



The Place of the Newspaper

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THIS ARTICLE primarily attempts to discover the place of the newspaper today and in the predictable future as a part of permanent book collections. Thus, it deals with the general political newspaper in all its forms, as it was visualized, for instance, by the compilers of the *Union List of Newspapers*, published by the H. W. Wilson Company in 1937. The thoughts and statements found in this article are derived from expressions about and observations of conditions in Western countries only, primarily the United States.

There is no doubt that the peculiar nature of the newspaper is responsible for its problematic position among the various materials acquired by libraries. And it is not only its form, its mass, its rate of growth that is offering unusual problems to its integration in the library's book stock, but even more perhaps its internal character, its content. The general attitude towards the newspaper, shared by many men of the book, is traceable to the inevitably continuous intrusion of this protean vehicle of the printed word, with its gossip large and small, its sensational news and its sensational advertising, and to the casual way in which it is used.

But man concerned with studying seriously his own environment has for some time discovered that the newspaper is by its very nature a source for his purposes for which historians of pre-newspaper times rightly envy him. The work of many historians reflects this value of the newspaper. J. F. Rhodes¹ and Lucy M. Salmon,² two eminent Americans, have not only used newspapers extensively in their works, but shown in critical works how they may be used. Rhodes said in 1909 that it is not the duty of the historian to find out whether the newspapers are as good as they should be, but to study their influence upon their environment and their importance as contemporary and universal news agencies of the past. Max Weber, the sociologist, pointed to the need for studying the newspapers for their part in shaping men and in

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molding or transforming basic tenets and beliefs. The Norwegian scholar and librarian L. L. Daae³ said in 1872 that even the smallest local paper had historical importance and proceeded to solicit all Norwegian newspapers for the University Library in Oslo. It would lead too far here to bring on further testimonials, suffice it to quote Martin Spahn,⁴ historian and member of the German Reichstag, who said in 1910, during the long deliberations about the scope and methods to be pursued in collecting the newspapers of his country, "that all whose expressions of opinion have come to my knowledge have said that in the future all newspapers must be collected."

Though these views are not universally accepted in all countries today and have not led to a well-defined and systematic program even in Germany, it is apparent that the newspaper has established a definite claim upon the serious attention of the librarian. Occasional attempts at justification of collecting newspapers on a limited basis have included efforts to arrive at an answer by collecting statistics of use of existing collections. It is difficult to collect valid statistical data due to the constant shifting of emphasis in research, not to speak of the improvement of newspaper collections and their accessibility. It is very likely that serious efforts to know the real extent of the present-day use of newspapers would justify amply the preservation of at least one copy of every newspaper published. The curator of the newspaper collection of a Western historical society wrote: "A whole monograph could be written on the variety of uses by the public." A visit to the newspaper reading room of the Library of Congress is bound to give the skeptics some food for thought. The State University of Louisiana has placed four microfilm readers at the disposal of newspaper research.

The argument sometimes heard that newspapers which have no indexes should not be collected at all hardly deserves serious consideration. The almost complete absence of published indexes however points to untold opportunities for bibliographers, librarians, and journalists for emulating such efforts as the indexes prepared for the *Hampshire Gazette* or the *Cleveland Plain Dealer*, and other similar indexes prepared during so-called "depression times."

The relatively late recognition of the newspaper as serious source material has, as it has in the case of archival records, served to delay its complete acceptance by librarians as their responsibility. This serious lag is illustrated most eloquently by the late appearance of bibliographies and catalogs of newspapers, still more by the abundance of incomplete files recorded. It is important to establish the need for per-

manent preservation of newspapers without exception, before the next step can be taken with assurance, i.e. making plans for collecting and preserving newspapers permanently. Once the premise of universal need has been established, the task is one of facing the quantitative aspects of the problem. Unlike modern archival records, whose incorporation into permanent archives is usually preceded by the elimination of great quantities of secondary and ephemeral materials, the newspapers require incorporation of every issue of every edition.

