

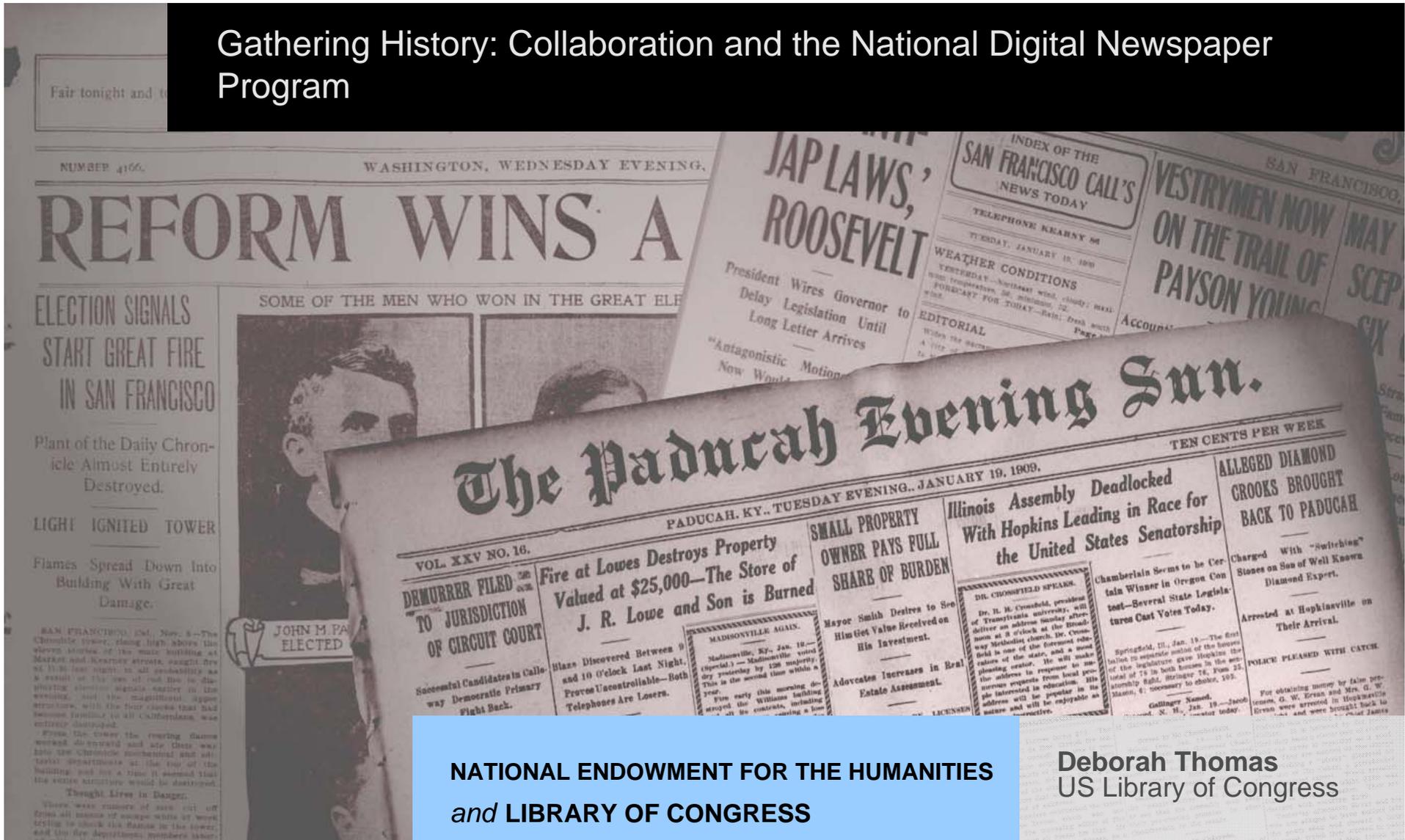


NATIONAL ENDOWMENT FOR THE  
**Humanities**



**LIBRARY OF  
CONGRESS**

Gathering History: Collaboration and the National Digital Newspaper Program



NATIONAL ENDOWMENT FOR THE HUMANITIES  
and LIBRARY OF CONGRESS

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# Historic Newspapers Landscape

