



The World Newspaper Archive: A Prospectus.

A. BACKGROUND

The *World Newspaper Archive* (WNA) is an online database of digitized historical newspapers, created by the Center for Research Libraries (CRL) in partnership with the publisher Readex (a division of NewsBank). The database will eventually encompass much of the press output of seven major world regions. To date, it includes significant holdings from CRL and member libraries of newspapers from the following regions:

- Latin America and the Caribbean
- Sub-Saharan Africa
- South Asia
- Slavic and Eastern Europe

The ultimate goal of this undertaking is to create a rich aggregation of interrelated materials that support research and teaching in the humanities and social sciences.

Through a century of major, sustained investment in acquisition, documentation and preservation, CRL and its member libraries have amassed a large and valuable collection of newspapers from all regions of the world. Those libraries' combined holdings in paper and micro-formats span four centuries and constitute an immense and incomparable body of historical and cultural evidence.

Microform, the traditional means of preserving newspapers, has significant limitations for use by scholars, and provides little or no accessibility for researchers in many world regions. Because of this, in 2008 CRL and Readex established the *World Newspaper Archive* project, an ongoing, multi-year and multi-stage endeavor to systematically digitize and archive world newspapers and news-related materials from the major North American research libraries.

After intensive and prolonged discussion and negotiation with publishers, member libraries, and other stakeholders, CRL determined that Readex was best positioned and most qualified to provide a reliable platform for persistent electronic access to international news, and to work with the CRL community to further develop and build on those collections.

Today, the *World Newspaper Archive* is a major cooperative undertaking, along the lines of the effort that produced *Early English Books Online (EEBO)* and *Eighteenth Century Collections Online (ECCO)*. The arrangement entails co-investment by CRL, its members, and Readex, with a highly favorable return on investment for CRL members and benefits to partner libraries in the regions of study.

B. GOALS

The *World Newspaper Archive* project has three major goals:

1. Community Access

Readex provides electronic access to back files of newspapers from microform and paper holdings of CRL and several major newspaper repositories (See Appendix A for a list of content partners).

The *World Newspaper Archive* employs the robust and reliable platform for search and discovery that supports Readex *Early American Newspapers* and *Hispanic American Newspapers* collections. The annual access fee for each module is nominal for CRL members and partner libraries that contribute support and/or content to create the collection.

Readex provides libraries that contribute collections to the WNA effort digitized copies of those collections. Those libraries may, at their discretion, make the files available for noncommercial, educational purposes. After an initial ten-year period, CRL may exercise its right to make the digital collections available in their entirety without restriction.

2. Persistence

CRL guarantees the long-term persistence and continued functionality of the WNA news content for the CRL community. NewsBank has agreed to make such reasonable provisions for the archiving of the digital content as CRL considers appropriate and to provide CRL the necessary scans and OCR data to re-host or continue hosting of the entire database in the event that NewsBank should find itself unable to continue hosting said database.

Moreover, the process of locating and preparing these materials for digitization is generating valuable preservation metadata and information about the existent holdings of these rare materials. This “last-copy” information will be made available by CRL through the International Coalition on Newspaper (ICON) database, to guide library decisions about preserving and digitizing local holdings. The project is also subsidizing the cost of replacing and making available via interlibrary loan through CRL lost, damaged, or deteriorated microform copies of the newspapers.

3. Growth

NewsBank and Readex share with CRL a strong commitment to identifying and preserving primary source materials for international studies and research worldwide. Selection of titles for inclusion in the *World Newspaper Archive* is guided by CRL’s WNA advisory committee, which consists of representatives of the major US academic research libraries. This working relationship affords the CRL community a voice in prioritizing news collections for digitization.

C. GENERAL TERMS

1. CRL solicits recommendations of titles or types of materials from its members. CRL and its WNA Advisory Committee (comprised of standing members as well as ad hoc specialists from particular world areas) prioritize and select content for inclusion in WNA modules.
2. CRL arranges for the timely provision of content to Readex for scanning and production. CRL underwrites the cost of locating, obtaining and delivering to NewsBank microform masters of the specified newspaper content.
3. NewsBank digitizes content, typically bitonal images at 400 d.p.i.; fields images to the page level; and performs OCR to produce searchable text for each page. NewsBank produces metadata to enable search, identification, navigation, and retrieval of the content at the title, issue, and page levels.
4. NewsBank hosts all WNA modules on its Readex newspaper platform for access by CRL members. Readex also independently markets the database modules to non-CRL libraries members, at its own price levels. All WNA modules are cross-searchable with other news databases produced by Readex.
5. NewsBank will provide CRL the necessary scans and OCR data to re-host or continue hosting of the entire *World Newspaper Archive* database in the event that NewsBank should find itself unable to continue hosting said database, and will make such reasonable provisions for the archiving of the digital content as CRL considers appropriate. CRL retains and archives the original microfilm and print content (CRL Materials) in appropriate environmental conditions.
6. CRL libraries contributing source content for this effort may make use of the digital files generated from that material for their own non-commercial, educational purposes.

