partnerships to digitize Texas newspapers covering a broad geographic area and to make the newspapers freely available on the Internet” (UNT, 2013f).

[3.] Authority: The LC, a federal repository, is the research library of the US Congress. It is supported by funding from Congress. The LC maintains a long-term preservation policy on its website (LC, 2013b). The (Florida) FDNL library, a federal repository, indicates that it has a collaborative partnership with other institutions in regard to its digital holdings (UF, 2013b). The FDNL is a department within the George Smathers Library. This library is well trusted as it is a regional federal, state, and European Union documents depository which serves Florida (UF, 2013c).

The (Texas) UNT Library is a designated federal and state repository library (UNT, 2013f). It contains collections which are supported by collaborative efforts of the UNT Digital Projects Unit. This unit works with the Texas State Library and Archives Commission, the Dolph Briscoe Center for American History, and the Texas Heritage Digitization Initiative (UNT, 2013g). The UNT library’s long term preservation policies state, “We use best practices and apply standards to our work to ensure its long term preservation as well as availability on the Internet “(UNT, 2013h).

[4.] Value & Services: The LC Chronicling America, is part of the National Digital Information Infrastructure and Preservation Program (NDIIPP), and is helping to develop a national strategy to collect, archive and preserve the growing amounts of digital content for current and future users (LC, 2013c). The (Florida) FDNL library enables users to access “news and history of Florida” (UF, 2013c). The (Texas) UNT Library has a mission to provide reference services and information to the community. It has a goal of becoming a top-tier research library by 2015 (UNT, 2013i).

[5] Accessibility & usability: All three of the reviewed repositories are fully accessible and usable in the open-environment. The LC digital repository is geared towards a wide range of users. In contrast, the (Florida) FDNL Library repository and the (Texas) UNT Library repository are both primarily geared towards their academic community. All three repositories had basic and advanced search menus. Of the three repositories, I found the LC and Florida (FDNL) repositories easier to access than the Texas (UNT) repository as the Texas repository required more menu layers to locate the desired collection.
References:


[UNT] University of North Texas (2013i). Dean’s Wiki, University of North Texas Library, retrieved 10/24/2013 from: http://dean.library.unt.edu/Main_Page
Appendix

Digital Collection Review (1)

Collection Title: ___Library of Congress, Chronicling America, Historic American Newspapers___

URL: ________ http://chroniclingamerica.loc.gov/______________________________________

Host organization: _____Library of Congress_____________________________________________

The collection can be found in:

- OAIster (http://oaister.worldcat.org/ ) Yes ☐ No ☐
- ROAR (http://roar.eprints.org/ ) Yes ☐ No ☐
- OpenDOAR (http://www.opendoar.org/ ) Yes ☐ No ☐

Ratings:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Your rating</th>
<th>Possible values for the rating</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Collection Size</td>
<td>Large</td>
<td>Well done. Collection comes from projects funded by NEH and LC. Overall collection size is listed as 6.6 million images, include scanned newspapers.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Quality</td>
<td>excellent</td>
<td>Images are available as pdf and jpg</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Currency</td>
<td>unknown</td>
<td>No date at bottom of page, no listed reports</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Scope</td>
<td>Focused coverage</td>
<td>State historical newspapers scanned. Initial date range 1900-1910, subsequent date range 1836-1922.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Audience</td>
<td>unknown</td>
<td>LC website is available for: “noncommercial, educational and research purposes” In my opinion, it is useful for students, researchers and members of the public.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Content Organization</td>
<td>Excellent organization</td>
<td>Content is listed by state, ethnicity, or language</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Controlled Vocabulary</td>
<td>Excellent usage</td>
<td>Available within advanced search</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Browsing and Navigation</td>
<td>excellent</td>
<td>Website browsing and site navigation is simple due to column on left and options on top.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Searching</strong></td>
<td><strong>excellent</strong></td>
<td><strong>Basic or advanced search option. Multiple options for searching. Recommended topics and Help section included.</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>--------------</td>
<td>-------------</td>
<td>---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Management</strong></td>
<td><strong>5</strong></td>
<td><strong>Primary source, very trustworthy, well-supported as funded by US Congress, well managed, helps set standards and long-term goals for collection preservation and collection building.</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Review**

(No more than 200 words)

The Library of Congress, *Chronicling America* repository is a digital repository for the subject area of historical newspapers. The LC holds over 6.6 million digitized images for the subject area of newspapers.

