



NATIONAL ENDOWMENT FOR THE  
**Humanities**



**LIBRARY OF  
CONGRESS**

*Digitizing Historic Newspapers Across America*  
Chronicling America and the National Digital Newspaper Program



**NATIONAL ENDOWMENT FOR THE HUMANITIES**  
*and* **LIBRARY OF CONGRESS**

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Library of Congress

# “History’s Rough Draft”

*Something for everyone* - Crime, Fashion, Travel, Economics, Events, Battles, Tragedy, Politics, Social Activism, Diplomacy, Society, Technology ...



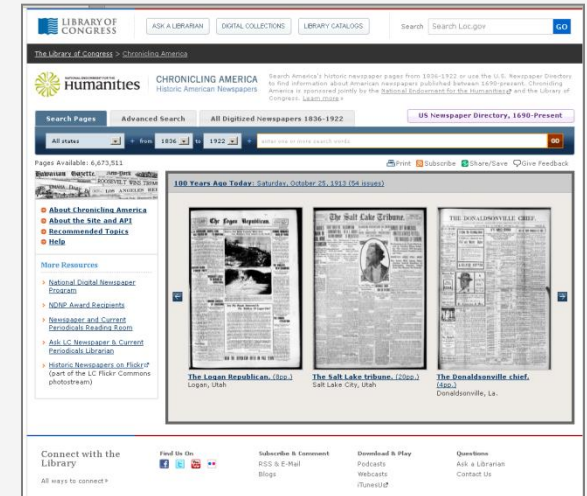
# Chronicling America: Historic American Newspapers

<http://chroniclingamerica.loc.gov/>

The screenshot shows the Chronicling America website interface. At the top, there is a navigation bar with the Library of Congress logo and links for 'ASK A LIBRARIAN', 'DIGITAL COLLECTIONS', and 'LIBRARY CATALOGS'. A search bar is located on the right with the text 'Search Loc.gov' and a 'GO' button. Below this, a breadcrumb trail reads 'The Library of Congress > Chronicling America'. The main header features the National Endowment for the Humanities logo and the text 'CHRONICLING AMERICA Historic American Newspapers'. A search bar is present with filters for 'All states', 'from 1836 to 1922', and a search input field with a 'GO' button. A secondary search bar is labeled 'US Newspaper Directory, 1690-Present'. Below the search bar, it states 'Pages Available: 6,673,511' and includes icons for 'Print', 'Subscribe', 'Share/Save', and 'Give Feedback'. The main content area is titled '100 Years Ago Today: Saturday, October 25, 1913 (54 issues)'. It displays three newspaper thumbnails: 'The Logan Republican' (8pp., Logan, Utah), 'The Salt Lake Tribune' (20pp., Salt Lake City, Utah), and 'The Donaldsonville chief' (4pp., Donaldsonville, La.). A sidebar on the left contains navigation links: 'About Chronicling America', 'About the Site and API', 'Recommended Topics', and 'Help'. Below these are 'More Resources' including 'National Digital Newspaper Program', 'NDNP Award Recipients', 'Newspaper and Current Periodicals Reading Room', 'Ask LC Newspaper & Current Periodicals Librarian', and 'Historic Newspapers on Flickr®'. At the bottom, there are sections for 'Connect with the Library' (with social media icons), 'Subscribe & Comment' (with RSS and E-Mail options), 'Download & Play' (with Podcasts, Webcasts, and iTunesU), and 'Questions' (with Ask a Librarian and Contact Us).

# What Is It?

- Chronicling America is a Web site, hosted by the Library of Congress, that provides access to digitized copies of historic newspapers from across the United States
- All these newspapers were published between 1836 and 1922 and selected by state organizations to represent THEIR history in a national collection...
- 30 states have contributed newspapers with more on the way
- The site launched in 2007 with 228,000 pages... now it has more than 7.9 million!
- How?





# National Digital Newspaper Program, 2004-

## GOALS:

- To enhance access to historic American newspapers from every state and territory
- To apply emerging technologies to the products of the United States Newspaper Program, 1982-2011 (inventory, description, microfilm)
  - *150,000 titles cataloged, 600,000 holdings, more than 75 million pages filmed*
- To develop best practices for the digitization of historic newspapers (shared community)
- Free and open content, available to all



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# Working with U.S. Newspapers

- Many types of users, high demand for access

## *Newspaper format challenges*

- Physical characteristics
  - Large, brittle, acid paper, poor ink, light damage
- Content characteristics
  - Many subjects on a page, small text, hard to identify parts
- No single U.S. collection – 150,000 titles published since 1690 (collected across the country)



*Newspapers = fundamentals of U.S. history*

# National Digital Newspaper Program, 2004 -



## ■ Timeline

- 2004= agency-level agreements, LC and NEH
- 2005=1<sup>st</sup> awards (6 states)
- 2007= launch of *Chronicling America*
- 2014+ ... 37 states, 1 territory, and counting ...



