



# Newspaper Collections and History

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CONTRARY TO POPULAR and professional belief, historians have collected and have used the American newspaper as prime historical source material since the birth of our nation. Early historical societies, in particular, energetically searched for files. In its first twenty years of existence, the Rhode Island Historical Society procured an almost perfect file of every paper published in that state. William Staples' "An Account of the Rhode Island Historical Society" in the *American Quarterly Register* of May 1839 described how the issues of the *Providence Gazette*, the earliest paper in that city, were obtained only ". . . with great labor and at great expense."<sup>1</sup> And in the Midwest, as early as 1856, the State Historical Society of Wisconsin regularly received fifty-two publications issued in that state; pride was expressed in the fact that no other society exerted equal effort to secure a complete series of local newspapers.<sup>2</sup> However, three years later the State Historical Society of Iowa received almost twice the number of local papers acquired by Wisconsin in 1856. These papers were presented by Iowa editors and publishers in response to a special appeal of the organization. The Iowa society considered its collection of papers of great importance, because ". . . in it is contained almost a complete history of the State. . . ."<sup>3</sup> The ties of the Kansas State Historical Society were even more simple and more direct. The founders of this organization were the newspaper editors and publishers of the state, who thought it appropriate to supply the Society with copies of the newspapers published.<sup>4</sup>

The collection of newspaper files had an early beginning even in those institutions where history was not the sole interest. The Charleston Library Society in South Carolina was founded in 1748 and started collecting material immediately. According to Walter Muir Whitehill the Society's ". . . great resource to the historian is its files of early

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Charleston newspapers" which such scholars as Charles M. Andrews used and praised highly.<sup>5</sup>

Many of the early attempts at newspaper collecting could be attributed to the zealous efforts of individuals who foresaw the great use to which this source later would be put. This was particularly true of Isaiah Thomas and Christopher Columbus Baldwin, both of the American Antiquarian Society. Thomas, who had become the chief printer-publisher-bookseller of the United States, petitioned the Massachusetts legislature for permission to transfer his library to a historical educational institution. Thus on October 24, 1812, the American Antiquarian Society was incorporated. Thomas' gifts included a half dozen long files of eighteenth-century newspapers and many single issues of papers from the Atlantic States and the Middle West. This was in keeping with his belief that the objects of collection should include files of newspapers of former times and the present day. Baldwin, who became librarian on April 1, 1832, was a zealous collector of newspapers; he arranged with more than forty persons from different sections of the country to procure newspapers for his library. When in Boston on December 28, 1831, before formally taking office, Baldwin tried to persuade the proprietor of the Tremont House to turn over his files of current newspapers to the American Antiquarian Society. The newspaper collection became one of his passions for he noted in his diary on July 10, 1832:

This day I have shelves erected in the chamber of the north wing of Antiquarian Hall for the reception of newspapers. The shelves are put up, and I load them with six hundred volumes of papers, which comprise about half of our collection of that kind of reading.

It is one of the chief sources of my trouble (being happy enough in all other respects) that only a part of the members of the Council of the Society are willing to increase the numbers of our newspapers. Since I have been here, I have been unwearied in my pains to get good files of papers from all parts of the country. I have made arrangements with some forty or fifty individuals from different sections of the U.S. to procure for me ancient as well as modern sets and to preserve all those they now subscribe for. In this way the collection must become exceedingly valuable. I suffer no traveller to visit me without enlisting him in my cause, and giving him directions how to find them and how to send them to me. Though I may fail of getting as many as I wish, I am sure that I shall entitle myself to the gratitude of future antiquaries.<sup>6</sup>

Henry Stevens, founder in 1838 of the Vermont Historical and Anti-

quarian Society, now the Vermont Historical Society, resolved on his seventeenth birthday to collect 1,000 volumes of newspapers before he reached the age of sixty. "By carefully preserving the files of about ten weekly newspapers, he had acquired nearly seven hundred volumes by 1846, when he had five years, 'God willing,' in which to achieve his goal. To accomplish this, he had 'spared no pains, lived poor and worked hard.'" <sup>7</sup>