Developed: The Chronicling America newspaper project is produced by the National Digital Newspaper Program (NDNP). This was funded by the NEH in its sponsored United States Newspaper Program.

NDNP is a partnership between the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) and the Library of Congress (LC). NEH funds statewide participation. It is a long-term effort to develop an Internet-based, searchable database of U.S. newspapers with descriptive information and select digitization of historic pages.

Organized: Hierarchical and linear organization. Link at top of main LC site takes user to main digital collections site. Clearly identified topical links on the left and collection links in middle direct users to the *Chronicling America* section. The scanned newspaper images are accessible based on common web protocols and access is not restricted.

Maintained: The LC maintains the website using open source software. There is no date on the website, but an IT update indicates the website was last updated 10/22/2013, 5 days ago. The website appears to be routinely updated.
Digital Collection Review (2)

Collection Title: University of Florida Digital Collections, Florida Digital Newspaper Library

URL: http://ufdc.ufl.edu/

Host organization: University of Florida, George Smathers Library

The collection can be found in:

- OAIster (http://oaister.worldcat.org/) Yes ☐ No ☑
- ROAR (http://roar.eprints.org/) Yes ☑ No ☐
- OpenDOAR (http://www.opendoar.org/) Yes ☑ No ☐

Ratings:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Your rating</th>
<th>Possible values for the rating</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Collection Size</td>
<td>Large</td>
<td>Well done. Digitized collection comes from projects funded by NEH and LC. Overall collection size is listed as 8 million images, include 1.5 million scanned newspaper images.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Quality</td>
<td>good</td>
<td>Images are available as jpg</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Currency</td>
<td>Up to date</td>
<td>Date of 2013 listed at bottom of page, recent progress reports are available</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Scope</td>
<td>Various coverage</td>
<td>builds on the work done in microfilm within the Florida Newspaper Project</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Audience</td>
<td>Students &amp; the public</td>
<td>students, researchers and members of the public.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Content Organization</td>
<td>good organization</td>
<td>Drop down from main library page, subdirectory is listed by newspaper title, map browse,</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Controlled Vocabulary</td>
<td>Excellent usage</td>
<td>Available within advanced search</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Browsing and Navigation</td>
<td>Difficult to use</td>
<td>Digital collection must be selected from main page. Location of drop down menu may be confusing. Need to go from main menu to submenu.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-------------------------</td>
<td>------------------</td>
<td>----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Searching</td>
<td>Good</td>
<td>Basic or advanced search option. Multiple options for searching. Help section included.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Management</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>Primary source, extensive cooperative agreements with other Florida institutions. Large technical FAQ section.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Review**

(no more than 200 words)

The University of Florida Digital Collections, *Florida Digital Newspaper Library*, is a component of The University of Florida Digital Collections. It is part of the George Smathers Library. The library is a designated federal repository. It holds over 8.8 million digitized images, including 1 million digitized newspaper images.

Developed: The digital library was inaugurated in 2000, along with the Publication of Archival, Library and Museum Materials project (PALMM). The UF Library has in-state and out of state partnerships with area libraries and academic institutions.

The PALMM project was a cooperative digital venture to support individual and cooperative initiatives among the Florida university libraries and to digitize important collections throughout the university system. The Exlibris/Aleph library management system is currently used.