In a related paper⁵ published a short while ago the author attempted to pursue this topic, adducing somewhat more extensive historical evidence and reporting on the status of collecting newspapers in some twenty different countries, including the United States. Since then further facts have become known, which indicate a definite trend towards acceptance of the principle of collecting newspapers on a universal and at the same time cooperative basis. In this article significant developments in the United States are reported.

In the United States several nationwide efforts are running side by side, supporting and supplementing each other, to make sure that no important sector of the country's intellectual record is left unattended. The American Library Association, through its Committee on Cooperative Microfilm Projects, a subcommittee of the Board on Resources of American Libraries, has for some time taken cognizance of the importance of newspapers and of the urgent need for their preservation. The principal points of a program of preservation have been included in a *Statement of Principles to Guide Large Scale Acquisition and Preservation of Library Materials on Microfilm*.⁶ The first among these points was agreed to be the urgent need for inter-library cooperation in the acquisition and preservation of certain library materials, among which newspapers of the wood pulp period are named first, before "disintegrating periodicals" and "out-of-print books." Nothing is said about the extent or limitation of such a program, though obviously no alternative to filming is even contemplated. The second important point was agreed to be the "need for further planning which will augment current activity and resources, and will induce a greater number of libraries, associations and other organizations which are interested in the preservation of the record of our civilization to assume a share of the responsibility for that preservation."

The above mentioned statement outlined a program of action needed by research libraries. This program suggests adoption of and adherence by research libraries to principles which should govern coop-

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erative microfilming activities and services such as "A Satisfactory Set of Standards for Microfilming Newspapers," which has been prepared for the Association of Research Libraries and is included in *A Guide to Microfilming Practices Prepared by the A.L.A. Committee on Photoduplication and Multiple Copying Methods*; ⁷ a similarly satisfactory system of pricing microfilm copies; an adequate loan policy for microfilm copies; and adequate consideration of the ownership of original and rare materials microfilmed, when considering reproduction.

The Library of Congress possesses the largest collection of newspapers in the United States. It published in 1953 a second edition of the union list entitled *Newspapers on Microfilm* and simultaneously a *Selected List of United States Newspapers Recommended for Preservation by the A.L.A. Committee on Cooperative Microfilm Projects*. The latter list is an effort in supplying a stimulus and a core. The Union Catalog Division of the Library of Congress which issued both lists above has had, since 1949, a Microfilm Clearing House, whose purpose it is "to provide a central source of information on extensive microfilming projects planned, in progress, or completed." Much of the information received by this office has been published in the *Microfilm Clearing House Bulletin*, an irregular supplement to the *Library of Congress Information Bulletin*.

The degree of success of the newspaper preservation program varies greatly among the states of the Union. About some of them it is not even known what has been done, though absence from the lists mentioned, or lack of a report in the *Microfilm Clearing House Bulletin* does not justify negative conclusions.

Many newspaper publishers, in practically all states, for years, have sent current issues for binding and preservation to the public collections in each state. In most states a number of publishers have begun to have their current files microfilmed; in some cases they have extended this to the existing files of former years. But in very few cases have they so far taken a practical interest in the systematic collection and permanent preservation of newspapers.

The Kansas State Historical Society is perhaps the most effective agency in collecting newspapers in America, because the Society was founded by the newspaper editors and publishers of the state. In Minnesota, which has one of the most complete collecting programs, the Minnesota Editorial Association has gone on record repeatedly that it is backing the work of the Minnesota Historical Society Library. It has formed a microfilm committee which is working with the Library on its microfilm program. This committee gives "splendid sup-

port before the legislators" and in February 1955 gave \$1,250.00 to buy additional equipment for filming. The Mississippi Department of Archives and History reports that the newspaper publishers are "willing to cooperate with the stand we have taken," i.e. of collecting systematically the newspapers of the state. The president of the Nebraska Press Association is an ex-officio member of the Nebraska State Historical Society, which endeavors to collect all newspapers of the state while, in Utah, the publishers of newspapers as a group have endorsed the program of the University of Utah to collect the entire newspaper resources of the state and to film them as far as possible.