## ■ Program Components

- Over time, NEH grants *2-year awards (up to \$350k) to state projects*, to select and digitize historic newspapers, primarily from microfilm for full-text access (100,000 pages per award).
- Program provides **uniform** selection guidelines, focused on *historic significance AND film quality*
- LC creates and *hosts Chronicling America Web site* to provide freely accessible search and discovery for digitized papers and descriptive newspaper records (records created by USNP).
- State projects *repurpose NDNP contributions for local purposes*, as desired.







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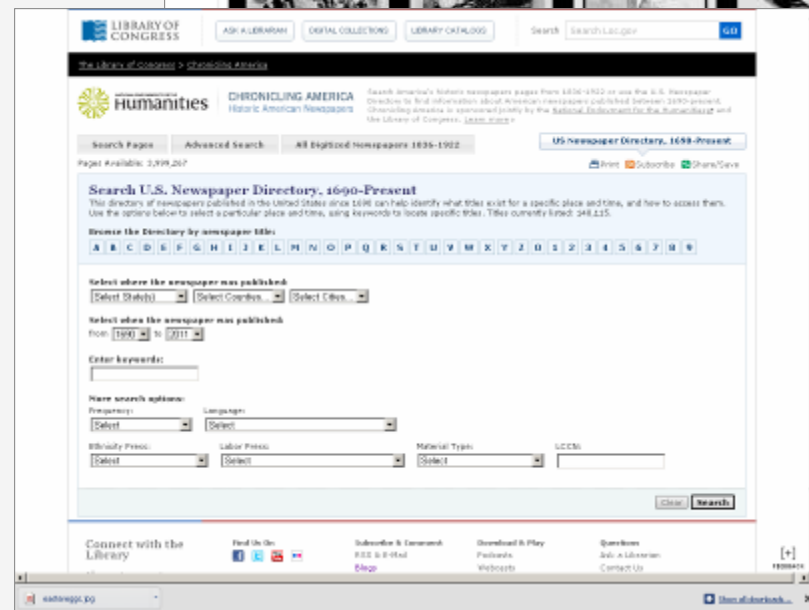
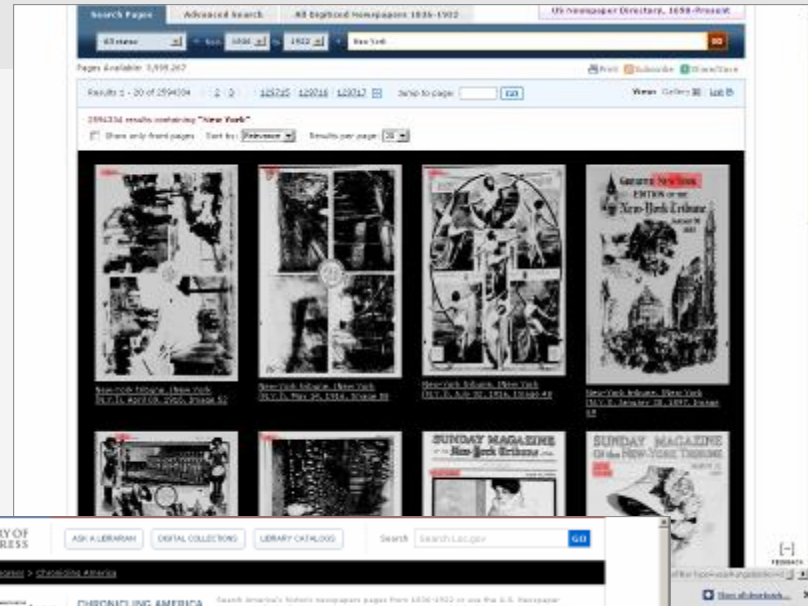
# Finding Our History

- Page Search – Full text

- Search by place, time, keyword
- Page information – Title, Date, Edition, Section, Page (Image)
- Visual search results (Thumbnail view with hit-highlights)
- Pan and Zoom
- Full-screen view

- US Newspaper Directory Search

- Search by place, time, keyword, format, subject, etc. (CONSER/WorldCat data)
- Keyword search – e.g., “http” (external Web site links) or “times”



