Effective Search Strategies for Chronicling America

Prepared for Loyola University New Orleans
Presented by Laura Charney, Project Manager for DLNP
October 11, 2012
Efficient microfilm-digital scanning

Long term preservation
LIBRARY OF CONGRESS
# OCR Data

**What is OCR?**

Optical character recognition (OCR) is a fully automated process that converts the visual image of numbers and letters into computer-readable numbers and letters. Computer software can then search the OCR-generated text for words, phrases, numbers, or other characters. However, OCR is not 100 percent accurate, and, particularly if the original item has extraneous markings on the page, unusual text styles, or very small fonts, the searchable text OCR generates will contain errors that cannot be corrected by automated means.

Although errors in the process are unavoidable, OCR is still a powerful tool for making text-based items accessible to searching. For example, important concept words often appear more than once within an article. Therefore, if OCR misreads one instance of a key word in a passage, but correctly reads the second instance, the passage will still be found in a full-text search.

To enable research and external services Chronicling America provides bulk access to its OCR data. The table below itemizes a list of data files available for download. Each file will decompress into directory structure that lets you easily map the OCR file to the URL identifier for that page. For example a file such as sm89009214/1939/06/01/ad-1/sec-1/ocr.tar.gz maps to the URL http://chroniclingamerica.loc.gov/learn/sm89009214/1939-06-01/ad-1/sec-1/.

If you are interested in automated access to this data you may want to use the **Atom** and **JSON** versions of this table.

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<thead>
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<th>SHA-1 Checksum</th>
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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
SCARR, 0 LTN
M. G. DAVIS: 'SUN' SIIINES FOR ALL.' PUBLISHO .
OL III. CITY F JEFFERSON, LA., SATURDAY, JULY 14, 1860, N(-Q 7.
Youth.
BY G. W. CROWELL.
How oft in youth's bright gilded hours,
When first its warm pulsations beat,
It lingered fond 'mid earthly flowers;
And turning then with wayward feet,
It trod the path where dangers lie;
Whose fame its phantoms smile and rise
Advancing oft as oft to fly,
That shine to lure, and lure
Its visions sweep through years,
And crowns a life with
Its soul unsathed by ch
And fancies rare its hope
It builds its castles towering
And peoples them with spir
Heir turrets pierce the bending
Enthroned upon the viewless su.
It lays bright plans for future lif
It scans their course and be
Well;
Its heart beats high for eager strife
Its mind on deeds of daring dwa
Longs for war, the tented field;
The cannon's roar is music sweet;
The strength of arm the sword to wield,
The nerve of soul the foe to meet,

What is OCR?
Pages Available: 5,206,552

More Resources
- National Digital Newspaper Program
- NDNP Award Recipients
- Newspaper and Current Periodicals Reading Room
- Ask LC Newspaper & Current Periodicals Librarian
- Historic Newspapers on Flickr (part of the LC Flick Commons photostream)

Help
- FAQs
- General Searching in Chronicling America
  - Searching the Newspaper Pages

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

What is the Newspaper Directory?
The Newspaper Title Directory is derived from the library catalog records created by state institutions during the NEH-sponsored United States Newspaper Program (http://www.neh.gov/projects/usnp.html), 1980-2007. This program funded state-level projects to locate, describe (catalog), and selectively preserve (via treatment and microfilm) historic newspaper collections in that state, published from 1690 to the present. Under this program, each institution created machine-readable cataloging (MARC) via the Cooperative Online Serials Program (CONSER) for its state collections, contributing bibliographic descriptions and library holdings information to the Newspaper Union List, hosted by the Online Computer Library Center (OCLC). This data, approximately 140,000 bibliographic title entries and 900,000 separate library holdings records, was acquired and converted to MARCXML format for use in the Chronicling America Newspaper Title Directory.

Why are there pages from only certain states?
Chronicling America is part of a phased project called the National Digital Newspaper Program (NDNP). This program, funded by the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH), awards money to public newspapers in each state to digitize and deliver historic newspaper content to the Library of Congress for inclusion in Chronicling America. Listed below are the states and territories currently participating in the program and the date range for content they will provide. Eventually, the NEH will fund awards in every state and territory.