In the following an attempt is made to give a succinct account of the state of the newspaper collecting program in the 48 states. The figures in parentheses refer to the population, the number of dailies and the number of weeklies in each state, taken from the *Directory of Newspapers and Periodicals, 1954*. Other information was secured by means of a questionnaire sent to one, or several, institutions in each of the 48 states during April, May, and June, 1955. Additional information was secured from data generously supplied by George A. Schwegmann, Jr., Chief of the Union Catalog Division, Library of Congress.

Alabama (3,062,000 – 18 – 124)

The Department of Archives and History at Montgomery "has a very large collection of newspapers dating from about 1813." An act of the legislature requires all newspapers in Alabama which contain legal advertisements to be preserved in the county of origin. There is no systematic effort to film. *Newspapers On Microfilm*,⁸ hereafter referred to by the symbol NOM(1953) reports at least seven dailies as being microfilmed. Some thirty early files, mostly small, are listed.

Arizona (750,000 – 13 – 45)

The Department of Library and Archives at Phoenix collects all newspapers of the state for permanent preservation and has a project for filming existing files. The Arizona Pioneers' Historical Society at Tucson also has a statewide collection dating from 1859, but no film program. NOM(1953) reported the filming of the two dailies in Phoenix as well as of the two dailies in Tucson in their entirety.

Arkansas, (1,910,000 – 35 – 146)

Arkansas University is reported to have a project but its nature is unknown.

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California (10,586,000 – 134 – 624)

The State Library at Sacramento has the "backing of the state legislature for eventual coverage of the entire state." The University Library at Berkeley "has been filming systematically its files of California newspapers through June 1947 and including all holdings as of that date." Planning is going on at various points in the state. The Regional Resources Committee of the California Library Association "now surveying newspaper holdings in the state, hopes one result [of its work] will be a formal definition jointly by libraries of a collecting policy worked out in terms of specific area responsibilities. Present working agreements between major libraries in this state are completely informal," NOM(1953) listed over 300 titles, 6 or more of these were filmed currently.

Colorado (1,335,000 – 28 – 144)

The Division of State Archives has filmed considerably over 100 titles for the State Historical Society at Denver, which are listed in NOM(1953). About three-fourths of these are filmed on "a more or less current basis." The Society "has been collecting state newspapers almost from its beginning."

Connecticut (2,007,000 – 26 – 63)

For twenty-five years or more it has been one of the functions of the State Library at Hartford to collect and preserve the newspapers of the state, in order to have "so far as possible a complete file of every newspaper published in the state." The Library has no film program. NOM(1953) listed about 40 titles, 18 of which were filmed currently.

Delaware (318,000 – 3 – 18)

NOM(1953) listed about 40 titles as having been filmed, two of them currently.

Florida (2,771,000 – 46 – 152)

The University of Florida at Gainesville has initiated an ambitious program of filming and of encouraging filming by other agencies. NOM(1953) registered around 100 titles, about 20 were current.

Georgia (3,445,000 – 31 – 201)

Georgia is reported to have several plans, one involving state agencies such as the Department of Archives and History at Atlanta and another stemming from Emory University. The University at Athens

also has "a modest program," at present financed by an alumni foundation fund. It collects systematically 37 weeklies. Both current issues and back files are being filmed "as funds and time permit." NOM (1953) listed 25 titles filmed, 9 of them current.

Idaho (589,000 - 14 - 77)

The Idaho Library Association has a Newspaper Microfilming Committee which functions with these aims: the education and solicitation of newspaper publishers to recognize the importance of filming and to microfilm both their old and current files, while calling for the identification and location of Idaho newspapers of historical importance. Some 20 titles, mostly older files, have been filmed by the newspaper companies since adoption of the program while another 10 titles were filmed by the University Library.