These collections once accumulated were not all consigned to oblivion or obscurity. The New-York Historical Society printed on February 13, 1805, an appeal for needed material including newspapers, especially those prior to 1783. In a catalog prepared in 1814 for the Society, the Reverend Timothy Alden listed the numerous files which had been collected. Alden had performed a similar service for the Massachusetts Historical Society in 1808-1809, thereby informing the public of the existence of its collection of papers. Throughout the nineteenth century the Massachusetts organization, founded in 1791 and the first of its kind in the United States, continued to make a constant, determined effort to obtain such printed matter.

Despite the exertions of such men as Thomas, Baldwin, and Stevens to collect and to preserve papers, detailed use was not made of them in the preparation of early American histories. Allan Nevins, former Columbia University history professor, Pulitzer Prize winner, and newspaperman from 1913-1927, pointed out that a strong prejudice existed among historians against newspapers as sources. "It rested on a feeling that the press was so full of hasty material hastily compiled that it was treacherous—inaccurate, superficial, partisan, and hence slanted in news as well as opinion."<sup>8</sup> Many historians believed that what was printed was intended to ensure the owner's profit, or social status, or political ambitions, not the public interest or public knowledge. Perhaps, too, as described by Icko Iben in the October 1955 issue of *Library Trends*, it was ". . . not only its form, its mass, its rate of growth . . ." <sup>9</sup> that caused problems, but its internal character, its contents. Iben stated that the general attitude toward the newspaper, shared by many librarians and historians, was traceable to the nature 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."<sup>9</sup>

James Ford Rhodes, the noted nineteenth- and early twentieth-century historian of the United States, broke precedent and triumphantly proved the value of the newspaper as historical source ma-

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terial. His history was written on a dignified, scholarly plane, yet he utilized newspapers extensively. When, around 1890, he began his studies of the period immediately preceding the Civil War, he found little to enhance his story with the "flesh and blood" information so badly needed for good narrative. Nevins described Rhodes as remembering how people had eagerly read Greeley's *Tribune* and Bryant's *Evening Post* and the *Cleveland Leader*. Nobody could possibly understand the history of the time without them, and thus Rhodes found the files of the newspapers invaluable. He discovered in the press an enormous amount of material he could not have found elsewhere. "Why was Webster defeated for the Whig presidential nomination in 1852? Why was Winfield Scott nominated instead? He found the whole inside story in the *Boston Courier*, written by a Massachusetts delegate."<sup>8</sup>

After Rhodes, all reputable historians began using newspapers, and books were soon appearing based almost exclusively on the daily and weekly press. "No one would now write history without access to a file of newspapers. They were unrivalled sources, especially after 1840, for news and opinion, and for insight into the spirit of the age."<sup>8</sup>

Rhodes' theories were later enhanced by the works of Lucy M. Salmon, who in *The Newspaper and the Historian*,<sup>10</sup> attempted to indicate the great value of the use of the press in compiling and writing American history.

Thus it was not until the end of the nineteenth century that a more definitive use of newspapers was made. Quite often, before that period, papers were left to disintegrate or were disposed of as useless. With the turn of the century and with the realization of the need of and interest in papers, a number of catalogs of newspaper holdings were prepared by institutions possessing the most noteworthy historical material.

