(More) Voices and Viewpoints in Chronicling America: Uses of Historical News for Education and Outreach

IFLA News Media Section
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“History’s Rough Draft”

Local, Regional, National - Communities, Interests, Voices

Public Ledger, (Maysville, KY), Aug 11 1916

The Evening World, (New York, NY) June 24, 1922

Hood River Glacier (Hood River, Oregon), Feb. 11, 1915
Working with U.S. Newspapers

• Many types of users, high demand for access

• No single U.S. collection – 150,000 titles published since 1690 (collected across the country)

• Broad range of subjects

• Many ways to use once in digital form

Newspapers = fundamentals of U.S. history
Title Selection

- Awardees select titles from their states
  - Research value
  - Microfilm quality
  - Geographic and community diversity
Historic Themes and Tools

- **Example:**

- **Suffrage for Women and African-Americans**

  **Women's Suffrage**
  
  On June 4, 1919, the United States Senate approved the 19th amendment to the Constitution, which states, "The right of citizens of the United States to vote shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or by any State on account of sex." On August 18, 1920, Tennessee became the needed 36th state to ratify the amendment.

  **Historical Background**
  
  This triumph was the result of centuries of struggle, culminating in the late 19th century in a burst of public activism and civil disobedience that not only secured voting rights for women, but also helped define new possibilities for women's participation in the public sphere.

  **Early Suffrage Rights and Rights**
  
  Early in the history of the United States, women in New Jersey could legally vote. However, this changed in 1870 when the State Assembly passed a law limiting suffrage to free white males. There would not be another law explicitly giving the vote to women until 1869, when the Wyoming territory granted women over 21 years of age the right to vote in all elections.

  While some states explicitly prohibited women from voting, in 1872 New York did not, opening the door for Susan B. Anthony and a small group of suffragists to register and vote. They were arrested three weeks later on a charge of "criminal voting." Anthony was fined $100 and fined $300 plus court costs.

  **Early Activism and Organizations**
  
  The first large gathering of those fighting for women's rights occurred in 1848 in Seneca Falls, New York. One outcome of the Seneca Falls Convention was the drafting and signing of the Declaration of Sentiments, modeled on the Declaration of Independence and calling for civil, social, political, and religious rights for women. Many of the signers of the Declaration, including Lucretia Mott and Elizabeth Cady Stanton, would go on to become the leaders of a generation of suffrage activists.

  In the decades that followed the Seneca Falls Convention, formal groups were established to lead American women in their bid for voting and other rights. Well-known organizations include the National Woman Suffrage Association and the American Woman Suffrage Association, which...
Historic Themes and Tools

- Example:
- President Lincoln’s Death

Topics in Chronicling America - Lincoln Assassination

On April 15, 1865 President Abraham Lincoln is shot by John Wilkes Booth during a special performance at Ford’s Theater. A nine-car funeral train carries the body of the President to Springfield, Illinois, where he is buried on May 4th. Although many of the co-conspirators in this case are captured, John Wilkes Booth is shot after being taken to Fort Stevens. The other co-conspirators in the assassination plots on President Lincoln, Secretary Seward, and Vice President Johnson are later tried and convicted by an army military commission. Read more about it.

The information and sample article links below provide access to a sampling of articles from historic newspapers that can be found in the Chronicling America: American Historic Newspapers digital collection (http://chroniclingamerica.loc.gov/). Use the Suggested Search Terms and Dates to explore this topic further in Chronicling America.

