

INTRODUCTION

LIANZA President Corin Haines has promoted sector conversations and discussions, regardless of topic, in the Polynesian spirit of ‘talanoa’ which resonates with the in-house practice NZMS works on to create potential conditions for communication based on a terrain of mutuality – and I promise it beats antagonism, bias or disrespect based on status, predisposition or representation hands down... I offer this paper in the spirit of promoting constructive dialogue around a topic of significant cultural heritage importance.

Ask a customer-facing librarian working in a public library around the country about one of their most accessed local history resources and they will tell you their community & regional newspapers feature right up there. So it is deeply ironic to me that these are not identified more strongly as a critical resource for us to preserve for future generations:

“I want to discuss the preservation of your local history with you, especially your community newspapers. I want you to help me voice a call to arms to develop a published strategy for a (distributed) National Newspaper Collection – to collaborate and contribute to a New Zealand NewsPlan...”



Andy Fenton – About the Author

Andy Fenton is the Managing Director of NZMS. Extending his skill-set to commercial document scanning, Andy co-founded Desktop Imaging Ltd in 1997, and the Heritage Materials Imaging Facility in 2003. Andy is arguably one person who has overseen more heritage digitisation projects than any other kiwi! Whilst expert in the application of digitisation services for the collections of “memory institutions” he places equal value in being able to represent the views of the wider community as well as Government and commercial user sectors and is sympathetic to the needs of iwi. He has spent over 20 years working closely with a great number of such organisations throughout New Zealand. Through extensive networks and contacts nationally and internationally he is able to offer insight into historical and current programmes and projects.

Andy was elected to the inaugural National Digital Forum Board in 2006, the ARANZ Council in 2005, Archives NZ Digitisation Standard Advisory Group in 2006 and the Australia/New Zealand Joint Standards Committee (MS/4) for Information and Image Management in 1996. In the past 5 years he has been proactive in the dissemination of information in this area and is a vocal advocate of collaboration and the NDF’s Register of Digital Initiatives.



NZMS turns 25 this year and I am really proud of that.

We started as a microfilm bureau and have now microfilmed over 12 million pages of New Zealand's national newspapers; a passion that has seen us become industry leaders in the development of microfilm standards in the region and further afield. Now, as we consider the next 25 years, our commitment to the preservation of newspapers has not diminished. Indeed, if anything, we feel an increased urgency, especially when we hear reports of collections being destroyed – either deliberately or accidentally.

Back then, and arguably still today it was important to have a tagline which reflected a company's mission statement. I can remember sitting with my father in law, John Pert, who died 20 years ago now and devising ours: "dedicated to the preservation of the history of New Zealand". I'm equally proud that that endeavour is still valid today and I am equally happy that some of our preservation projects are just as much about access projects. I had a computer science degree but microfilm in its various forms was the imaging solution of choice back then. And what set us apart was a focus on the heritage sector now known as the GLAM sector. It never occurred to me that we wouldn't capture all of the newspapers ever published in New Zealand by today, and by the end of the 90s

when we were preserving on microfilm three quarters of a million pages per year surely the end was in sight within 10 years...

In 2008 the National Library's focus on preserving newspapers changed from a balance of current and retro to primarily currents – or modern papers. Now I ask “Is what we have already done complete? And are we now taking so long now that we're losing important historical content, not just because it's becoming brittle and decaying, but because we still allowing access to the paper which is potentially harmful, cut-outs are being taken or its being rebound badly?”. I think it's important to ensure on our watch that this content is available for our kids, our future researchers... While the essence of this can apply to all local history - with which most of you will have a curatorial role in your region - I will be focusing on community newspapers because they are usually the most researched collection: Newspapers didn't just report the news, they told stories of their times, through adverts, photographs, and even their design—stories we want to save for all Kiwis.

It's not just about digitisation, it's not just about microfilming for subsequent digitisation, it's about collection care, collection management, it's about community participation and cultural awareness – it's about transforming our thinking to ensure we are managing the collection content we have at our disposal today and that it isn't being disposed of unwittingly (or intentionally) in an uncontrolled manner.

“My message to you as individuals and organisations with a mandated or moral obligation to preserve our cultural heritage is that just because a paper has been microfilmed or digitised and put on Papers Past this does not mean it has been preserved.”

There are always risks!

Disaster, carelessness, complacency or loss can occur when you least expect and the consequences can be devastating... for example:

Inadvertent loss or fire:

The missing newspapers

Most of the Rotorua newspapers before 24 August 1931 no longer exist. This date coincides with a change of ownership of the newspaper and a possible explanation is that the new owner stored the old papers in a building that later burned down. Don Stafford read through the Bay of Plenty Times for the missing period and included Rotorua news from it in his research files in the Don Stafford Room.

Please email us for more details -----> library@rdc.govt.nz

Sent: Wednesday, 8 April 2015 8:15 a.m.

To: Sheryl Sporle-Fahey

Subject: RE: Newspapers lost in a fire

I think it was the Westport news is a paper that was lost. Started in 1873, most issues prior to 1940 are gone.

Also, the Petone Chronicle. Started 1887, ceased 1967. Very little survives before 1950.

ARROWTOWN FIRE.

Auckland Star, Volume LIX, Issue 200, 24 August 1928, Page 8

► About this newspaper

► View computer-generated text

ARROWTOWN FIRE.

"COUNTRY PRESS" OFFICE BURNT.

(By Telegraph.—Press Association.)

DUNEDIN, this day

The "Country Press" newspaper office at Arrowtown was destroyed by fire last night.

FIRE IN A NEWSPAPER OFFICE.

Nelson Evening Mail, Volume XXXVIII, Issue 29, 5 February 1904, Page 3

► About this newspaper

► View computer-generated text

FIRE IN A NEWSPAPER OFFICE.