Organized: Hierarchical organization. On the left column, within Libraries and collections, select UF Digital Collections on homepage. Then scroll down and select Florida Digital Newspaper Library (FDNL). The scanned newspaper images within the “*Florida Digital Newspaper Library*” are derived from holdings of the UF Smathers Library and its partner libraries. Access is not restricted. Sitemap available.

Maintained: The UF Smathers Library maintains the website using open source software. The website appears to be current, dated 2013. Progress reports are available.
Collection Title: ___ Portal to Texas History, Texas Digital Newspaper Program ______________

(Collection)URL: ______ http://texashistory.unt.edu/explore/collections/TDNP/ ______________

(Host library)URL: _____ http://www.library.unt.edu/ _________________________________

Host organization: ______ University of North Texas Library __________________________

The collection can be found in:

- OAIster (http://oaister.worldcat.org/) Yes ☐ No ☐
- ROAR (http://roar.eprints.org/) Yes ☐ No ☐
- OpenDOAR (http://www.opendoar.org/) Yes ☐ No ☐

Ratings:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Your rating</th>
<th>Possible values for the rating</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Collection Size</td>
<td>large</td>
<td>Well done. Overall digital holdings of 5.3 million images, include 1 million scanned newspaper images.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Quality</td>
<td>excellent</td>
<td>Images are available in 4 levels of quality, jpg</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Currency</td>
<td>Up-to-date</td>
<td>Date at bottom of page, email updates available</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Scope</td>
<td>Various</td>
<td>Limited information regarding collection scope.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>coverage</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Audience</td>
<td>Clearly-defined</td>
<td>Website available to “worldwide audience.” This includes students, faculty and the public.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Content Organization</td>
<td>Good</td>
<td>Content is listed by partner, collection, and language.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vocabulary</td>
<td>Excellent</td>
<td>Available within advanced search.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Browsing and Navigation</td>
<td>ok</td>
<td>Hierarchical navigation. On main Library page, select digital collections, then select Portal to Texas History, then select Texas Digital Newspaper Program. I found navigating on this site to be a bit challenging.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Searching</td>
<td>ok</td>
<td>Basic or advanced search option. The digital library website browsing requires one to examine collections by category. Multiple options for searching. Search guides available.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>---</td>
<td>---</td>
<td>---</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Management</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>Primary source, designated federal repository, trusted, sustainable, well-supported and well-managed.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Review**  
*(no more than 200 words)*

The University of North Texas Library hosts the digital repository called the *Portal to Texas History*. Within this digital repository are a number of collections, including the *Texas Digital Newspaper Program*.

The library holds over 5.3 million digitized images, including 1 million digitized images in the subject area of historical newspapers.

Developed: The Digital Newspaper Unit digitizes newspapers from microfilm masters, collects born-digital newspaper PDFs, and coordinates with their partners in the National Digital Newspaper Program and the Texas Digital Newspaper Program.

NDNP is a statewide partnership between the National Endowment for the Humanities and the Library of Congress. It is a long-term effort to develop an Internet-based, searchable database of digitized historic U.S. newspapers.

Organized: Hierarchical organization. The *Portal to Texas History* is located within the UNT Digital Collections, on the University library’s main website. This repository contains many collections, including the *Texas Digital Newspaper Program*. Users choose the desired collection from right side column listing of collections.

Navigation was occasionally challenging. Access is not restricted. Sitemap available.

Maintained: The University of North Texas Library maintains the website using open source software. The website was last updated 10/21/2013, 6 days ago. The website appears to be regularly updated.
Drexel Honesty blurb

At the beginning of each term, students must submit the following statement with their signature:

I certify that:

• I will submit only my own original work, created without unauthorized collaboration.
• I will not quote the words of any other person from a printed or audio source or a website without indicating what has been quoted and providing an appropriate attribution/citation.
• I will not submit work in this course that has been used to satisfy the requirements of any other course or created to meet other, non-academic requirements.

Signature       james gross

Date           10/27/2013