It was this deep interest in and desire to secure information regarding the newspaper collections which had been gathered over the course of the nineteenth century that caused a plethora of printed catalogs. For the first two decades of the twentieth century, in rapid-fire succession, such institutions as the Alabama Department of Archives and History, American Antiquarian Society, Leland Stanford Junior University, Library of Congress, Indiana State Library, Illinois State Historical Library, Kansas State Historical Society, Colonial Society of Massachusetts, Boston Public Library, Rochester (N.Y.) Public Library, New-York Historical Society, Ohio State Library, Pennsyl-

vania-German Society, Bucks Co. (Pa.) Historical Society, Free Library Company of Philadelphia, Newport (R.I.) Historical Society, Virginia Historical Society, Virginia State Library, and Wyoming Historical Society produced some printed listing or catalog of holdings and locations. The State Historical Society of Wisconsin actually produced two editions of newspaper catalogs, one in 1898 and another in 1911, plus a supplementary catalog in 1918.

Professional historical recognition was slowly but surely being achieved during this period. The *Annual Report of the American Historical Association for the Year 1905* reported the findings of a survey taken of collections in state and local libraries and historical societies. Question thirteen in the questionnaire had asked "To what extent do you collect and preserve newspapers?"<sup>11</sup> Only in rare instances was the answer negative. Some replies were awesome, such as the report from the Wyoming Historical and Geological Society (Wilkes-Barre, Pa.) which listed holdings of 1,200 volumes of local newspapers, or from the Essex Institute in Salem, Massachusetts, which had 3,800 bound volumes, especially strong for the period after 1800.<sup>12</sup> For the first time, the *Annual Report* of the Association admonished state, sectional, and local historical organizations and others to seek out, collect, and preserve files. The recommendations were succinct, "Local newspaper files are an important source of information, and should assiduously be collected and preserved."<sup>13</sup>

By 1908, James Ford Rhodes, William Nelson (corresponding secretary of the New Jersey Historical Society), Talcott Williams of the Philadelphia *Press*, and Melville E. Stone (general manager of the Associated Press) were invited to address a luncheon at the twenty-fourth annual meeting of the American Historical Association. Covering the period from 1850 to 1877, Rhodes emphasized the value of newspapers, pointing out that such a source can be readily tested and that it supplies a great amount of detail, color, and circumstantial evidence that is difficult, if not impossible, to find elsewhere. Nelson described in great detail the information which could be gleaned from newspapers in his address entitled "The American Newspapers of the Eighteenth Century as Sources of History."<sup>14</sup> Nelson had previously published, from 1894-1897, a work dealing with American newspapers and the depositories in which they might be found. In 1918 this same work was reissued under the title *Notes Toward a History of the American Newspaper*,<sup>15</sup> containing a substantial 644 pages.

Interest in the cataloging and the use of files continued during the

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period of the 1920's with the publication of such works as George W. Purcell's "Survey of Early Newspapers in the Middle Western States";<sup>16</sup> Yale O. Millington's, "A List of Newspapers Published in the District of Columbia, 1820-1850";<sup>17</sup> and James O. Knauss' *Territorial Florida Journalism*.<sup>18</sup> Even the omnipresent Civil War was represented in R. Lee Brantley's *Georgia Journalism of the Civil War Period*,<sup>19</sup> while David C. Mott concerned himself with the ante-bellum period in his "Early Iowa Newspapers; A Contribution toward a Bibliography of the Newspapers Established in Iowa before the Civil War."<sup>20</sup>

But it was not until the 1930's that a renewed fervor and interest brought about a resurgence in the number of printed or mimeographed catalogs as well as articles and books dealing with or utilizing greatly the vast files which had been accumulated up to that time. There was, in addition, a factor which added further stimulus to these efforts, the result of relief projects during the depression. Newspapers were seized upon as being all that Rhodes, Nelson, and Salmon had indicated. Because of this crystallization of outlook and purpose, much classifying and indexing of historical data resulted from the listing of available newspaper files by the Historical Records Survey in many states. The actual physical preservation of newspapers also became a matter of great concern, and there were initiated newspaper binding and microfilming programs designed to preserve, to protect, and to make permanent the known issues. The U.S. Government Printing Office in 1934 published Bourdon Walter Scribner's *Preservation of Newspaper Records*.<sup>21</sup> In 1937, under Winifred Gregory's editorial supervision, the monumental, though obviously incomplete, *American Newspapers, 1821-1936; A Union List of Files Available in the United States and Canada*<sup>22</sup> was published. The Library of Congress which in 1912 had published *A Check List of American Eighteenth Century Newspapers in the Library of Congress*<sup>23</sup> issued a new edition of this work in 1936. Interest in newspapers had reached the point where, in 1931, the *Bulletin of the New York Public Library*<sup>24</sup> listed alphabetically by cities a series of American newspaper reprints located in libraries throughout the country. During this period Douglas Crawford McMurtrie busied himself with various works dealing with the history of printing and the press in such places as Michigan, Wisconsin, and Utah, providing invaluable bibliographies and check-lists. Obviously, the newspaper had now "arrived" and was fully appreciated and respected not only for its aid in other areas of research, but for its own study as well.

