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

IFLA News Media Section
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Deborah Thomas
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
Chronicling America: Historic American Newspapers

http://chroniclingamerica.loc.gov/
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**
Topics in Chronicling America, 1836-1922

- Influenza of 1918
- Newsboys
- Halley's Comet
- Basketball
- Prohibition
- Assassinations
- Early Cinema
- Mark Twain
- San Francisco Earthquake
- World War I
- World's Fair
- Carnegie Libraries
- Race Riots
- Titanic
- Civil War Maps
- President Roosevelt
- Buffalo Bill
- Chicago Fire
- Boston Subway
- Houdini
- President Roosevelt
- Yosemite National Park
- League of Nations
- Elliz Island
- Panama Canal
- Biography, Jessie Fowler – Phrenologist… and more
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: Whitman, Dickinson, Longfellow, and Poe
- Baseball, America’s National Pastime
- Children’s Lives in the Turn of the Twentieth Century

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

March 30, 2013 by 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 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 fact reporting, the breathless advertisements, biographical profiles, library notices, 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, 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’ll find free access to millions of historic American newspaper pages from 1690 to 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 Men” or “A Human Tiger,” Challenge students to identify the specific claims 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’ ideas of a particular author’s authority?

- Have students 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 “Violence Fears.” Encourage students to compare and contrast the methods used by the two writers to make their case. Do they use different 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 Broil” from America with “The American’s Lives.”) What does each medium do better than the other? How much more compelling are your students finding one or the other?

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

EDSITEment!
The Best of the Humanities on the Web

Lesson Plan: Grades 6-8
Chronicling America: Uncovering a World at War
Created June 22, 2004

Introduction
I have been a pacifist and, to a certain extent, I still am one; and, therefore, I am able to understand their point of view. I can see no reason that any right-thinking person can refuse to follow the president in his course concerning the war. Most of the pacifist's positions are not only logical, but also — Clifton Adams, The Spanish-American War, Apr. 28, 1917

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 war 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: 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**
  - [http://www.loc.gov/ndnp/](http://www.loc.gov/ndnp/)

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

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