Illinois (8,712,000 - 96 - 682)

The Illinois Historical Library has a collection of about 11,000 volumes and 6,500 rolls of films of Illinois newspapers, which is richer in 19th century Illinois papers than any other collection in the state. The collection at the University of Illinois Library of around 13,000 volumes and 1,600 rolls of film is, on the other hand, much the richest for the 20th century. The University is and has been collecting for about 40 years two-thirds of the dailies and a good third of the weeklies and is getting papers from all but 2 counties, whereas the Historical Library is now receiving "55 papers from 48 counties (35 on microfilm) —40 dailies and 15 weeklies." The Illinois Library Association has had a Committee for Local Illinois Newspapers for a number of years, which has worked under the assumption, that the microfilming of dailies would be taken care of by the efforts of the Historical Library and the publishers, while the question of the "local papers" is still being investigated by the committee. NOM(1953) recorded about 130 titles, 30 of which were current.

Indiana (3,934,000 - 88 - 285)

"The Indiana State Library at Indianapolis is required by law to collect material on the state." From this mandate the administrator deduced that he was "committed to acquire and preserve as complete a collection of Indiana newspapers as possible." The Library's microfilming program is primarily aimed at obsolete titles of the wood pulp era and the current files of small weekly papers, where local communities are not able to undertake the work. Its advisory service encourages

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filming by publishers and libraries. It subscribes to positive copies of current films done by other agencies. NOM(1953) listed over 80 titles, 18 of which also were filmed currently.

Iowa (2,621,000 - 44 - 415)

Two agencies are collecting Iowa newspapers for permanent preservation, the Department of History and Archives at Des Moines and the Historical Society at Iowa City. The former is receiving about "200 weekly and 38 daily newspapers." The latter is still binding 20 dailies and 17 weeklies and microfilming 30 weeklies. The Department of History and Archives is also microfilming dailies at a slow pace. NOM (1953) listed over 30 titles, 15 of them current.

Kansas (1,905,000 - 55 - 319)

The Kansas State Historical Society at Topeka was founded by the editors and publishers of the state in 1875, and the collection and preservation of Kansas newspapers has been a major activity from the beginning. "We now have, with a few minor exceptions, virtually every issue of every newspaper ever published in Kansas," according to the secretary's statement. The Kansas newspaper collection includes now more than 56,000 bound volumes and more than 4,800 reels of micro-filmed newspapers. For over ten years the Society has been filming old files with its own camera. The publishers have in almost all cases bought positive copies, those who had their own files filmed have donated positives to the Society. Most of the 120 titles reported in NOM(1953) were and are filmed by the Society.

Kentucky (2,945,000 - 33 - 151)

The Kentucky University Library at Lexington has collected since 1931 "all the county newspapers which the publishers will send." There is "no state-wide acquisition or filming policy." NOM(1953) reported about 30 titles, 8 were current.

Louisiana (2,684,000 - 23 - 105)

The State University Library at Baton Rouge is "attempting to film all newspapers that have been published in Louisiana." It is also trying to film all current titles not filmed by publishers. To date they have concentrated on weeklies. NOM(1953) lists over 100 titles, mostly credited to the University and 30 of them current. The Library has reported over 20 additional titles since 1953.

Maine (914,000 – 12 – 45)

The Maine Historical Society at Portland and the State Library at Augusta have large collections. Maine has no film program. NOM (1953) listed 17 titles, 6 of them current.

Maryland (2,343,000 – 12 – 82)

The Enoch Pratt Free Library in Philadelphia is collecting all newspapers published in Baltimore, at least one daily from each of the other towns and cities with papers and, most weeklies throughout the state. There is no extensive film program in the state. NOM (1953) reported about 20 titles, 11 of them current.

Massachusetts (4,691,000 – 62 – 210)

The American Antiquarian Society at Worcester has the well-known collection of early American newspapers before 1820, not equalled anywhere. The State Library has a large collection of Boston, Worcester, and Springfield papers. There is no systematic effort made in the state to collect or to film newspapers. NOM (1953) listed some 80 titles microfilmed by libraries and publishers, 26 of them current.