- Arizona, 1836-1922
- California, 1690-1922
- District of Columbia ***, 1836-1922
- Florida, 1890-1910
- Hawaii, 1836-1922
- Illinois, 1860-1922
- Kansas, 1850-1922
- Kentucky, 1860-1922
- Louisiana, 1860-1922
- Minnesota, 1840-1922
- Missouri, 1858-1922
- Montana, 1880-1922
General Searching in Chronicling America

Results listed first are most likely to be relevant to your search. Results will appear higher in the list when they contain

- more of your search terms;
- repeated search terms;
- search terms that occur near each other;

Your searches will yield better results if you keep the following points in mind:

- Common words such as and, not, and the are ignored by the search engine.
- Case of letters is ignored. For example, Civil and civil are treated the same.
- Diacritic characters (accent marks, in non-English text) and other special characters produce inaccurate results, so plain (unaccented) letters should be substituted for letters with diacritics.

Search and Browsing Tips

Many browsers have the capability of tabbed browsing, which opens a new pane in the current window, either in the background or the foreground. Users of Chronicling America have reported this as a useful method of navigating through search results—bringing up each result in a new tab. This may be accomplished by clicking with the right-hand mouse button (for Mac, hold down the Command key) and selecting “Open Link in New Tab.”

Search results are displayed on a page that can easily be bookmarked or navigated to via the “Back” button on the browser. Every page in the Chronicling America application can be bookmarked, but only the addresses containing newspaper pages should be treated as canonical for purposes of citations and long-term referrals. These addresses are displayed in the address bar of the browser, and no special treatment is required for adding them to a citation database. (Select the “Persistent Link” URL displayed on each newspaper page view to store the link without search text highlighted.)

Search for a Phrase

- Select the Advanced Search tab and enter your phrase in the appropriate “…with the phrase” search box.
- When searching for a phrase, enter the words in the order they are most likely to occur.
- The order of search words does not affect the scope of the search results, but it will affect the order of their display.

Search for Words Near Each Other

- Select the Advanced Search tab and enter your keywords into the “…with the words” search box.
- Select a numeric value for how close the words should be to each other (proximity).
- This type of search can be helpful in narrowing results on a given person, place or event to a specific aspect of that person, place or event. For example: “Roosevelt conservation” within 10 words will result mostly in articles about President Theodore Roosevelt’s Conservation policies during his administration.

Too Many Results - If a search generates too many results, try using more specific terms and/or limiting to a specific state of publication or a particular newspaper title. Use the search box options in combination to narrow your results. For example, use “President Roosevelt” as phrase and “Roosevelt conservation” within 10 words to narrow results to text about only President Roosevelt’s conservation policies.

Too Few Results - If a search generates too few results, try alternate terms or broader subjects and relax any limiting criteria (date ranges, state limitations, etc.).

Because language changes, be sure to use search terms used at the time the materials were created, even if those terms are now obsolete. For example, the following historic terms will produce more results than their modern-day counterparts:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Modern Usage vs. Historic Usage comparison table</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Modern Usage</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>----------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Search Tips & Help

HELP

For research assistance or questions about the Digitizing Louisiana Newspaper Project, see information about how to contact a Librarian.

SEARCH TIPS

Louisiana newspaper titles currently available for full-text search are listed alphabetically by title or parish and by subject.

- Titles by Name
- Titles by Parish
- Civil War Era Titles
- Multi-Language Titles

For subjects covered by the Louisiana newspapers, see the Topic Guides page.

ACCESSING DIGITIZED LOUISIANA NEWSPAPERS ON CHRONICLING AMERICA

Access to the digitized Louisiana newspapers is provided by the Chronicling America website. Chronicling America provides access to all the participating states’ newspapers. To browse or search Louisiana newspaper titles, “Louisiana” must be selected from the state list on the search screen and/or one or more Louisiana newspaper titles must be selected from the title list. Specific years or data ranges can also be selected to limit your search. See examples of these search options below as well as a keyword sample search.

Additional instruction on searching Chronicling America is available on the Library of Congress’s website or via the Ohio State Historical Society’s podcast series.

