Delaware & Maryland
In the News:
The National Digital Newspaper Program & Chronicling America

Molly Olney-Zide
Delaware Digital Newspaper Project
University of Delaware
mollyoz@udel.edu

Robin C. Pike
Historic Maryland Newspapers Project
University of Maryland, College Park
rpke@umd.edu
**MOLLY (2-3 minutes)**

Opening prompts:
- How many academic librarians, school librarians, special librarians?
- Has anyone used/taught with ChronAm?
Workshop Takeaways

1. National Digital Newspaper Program
2. Historic Maryland Newspapers Project
3. Delaware Digital Newspaper Project
4. Chronicling America database
   - Details, searching tips & tricks
5. Using Chronicling America in digital humanities
Robin:
The US Newspaper Program (USNP), a National Endowment for the Humanities grant-funded initiative that occurred between 1982-2011, facilitated newspaper preservation and access across all 50 states through the location of newspapers, catalog record creation, and the creation and circulation of microfilm copies of newspapers. Each state in the program designated a repository for the microfilm, with additional use copies sent to many state public libraries and historical societies. In total, this program enabled the cataloging of 150,000 titles, 600,000 holdings, and more than 75 million pages filmed. This project established preservation microfilming standards for newspapers that are still employed today. This project greatly facilitated patrons’ free access to newspapers, although it still presented accessibility issues. Many patrons did not use the microfilm because of the well-known technical and physical limitations posed by the media. Instead, many patrons still preferred published newspaper abstracts. Indexes to births, marriages, and death announcements were essential, particularly when identifying ancestors before 1850 when the census and vital records are incomplete, however, most indexing projects focused on large dailies and county newspapers of record and neglected many titles from smaller towns. Indexers also did not create indexes containing more than names and places, making research into news events and daily life as cumbersome as before.
Robin:
Modeled after the access provided by licensed newspaper databases but with an intent for preservation and access, free newspaper access in the 21st century has evolved from microfilm to a new, freely accessible database of digitized newspapers. Established in 2005 and growing out of the USNP, "The National Digital Newspaper Program (also known as NDNP), a partnership between the National Endowment for the Humanities and the Library of Congress, 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." The project focused on newspapers from 1836-1922 between 2005-2016, and then expanded to include newspapers from 1690-1963, as long as the title is in the public domain. NEH makes one award to each state partner, who in turn collaborates with relevant state partners to include additional content. The awardee digitizes 100,000 pages every two years. State partners are encouraged to seek second and third awards to produce a total of approximately 300,000 digitized pages, though some states have now been granted additional awards. The NDNP award program funds digitization with the goal of funding the content contribution from all US states and territories; as of the 2016 award cycle, 43 states, the District of Columbia, and Puerto Rico have contributed nearly 12 million newspaper pages. Partners are asked to select titles based on high research value, geographic and temporal coverage, and reflecting a variety of ethnic, racial, political, economic, religious, or other special audiences and interest groups. The titles should also not be available on another database. Partners are also encouraged to select higher quality microfilm and with the newspapers on the film being of sufficient completeness to enable the most accurate OCR. In addition to digitized microfilm, awardees are expected to provide 500-word essays about the history of a title, or a family of titles, created through title changes, mergers, or other reasons. Awardees also need to perform a survey of digitized newspapers, and provide this data including links for the titles that are digitized and freely available, such as via the Google mass digitization project.
Robin:
The Historic Maryland Newspapers Project (HMNP) began in 2012 as the Maryland State newspaper digitization project. From 2012-2016 during the first two two-year grant cycles, the project digitized 211,866 pages across 15 families of newspaper titles from 11 cities or regions dating between 1840-1922. In the third grant, we will add an additional 100,000 or more pages from 17 families of titles. The project team and Advisory Board, a group comprised of archivists, librarians, educators, and historians, received proposals from researchers and proposed Maryland newspaper titles for all three grant awards, and prioritized these titles based on NEH content selection criteria and potential use by researchers, including genealogists, building a body of newspapers representing the people, businesses, and culture of Maryland. Because the project is not permitted to digitize newspapers previously digitized and available through other resources, such as commercial databases, the HMNP focused on digitizing community-based and small-town newspapers, which feature a wealth of information about local life. As the Maryland State Partner, UMD does not hold any of the newspapers we are digitizing, and are in a unique position among other NDNP awardees. We have partnered with the Library of Congress, Maryland State Archives, Maryland State Historical Society, and the Frostburg State University Library to gain access to content for this project.
Robin:

In 2012, UMD first started promoting the HMNP via the project website. We then had students do small research projects in their spare time and write short entries about Maryland history for the Special Collections and University Archives blog. The project manager discovered that these stories did not generate much web traffic based on the effort that was involved in creating the essays, so she discontinued this approach. We continued to blog about the project and its process on the Digital Systems and Stewardship division blog, which focused more about the technological process rather than the content.