Michigan (6,372,000 – 55 – 362)

“The Michigan Library Association and [the] Michigan State Library have had a joint program to achieve state-wide collecting. Michigan dailies are well-covered, but much still needs to be done on weeklies. . . .” There is no over-all program of filming back files and current issues. Important collections are at the Michigan State Library, the University of Michigan, and the Detroit Public Library. Several cooperative agreements for filming certain titles have been developed between newspapers and librarians. NOM (1953) listed over 70 titles, 30 of them current.

Minnesota (2,982,000 – 30 – 400)

The semi-official Historical Society which is in part supported by legislative appropriation has been collecting and preserving Minnesota newspapers since 1849. The Society has more than 25,000 bound volumes, which is estimated to represent 75 to 80 per cent of all newspapers that were published in the state. It is collecting over 90 per cent of the current Minnesota titles. Since 1947 the Society has been receiving money from the legislature for microfilming equipment and operators, it is working on a ten-year plan for microfilming the entire collection and current files. Only negatives are made, but positives are pre-

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pared whenever needed. NOM(1953) listed some 30 titles, 10 of them current.

Mississippi (2,179,000 – 20 – 120)

The Department of Archives and History at Jackson "is required by law to collect all newspapers printed in Mississippi, in so far as we are able." It has the most comprehensive collection of Mississippi newspapers in the state. Though there is a possibility of filming, through the Board of Public Contracts, not much has been done; weeklies are considered first. The Mississippi State College has microfilmed 12 of the 20 titles reported in NOM(1953).

Missouri (3,955,000 – 59 – 378)

NOM(1953) listed some 180 titles, 80 or more of them credited to the Missouri Historical Society at Columbia.

Montana (591,000 – 19 – 81)

NOM(1953) reported 3 titles, 1 of them current.

Nebraska (1,326,000 – 20 – 277)

The State Historical Society endeavors to collect all Nebraska newspapers. It is about to microfilm its entire collection and has received an "initial appropriation for the development of a long term program." It is emphasizing two groups in this program, to start with, weeklies whose publishers are unlikely to be in a position to have their own papers microfilmed, and papers which have ceased publication. NOM (1953) reported about 40 titles, 12 of them current.

Nevada (160,000 – 9 – 20)

All county recorders are required by law to subscribe for and preserve at least one and not more than three newspapers printed and published in their respective counties. The Nevada State Library at Carson City, the Nevada Historical Society Library and the University of Nevada Library at Reno collect and preserve newspapers of Nevada. There is no systematic film program. NOM(1953) records one small 19th century file.

New Hampshire (533,000 – 9 – 44)

The New Hampshire State Library has an extensive collection of newspapers published in the state, and it is collecting "the major newspapers" now. NOM(1953) reported 10 files on film, 3 of them current.

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New Jersey (4,835,000 - 28 - 279)

NOM(1953) listed some 50 titles, 17 of them current.

New Mexico (681,000 - 15 - 44)

The University of New Mexico Library at Albuquerque has for a number of years tried to collect and also film as many of the state's newspapers as possible. Two other institutions in the state are doing some filming. The New Mexico Library Association Committee on Cooperative Microfilming reported microfilms for 11 papers in August 1954.

New York (14,830,000 - 125 - 548)

The New York State Library "has an extensive newspaper program." Large collections are also at the New York Public Library and in the New York Historical Society. There is no systematic film program. NOM(1953) listed over 300 titles, more than 80 of them current.

North Carolina (4,062,000 - 48 - 158)

Duke University at Durham is collecting on a large scale. The University at Chapel Hill is pursuing a limited program. The State Library Association is working on a film program. NOM(1953) listed 35 titles, 21 current.

North Dakota (620,000 - 12 - 113)

NOM(1953) listed 3 titles, 2 of them current.

