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

IFLA News Media Section
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Library of Congress
“History’s Rough Draft”

Local, Regional, National - Communities, Interests, Voices

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

Hood River Glacier (Hood River, Oregon), Feb. 11, 1915

The Evening World, (New York, NY) June 24, 1922
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**
Historic Themes and Tools

- **Example:**
- **President Lincoln’s Death**

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**Assassination of the President:** Attempted Murder of Secretary Seward and Sons.

**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 just in 1861. Cities along the route that host funeral processions include Philadelphia, New York City, Buffalo, Cleveland, and Chicago.
- April 26, 1865: John Wilkes Booth and accomplices David Herold are caught 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 Springfield's Oak Ridge Cemetery.
- May 10, 1865: An Army military commission is convened to try Mrs. Mary Surratt, David Herold, Lewis Payne, George Atzerodt, Edman Spangler, Michael O'Laughlin, Samuel Arnold, and Dr. Samuel Mudd, their part 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 Penitentiary, 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: Lincoln Assassination, Conspirators Trial, President Lincoln's Death.
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

- Abraham Lincoln: Rise to National Prominence
- American Authors in the Nineteenth Century
- Baseball, America’s National Pastime
- Classroom Materials
- Children’s Lives at the Turn of the Twentieth Century
- Digital Collections
- Essays, Speeches, and Correspondence
- Literature and American Readers
- Maps and Cartography
- Newspapers in a Digital Age
- Primary Source Sets
- Publications and Activities
- Photographs
- Teaching Strategies
- Teaching with Informational Text: Historic Newspapers from the Library of Congress
- Texts in American English
- Visual Culture of the United States
- Web Resources

Teaching with Informational Text: Historic Newspapers from the Library of Congress

March 29, 2013 by Steven WConv

Here's a question for anyone teaching with informational text, including teachers working toward Common Core State Standards:

- Where can you find a wide range of authors writing from varied points of view, making arguments with appeals 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 factual reporting, the breathing值得关注, biographical profiles, literary 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 pieces can prompt explorations of point of view, interpretation, argumentation, analysis of an argument, and textual structure.

An easy way to dive deep into historic newspapers is to explore Chronicling America on the Library’s Web site, where you can find 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 newspapers 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 West” or “A Human Tiger.” Challenge students to identify the specific claims the article makes, and to see if each claim is backed up 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. Have students label the articles “Pro” or “Con.” Then have them read each article and compare the methods used by the two writers to make their case. Do they use different evidence? Do they use different persuasive techniques?

- Newspapers from 1900 are full of cartoons, maps, portraits, and other visual elements. Select a visual, and ask students to create an essay with a newspaper text account of the same event. (For Haymarket, they might compare “The Haymarket Scene in Chicago” with “The Anarchist Lives.”) What does each medium do better than the other? How much more compelling are your students’ findings with one or the other?

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

* Back to Classroom Materials

Preparation

To use the unit, collect and print out primary source documents from the Library of Congress Web site that relate to women's suffrage.

Introduction

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 warring Europe. 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: Should the United States remain neutral or join the fight?
**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**

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

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