“History’s Rough Draft”

*Something for everyone* - Crime, Fashion, Travel, Economics, Events, Battles, Tragedy, Politics, Social Activism, Diplomacy, Society, Technology …
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?
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
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=1st 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.
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!

- **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

- **NEH EDSITEment** Teacher Resources for Chronicling America
  - [http://edsitement.neh.gov/search/content/%22chronicling%20america%22](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](http://www.loc.gov/search/?in=PartOf%3ATeachers&q=%22chronicling+america%22)
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/](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](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/](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/](http://chroniclingamerica.loc.gov/about/api/)

**Open-source code for chronam application available on GitHub**
- [https://github.com/LibraryOfCongress/chronam](https://github.com/LibraryOfCongress/chronam)
- chronam is the [Django](https://www.djangoproject.com/) 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/](http://www.loc.gov/ndnp/)

- **NDNP Web Service**
  *Chronicling America: Historic American Newspapers*
  [http://chroniclingamerica.loc.gov](http://chroniclingamerica.loc.gov)

- **Contact us at** [ndnptech@loc.gov](mailto:ndnptech@loc.gov)