- Content available in many formats, varying condition and access
  - Paper, Microfilm, Digital
- *140,096 U.S. newspapers published 1690-present*  
*(5541 newspapers published in Texas)*



- Historic newspapers digitized and available from a variety of sources
  - Commercial database publishers (ProQuest, Gale, Newsbank, Google, Ancestry, NewspaperArchive...)
  - Commercial publishers' archives
  - Individual cultural heritage institutions (small, medium, and large)
  - *Collaborative programs like NDNP or Texas Portal to History*

## Features of Collaboration

- Partnerships
- Shared goals and expectations
- Shared practices
- Shared benefits

# History's "Rough Draft"

THE WASHINGTON HERALD  
TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 14, 1911.



**The Electric Is the Car**  
**of Elegance,**  
**Convenience,**  
**and Economy**

**Simplicity of Operation** is a characteristic of the electric automobile. It requires no knowledge of mechanics. No cranking. No frequent adjusting of parts. A child can do it.

**Safety** of the electric should not be overlooked. No danger of explosions. No runaways. Always under perfect control.

**Cleanliness.** In this regard the electric is in a class apart from all other vehicles. There is nothing unclean about it. It is as clean as a parlor chair.

For the physician or men of other professions or business the electric car is a great advantage. Quick stops can easily be made, and the starting requires practically no effort.

For "mildly" shopping tours the electric is a great convenience. It stands where it is left and gives the owner no anxiety.

For pleasure. It is the car that gives the most real pleasure and no trouble.

**Convenience.** No other vehicle can be as convenient as an electric. The batteries can be charged while the owner is asleep, and the car is ready for instant use all the rest of the twenty-four hours.

**Economy.** Both in point of upkeep and operation the electric is most economical.

**Appearance.** The designs of electric pleasure vehicles are truly artistic, and they should be so, for the manufacturer when designing his car does not have to consider a lot of cumbersome, dirty machinery.

Our Rates for Current Are Very Reasonable.

**Potomac Electric Power Company**  
213 Fourteenth Street Northwest. 'Phone Main 7260.

# Working with Newspapers

- Newspapers
  - fundamentals of history
- Broad user-base
  - so many disciplines – political historians, economists, genealogists, fashion...
- High demand for access
  - onsite, loan, online
- No single U.S. collection
  - national, research, state, local
- Newspaper format challenges
  - paper/microfilm, layout
- LOTS OF IT!
  - 140k titles known



# The first collaboration – US Newspaper Program

## Partnerships:

- NEH, LC, State Awardees, Partners within States

## Shared Goals:

- To locate, catalog, and preserve on microfilm newspapers published in the United States from the eighteenth century to the present.

## Shared Practices:

- 1984-2010, funded projects in 50 states, 2 territories, 8 national repositories

## Benefits of Collaboration:

- Partnerships in all states
- 140,000 titles cataloged through CONSER according to USNP cataloging rules
- OCLC WorldCat provides access to CONSER records plus 900,000 holding records created by projects
- more than 75 million pages filmed under according to standard practices



# Now...the National Digital Newspaper Program

## Partnerships:

- NEH, LC, State Awardees (Partners within States)



## Shared Goals:

- To enhance access to historic American newspapers
- To develop best practices for the digitization of historic newspapers
- To apply emerging technologies to the products of USNP (United States Newspaper Program, 1984-2010)
  - Microfilmed Content
  - Newspaper Union List (Catalogue)
  - Partnerships