Ohio (7,947,000 - 106 - 358)

The Ohio Code provides that "the leading newspapers of each political party" for each county be subscribed to by the county commissioners and filed in the county auditor's office "as public archives" and for "at least ten years," thereafter they may be transferred to the Ohio State Archaeological and Historical Society at Columbus. The Society has now about 35,000 bound volumes and 14,000 rolls of microfilmed papers. It is getting 196 Ohio newspapers on current subscription. Since 1946 it has been storing on deposit the negative film copies of the current issues of 43 Ohio newspapers, in return for which the Society receives the current issues free. Another program recently inaugurated provides for deposit of positive film copies of 23 current newspapers, which practice they "hope in time [will] include all Ohio newspapers which are being currently filmed." The Society is attempting also to "replace on microfilm selected runs of Ohio newspapers." NOM(1953) reported about 120 titles, over 30 of them current.

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Oklahoma (2,233,000 - 52 - 247)

NOM(1953) listed 50 titles, 14 of them current.

Oregon (1,521,000 - 20 - 109)

The University of Oregon Library at Eugene collects current newspapers systematically and aims at completeness. All dailies are being filmed, most of them by the Library. Some old files have been filmed and there is a possibility of a cooperative agreement between the Library and the Oregon Historical Society for the filming of back files systematically. The Oregon Newspapers' Publishers Association has endorsed the University Library's microfilming program and some publishers are cooperating by purchasing positive copies and helping to fill in gaps.

Pennsylvania (10,498,000 - 137 - 411)

NOM(1953) listed about 170 titles, 55 of them current.

Rhode Island (792,000 - 7 - 16)

The Historical Society at Providence has since its founding in 1822 attempted to maintain complete files of all newspapers in the state; since 1870 it has been "official depository" of the state's newspapers, "with an annual appropriation from the State Library" for the purpose of subscribing to and preserving these papers. The current titles are filmed either by the Historical Society or by their publishers. The Society is trying to secure an appropriation from the Legislature to film the existing files of 3,000,000 pages. The present appropriation for filming purposes is \$1,200. NOM(1953) listed 8 titles, 4 of them current.

South Carolina (2,117,000 - 17 - 74)

The South Carolina Library at Columbia "takes about two-thirds" of the state's newspapers. There is no film program. NOM(1953) listed 24 titles, 10 of them current.

South Dakota (653,000 - 12 - 159)

The Historical Society at Pierre "has essentially 100 percent of all newspapers published since 1902 and has either in the original or on microfilm about 33 percent of those published prior to that date." It has been microfilming, since 1953, all current newspapers and existing files, when possible. Many back files are secured from the publishers on positive microfilm, while the Society furnishes positive film copies for files in its possession. NOM(1953) listed 5 titles, 4 current.

Tennessee (3,292,000 - 28 - 131)

The State Library and Archives at Nashville is collecting all the dailies of the state and about 80 per cent of the weeklies, for preservation in the original or on microfilm. It will film or buy on film the existing files of the state. The films of all dailies filmed regularly are bought on a current basis. NOM(1953) listed 50 titles, 12 of them current.

Texas (7,711,000 - 115 - 560)

The Texas statutes require the state librarian "to complete the files of the early Texas newspapers in the State Library; and he shall cause to be bound the current files of not less than ten of the leading newspapers of the state. . . ." At present the State Library receives and preserves 44 Texas newspapers in the original form and 72 on microfilm. There is some duplication, but the number of individual newspapers preserved is above 100. There is no systematic effort made to film current or existing files. NOM(1953) listed nearly 100 titles, 35 of them current.

Utah (689,000 - 5 - 55)

The University of Utah Library at Salt Lake City has agreed with the Universal Microfilming Corporation on a program to film all of the state's papers not filmed so far. The corporation has a list of 53 titles already filmed. The Library has acquired positive prints of all films available to date.

Vermont (378,000 - 10 - 28)

The State Library at Montpelier is committed to the policy of collecting all Vermont newspapers for permanent preservation. No plan for filming exists. NOM(1953) listed 4 titles, 1 current.

Virginia (3,319,000 - 33 - 119)

The Virginia Library Association has had committees work on this problem. The Virginia State Library at Richmond and the University Library at Charlottesville have divided the responsibility for collecting certain Virginia papers some years ago; as a result, "a great number of the smaller papers are being preserved. . . ." The Virginia State Library has a working program of filming back files; one camera is "devoted almost exclusively to this work." The University has also filmed some back files. NOM(1953) listed over 50 titles, 16 of them current.