£2000 DAMAGE DONE.

AUCKLAND, This Day.
A fire this morning at the "Herald" printing works practically destroyed the department in which the illustrations and engraving are done. The damage is estimated at about £2000.

Later.
The fire at the "Herald" office originated in the stationery department, and occurred at 5 a.m. The machinery on the ground floor was not damaged, except by water. The damage is covered by insurance in the New Zealand and South British offices.

The "Globe" Fire.

Tuaapeka Times, Volume XXIV, Issue 1819, 8 August 1891, Page 3

► About this newspaper

► View computer-generated text

The "Globe" Fire.

The inquiry into the "Globe" newspaper fire is still going on, and will be continued to-morrow.

NEWSPAPER OFFICE FIRE.

Auckland Star, Volume LXI, Issue 229, 27 September 1930, Page 3

► About this newspaper

► View computer-generated text

NEWSPAPER OFFICE FIRE.

OUTBREAK AT GREYMOUTH.

(By Telegraph.—Press Association.)

GREYMOUTH, this day.

An outbreak of fire at the "Argus" newspaper building this morning damaged paper rolls, the roof and a partitioning wall and caused damage estimated at about £500.

FIRE AT WESTPORT.

Marlborough Express, Volume XXXVII, Issue 1, 2 January 1903, Page 3

► About this newspaper

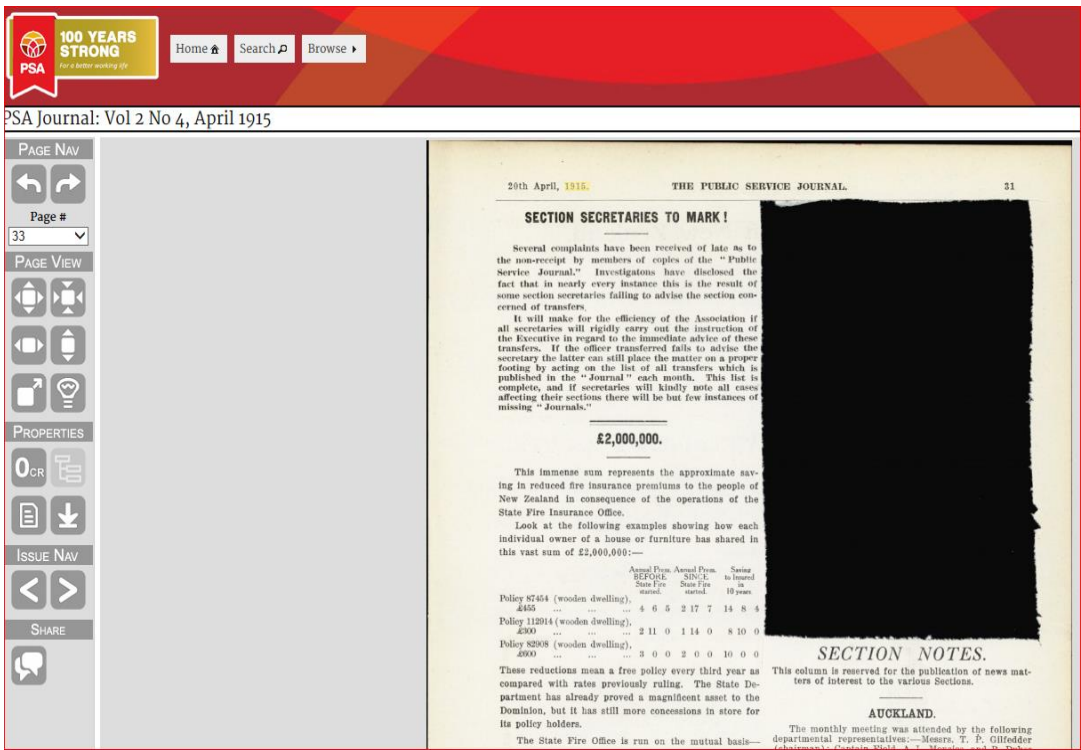
► View computer-generated text

FIRE AT WESTPORT.

Press Association. Electric Telegraph Copyright.

WESTPORT, January 1.
The Westport Athenaeum and Public Library was totally destroyed by fire this afternoon. Only a few books were saved. In those lost were several of the first edition of Dickens's work. The insurances are: £320 on the building, £160 on the books, and £20 on furniture, all in the Imperial office. The loss is fully £500 over the insurance.

ALSO – a simple exercise of excising:



ALSO – a simple electrical fault:

In this case a simple 'electrical fault' fire at the Maranui Surf Club (founded 1911) near the airport in Wellington destroyed their 98 year old historic building and its complete set of records and photos.



Sale/Theft/Loss of control/Misadventure :

Fairfax's photo nightmare: I told you so

Fairfax Media's decision to ship up to eight million historic New Zealand news photographs and negatives to Little Rock, Arkansas, for "digitising" has proved perilous. Two years on, the digital archiving is yet to be completed, an unknown number of the photographs have turned up on eBay.com for sale and Rogers Photo Archive (RPA), the company involved, is now in receivership facing at least 10 lawsuits totalling more than \$94 million.

Fairfax Media has gone to court to recover the archives - which also include the photographic records of the Sydney Morning Herald, the Age, and other Australian publications. Observing from the sidelines is the Ministry of Culture and Heritage which allowed the export of this taonga, even though, under the Protected Objects Act, it had the power to refuse the export of photos more than 50 years old.