At the end of the first grant cycle, the project manager instead turned to Wikipedia, a well-indexed place where people frequently turn to find information, and had students elaborate on the title essays, creating more links to the digitized resource. She also hosted several edit-a-thons where she taught community members how to edit Wikipedia and they spent a few hours creating pages that related to Maryland history using the digitized content in Chronicling America. Also at the end of the first grant, the project manager expanded the survey data to include titles that were available via paid resources as well, and with the assistance of developers at UMD, created the Gateway to Digitized Newspapers, a database of all these titles with links back to the free or paid sources.
Robin:
The project manager started a Pinterest account linking to images and ads found throughout the newspaper in the second grant cycle. This project generated some additional interest, but generally had a low return on investment since it was difficult to get people to click through to the content, solely based on images, and the images were only in grayscale, not attracting much visual interest.

Because the project manager left for another opportunity at the end of the second grant, the Newspaper Gateway information was not immediately updated, and the project is still in progress as the second project manager ramps up the third project. The second project manager also has a different approach to social media engagement, and has created Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram accounts, using the additional text allotment, timely events, and trending hashtags to engage with new users.

Prior to the second project manager coming to the project, and based on the feedback gathered from the Advisory Board at a fall 2016 meeting, I created a brochure intended to be an easy guide for genealogists, a target audience, but one that UMD, as a university, has a harder time performing outreach to. The brochure is available to be picked up in the back of the room, and is intended to be used as a handy guide for the Advisory Board members and other Chronicling America advocates to perform outreach at their institutions. This brochure is intended to be the first in a series of brochures or other resources to reach out to different demographic groups, such as K-12 teachers or higher education professors. In the next year, we intend to create a much larger Resources section of our website.
MOLLY (5 minutes)

Explain DDNP History (5) [Molly]

Title selection for each state

State partners (advisory board, most state masters, building a stronger working...
DDNP Resources/Promotion

- DDNP Blog -- [http://library.udel.edu/ddnp](http://library.udel.edu/ddnp)
- Twitter -- @DelDigNews
- Facebook -- [https://www.facebook.com/DelDigNews/](https://www.facebook.com/DelDigNews/)

**MOLLY (5 minutes)**
Resources that HMNP and DDNP have created and how the projects have evolved (10)

DDNP first (blog, title list, articles, press releases, map?)
Talk about evolution of resources
What is Chronicling America?

- Database that searches NDNP digital newspapers
- Freely-accessible, no login required

Chronicling America and why people should care (15)

What is ChronAm

The database, Chronicling America, “will be developed and permanently maintained at the Library of Congress”. The corpus of nearly 12 million pages is word-searchable and browsable in multiple ways. An accompanying national newspaper directory of bibliographic and holdings information on the website directs users to newspaper titles available in all types of formats. Chronicling America also facilitates a second point of access to the Newspaper Title Directory, the catalog records created during the USNP; historical essays about the titles digitized and available on Chronicling America; bulk data downloads via an Application Program Interface (API); and NDNP Extras, projects and resources expanding building on the newspaper data.
ChronAm Quick Facts

http://chroniclingamerica.loc.gov/

Search for:
- News articles
- Obituaries
- Marriage announcements
- Birth announcements
- Advertisements
- Cartoons
- Poetry
- And more!

Included as of 5/3/2017
ChronAm Searching Options

**Simple Search**
★ Most inclusive search

**Advanced Search**
★ Narrow down many results

- All Digitized Newspapers 1789-1924
  ★ Search within a specific newspaper title

- US Newspaper Directory 1690-present
  ★ Part of the original US Newspaper Project
  ★ Search all newspapers (digitized or not)
MOLLY (3 min)