Interest has not abated in the past generation, but actually has generally increased. More and more frequently the non-academic segments of the community as well as academicians in all fields are making use of the newspaper files in each and every depository, be it library, historical society, or newspaper office. Clarence Saunders Brigham's *History and Bibliography of American Newspapers, 1690-1820*<sup>25</sup> and the Library of Congress' *Newspapers on Microfilm* (various editions) have made known the files and the locations of many of the extant issues in the United States. Coupled with the catalogs issued by state organizations, the articles in various publications, and the sales catalogs of several microfilming companies, it is becoming more and more possible to determine quickly, efficiently, and accurately the files which may be used for historical purposes and the institutions in which such files are available.

As a rule most institutions will provide for the reproduction of newspapers desired for examination. In cases where microfilm negatives already exist, usually only the cost of a positive film copy is charged; sometimes an additional fee is added to cover part of the cost of the original filming. Prices may vary therefore from \$6.50 to \$14 for a positive roll of film. In those cases where no negative exists, it is the usual practice for the institution owning the original to have a negative and positive copy made, with the negative remaining in its permanent possession and the positive sent to the applicant who pays for both copies.

An example of the largesse for which librarians must be grateful is the decision of the Historical Society of Pennsylvania to make available on microfilm such outstanding files as the *Pennsylvania Gazette*, 1720-1789, and a broken run from 1790-1815; *Pennsylvania Journal*, 1742-1793; *Pennsylvania Chronicle*, 1767-1774; *Pennsylvania Packet*, 1771-1790; *New York Journal*, 1766-1776; and several German papers of the colonial period. The Rhode Island Historical Society has microfilmed and widely distributed the files of the *Providence Gazette* begun in 1762.

Although reproduction facilities are readily available, the practice of utilizing interlibrary loan requests is usually followed in the case of libraries adhering to the ALA Inter-Library Loan Code. Such a procedure involves only the cost of mailing and insurance for microfilm reels. There are several exceptions to this relatively universal practice of lending microfilm copies. The North Carolina Department of Archives and History does not engage in such loans inasmuch as it

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provides, at reasonable cost, positive microfilm copies of all of the newspapers which it has filmed. The Georgia Historical Society newspaper file is not open to non-members, while the Long Island (N.Y.) Historical Society charges non-members for the use of newspapers and microfilm.

On the other hand, there has been the recent announcement of a step toward close cooperation in acquisitions and service by five major research libraries in Delaware. A *Union List of Newspapers in Microform* is to be published containing holdings of 106 newspaper titles for the Eleutherian Mills Historical Library, Henry Francis du Pont Winterthur Museum, Historical Society of Delaware, the Wilmington Institute Free Library, and the University of Delaware Library. The participating institutions are planning to make an annual revision of this list.