In documents filed in the Circuit Court, Arkansas on December 19, Fairfax argues that from the time the agreement was signed in May 2013, "there were numerous issues raising concern for Fairfax that RPA could not or would not perform". Under the deal, Fairfax agreed to sell the photographs and negatives to RPA for no charge, and in return RPA would provide separate digital libraries for both Australia and New Zealand. After the Herald revealed Fairfax's plans in May 2013, the ministry intervened and RPA and Fairfax agreed that no item created prior to 1973 could be sold or disposed of without the ministry's approval. However, it issued "a temporary export certificate" for the whole archive saying it would check for "protected objects" once the collection was digitised.

After months of "concern" for Fairfax, including RPA being raided by the FBI in January 2014 as part of an ongoing probe into fraud in sports memorabilia trading - another of Rogers' interests - the media company wrote to RPA in late November, terminating the contract - and demanding the return of the archives before December 4. Instead, Fairfax told the court, the New Zealand archive had been transferred to another organisation in Newport, Arkansas.

Fairfax spokeswoman Emma Carter says the archive is now "in the possession of the court-appointed receiver" and that "work continues to digitise the archive". She says "the majority of New Zealand images have already been scanned".

Also, the court has ordered no further Fairfax images be sold or transferred, and she says Fairfax is "exploring our recovery options" for those already sold.

Two years ago, when the Herald first revealed Fairfax's plans to ship the photographic archives of 72 New Zealand publications overseas, I expressed my disquiet about exporting such a huge part of our cultural heritage. The disquiet has turned into a scary nightmare. This massive pictorial heritage stretching back into the 1800s and illustrating the lives of 72 New Zealand cities and towns, is now in the hands of a receiver, while a horde of creditors clamour for any penny they can claw back. We can only pray that Fairfax's claim to ongoing ownership holds up in court.

Defending the deal in May 2013, then Fairfax group executive editor Paul Thompson argued it was the only way to rescue newspaper archives suffering from years of neglect and decay. He said it would have cost \$2 to \$4 an image to have them digitised in New Zealand, which added up to a possible bill of \$32 million. "It was just prohibitive," he told the Marlborough Express - one of the papers whose historic photos are now trapped in Arkansas.

At the time, Mr Thompson said it wasn't the original image or "artefact" that was as important as the usability and accessibility of an image. "The real benefit is being able to search and find and retrieve and use them. It's no good having millions of photographs that are impossible to access, poorly stored and scattered to the four winds." Or in Arkansas.

The ministry says it is "in regular communications with Fairfax" and that "we expect Fairfax New Zealand to take all steps to resolve this matter in a way that recognises the obligations of their agreement with the ministry and under the act".

- NZ Herald

And another Fire:

Slow process bearing fruit at Archives

The Hutt City Council Archives is currently conserving and digitising records from the former Petone Borough Council which were damaged in a fire in January 1985. First to be worked on are the 19 volumes of council minutes (1884 -1982), previously inaccessible due to their fragility. The books were first dis-bound by conservators, each page stabilised with acid free tissue and a customised box made. The books were then digitised, using a book cradle, so they can be stored safely and do not have to be handled again. Six have now been completed. As each volume is completed it will be available for viewing at the Archives and eventually online. Staff are already receiving positive feedback from members of the public who are accessing the new-look documents.

...and sometimes they are simply repurposed. One of the reasons we preserve and digitise the newspapers is to present opportunities for reuse – arguably it's Government strategy! Curatorially we must do use our expertise today to predict all of the future uses of the newspapers and their content. Sometimes it isn't straightforward?

Check out this re-purposed 1931 publication:



The fragility of newspapers is not just in their flimsiness or their brittleness with age. They can suffer catastrophic loss, partial loss, or simply be forgotten about and fall into disrepair or a decrepit condition.

My point is - it's important to know that even if you have microfilmed or digitised a newspaper – or stuck it out the back in a (climate-controlled) storage area, you still have an ongoing collection management program for the originals, the microfilm, and the digital versions as well as the OCR text (corrected or otherwise) - into the future.

Can libraries digitise all local newspapers? IF NOT YOU then WHO?

Because if you're not doing it in the regions, and perhaps we are all assuming the National Library is doing it, then, where does the responsibility lie? It has to lie with you. And the regions need to reach out nationally to ensure what they're doing contributes to the national strategy which I would like to think the National Library would own.

Let's be clear, the National Library is doing a brilliant job with Papers Past...

PAPERSPASTEnglish | Māori

[Papers Past Home](#) [Introduction](#) [Search](#) [Browse](#)



Masthead of the Observer
02 January 1909

Papers Past contains more than three million pages of digitised New Zealand newspapers and periodicals. The collection covers the years 1839 to 1948 and includes 120 publications from all regions of New Zealand.

Latest additions to Papers Past (September 2015):

- [Evening Star \(1865-1920\)](#)

[Find out more »](#)

Search Newspapers

[More search options](#) [Help](#)

☐ Exact phrase
☐ Any of your words
☒ All of your words

[Search »](#)