Search by State:
Historic American Newspapers - Chronicling America

The Library of Congress > Chronicling America

Search America's historic newspapers pages from 1836-1922 or use the U.S. Newspaper Directory to find information about American newspapers published between 1690-present. Chronicling America is sponsored jointly by the National Endowment for the Humanities and the Library of Congress. Learn more>

Search Pages  Advanced Search  All Digitized Newspapers 1836-1922

US Newspaper Directory, 1690-Present

Pages Available: 5,206,652

100 Years Ago Today: October 10, 1912 (50 issues)

The Alliance Herald. (60p.)
Alliance, Box Butte County, Neb.

Monroe City Democrat. (60p.)
Monroe City, Mo.

The Herald. (100p.)
New Orleans, La.

About Chronicling America
About the Site and API
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More Resources
National Digital Newspaper Program
NDNP Award Recipients
Newspaper and Current Periodicals Reading Room
Ask LC Newspaper & Current Periodicals Librarian
Historic Newspapers on Flickr (part of the LC Flickr Commons photostream)

Connect with the Library
Find Us On
Subscribe & Comment
Download & Play
Questions

RSS & E-Mail
Apps
Podcasts
Webcasts
iTunesU

About | Press | Jobs | Donate
Advanced Search

Select State(s):
- All states
- Arizona
- California
- District of Columbia
- Florida
- Hawaii
- Illinois
- Kansas

Or Select Newspaper(s):
- All newspapers
- Abbeville progress. (Abbeville, Vermilion Parish, La.)
- The Abilene reflector. (Abilene, Kan.)
- Abilene weekly reflector. (Abilene, Kan.)
- The Abingdon Virginian. (Abingdon [Va.])
- The Adair County news. (Columbia, Ky.)
- The Afro-American citizen. (Charleston, S.C.)
- Akron daily Democrat. (Akron, Ohio)

Limit Search:
- only front page or Specific page

Language
- All

Enter Search

...with any of the words:

...with all of the words:

...with the phrase:

...with the words:

within 5 words of each other

Select Year(s):

Newspaper pages are available for newspapers published between 1836-1922*

- from 1836 to 1922

Or Date Range
- from [ ] to [ ]
• Quotes around terms for exact searching

• Boolean operators: AND, NOT, OR

• Diacritic marks and special characters

• Capitalization to identify proper nouns (e.g., Civil War vs. civil war)
Select State(s):
- All states
- Arizona
- California
- District of Columbia
- Florida
- Hawaii
- Illinois
- Kansas

Or Select Newspaper(s):
- All newspapers
- Abbeville progress. (Abbeville, Vermilion Parish, La.)
- The Abilene reflector. (Abilene, Kan.)
- Abilene weekly reflector. (Abilene, Kan.)
- The Abingdon Virginian. (Abingdon [Va.])
- The Adler County news. (Columbia, Ky.)
- The Afro-American citizen. (Charleston, S.C.)
- Akron daily Democrat. (Akron, Ohio)

Limit Search: [ ] only front page or Specific page [ ]

Language: [All]

Enter Search
[ ] with any of the words:
[ ] with all of the words:
[ ] with the phrase:

...with the words: [ ] within [ ] words of each other

Select Year(s)*
Newspaper pages are available for newspapers published between 1836-1922*

[ ] from 1836 [ ] to 1922 [ ]

Clear Search

Pages Available: 5,206,652

100 Years Ago Today: October 10, 1912 (50 issues)
### Historic American Newspapers - Chronicling America

**Select State(s):**
- All states
- Arizona
- California
- District of Columbia
- Florida
- Hawaii
- Illinois
- Kansas

**Or Select Newspaper(s):**
- All newspapers
- Abbeville progress. (Abbeville, Vermilion Parish, La.)
- The Abilene reflector. (Abilene, Kan.)
- Abilene weekly reflector. (Abilene, Kan.)
- The Abingdon Virginian. (Abingdon [Va.])
- The Adair County news. (Columbia, Ky.)
- The Afro-American citizen. (Charleston, S.C.)
- Akron daily Democrat. (Akron, Ohio)