That other forms of copying have been utilized greatly in the past is evidenced by the number of printed reproduction copies of the *Ulster Co. Gazette* announcing Washington's death, or of the *New York Herald* proclaiming Lincoln's assassination. Between 1915 and 1933, the Massachusetts Historical Society reproduced through the photostat process five colonial newspapers, the *Georgia Gazette* for 1763-1773, *The Domestic Intelligence* for 1679-1680, *The Boston News Letter* for 1704-1776, *The New England Courant* for 1721-1726, and, in collaboration with the Virginia Historical Society, *The Virginia Gazette* for 1736-1780. The last title went to twenty-three subscribing libraries. An unusual but stimulating and informative variant of this has been the presentation of Ohio, Iowa, and Kansas state history through the use of full-page facsimile reproductions of newspapers with additional pages of commentary.<sup>26</sup>

A fairly recent innovation has been the use of microcards which utilize the principle of microprint publication. *Early American Newspapers in Microprint* produces microcards at prices that make them available to individuals as well as libraries. The American Antiquarian Society is now issuing runs of colonial newspapers for particularly important periods which may be purchased in small and relatively inexpensive groups.

Under the direction of Ebenezer Gay, Executive Officer of the Boston Athenaeum, papers are assembled, collated, and prepared for filming. The Massachusetts, Connecticut, New York, and Wisconsin Historical societies, the Boston Public Library, the Boston Athenaeum, the Harvard College Library, and the Library of Congress have lent



originals or furnished photographic copies of newspapers needed to complete files. Gay and his business associates have formed the Micro-Research Corporation to handle the details of printing and distributing the microcards. But it appears highly unlikely that this form of reproduction will replace the microfilm reel because of the convenience in handling, saving of storage space, and lower reproduction costs of the latter.

The following is a listing of newspaper catalogs, compilations, and checklists, which should be readily available to the librarian:

*Articles Relating to General Listings of Newspapers*

"Alabama, Mississippi and Tennessee Newspaper Files in the Library of the American Antiquarian Society, Worcester, Mass.," *American Antiquarian Society Proceedings*, 17:274-279, April 1906.

Barthold, Allen J. "French Journalists in the United States, 1780-1800," *Franco-American Review*, 1:215-230, 1937.

Brayer, Herbert O. "Preliminary Guide to Indexed Newspapers in the United States, 1850-1900," *Mississippi Valley Historical Review*, 33:237-258, Sept. 1946.

Brown, Warren. *Check List of Negro Newspapers in the United States (1827-1946)* (Lincoln University Journalism Series, No. 2). Jefferson City, Lincoln University School of Journalism, 1946.

Edwards, Clyde S. "American Eighteenth-Century Newspapers," *Library of Congress Quarterly Journal of Current Acquisitions*, 8:40-43, Nov. 1950.

"Federalists vs. Republicans," *Dartmouth College Library Bulletin*, 5:124-127, April 1953.

Fessler, Aaron L., and Riccardi, Saro J., comps. "Current Newspapers: United States and Foreign; A Union List of Newspapers Available in the Libraries of the New York Metropolitan Area." Provisional edition. New York, The New York Public Library, 1957. [Processed.]

Gavit, Joseph. "American Newspaper Reprints," *Bulletin of The New York Public Library*, 35:212-223, April 1931.

Graham, Mary Elizabeth, and Graham, Walter. "Census of American Newspapers and Periodicals, 1690-1800, in American Libraries." [Urbana, Illinois], Nov. 1934. [Typed.]

Henry, Edward A. "The Durrett Collection, Now in the Library of the University of Chicago. I. Its Newspapers," *The Papers of the Bibliographical Society of America*, Chicago, The University of Chicago Press, 1914, Vol. 8, pp. 57-94.

Purcell, George W. "A Survey of Early Newspapers in the Middle Western States," *Indiana Magazine of History*, 20:347-363, Dec. 1924.

Qualls, Le Roy L. "Newspapers in the University of Illinois Library," *Illinois Libraries*, 24:71-77, May 1942.

Stevens, Harry R. "United States Newspapers in the Duke University Library," *Duke University Library Notes*, 22:1-4, July 1949.