NEH Awardees joining NDNP, 2006-2010







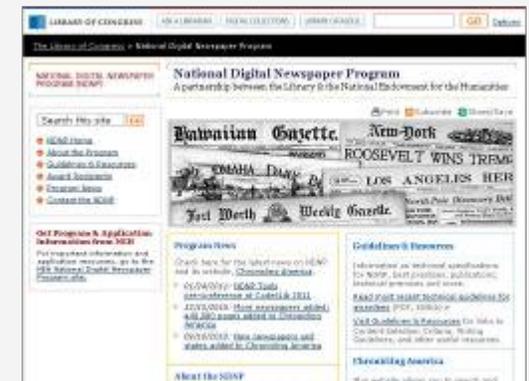
# Chronicling America: Historic American Newspapers

- >3.3 million pages
- 1860-1922
- 439 titles from 22 states and DC
- <http://chroniclingamerica.loc.gov/>
- **Coming Soon:**
  - States added in 2010 (New Mexico, Tennessee, Vermont)
  - Newspapers from 1836-1859
  - New awards announced July 2011.

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'. Below this is a search bar with 'Options' and a 'GO' button. The main content area features a 'Search Pages' section with 'Advanced Search', 'Browse Digitized Newspapers', and 'US Newspaper Directory, 1690-Present'. A search filter shows 'All states' and 'All newspapers' with a date range from 1860 to 1922. The 'CHRONICLING AMERICA' section includes a 'Historic American Newspapers' heading and a '100 Years Ago Today: February 12, 1911' section. Three newspaper thumbnails are displayed: 'University Missourian' (Columbia, Mo.), 'The Washington Herald' (Washington, D.C.), and 'Tombstone epitaph' (Tombstone, Ariz.). The bottom of the page has a 'Stay Connected with the Library' section with social media links and a 'Speech Enabled' button.

# Beyond NDNP – Benefits of Collaboration

- Reuse of NDNP assets in many state digital libraries
  - California Newspaper Program - <http://cdnc.ucr.edu/cdnc>
  - University of Hawai'i - <http://evols.library.manoa.hawaii.edu/handle/10524/22>
  - Kentuckiana Digital Library - <http://kdl.kyvl.org/cgi/t/text/text-idx?xg=0;page=simple;g=news>
  - Utah Digital Newspapers - <http://digitalnewspapers.org/>
  - *Portal to Texas History* - [http://texashistory.unt.edu/search/?q=&t=dc\\_title&fq=dc\\_type%3Atext\\_newspaper](http://texashistory.unt.edu/search/?q=&t=dc_title&fq=dc_type%3Atext_newspaper)
- Data specifications in use beyond NDNP
  - NDNP Guidelines - <http://www.loc.gov/ndnp/guidelines/>
  - Texas Digital Newspaper Program
    - e.g., Best Practices in Digitization - <http://tdnp.unt.edu/standards/>
  - Federal Agencies Digitization Guidelines Initiatives - <http://www.digitizationguidelines.gov/>
  - National Libraries - METS/ALTO used in
    - UK, France, Australia, New Zealand, Austria, Norway, Slovenia, Slovak Republic ...



# Beyond NDNP – Benefits of Collaboration

- Open Data Access
  - Linked data and API access to Chronicling America, <http://chroniclingamerica.loc.gov/about/api/>
    - RDF/XML views available to Open Archives Initiative Object Reuse and Exchange (OAI-ORE) repository tools
    - OpenSearch and Atom APIs for search queries
    - Bookmarkable URIs for all pages
  - Open Search API
    - e.g., Montana Historical Newspapers - <http://montanahistoricalsociety.org/research/MTMemoryProj.asp>
- Open-Source Software Development –
  - LC Newspaper Viewer, available on Sourceforge.net - <http://sourceforge.net/projects/loc-ndnp/>
  - LC Newspaper Viewer in Action
    - e.g., Oregon Historical Newspapers - <http://oregonnews.uoregon.edu/>
    - Other awardees and interested parties working on software development collaboration through SourceForge



# In Summary...

- Collaboration in Digitizing Newspapers leads to:
  - Making the most of limited resources
  - Extending practices beyond the actual program
  - Learning from each other's experiences
  - Building new tools together and in the same direction
  - Improved access to more historic newspapers and new discoveries



# 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)