**Select Year(s)**
Newspaper pages are available for newspapers published between 1836-1922.
- **from** 1836 **to** 1922

**Or Date Range**

**Limit Search:**
- **only front page or Specific page**

**Enter Search**
- ...with any of the words:
- ...with all of the words:
- ...with the phrase:

**Language:**
- All

---

**Pages Available:** 5,206,652

**100 Years Ago Today:** October 10, 1912 (50 issues)
### Search for Historical Newspapers

**Select State(s):**
- All states
- Arizona
- California
- District of Columbia
- Florida
- Hawaii
- Illinois
- Kansas

**Or Select Newspaper(s):**
- All newspapers
- Abbeville progress. (Abbeville, Vermilion Parish, La.)
- The Abilene reflektor. (Abilene, Kan.)
- Abilene weekly reflektor. (Abilene, Kan.)
- The Abingdon Virgamin. (Abingdon, Va.)
- The Adair county news. (Columbia, Ky.)
- The Afro-American citizen. (Charleston, S.C.)
- Akron daily Democrat. (Akron, Ohio)

**Select Year(s)**
Newspaper pages are available for newspapers published between 1836-1922.
- From [ ] to [ ]

**Or Date Range**
- From [ ] to [ ]

**Natural Language**

Enter search:
- With any of the words:
- With all of the words:
- With the phrase:
- With the words:
  - within [ ] words of each other

**Pages Available:** 5,206,652

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**About Chronicling America**
- About the Site and API
- Recommended Topics
- Help

**More Resources**
- National Digital Newspaper Program
- NDNP Award Recipients
### Results: Digitized Newspapers

These historical newspapers are available to browse and view issues in this site. Pages currently available: 5,205,652

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>State</th>
<th>Newspaper</th>
<th>Browse Issues</th>
<th>No. of Issues</th>
<th>Earliest Issue</th>
<th>Latest Issue</th>
<th>More Info</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| Louisiana | Lower coast gazette.  
Pointe-a-la-Hache, La., 1909-1923 | ![View Issues](icon.png) | 205           | 1909-01-02     | 1914-12-24    | Yes       |
| Louisiana | Gazette and Sentinel.  
Plaquemine, Parish of Iberville, La., 1858-1864 | ![View Issues](icon.png) | 80            | 1860-01-07     | 1861-07-27    | Yes       |
| Louisiana | The Semi-weekly Natchitoches Times.  
Natchitoches, La., 1855-1868 | ![View Issues](icon.png) | 131           | 1866-01-03     | 1867-06-12    | Yes       |
| Louisiana | The Weekly Thibodaux Sentinel.  
Thibodaux, La., 1890-1905 | ![View Issues](icon.png) | 206           | 1900-01-06     | 1903-12-26    | Yes       |
**The Yellow Fever**

**EPIDEMICS OF 1847, 1853 AND 1867.**

Interments in the city of New Orleans, from July 3 to October 18, 1847, inclusive:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week ending</th>
<th>Yellow Fever</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>July 10</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>138</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>July 17</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>144</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>July 24</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>131</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>July 31</td>
<td>47</td>
<td>177</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>August 8</td>
<td>118</td>
<td>265</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>August 9</td>
<td>179</td>
<td>364</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>August 29</td>
<td>399</td>
<td>483</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>September 5</td>
<td>435</td>
<td>546</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>September 12</td>
<td>355</td>
<td>493</td>
</tr>
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<td>September 19</td>
<td>169</td>
<td>255</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>September 26</td>
<td>85</td>
<td>181</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>October 3</td>
<td>61</td>
<td>149</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>October 10</td>
<td>44</td>
<td>138</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

From October 10 to 18

Total: 2241

9930

The interments in the city of Lafayette, now part of New Orleans, from July 25 to September 21, inclusive, were 793; of which 493 were from yellow fever, thus making the total deaths from all diseases, in both cities, 4873; of which 2739 were from yellow fever.
Search historic American newspapers from 1836-1922 or use the U.S. Newspaper Directory to find information about American newspapers published between 1690-present. Chronicling America is sponsored jointly by the National Endowment for the Humanities and the Library of Congress.