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Washington (2,379,000 - 25 - 175)

Upon studies and recommendations of the Historical Newspaper Microfilm Committee of the State Library Association the legislature provided an initial appropriation of over \$20,000 for microfilming Washington newspapers. The committee named recommended to the State Library, authorized to do the filming, that it emphasize the production of master negatives, to establish a price for copies with a view to providing funds for continuation of the project and to designate newspaper publishers as representatives on the committee. NOM (1953) listed over 50 titles, 6 of them current.

West Virginia (2,006,000 - 32 - 92)

The Department of Archives and History at Charleston and the University at Morgantown have both initiated programs to film the state's newspapers. NOM(1953) listed over 80 titles, 9 of them current.

Wisconsin (3,435,000 - 40 - 300)

The Historical Society at Madison is "charged with the responsibility of collecting and preserving materials relevant to the history of Wisconsin, and since we consider newspapers the best available source for much local history, it is our policy to collect and preserve as nearly as possible all of the newspapers of the state. Since 1943 we have collected on a current basis all Wisconsin newspapers but four or five very small weeklies which will not cooperate. Before 1943 collecting was selective and included all major daily papers and about two-thirds of the weeklies." Since 1943 the Society ceased binding the newspapers and began to film what was not available on film elsewhere. The latter are bought. Bound papers in the Society's own files are filmed only if they must be saved from disintegration. The program of filming existing files outside the Library is largely confined to weeklies "whose publishers are not likely to film their files" and to files of daily papers held by libraries and no longer forming part of an existing current paper. NOM(1953) listed about 450 titles, over 330 of which were current.

Wyoming (291,000 - 10 - 36)

NOM(1953) listed the Wyoming State Tribune of Cheyenne, 1951 to date.

The record which, of course, is quite incomplete reveals that in some states considerable success has been achieved, notably where the interests of the ultimate "consumer," the historian, and of the "producer,"

the press itself, have been concerned with the ultimate outcome. This becomes particularly apparent in the case of Kansas, where the Historical Society has been identified from its beginning with the editors and publishers of the state's newspapers. Wherever historical societies have been thoroughly concerned, effective programs have been developed, as is shown in the cases of Kansas, Minnesota, Nebraska, Ohio, Rhode Island, South Dakota, and Wisconsin. State libraries too are obviously in a good position to approach the ideal: Indiana, Tennessee, and Virginia furnish good examples for this category of collecting agency. Some state university libraries have developed exemplary programs; examples are Georgia, Louisiana, New Mexico, Oregon, and Utah. Collective efforts of librarians have resulted in effective plans in a number of cases such as Idaho and Washington.

In order to achieve completeness for the United States as a whole obviously more would have to be done. For the sake of a clear understanding of the size of the problem it seems worthwhile to appraise it in its bare quantitative aspects. The 1,900 dailies published in the United States represent around 12,000 and the 9,500 weeklies around 3,000 bound volumes per year; a collection of all U. S. newspapers for 1954, would be equal to an estimated 15,000 volumes. This roughly corresponds to a collection of around 150,000 octavo volumes which is not much more than the present annual increment of the University of Illinois Library. The total number of volumes in the existing newspaper collections in the United States of U. S. newspapers might be ten times that figure. Most of that material falls in the wood pulp era. It would, therefore, be necessary to think of both the existing files and the current increment in terms of film copies. A complete collection of United States newspapers on microfilm could probably be accommodated in double rows on 250 sections of ordinary steel shelves, which would grow annually by another 25 sections.

The many problems connected with the standardization and cost of filming could not be discussed here. However, one fact may be related as particularly significant: among the twelve or more commercial firms dedicated to filming newspapers in the United States one particular firm has succeeded in filming about 60,000,000 pages of newspapers and is now filming more U. S. newspapers than any other company or "better than 60 per cent nationally."

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