NORTH DAKOTA NEWSPAPERS

The Chester Fritz Library maintains perhaps the largest collection of North Dakota newspapers outside of the State Historical Society. Its collection spans from 1870 to the present, and includes all regions of the state. Library holdings also include foreign language newspapers in Danish, German, Norwegian, Swedish, and the Dano-Norwegian dialect, and several student newspapers from area colleges. UND’s Dakota Student exists from 1888 to the present.

The Library’s historical state newspaper collection is held almost entirely on microfilm and is available at the Periodicals desk. Most newspapers are listed in the online catalog (ODIN), and a printed finding aid may be obtained from the Library’s Reference & Research Services desk.

The “Golden Age” of North Dakota Newspapers

Newspaper publishing thrived during North Dakota’s homesteading period and early statehood days. Dakota Territory afforded a productive environment for newspapers to flourish, beginning with the earliest recorded territorial newspaper, The Frontier Scout (not held by UND). The Scout was published from June to October 1865, at Fort Union near Williston and then Fort Rice, just south of Bismarck.

A mitigating factor in the success of many early Great Plains newspapers was the signing of the Homestead Act into law in 1862. One feature of this Act required homesteaders to “prove up” their land claims and run “proof notices” in a local newspaper. The great rush of homesteaders after the Civil War guaranteed a boost to even very small town newspapers. As Paul Schmidt writes in his article “The Press in North Dakota,”

Whatever else these eager land seekers may have lacked, they did not want for local newspapers. And the newspapers, at least during the period when most homesteaders were “proving up” their claims, did not lack for revenue. Publication of the “proof notice” ran for five consecutive weeks and cost the homesteader from $5 to $10.

(North Dakota History. vol. 31, no. 4. Oct. 1964. p. 218)

News of a Sort Comes of Age

The September 12, 1901, front page of the Ward County Reporter, published in Minot, carried a report on the proceedings of the Board of County Commissioners, the return of Misses Georgie and Arline Walther “to their respective schools, after visiting their parents and enjoying a pleasant outing here [in Berthold],” as well as a typical array of ads touting the latest watches, blackberry “cordials” to relieve bowel troubles, and the like.

Inside on page three of that issue are stories about seemingly less critical events around the nation and world—such as the assassination (still then an unsuccessful attempt) of President William McKinley. An “Anarchist’s Foul Deed” describes the shooting by deranged anarchist, Leon Czolgosz, who put two bullets in the...
President on September 6 while McKinley was attending a reception in the Temple of Music at the Buffalo Pan American Exposition. His condition, considered front page news today, was still as serious as the newspaper's accessories. His physicians were not only as unprepared for the inevitable as the nation, but they were unprepared for the publicity that followed. The story of the assassination is now part of American history, but the details of that day remain tantalizingly mysterious. The Library continues to be a critical partner in the scholarly communications process. Work done with software vendors and publishers, the Library identifies quality sources of information, and gathers and makes them available through its media. Peer-reviewed publications recognized within the academic community are the mainstay of information transfer, but in these changing times, research and innovation is becoming increasingly important today. Librarians face the huge task of keeping abreast of new sources of scholarly information and the changing dynamics of research. Through their close association with University faculty and their knowledge of the publishing world and information vendors, the Library is able to be a leader in providing access to the wealth of information available online. Librarians are able to develop systems that assist researchers to navigate the ocean of information while managing its escalating costs. Most of the critically reviewed research grants and new developments in new inventions and processes, is not freely available on the Internet, nor will academic journals be found at your local public library. These are not the high volume popular publications and there are significant costs associated in acquiring them. Publications in science, medicine, technology, the fine arts, law, and religion are usually only in the literature through the scholarly world, which in turn leads to better teaching and research programs. The Library is pleased to be an important part of the project, contributing to the digital future, and the demand that the materials be provided a standard set of conventions for describing images and documents for researchers throughout the world. The Library chose the Dublin Core Metadata Element Set, the only regularly updated version. Dublin Core provides a standardized set of conventions for describing images and documents for researchers throughout the world. The title of each image or document, a detailed succinct description, and a keyword listing of the significant items depicted were created. Only one image was created, such as size and date. Metadata about the digital image itself, the most important aspect of digitization and image,
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How does it work?

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Contribution Planning for Amphibian Species with Complex Habitat Requirements: A Case Study Using Movement and Habitat Selection of the Wood Frog Rana sylvatica, By Baldwin, Robert F., Calabroun, Aram J. K., Damaynti, Philip C. Journal of Herpetology, Dec2006, Vol. 40 Issue 4, p442-453, 12p, 1 chart, 1 diagram, 1 graph. (AN: 20033246)

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