Select State(s):
- Kansas
- Kentucky
- Louisiana
- Minnesota
- Missouri
- Montana
- Nebraska
- New Mexico
- Ohio

Select Year(s)
Newspaper pages are available for newspapers published between 1836-1922.
- from 1853
- to 1922

Select Newspaper(s):
- All newspapers
- Abbeville progress. (Abbeville, Vermilion Parish, La.)
- The Abilenan. (Abilene, Kan.)
- Abilene weekly reflector. (Abilene, Kan.)
- The Abingdon Virginian. (Abingdon, Va.)
- The Adair County news. (Columbia, Ky.)
- The Afro-American citizen. (Charleston, S.C.)
- Akron daily Democrat. (Akron, Ohio)

Limit Search:
- only front page or Specific page

Enter Search
...with any of the words:
Yellow Fever

100 Years Ago Today: October 11, 1912 (SE issue)
Search Results - Chronicling America

Select State(s):
- California
- District of Columbia
- Florida
- Hawaii
- Illinois
- Kansas
- Kentucky
- Louisiana

Or Select Newspaper(s):
- All newspapers
- Abbeville progress. (Abbeville, Vermilion Parish, La.)
- The Abilene reflector. (Abilene, Kan.)
- Abilene weekly reflector. (Abilene, Kan.)
- The Abingdon Virginian. (Abingdon [Va.])
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- Akron daily Democrat. (Akron, Ohio)

Select Year(s)*
Newspaper pages are available for newspapers published between 1836-1922
- from 1853 to 1922

Or Date Range
- from [ ] to [ ]

Limit Search:
- only front page or Specific page

Language:
- All

Enter Search
- ...with all of the words:
  - yellow fever
- ...with any of the words:
- ...with the words:
  - within 5 words of each other

Pages Available: 5,206,652

Results 1 - 20 of 28014

28014 results containing "yellow fever"

Show only front pages
Sort by: Relevance
Results per page: 20
Yellow fever is a viral infection spread by mosquitoes. Symptoms: Yellow fever has three stages: Stage 1 (infection): Headache, muscle and joint aches, fever; flushing, loss of appetite, vomiting, and jaundice are common ...

Causes - Symptoms - Tests - Treatment - Progosis - Complications - Prevention

Yellow fever - Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia
en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Yellow_fever

Yellow fever (also known as Yellow Jack and Bronze John) is an acute viral hemorrhagic disease. The virus is a 40 to 50 nm enveloped RNA virus with positive ...

Yellow fever vaccine - Yellow Fever Epidemic of 1793 - History of yellow fever

WHO | Yellow fever
www.who.int/mediacentre/factsheets/fs100/en/

Yellow fever is an acute viral haemorrhagic disease transmitted by infected mosquitoes. The "yellow" in the name refers to the jaundice that affects some patients ...

CDC - Yellow Fever
www.cdc.gov/yellowfever/

Dec 13, 2011 – Yellow fever virus is found in tropical and subtropical areas in South America and Africa.

Yellow Fever - Chapter 3 - 2012 Yellow Book - Travelers' Health - CDC
wwwnc.cdc.gov/travel/yellowbook/ch4-yellowfever.aspx

Yellow fever occurs in sub-Saharan Africa and tropical South America, where it is endemic and intermittently epidemic (see Tables 3-21 and 3-22 for a list of ...

Yellow Fever (jungle yellow fever, urban yellow fever)
www.health.ny.gov/diseases/.../yellow_fever/fact_sheet.htm

Communicable Disease Fact Sheet, yellow fever. ... "Yellow Fever" is also available in Portable Document Format (PDF, 13KB, 1pg.) Version en español ...

Yellow Fever
evidence.medscape.com/article/232244-overview
Relevance = \# of times search terms appear on page

\# of words on the page
Which has greater “relevance”?
Search Results - Chronicling America

Chronicling America is sponsored jointly by the National Endowment for the Humanities and the Library of Congress. Learn more.

Search Pages  Advanced Search  All Digitized Newspapers 1836-1922

Louisiana  from 1852  to 1900

Enter one or more search words

Results 581 - 600 of 1313

1313 results containing "Algeria OR Orleans" and "the phrase "yellow fever""

Sort by:  Title

The Louisiana Democrat
(Alexandria, La.), February 18, 1885, Image 1

The Louisiana Democrat
(Alexandria, La.), June 13, 1885, Image 2

The Louisiana Democrat
(Alexandria, La.), July 11, 1885, Image 1

The Louisiana Democrat
(Alexandria, La.), October 31, 1885, Image 2
Questions or Comments?

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Project Manager of DLNP
Louisiana State University
LSU Libraries Special Collections
Baton Rouge, LA 70803
lcharn1@lsu.edu