Chronicling America and why people should care (15)
  What is ChronAm
  Walking through search
    Teach the teacher: librarians and archivists teach patrons how to use
  Search tips
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    Teach the teacher: librarians and archivists teach patrons how to use
Search tips
Robin:
Though Chronicling America has nearly 12 million pages of newsprint from across the country and a substantial subset from Maryland, the collection is not exhaustive. It excludes specific papers of record because the NDNP will not digitize newspapers available elsewhere, including commercial database products like Proquest, Readex, or Newspapers.com. In addition, many of these commercial vendors have obtained publication rights through licensing or publisher acquisition and have ingested copyrighted materials into these databases, whereas Chronicling America contains public domain content from 1690-1963. For example, the archives of the *Afro-American*, the premiere African American title in Maryland, and is available via Proquest. Readex holds limited runs of four additional African American newspaper titles. These titles form the known, extant copies of African American newspapers in Maryland, and are not included in the Maryland corpus on Chronicling America, creating a knowledge gap for those who lack access to these databases. The HMNP has created geographical diversity in coverage by targeting a substantial portion of newspapers from Western Maryland, Southern Maryland, and the Eastern Shore, which does represent some racial diversity, though not as much as the targeted commercial databases. Additionally, in patron-based demonstrations, researchers found Chronicling America less user-friendly than Newspapers.com and some other commercial databases, which had integrated clipping and email tools that were more apparent than the ones provided in Chronicling America. We suspect that these tools are created in this way because Chronicling America is designed for a wider audience, whereas some of the other newspaper databases are intended for genealogical use, which targets a specific demographic. However, ChronAm provides much more capabilities for repurposing the newspapers and OCR, expanding the usage of the repository beyond that of straight research.
Robin:
Chronicling America provides access to information about historic newspapers and select digitized newspaper pages. To encourage a wide range of potential uses, the Library of Congress designed several different views of the data, all of which are publicly visible. Each uses common Web protocols, and access is not restricted in any way. Users do not need to apply for a special key to use them. Together they make up an extensive application programming interface (API) which researchers can use to explore all of the data in many ways.
The Library of Congress provides information on how to access the data in different ways via the API on the page “About the Site and API.” Additionally, software developers or more technical researchers interested in programmatic access to the data in Chronicling America, can use the “view source” option on many pages, and follow the different links.
One of the more revolutionary aspects of this database is that the Library of Congress allows a bulk download of all the batch and OCR data, or subsets of that data, which can be facilitated by their staff so they ensure the researcher is not a hacker. For example, researchers can try out new indexing techniques on the millions of pages of OCR data in Chronicling America, or a service provider could support a high volume of full-text searches across the corpus, outside of the Chronicling America API.
Though UMD has not pursued using the Chronicling America or Maryland newspaper batch datasets, one of UMD’s goals is to promote uses of the tool to potential researchers, rather than directly participating in their research. We are actively promoting this use on campus to digital humanists, particularly in the History and Journalism Departments. In addition to promoting the project via social media, and performing outreach to genealogical and research communities, the UMD project team is finding ways to demonstrate the resource as a research tool on campus. On April 18, 2017, the project manager Rebecca Wack and her student assistant participated in the on-campus Social Justice Day, focusing on the Media and Integrity poster and discussion roundtable. They created a poster depicting how women have been historically represented in newspapers, which started a dialog about women and media in the roundtable session, and led to opportunities to bring ChronAm into college projects. Chronicling America was also listed as a resource on the event website, bringing more visibility to the resource.
Colored Conventions Project (CCP)

Website: [http://coloredconventions.org/](http://coloredconventions.org/)
- Digital humanities project focusing on 19th century
- Began in 2012
- Collaborative: faculty, students, librarians, and community members
- Finding, digitizing, evaluating minutes of conventions
- DDNP chose sample reel to correspond to 1873 Dover convention

MOLLY (2.5 min)
Using ChronAm in projects (10)
Colored Conventions project (DE)
CCP & ChronAm

- Microfilmed newspapers frequently used in research
- Convenient and saves time/money
- Supportive articles for known conventions
- Unearth information about known conventions with no minutes

Article from Feb. 12, 1881 about a convention held on Feb. 10, 1881

MOLLY (2.5 min)
Using ChronAm in projects (10)
Colored Conventions project (DE)
NEH Data Challenge 2016

- **Criteria:** Create web-based project using Chronicling America data
- Nationwide competition
- Cash prizes awarded to top four projects ($1K-$5K)
- Winners announced in July 2016

**MOLLY (2.5 min)**
Using ChronAm in projects (10)
Data Challenge winners (American Public Bible, etc.)
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   Data Challenge winners (American Public Bible, etc.)
Wrapup

1. National Digital Newspaper Program
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1. Using Chronicling America in digital humanities
Questions?

- How might you use ChronAm in working with patrons?
- How might you use it helping teachers prepare lesson plans?
For the benefit of passing along slides as a PDF after the presentation
Other Resources

Delaware

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

Delaware Newspapers Research Guide --
http://guides.lib.udel.edu/delawarenewspapers
    Rebecca Knight, University of Delaware Reference Librarian

Maryland

Historic Maryland Newspapers Project --
http://www.lib.umd.edu/digital/newspapers/home

NEH Announces the Winners of the Chronicling America Data Challenge --

For the benefit of passing along slides as a PDF after the presentation