Browse Newspapers

**BY DATE:**
View all newspapers and periodicals by date.
[Go »](#)

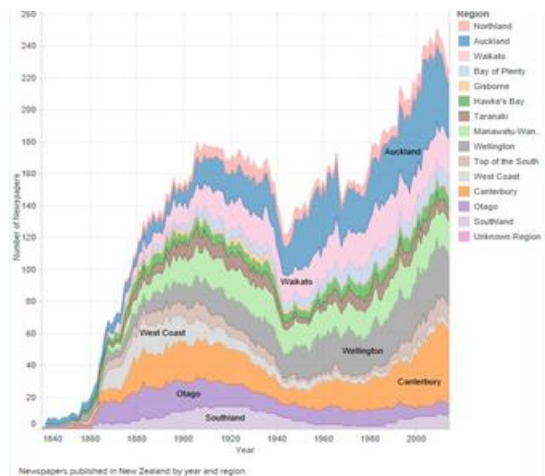
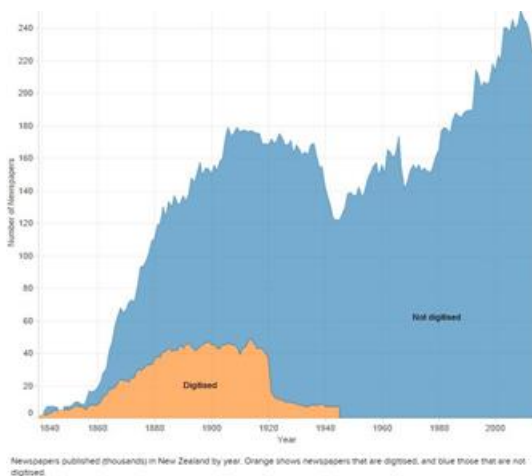
**BY REGION:**
View all newspapers and periodicals by region.
[Go »](#)

**BY TITLE:**
View all newspapers and periodicals by title.
[Go »](#)

...but I contend it's also a distraction. Even the missives from the National Library arguably have a tone of ownership of the national newspaper collection & preservation problem which I do not think is warranted. Papers Past has indeed been at the vanguard of digitisation in New Zealand but that success in my opinion is saddled with a growing complacency across the country that the job of preserving NZ newspapers is in hand.

There is a really nice blog by Gordon Paynter who I respect immensely which brings science to this (arguably emotional) perspective. Gordon is introduced as an NLNZ alumni - an invited guest blogger - who analyses the data and he asks: "how well Papers Past is doing?"

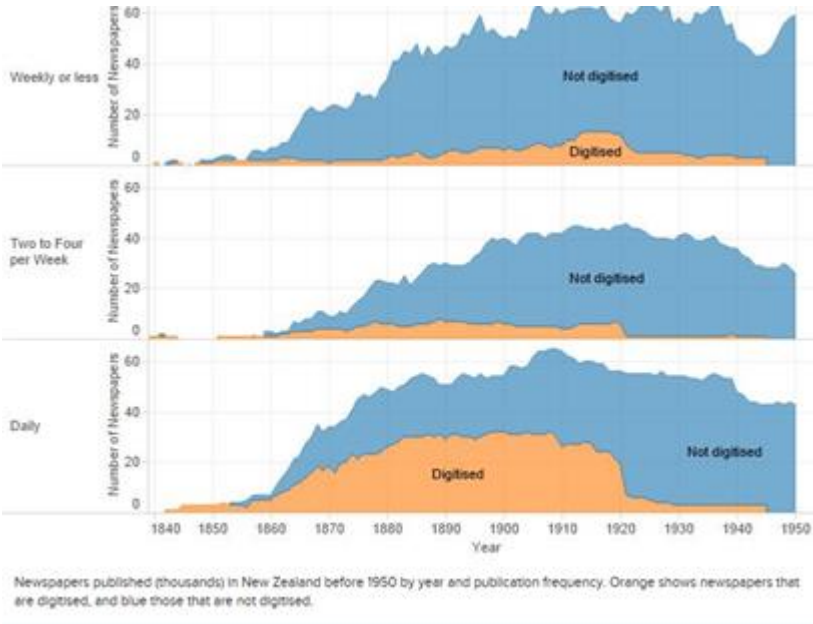
The truth is the National Library has done well in getting 3.3M pages online, and searchable (to a degree). But at one estimate there are ~30M pages all up – so in 12 years that's barely 10% of the national newspaper collection for 'metro' papers as is depicted on this graph:



Worse still, no one even dares to mention Community Newspapers – except Gordon and I! Paynter even acknowledges they are likely missing from his charts – especially the free ones – so the gap is worse than projected. The community newspapers even more than their daily or less frequently published counterparts are chock-full of local content featuring the goings on in communities and offer significant coverage of community clubs/societies/events/teams/personalities and businesses.

Check out Ikaroa region on this graph. It's sandwiched unnamed between the Waikato & Wellington labels showing the proportion of newspapers published over time throughout this region. We can deduce approximately 200 of the 1500+ titles nationwide come from the Ikaroa region north of Wellington from New Plymouth across to Gisborne...

NEWS, 1903-1904, of Palmerston North.
Central Press, 1967-uuuu, of Palmerston North.
Central Counties Press, 1967-1967, of Palmerston North.
Tribune (Palmerston North), since 196u, of Palmerston North.
Manawatu Farmer, 1970-uuuu, of Palmerston North.
Weekender, 1970-1970, of Palmerston North.
Guardian [Palmerston North], 1972-2010, of Palmerston North.
New Zealand Large Print Weekly, 1980-1980, of Palmerston North.
Heartlander, 1987-1988, of Palmerston North.
Hua Kan, 200u-200u, of Palmerston North.
Manawatu Guardian, since 2010, of Palmerston North is online.
Manawatu Sports News, uuuu-1998, of Palmerston North.
Tararua District
Woodville Examiner, 1883-1891, of Woodville.
Pahiatua Star and Eketahuna Advertiser, 1886-1893, of Pahiatua.
The Bush Advocate, 1888-1901, of Dannevirke is digitised.
Examiner, 1892-1938, of Woodville.
Pahiatua Herald, 1893-1943, of Pahiatua.
Eketahuna Express, 1894-1939, of Eketahuna.
Pahiatua Argus, 1895-1896, of Pahiatua.
Dannevirke Advocate, 1901-1912, of Dannevirke is digitised.
Daily Press, 1901-1909, of Dannevirke.



And as we scroll through you can see how few are actually digitised, or available online via Papers Past. I appreciate there is a lack of context behind the number of actual newspaper issues and pages against each title and even what the readership was of the respective titles.