Jump to: Sample Articles

Important Dates:
- April 14, 1865: Abraham Lincoln is shot by John Wilkes Booth at Ford’s Theater in Washington, DC, while attending a special performance of the comedy “Our American Cousin.” Secretary of State William Henry Seward is shot by Lewis Payne at the same time at his home near the White House.
- April 21, 1865: Lincoln’s body departs Washington in a nine-car funeral train. The 1,700-mile trip back to Illinois would essentially be over the same tracks that carried the then-President-elect in 1861.
- April 29, 1865: John Wilkes Booth and accomplice David Herold are captured by the military at a farm near Bowling Green, Virginia. Although Herold surrenders, Booth is shot and killed.
- May 4, 1865: Abraham Lincoln is laid to rest in a tomb at Springfiled’s Oak Ridge Cemetery.
- May 10, 1865: An Army military commission is convened to try Mrs. Mary Surratt, David Herold, Lewis Payne, George Atzerodt, Edwin Spangler, Michael O’Laughlin, Samuel Arnold, and Dr. Samuel Mudd for their parts in the conspiracy to assassinate President Lincoln. Surratt, Herold, Payne, and Atzerodt will eventually be given the death penalty, while the remaining defendants are sentenced to imprisonment.
- July 7, 1865: Four co-conspirators, Lewis Payne, George Atzerodt, David Herold, and Mary Surratt, were executed by hanging at the Old Presbyterian, on the site of present-day Fort McNair, for their part in the assassination conspiracy.

Suggested Search Strategies:
- Try the following terms in combination, preferably or as phrases using Search Pages in Chronicling America, or Newspapers by Associations:
  - Lincoln assassination
  - President Lincoln
  - Lincoln’s death
  - Lincoln funeral
  - Booth assassination
  - Seward assassination
  - Stanton assassination
  - Lincoln conspiracy
  - Lincoln military commission
  - Lincoln tomb
Teaching with Chronicling America…

K-12 Resources

- **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 History Day** special prize for best use of Chronicling America
Classroom Tools: Primary Source Sets and Analysis

Primary Source Sets

- Back to Classroom Materials: Lesson Plans | Themed Resources | Primary Source Sets | Presentations & Activities | Collection Connections

Abraham Lincoln: Rise to National Prominence
- Speeches, correspondence, campaign materials, and a map documenting the free and slave states in Lincoln's rise to national prominence

American Authors in the Nineteenth Century, Whitman, Dickinson, Longfellow, Howe, and Rose
- A selection of Library of Congress primary sources exploring the topic of American authors in the 19th century, including Whitman, Emily Dickinson, Henry Wadsworth Longfellow, Harriet Beecher Stowe, and others.

Assimilation through Education
- Photos, early film footage, federal government reports, cartoons, and maps tell the complex tale of how Native Americans have been assimilated through education

Baseball, America's National Pastime
- Songs, videos, clips, images, trading cards, and photographs tell the story of how baseball emerged as America's national pastime. Feature primary source items show Americans from different backgrounds and social strata embracing the sport

Children's Lives at the Turn of the Twentieth Century
- Images, film, and books shed light on the ways in which children worked, learned, and played around the turn of the twentieth century, especially suitable for early grades

Teaching with Informational Text: Historic Newspapers from the Library of Congress
March 26, 2013 to Stephen Wesson
- Here's a question for anyone teaching with informational text, including teachers working to meet Common Core State Standards:

Where can you find a wide range of authors writing from varied points of view, making arguments with appeal to evidence, rich with historical strategies and figurative language, often using a number of different media, all in one package? In historic newspapers, that's where.

- Newspapers from the 19th and 20th centuries are rich sources of informational text in a dizzying array of formats. In a typical paper from 1850, you might find fact-gathering, the breathing advenement, biographical profiles, library nonfiction, weather reports, box scores, charts, graphs, maps, cartoons, and a poem about current events—maybe even all on the same page! The subjects covered allow for connections across the curriculum, and the stories can prompt explorations of point of view, interpretation, argument, analysis of an argument's analytical structure.

An easy way to delve deep into historic newspapers is to explore Chronicling America on the Library's Web site, where you’ll find free access to millions of historic American newspaper pages from 1836-1922. (This blog has written about Chronicling America in a previous post.)

The Topics in Chronicling America list lets teachers quickly find a number of articles on a single topic, such as the Haymarket Affair of 1886, and make comparisons between coverage in a number of papers from around the country, or even within a single newspaper.