# Diving into Chronicling America...

- **Topics Pages** – more than 100 to choose from!
  - Including “Horseless Carriages and Ford’s Model T” - <http://www.loc.gov/rr/news/topics/horseless.html>
- **U.S. Newspaper Directory, 1690-present**
  - 150,000 titles and hundreds of thousands of library holdings
  - Search by location, audience, language, publishing info

## K-12 Resources

- **National History Day (K-12)** special prize for best use of Chronicling America
  - <http://www.nhd.org/> (sponsored by NEH)
- **NEH EDSITEMent** Teacher Resources for Chronicling America
  - <http://edsitement.neh.gov/search/content/%22chronicling%20america%22>
- **LC Teacher Resources** for Chronicling America
  - <http://www.loc.gov/search/?in=PartOf%3ATeachers&q=%22chronicling+america%22>

# Chronicling America: Historic American Newspapers

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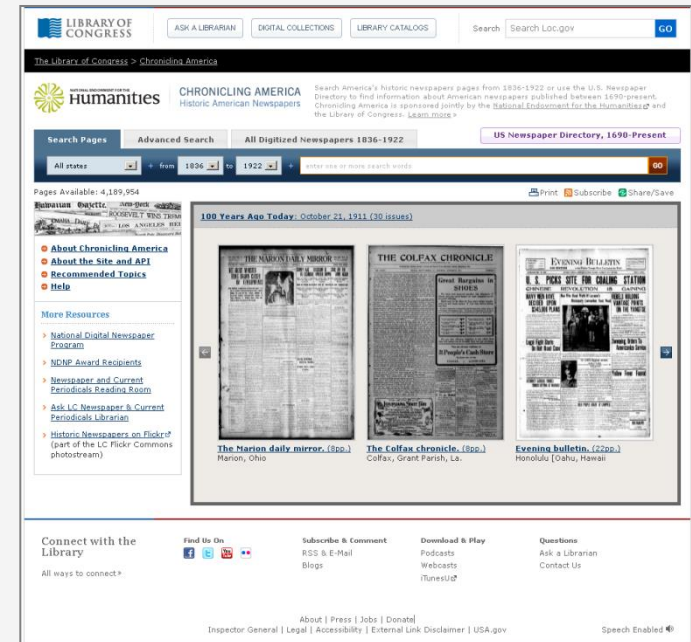
# National Digital Newspaper Program and *Chronicling America: Historic American Newspapers*

## Available Now:

- 8 million pages, 1836-1922
- 1400+ titles with news from 35 states and Washington, DC
- Titles in English, French, German, Italian, and Spanish (more being added)  
<http://chroniclingamerica.loc.gov/>
- Awards made, 2005-2014
  - 9.4 million pages funded
  - 37 institutions have received awards to date
  - NEH 2015 Award competition to be announced in October

## Recent Updates

- 600K pages added since January including dozens of newspaper history essays



## Coming Soon (Summer 2014)

- More!
- New states awarded in 2013 - CT, FL (and PR), ID, MS
- More bilingual newspapers



# Beyond the *Chronicling America* Web Site

## Regular update/highlights information by RSS\* or email subscription

- <http://www.loc.gov/rss/ndnp/ndnp.xml>; and Recent Additions RSS feed (newspaper titles added)
- Keep up with what's in *Chronicling America*!



## NDNP Extras! from the NDNP program site

- <http://www.loc.gov/ndnp/extras/>
- Visualizations, tutorials, podcasts, teaching resources, state project blogs, how *Chronicling America* is used in other projects and more!



## Linked data and API\*\* access in *Chronicling America*

- RDF/XML views available to Open Archives Initiative Object Reuse and Exchange (OAI-ORE)
- OpenSearch and Atom APIs for search queries, Bookmarkable URIs for all pages
- <http://chroniclingamerica.loc.gov/about/api/>



## Open-source code for chronam application available on GitHub

- <https://github.com/LibraryOfCongress/chronam>
- chronam is the [Django](#) application that the Library of Congress uses to make its *Chronicling America* website (a core set of functionality for loading, modeling and indexing NDNP data)
- Check it out and take it for a spin!



# Thank you!

- **NDNP Public Web**  
<http://www.loc.gov/ndnp/>
- **NDNP Web Service**  
*Chronicling America: Historic American Newspapers*  
<http://chroniclingamerica.loc.gov>
- **Contact us at** [ndnptech@loc.gov](mailto:ndnptech@loc.gov)