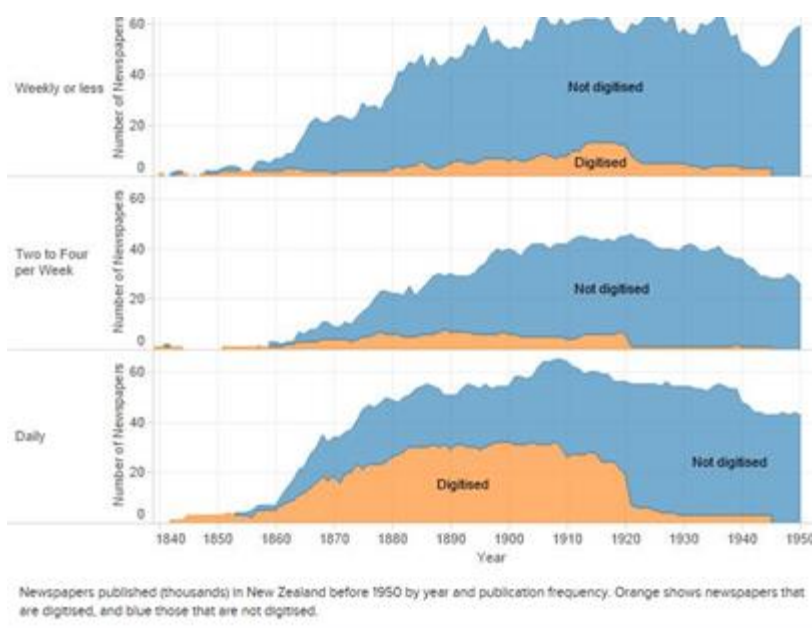
For example one entry on the list could be the equivalent of The Dominion-Post, or a smaller “Possum Post” out of WaiKareForIti (Why Care for It!).

The question those charged with protection of the cultural heritage in the region need to ask is “just how many are being cared for, preserved or protected, so that digitisation can occur at some stage in the future if the interest is there?”

The problem as always is the ‘gap’ – Papers Past is good until 1920 or so, with just a few titles going to 1945.

Paynter’s third slide shows good (50%) coverage of the ‘dailies’ nationwide – and I agree with him we can take pride in having digitised and preserved into the NDHA ~50% of the major dailies published around the country, sometimes in towns that today are a shadow of their former selves.

It is not bad for 12 years, but is it really good enough? I’d feel a LOT better if I knew we were caring for the gap. That gap is around 50% of the dailies nationwide up till 1920, and the VAST majority of everything else PLUS community newspapers. And in saying that I am assuming the Legal Deposit Act ensures NLNZ receives copies of ALL newspapers (including communities) and stores them.



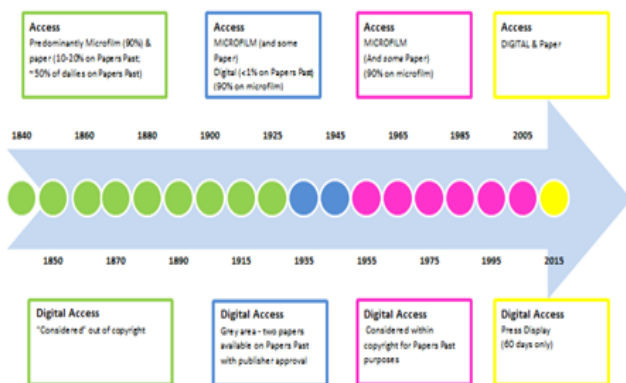
And as we scroll through you can see how few are actually digitised, or available online via Papers Past. I appreciate there is a lack of context behind the number of actual newspaper issues and pages against each title and even what the readership was of the respective titles.

The reality is there are significant gaps in the NLNZ collection.

We need to mind the gap, and I'm looking to you to help develop and support a national strategy that ensures we have a national approach to preserving newspapers for future access...

A national approach to a New Zealand NewsPlan.

Newspaper Preservation & Access Timeline



We have modern 'digital' papers available online for the most recent 60 days, or maybe ~10 years if you are a subscriber. Which makes that gap 80+ years for ALL newspapers – and the paper was not designed to last! Only microfilm or paper copy makes research from them possible.