- Ask students to select an article that makes a strong argument, such as "Chicago's Wild Millennials" or "A Human Tiger." Challenge students to identify the specific claim the article makes, and to see if each claim is backed by at least one piece of evidence. How does the amount of evidence cited change students' views of a particular author's authority?

- Find two articles from different newspapers that express very different points of view on a single issue or event, like "Great Day for Labor" and "No Violence Please." Encourage your students to compare and contrast the methods used by the two writers to make their case. Do they differ in evidence? Or do they use different persuasive techniques?

- Newspapers 100 years ago were full of cartoons, maps, portraits, and other visual elements. Select a visual, and ask students to compare it with a newspaper text account of the same event. (For Haymarket, they might compare "The First Dynamo Strike in America" with "The American's Lives." What does each medium do better than the other? How much more convincing are your students find one over the other?

- How have you used historic newspapers to help your students explore informational text?
Classroom Tools: Lesson Plans

Lesson Plans
- Back to Classroom Materials

By Topic
- Jump to topic:
  - African American History
  - American History
  - American Indian History

Search this site

Sufrage Strategies: Voices for Votes
Preparation

FEATURES • LESSON PLANS • STUDENT RESOURCES • SEARCH

Preparation

Using the unit, collect and print primary source documents from the Library of Congress Web site that relate to achieving women’s suffrage.

One hundred years ago, the European nations were embroiled in a Great War. The United States attempted to continue trade and diplomatic relations with a world in conflict. This lesson gives students the opportunity to interact with historical newspapers available through Chronicling America and read the conflicting viewpoints of America’s opinion leaders and ordinary citizens. Students will engage in dialogue as they struggle to decide whether the United States should remain neutral or join the fight.

National displays in the classroom. See these examples of possible displays.
National History Day

- >600,000 students in 2016
- Local, affiliate, national levels
- Year-long competition
- Special Prize sponsored by NEH for best use of Chronicling America –
  - in 2016, winners were
    - Junior Individual Website
      *Nikola Tesla: Exploring Electricity* (Indiana)
    - Senior Individual Performance
      *The Exploration, Encounter, and Exchange of Elisha Kent Kane,* (West Virginia)

- 2017 Theme = “Taking a Stand in History”
  - Themebook Resource from NHD: [Ten Strategies for Using Chronicling America in your Classroom](#)
Professional Development for Educators

- LC Summer Teacher Institutes
- Teaching with Primary Sources
- University Summer Courses
Social Media for Outreach

- Educational Outreach
  - Twitter (@teachinglc and @EDSITEment and 11 states)
    - Specific hash tags - #APUSH and #sschat
    - Content-specific - #chronam and #chroniclingamerica
  - Blogs
    - Teaching with the Library of Congress
    - EDSITEment! Closer Readings
    - State project blogs
    - LC blogs – 10 Stories…
  - Pinterest and Facebook too (e.g., #teachcivilwar)
    - Embedded image metadata

- Genealogists
  - #twitterstorians

- History Bots
  - @Paperbot, @TrendingHx (Trending History Bot), @snippet_jpg
Open Access through APIs and Bulk Download

- Open data
  - Documented API
  - Standard Web protocols – JSON and RDF
  - Linked Data
  - Persistent URLs

- Bulk data for download
  - OCR sets for text analysis

- A variety of ways to use
NEH Chronicling America Data Challenge

- Challenge.gov (part of digitalgov.gov)
  - Platform to support US government agency-driven crowdsourcing competitions and foster innovation
- NEH recently announced 6 winning projects
  - American Public Bible: Biblical Quotations in U.S. Newspapers
  - American Lynching: Uncovering a Cultural Narrative
  - Historical Agricultural News
  - Chronicling Hoosiers
  - USNewsMap.com
  - Digital APUSH: Revealing History with Chronicling America
Thank you!

- NDNP Public Web
  - http://www.loc.gov/ndnp/
  - Extra! Extra!  http://www.loc.gov/ndnp/extras/

Chronicling America: Historic American Newspapers
  http://chroniclingamerica.loc.gov

- Contact us at ndnptech@loc.gov