Swigart, Paul E., comp. "Chronological Index of Newspapers for the Period 1801-1952 in the Collections of the Library of Congress." Washington, D.C., Library of Congress, Serials Record Division, 1956, 3 Vols. [Typescript.]

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U.S. Library of Congress, Serials Division. "Holdings of American Nineteenth and Twentieth Century Newspapers Printed on Wood Pulp Paper." Washington, D.C., Library of Congress, 1950. [Processed.]

Wall, Alexander J. "Early Newspapers. With a list of The New York Historical Society's collection of papers published in California, Oregon, Washington, Montana and Utah," *The New-York Historical Society Bulletin*, 15:39-66, July 1931.

Wescott, Mary, and Ramage, Allene, comps., "A Checklist of United States Newspapers (and Weeklies Before 1900) in the General Library," *Bibliographical Contributions of the Duke University Libraries*, 1932-1937. 6 parts.

### *Books and Sales Catalogs of General Listings of Newspapers*

Brigham, Clarence Saunders. *History and Bibliography of American Newspapers, 1690-1820; including additions and corrections*, 1961 ed., Hamden, Conn., Archon Books, 1962. 2 vols.

Crandall, Marjorie Lyle. *Confederate Imprints; A Check List Based Principally on the Collection of the Boston Athenaeum*. Boston, Boston Athenaeum, 1955, 2 vols.

Gregory, Winifred, ed. *American Newspapers 1821-1936; A Union List of Files Available in the United States and Canada*. New York, The H. W. Wilson Company, 1937.

Harwell, Richard B. *More Confederate Imprints*. Richmond, Va., Virginia State Library, 1957. 2 vols.

Haskell, Daniel Carl, comp. *A Check List of Newspapers and Official Gazettes in the New York Public Library*. New York, New York Public Library, 1915.

Historical Records Survey, American Imprints Inventory. "A Check List of the Kellogg Collection of 'Patent Inside' Newspapers of 1876, Preserved in the Chicago Historical Society Library." Chicago, W.P.A. Historical Records Survey, 1939. [Mimeographed.]

Parsons, Henry S., comp. *A Check List of American Eighteenth Century Newspapers in the Library of Congress*. Washington, U.S. Government Printing Office, 1936.

Minnesota, University of, Library. *American Newspapers in the University of Minnesota Library, 1719-1938*. [Minneapolis, 1939.]

Mostar, Roman, and Todd, J. Ronald, comps. *A Checklist of Pacific Northwest Newspapers Held by the Washington State University Library*. Seattle, Washington State University, 1950.

*Newspapers on Microfilm 1963-1964*. 8th ed. Cleveland, Micro Photo Division, Bell and Howell Company, 1963.

Schwegmann, George A., comp. *Newspapers on Microfilm*, 5th ed. Washington, Library of Congress, 1963.

*Southwestern Newspapers on Microfilm*. Dallas, Texas, Microfilm Service and Sales Co., 1960.

Stroupe, Henry Smith. *The Religious Press in the South Atlantic States, 1802-1865*. Durham, N.C., Duke University Press, 1956.

Verner, Sarah A., comp. *Confederate Newspapers in the Rare Book Room, Gorgas Library*. University, University of Alabama Press, 1960.

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Yale University Library. *A List of Newspapers in the Yale University Library*. New Haven, Yale University Press, 1916.

*Listing of Articles and Books Arranged Alphabetically by State*

Ellison, Rhoda Coleman. *History and Bibliography of Alabama Newspapers in the Nineteenth Century*. University, University of Alabama Press, 1954.

Moss, Roberta, et al., comp. *Alabama Newspapers in the University of Alabama Library*. University, University of Alabama Press, 1951.

Owen, Thomas M., comp. *Check List of Newspaper and Periodical Files in the Department of Archives and History of the State of Alabama*. Montgomery, Brown Printing Co., 1904.