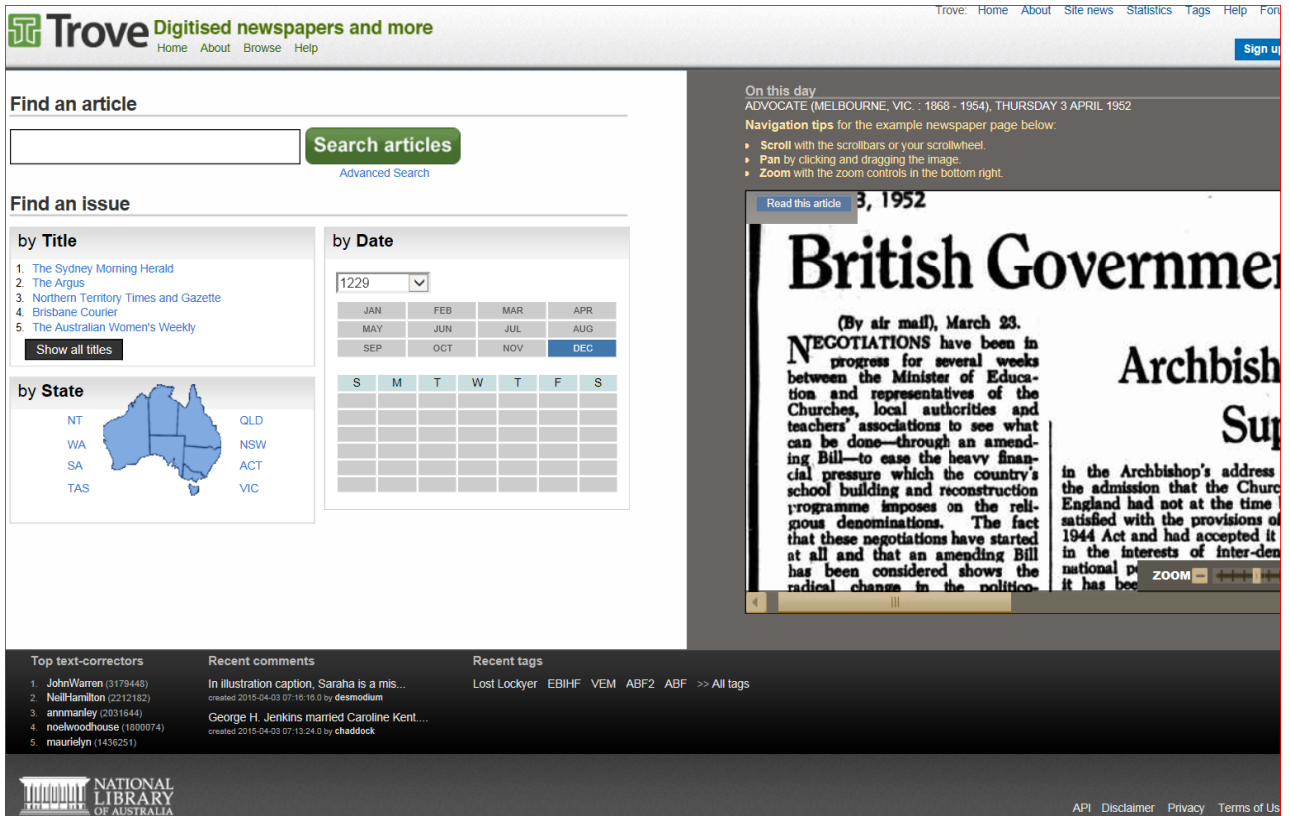
So yes, we are still actively microfilming newspapers, and selling copies of microfilm to research organisations. We are also taking modern pre-Press newspapers and putting the digital images directly onto microfilm – “archive writing” or “Digital Microfilm” we call it.

We now digitise older newspapers/letters/manuscripts almost as much as we microfilm them – they can certainly provide a deeper research resource in some areas than Google offers for NZ content!

But this is still ad hoc – ATL/NLNZ preserves through the Legal Deposit Act – so yes, you can travel to Wellington and have a peak at the original! That's important, but doesn't really meet customer expectations in the Internet age. You no longer need to be a vandal, don't bother bringing your craft knife to cut out your own clippings as you saw in that earlier slide!

Thankfully a cell phone or kiosk scanner can act like a digital craft knife today! In the regions the library or interested institution/s may hold copies – but the collections get unwieldy pretty quickly and we all know it's hard searching for something specific, such as adverts and stories relating to 'Joe's Garage' in your suburb or about the 'Rangitikei Possum Huggers Club' in 10 shelf metres of newspaper volumes – access is the problem.

But let's have a quick look at what's happening overseas?



The screenshot shows the Trove website interface. At the top, there's a navigation bar with links: Trove, Home, About, Site news, Statistics, Tags, Help, and a Sign up button. Below this, the main heading is "Find an article" with a search bar and a "Search articles" button. To the right of the search bar is a link to "Advanced Search". Below the search bar, there's a section "Find an issue" with two filters: "by Title" and "by State". The "by Title" filter shows a list of newspapers: 1. The Sydney Morning Herald, 2. The Argus, 3. Northern Territory Times and Gazette, 4. Brisbane Courier, 5. The Australian Women's Weekly, and a "Show all titles" button. The "by State" filter shows a map of Australia with state abbreviations: NT, WA, SA, TAS, QLD, NSW, ACT, VIC. To the right of the filters, there's a "by Date" section with a dropdown menu showing "1229" and a calendar grid for the months JAN, FEB, MAR, APR, MAY, JUN, JUL, AUG, SEP, OCT, NOV, DEC. Below the calendar grid is a table with days of the week (S, M, T, W, T, F, S) and a grid of dates. On the right side of the page, there's a preview of a newspaper article from "ADVOCATE (MELBOURNE, VIC. : 1868 - 1954), THURSDAY 3 APRIL 1952". The article title is "British Government" and the subheading is "Archbishop". The article text starts with "(By air mail), March 23. NEGOTIATIONS have been in progress for several weeks between the Minister of Education and representatives of the Churches, local authorities and teachers' associations to see what can be done—through an amending Bill—to ease the heavy financial pressure which the country's school building and reconstruction programme imposes on the religious denominations. The fact that these negotiations have started at all and that an amending Bill has been considered shows the radical change in the politico-". The preview also includes navigation controls like "Read this article", "3, 1952", and "ZOOM". At the bottom of the page, there's a footer with "Top text-correctors", "Recent comments", and "Recent tags". The footer also includes the "NATIONAL LIBRARY OF AUSTRALIA" logo and links for "API", "Disclaimer", "Privacy", and "Terms of Use".

Australian Newspaper PLAN

The Aussies recognised the importance of preserving their newspapers about the same time we did – but they did something about it – they conceived the ANPlan or Australian Newspaper Plan:

“Newspapers didn’t just report the news. They told stories of their times, through ads, photographs, and even their design—stories we want to save for all Australians.”

