Illinois Newspapers:
Preparing Our Past for the Future

Anna FitzSimmons, Amy Sullivan, Tracy Nectoux, Nathan Yarasavage

UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS
AT URBANA-CHAMPAIGN

www.illinois.edu
• Part of the larger United States Newspaper Program
• Funded by the National Endowment for the Humanities
• Administered by the Library of Congress
Goals of the INP and USNP

1. Identify and locate Illinois newspapers
2. Catalog Illinois newspapers for bibliographic access
http://www.finditillinois.org/oclc/
Goals of the INP and USNP

1. Identify and locate Illinois newspapers
2. Catalog Illinois newspapers for bibliographic access
3. Preserve Illinois newspapers on microfilm
Preservation Microfilming

1. Process

- Selection of materials
- Preparation and filming
- Quality assurance
- Bibliographic control
- Storage
2. Product

- Three generations of film
- Polyester base
- Silver halide emulsion
## Preservation Guidelines

### Three-Generation Process

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Generation</th>
<th>First</th>
<th>Second</th>
<th>Third</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Title</td>
<td>Camera Master</td>
<td>Print Master</td>
<td>Service Copy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Polarity</td>
<td>Negative</td>
<td>Negative</td>
<td>Positive</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Storage</td>
<td>Iron Mountain</td>
<td>Vendor</td>
<td>UIUC Library</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Why We Need to Microfilm

• Inherent Vice of Medium
  – Cotton rag fiber
    • Enduring, but expensive
  – Wood pulp
    • Economical, but unstable
Broadsheet  
(rag paper)

Newsprint  
(wood pulp)
Why We Want to Microfilm

• Inherent Virtue of Newspapers
  – Primary sources for local history:
    • Cultural
    • Economical
    • Genealogical
    • Political
    • Social
500+ Years!
# Illinois Newspaper Project

**University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign & Chicago History Museum**

_Preserving Illinois Heritage as part of the U.S. Newspaper Program_

## The INP Database = Preservation Microfilming

To date, the INP has microfilmed the following **190** titles.

All film is available via [Interlibrary Loan from UIUC Library](http://www.library.uiuc.edu/inp/microfilm.php). Click on a title for more holdings information.

Visit our [Preserve Newspapers](http://www.library.uiuc.edu/inp/microfilm.php) page for more information on INP preservation microfilming.

## Title

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Place of Publication</th>
<th>Dates Microfilmed</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. Abingdon Argus (Abingdon, Ill. ; 1952)</td>
<td>Abingdon, IL (Knox County)</td>
<td>1952:4:3-1967:12:21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>1968:1:4-12:23</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>1969:1:2-12:22</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>&lt;1894:10:19-1896:1:17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. Aledo press</td>
<td>Aledo, IL (Mercer County)</td>
<td>&lt;1859:5:31</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4. Alton daily courier</td>
<td>Alton, IL (Madison County)</td>
<td>Some issues are missing, &lt;1852:5:29</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5. Alton daily morning courier</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
The INP Database Objective

The objective is to make all of the information that we have discovered about Illinois newspapers freely available to the public worldwide.
Contact Us

inpmail@library.uiuc.edu
Caveat

Though the database does not contain newspaper articles or digital newspaper content, it is a great tool for locating current and historical newspapers.
Newspaper Digitization
Newspaper Digitization

• Why digitize newspapers?

• Challenges

• How we do it
  – Illinois Digital Newspaper Collection

• Future of Newspaper Digitization
  – National Digital Newspaper Program
**Why Digitize Newspapers?**

**Preservation:**
- Reduces handling
- Replaces deteriorating print and film

**Access:**
- Keyword searchable
- Available to anyone with an Internet connection 24/7
Challenges of Digitizing Newspapers

• Large format
• Variety of fonts
• Mixture of text and graphics
• Article jumps and continuations
• Expense (approx. $1/page)
Not all films are created equal
Newspaper Digitization

Garbage In = Garbage Out
Newspaper Digitization

Existing Projects

Historical New York Times
Historical Chicago Tribune

www.illinois.edu
Newspaper Digitization

Historical Newspapers Online

Links to many free and subscription-based digital newspaper collections

Available on the History, Philosophy and Newspaper Library’s web site

www.library.uiuc.edu/hpnl
Newspaper Digitization

Partnership between the NEH and the Library of Congress

Builds off of the United States Newspaper Program

Will create a national, digital resource of historically significant newspapers from all the states and U.S. territories published between 1836 and 1922

Content will be freely available within Chronicling America hosted by LC

UIUC is applying for a 2009 project

http://www.loc.gov/ndnp/
About the Illinois Digital Newspaper Collection (IDNC)

Historic newspapers provide us with a window on our past, and now digital technology has revolutionized access to this rich source material. The Illinois Digital Newspaper Collection (IDNC) contains digital facsimiles of historic Illinois newspapers. You can browse the newspapers by date or search by keyword across articles, advertisements and photo captions. You can print, download, or e-mail individual articles. And it’s free! More about the IDNC.

Titles Available

- Daily Illini 1916-1936 (1935-1945 Coming soon!)
- Urbana Daily Courier 1916-1925 (1902-1915 and 1926-1935 Coming soon!)  

Learn more about the Urbana Daily Courier.

Many thanks to the following donors and granting agencies for their generous support of the Illinois Digital Newspaper Collection.

- Clifford Family Endowment
- Stewart S. Howe Foundation Endowment
- Illinois State Library and the Institute for Museum and Library Services
- State of Illinois
- University of Illinois Library

We need your help to continue digitizing historic newspapers. Contact us to make a donation.
Daily Illini 1916-1936 (1936-1945 Coming soon!)
Urbana Courier 1916-1925
(1902-1915 and 1926-1935 Coming soon!)
Features:

- Browse issues by date
- Keyword search across articles, advertisements, and photo captions
- Print PDFs of entire issues or individual articles
- Save or email articles
- Freely available online!

http://www.library.uiuc.edu/idnc
Digitization Process: How We Do It

• Select and evaluate microfilm

• Vendor duplicates acetate microfilm to polyester

• Vendors digitize from polyester microfilm
  • Scanning (Creation of TIFFs)
  • OCR text (enables keyword searching)
  • Article segmentation or zoning
  • Creation of PDFs and access images
  • XML markup

• Quality control at UIUC
Future Plans: Farm, Field and Fireside

- Collection of digitized agricultural weekly newspapers published in Illinois and other Midwestern states

- 100,000 pages

- Funded by Illinois State Library’s LSTA program

- Freely available in Summer 2009
Future Plans: Collegiate Chronicle

- Collection of digitized collegiate newspapers published in a diverse body of American colleges, universities, and other institutions of higher learning

- Prototype featuring content from eight institutions was developed in 2007

- Seeking funding opportunities to enhance this collection
Future Plans: Vaudeville Papers

- Digital collection of Vaudeville trade newspapers/journals

- Titles will include:
  - The Player
  - Vaudeville News
  - Others

- Currently in planning phase
INP Project Staff

Mary Stuart
Principal Investigator

Anna FitzSimmons
Senior Project Cataloger

Tracy Nectoux
Project Cataloger

Amy Sullivan
Preservation Specialist

Nathan Yarasavage
Research Information Specialist
History, Philosophy & Newspaper Library

inpmail@library.uiuc.edu
www.library.uiuc.edu/inp