Morrison, Hugh. *Alaskan Newspapers and Periodicals; Preliminary Check List Prepared for the Use of Honorable James Wickersham, Delegate from Alaska*. Washington, Government Printing Office, 1915.

Lutrell, Estelle, comp. *Newspapers and Periodicals of Arizona, 1859-1911*. Tucson, University of Arizona, 1950.

Arkansas Historical Records Survey. "Union List of Arkansas Newspapers, 1819-1942; a Partial Inventory of Arkansas Newspaper Files Available in Offices of Publishers, Libraries and Private Collections in Arkansas." Little Rock, War Memorial Building, 1942. [Mimeographed.]

Hudson, John A., and Peterson, Robert L. "Arkansas Newspapers in the University of Texas Newspaper Collection," *Arkansas Historical Quarterly*, 14:207-224, Autumn 1955.

Worley, Ted. R., comp. *Arkansas Newspapers on Microfilm*. Little Rock, Arkansas History Commission, 1957.

California Library Association, Southern District. "A Union List of Newspapers in Offices of Publishers and in Libraries of Southern California." [Los Angeles], California Library Association, 1936. [Mimeographed.]

Delmatier, Royce D., comp. "American Newspaper Files in Eight California Libraries, 1900-1954." Berkeley, California Library Association, Regional Resources Coordinating Committee, 1954. [Processed.]

Giffen, Helen Smith, comp. *California Mining Town Newspapers, 1850-1880: A Bibliography*. Van Nuys, J. E. Reynolds, 1954.

Kemble, Edward Cleveland. *A History of California Newspapers, 1846-1858*. Los Gatos, Calif., Talisman Press, 1962.

Stanford University, Library. *List of Serials in the Leland Stanford Junior University Library*. Stanford, Stanford University, 1916.

Rex, Wallace Hayden, comp. *Colorado Newspapers Bibliography, 1859-1933*. Denver, Bibliographical Center for Research, 1939.

Wilmington Institute Free Library. *Union List of Delaware Newspapers in H. Historical Society Library, I. Wilmington Institute Free Library, E. Every Evening Office, U. University of Delaware Library*. Wilmington, The Library, 1933.

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Flanders, Ralph B. "Newspapers and Periodicals in the Washington Memorial Library, Macon, Georgia," *North Carolina Historical Review*, 7:220-223, April 1930.

"Newspaper Files in the Emory University Library." Atlanta, The Library, 1959. [Processed.]

Idaho, University of. "Check List of Idaho Newspapers." Moscow, Idaho, Department of Journalism, [1945]. [Mimeographed.]

Adams, James N., *et al.*, "Newspapers in the Illinois State Historical Library," *Illinois Libraries*, 46:447-534, June 1964.

Chicago, Public Library Omnibus Project. *Bibliography of Foreign Language Newspapers and Periodicals Published in Chicago*. Chicago, Chicago Public Library Omnibus Project, 1942.

Grubb, Donald. "A Descriptive Directory of Southern Illinois Newspapers, Representing Thirty-one Counties." Carbondale, Ill., 1951. [Typed.]

James, Edmund Janes, and Loveless, Milo J. *A Bibliography of Newspapers Published in Illinois Prior to 1860*. Springfield, Phillips Bros., 1899.

Mabbott, Thomas O., and Jordan, Philip D. "A Catalogue of Illinois Newspapers in the New-York Historical Society," *Journal of the Illinois State Historical Society*, 24:187-242, July 1964.

"Newspapers in Libraries of Chicago, a Joint Check-List." Chicago, University of Chicago Libraries, Documents Section, 1936. [Mimeographed.]

Pease, Marguerite Jenison, comp. "Checklist of Newspapers in the Illinois Historical Survey." Urbana, Ill., Illinois Historical Survey, 1953. [Processed.]

Scott, Franklin William. *Newspapers and Periodicals of Illinois, 1814-1879*. Rev. and enl. ed. Springfield, Illinois State Historical Library, 1910.