Importantly they have a mix of strategies – they still preserve via hard copy; (predominantly through) preservation microfilm, and digital storage – including OCR/Text as well. They note:

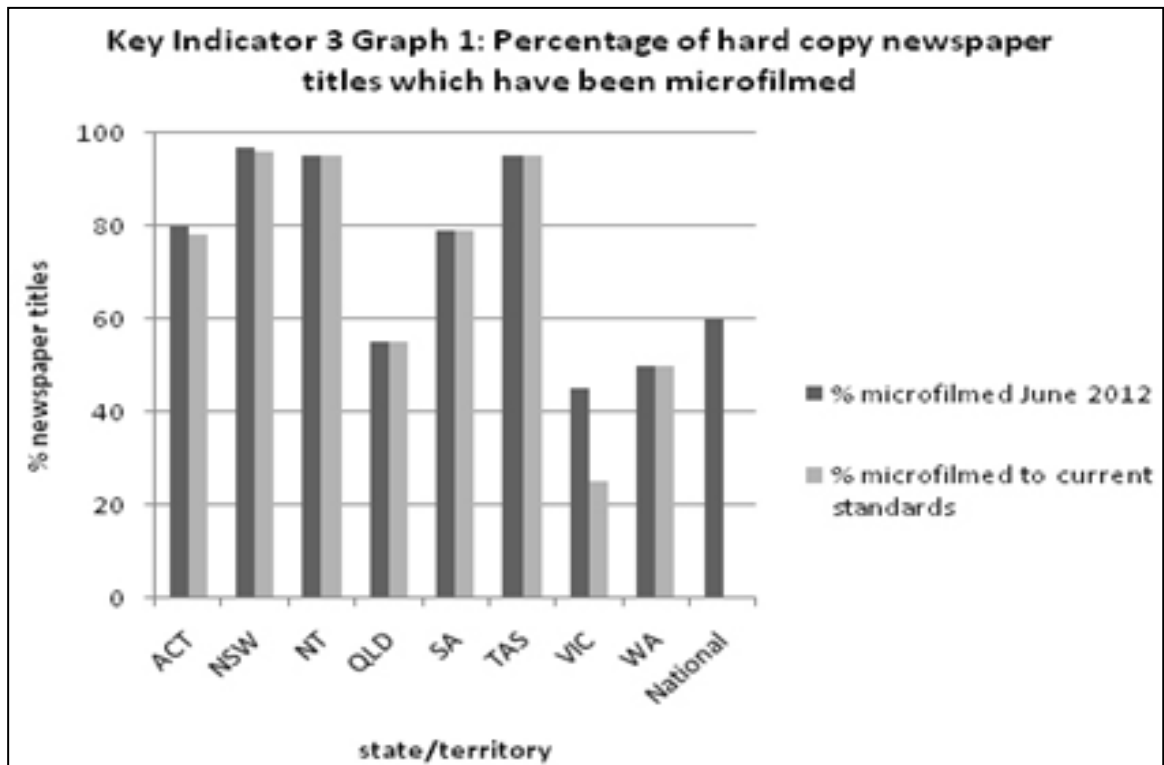
“microfilm is still valid long term protection of content, relatively low-cost and high-speed production, cost-effective way to digitise”

They also note a similar caution to mine when I refer to microfilm or about Paper’s Past/NDHA:

“Just because a newspaper is microfilmed doesn’t mean it’s preserved!”

newspapers’ importance and have worked together to collect, preserve and provide access to newspapers through the Australian Newspaper Plan. One of the most effective strategies to both preserve and make newspaper content more accessible is to digitise and maintain them for online access.

The National Library of Australia started the Australian Newspaper Digitisation Program in 2007. As of July 2014 more than 13.5 million pages of digitised newspapers can be accessed online through Trove, the National Library of Australia’s online search service. These newspapers cover all states and territories and from the earliest published newspaper in 1803 to the mid 20th century. There are also a few newspapers in languages other than English. The digitised content is securely stored and will be managed into the future by the National Library of Australia. As we have for Papers Past - Libraries, historical societies and other organisations are invited to contribute to this program, and assist with achieving the goal to provide permanent access to a wide range of newspaper titles. This graph shows all Australian States working hard to preserve all newspapers on microfilm.



From our experience the most efficient approach to digitise a newspaper for online access is to scan the master copy of its microfilm perform content analysis apply Optical Character Recognition (OCR)

Charges

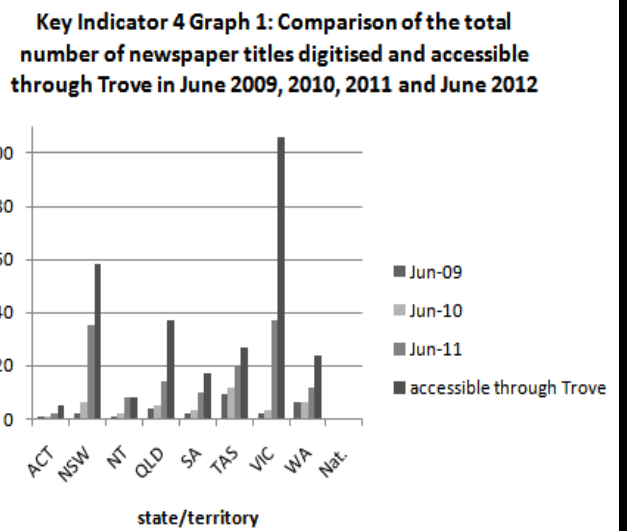
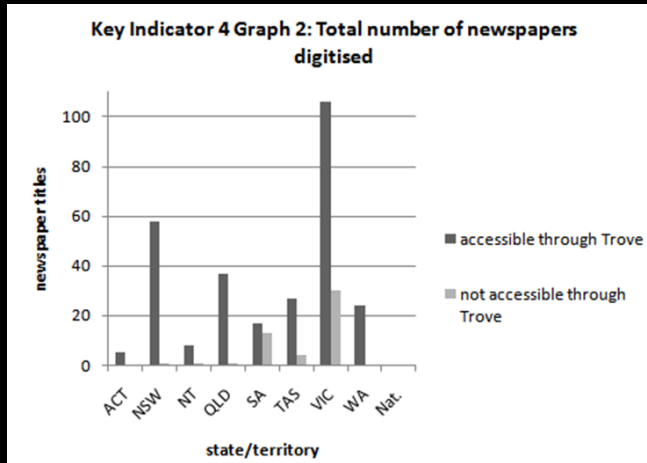
Their preferred approach is for organisations to provide funding to the Library to manage the digitisation process and delivery of content in Trove, the charge applied by the Library is \$2.10 per page (excluding GST).