D. ACCESS AND PRICING

CRL libraries obtain access to the *World Newspaper Archive* on the following terms:

1. First, an institution may choose to invest in the initial costs of producing a WNA module through charter participation, by providing funds to support digitization and related activities. Thereafter, the charter contributor pays a nominal annual access fee for the module and has a say in setting priorities for future modules. All CRL libraries may participate in the charter investment through CRL and may elect to support one or several modules of the *World Newspaper Archive*. See Appendix B for a list of Charter Participants.
2. Second, an institution may purchase access to individual modules of the *World Newspaper Archive* through a one-time fee and nominal annual access fees. The fees for CRL members are highly favorable, scaled to each institution's library materials expenditures.
3. CRL underwrites the cost of digital access to WNA modules focusing on particular world regions for partner libraries in the region.

Non-CRL libraries can purchase WNA modules from Readex at a considerably higher cost.

E. MORE INFORMATION

Additional information, including title lists, project news, sample pricing, and CRL's general Terms and Conditions for access to WNA in accordance with CRL's agreement with NewsBank, may be found on CRL's website at: <http://www.crl.edu/collaborative-digitization/world-newspaper-archive>.

Appendix A - Content Partners of the *World Newspaper Archive*

Repositories participating in contributing content to the WNA to date include:

- University of California, Berkeley
- University of California, Los Angeles
- University of Connecticut
- Cornell University
- University of Florida
- University of Georgia
- University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign
- Indiana University
- Harvard University
- New York Public Library
- Northwestern University
- Princeton University
- University of Texas at Austin
- Tulane University
- Vanderbilt University
- University of Washington
- Yale University

CRL has also solicited contributions and supplemental issues from non-member institutions, including:

- British Library
- Centre for Studies in Social Sciences, Calcutta
- Library of Congress
- National Széchényi Library (Hungary).

Appendix B – Charter Participants of the *World Newspaper Archive*

Charter Participants- Latin American Newspapers, Part I

[as of 3/23/09]

- University of Alabama
- University of Alberta
- University of Arizona
- Brigham Young University
- University of British Columbia
- University of California, Berkeley
- University of California, Los Angeles
- University of California, San Diego
- Case Western Reserve University
- University of Chicago
- University of Colorado
- Columbia University
- Cornell University
- University of Delaware
- Duke University
- Emory University
- University of Florida
- Florida Atlantic University
- Harvard University
- University of Illinois at Chicago
- University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign
- Indiana University
- University of Iowa
- University of Kansas
- McMaster University
- Michigan State University
- University of Michigan
- University of Minnesota
- New York Public Library
- New York University
- University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill
- Northwestern University
- University of Notre Dame
- Ohio State University
- Oklahoma State University
- University of Pennsylvania
- University of Pittsburgh
- Princeton University
- Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey
- University of Southern California
- University of Texas at Austin
- Texas Tech University
- University of Toronto
- Tulane University
- University of Utah
- Vanderbilt University
- University of Washington
- University of Western Ontario
- Yale University

Charter Participants - Latin American Newspapers, Part II
[as of 11/16/2011]

- University of Alabama
- University of Alberta
- Arizona State University
- Brigham Young University
- University of British Columbia
- University of California, Berkeley
- University of California, San Diego
- University of Colorado
- Columbia University
- Duke University
- Emory University
- University of Florida
- Harvard University
- Indiana University
- University of Iowa
- University of Kentucky
- University of Maryland
- University of Michigan
- Michigan State University
- University of Minnesota
- University of New Mexico
- New York University
- University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill
- Northwestern University
- University of Notre Dame
- Oklahoma State University
- University of Oregon
- University of Ottawa
- University of Pennsylvania
- Princeton University
- University of Saskatchewan
- University of Southern California
- Temple University
- University of Texas at Austin
- University of Toronto
- University of Utah
- Vanderbilt University
- University of Washington
- Yale University

Charter Participants- African Newspapers
[as of 3/25/10]

- University of Alabama
- University of Alberta
- Arizona State University
- University of British Columbia
- University of California, Berkeley
- University of California, Los Angeles
- University of California, San Diego
- University of Chicago
- Columbia University
- University of Connecticut
- Cornell University
- University of Delaware
- Duke University
- Emory University
- Georgia State University
- Harvard University
- University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign
- Indiana University
- University of Iowa
- University of Kentucky
- Marquette University
- McMaster University
- Michigan State University
- University of Michigan
- University of Minnesota
- New York University
- University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill
- Northwestern University
- University of Notre Dame
- Ohio State University
- Oklahoma State University
- University of Oregon
- University of Pennsylvania
- Princeton University
- University of South Carolina
- University of Texas at Austin
- Trent University
- Vassar College
- University of Washington
- Yale University

Charter Participants- South Asian Newspapers
[as of 3/25/10]

- University of Alabama
- University of Alberta
- Arizona State University
- University of British Columbia
- University of California, Berkeley
- University of California, Los Angeles
- University of California, San Diego
- University of Chicago
- Columbia University
- University of Connecticut
- Cornell University
- University of Delaware
- Duke University
- Emory University
- Georgia State University
- Harvard University
- University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign
- Indiana University
- University of Iowa
- University of Kentucky
- Marquette University
- McMaster University
- Michigan State University
- University of Michigan
- University of Minnesota
- New York University
- University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill
- Northwestern University
- University of Notre Dame
- Ohio State University
- Oklahoma State University
- University of Oregon
- University of Pennsylvania
- Princeton University
- University of South Carolina
- University of Texas at Austin
- Trent University
- Vassar College
- University of Washington
- Yale University