Wrone, David R. "Newspapers of DeWitt County, 1854-1960," *Illinois Libraries*, 46:367-392, May 1964.

"A List of Indiana Newspapers Available in the Indiana State Library, the Indianapolis Public Library, the Library of Indiana University, and the Library of Congress, Washington, D.C." *Bulletin of the Indiana State Library*, 11:1-31, Dec. 1916.

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Petersen, William John. *The Pageant of the Press; A Survey of 125 Years of Iowa Journalism, 1836-1961*. Iowa City, State Historical Society of Iowa, 1962.

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*Kansas Territory, 1854, to January 1, 1916.* Topeka, Kansas State Printing Plant, 1916.

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Louisiana State University and Agricultural and Mechanical College Library. *Newspaper Files in Louisiana State University Library.* Baton Rouge, The Library, 1961.

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Keidel, George C. "Early Maryland Newspapers, A List of Titles," *Maryland Historical Magazine*, 28:119-137, June 1933; 28:244-257, Sept. 1933; 28:328-344, Dec. 1933; 29:25-34, March 1934; 29:132-144, June 1934; 29:223-236, Sept. 1934; 29:310-322, Dec. 1934; 30:149-156, June 1935.

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Ayer, M. F., comp. *Check-List of Boston Newspapers, 1704-1780.* Boston, Colonial Society of Massachusetts, 1907.

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Unfortunately not all institutions have prepared lists indicating holdings. Some relatively rich collections go unnoticed and unused because of this lack of bibliographic material.

For example, the Arizona Pioneers' Historical Society collections should be consulted when research on the Southwest is being done. The Society has the largest collection of Arizona state papers including files from cities such as Yuma, Flagstaff, St. Johns, Tombstone, Tucson, and Phoenix. One file, *The Weekly Arizonian* from Tubac, begins in 1859.

Moving geographically from west to east we find that small Luther College in Decorah, Iowa, boasts over 1,000 volumes of Norwegian-American newspapers, indispensable in the study of Scandinavian immigration and assimilation in the United States.

Farther east, the Connecticut State Library lists large holdings of



newspaper files from Connecticut while the Forbes Library in Northampton, Massachusetts, claims an extensive file of Connecticut Valley papers. In the small state of Rhode Island, the Harris Collection of the Providence Public Library has an excellent collection of Civil War and slavery papers, while the Rhode Island Historical Society has managed to collect and to preserve an outstanding statewide newspaper file.

The vastness and scope of files located in some states almost defy description. In New York, for example, the State Library collects chiefly state papers, particularly for the upstate area. Much of the collection is of issues from pre-Civil War days although many are now being currently received and bound or microfilmed. In the New York City Public Library over 50,000 volumes and 15,000 reels of film are maintained in a superb collection, strong in New York City papers as well as those representative of diverse sections of the United States and principal foreign countries. The New-York Historical Society maintains a collection of over 12,000 volumes, particularly comprehensive in coverage of the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries, while the Staten Island Historical Society collects both New York City and Staten Island papers. Over eighty long local files form the significant part of the holdings of the Long Island Historical Society. Numerous special collections also abound in the state, such as the Tamiment Institute Library with its holdings of nineteenth and twentieth century communist, socialist, and labor newspapers. And these are but a few examples of outstanding collections which exist in only one state!

In short, it is absolutely imperative that all available bibliographical resources be consulted in order to determine what files exist, where they are located, and how they might be consulted. But even these noteworthy and necessary guides are not enough since they are incomplete and outdated shortly after preparation. In addition there is a noticeable lack or incompleteness of information received from the newspapers and collecting agencies; both often have extensive files at their disposal but either refuse to provide information or are not capable of doing so. Despite all the guides, one must continue to use the talents of a Sherlock Homes, the doggedness of a Dr. Watson, and the wiles of a James Bond to achieve anything remotely resembling completeness in this field.

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