This indicative cost includes managing the digitised newspapers for long-term access.

Additional charges may apply if:

- scanning from hard copy newspapers is required;
- the language content of the newspapers is not English; or
- the contributing organisation requires its own copy of the digitised content.

The following slide shows the growth in digitisation of the number (not percentage) of titles digitised and available on Trove and mirrors the increase in Microfilming shown on the previous slide - the “plan is working!”



Over 15 million digitised newspaper pages from over 700 newspapers are now being made accessible through digitised newspapers on Trove. A significant number of newspapers are being digitised through the generous sponsorship of libraries, historical societies and other organisations through the contributor model.

ANPlan libraries are currently embracing the challenge of collecting digital newspapers and managing them for permanent access.

Many Australian newspapers are being microfilmed, and old, unstable acetate microfilm is being replaced with polyester film.

There is a cataloguing component to ensure consistent metadata – paper, microform and digital. ANPlan libraries are cataloguing newspaper microform titles onto the national bibliographic and continue to raise awareness of libraries' role in collecting, preserving and providing access to newspapers through tours and education sessions... this was last updated in January 2015.

Partners

ANPlan relies on collaboration between the National Library of Australia and the other partners, Australia's state and territory libraries, and the National Library of New Zealand.

Under ANPlan, primary responsibility for a newspaper rests with the state or territory library in the state/territory of the newspaper's origin.

What I admire about the Aussie Newspaper Plan is that it had clear goals around collection management, cataloguing, collection, preservation and access – OVER TIME. It was bounded into a 5 year plan but had aspirations and ambition forever – it cut to the chase, didn't go ostrich – and got on with the job... BUT – I think it still missed community papers – maybe they don't matter? Maybe the problem is too big?!

What about the rest of the World?

My overseas & New Zealand-based research has revealed many countries in Europe are doing similar things to us – those countries that are more 'self-contained' like Norway and Sweden have ambitious plans to make everything available online and in some cases are digitising direct from the newspaper as well as Microfilm.

There's a pan-European newspaper project which is a subset of a broader digital library project called Europeana and some of you may recall we had its Director speaking here a few NDF's ago.

In a nutshell, for newspapers they have a mix of methods for getting content to a unified 'METS-ALTO' standard, predominantly from microfilm...

- They have funding
- Targeting 18million images (10M full text search)
- Special prototype content viewer (see next slide)
- Building tools to allow participants to assess quality of newspapers for level of detail, speed and cost.

The European Library

Connecting knowledge

[Advanced search](#)

[HOME](#)
[DISCOVER](#)
[ACCESS OUR DATA](#)

[Home](#) → [Newspapers Home](#) → [Newspapers search for ""](#)

[Everything](#)
[Newspapers](#)
[Collections](#)
[Full text](#)
[Remote Search](#)

You are looking at **10** items out of **3,583,521**

Items per page:

Sort by:

De Oostpost : letterkundig, wetenschappelijk en commercieel nieuws- en advertentieblad / 07 Oct 1880/ Page 1

Sr, uiting der Muls. SOEEABAIA. OKTOBEB. F. 9, E. 15, H. 17, F. 23, E. 89, H. 81. Buatia. f KToBEB. H. 8, F. 14. E. 20, H. 2», F. 28. Fmnoedeiyke aankomst der mails te Soerabala. Oktobisb. F. 18, H. 15, E. 16, F. 17. H. S 9, E. 80.

De Oostpost : letterkundig, wetenschappelijk en commercieel nieuws- en advertentieblad / 15 Oct 1880/ Page 1

Sluitotg der Mails. 1 „ SODUBAU. OKTOBXB. H. 17, F. 23 , E. 89 , H. 81. - Batavia. OKTOBBB E. 10, H. 81, F. 18. TermoeUJke aankomst der maili te Boerabala. Oktobib. l■ 16, F# 87, H. 19, B. 80.

De Oostpost : letterkundig, wetenschappelijk en commercieel nieuws- en advertentieblad / 02 Oct 1880/ Page 1

Sluititg der Muls. SOKHABAJA. OKTOBER. H. 8, F. 9, E. 15, H. 17. F. 23, E. 29, H. 31. Batavia. Oktobeb. E. 6, H. 8, F. 14, E. 20, H. 28, F. 28. Vermoedelijke aankomst der mails ie Soerabala. OKTOBEB. F. 12, H. 15, E. 16, F. 27, H. 89, B. 80.

De Oostpost : letterkundig, wetenschappelijk en commercieel nieuws- en advertentieblad / 20 Nov 1880/ Page 1

REFINE

Contributor

Österreichische N... (776,817)

The Netherlands, NL (747,404)

Spain, NL (479,370)

France, NL (426,922)

National and Univ... (299,795)

Wales, NL (133,486)

Hamburg State Lib... (128,666)

Staatsbibliothek ... (116,718)

Teßmann Library (115,132)

Estonia, NL (92,611)

[More](#)

Newspaper Title

Decades of Publication

Country of Contributor

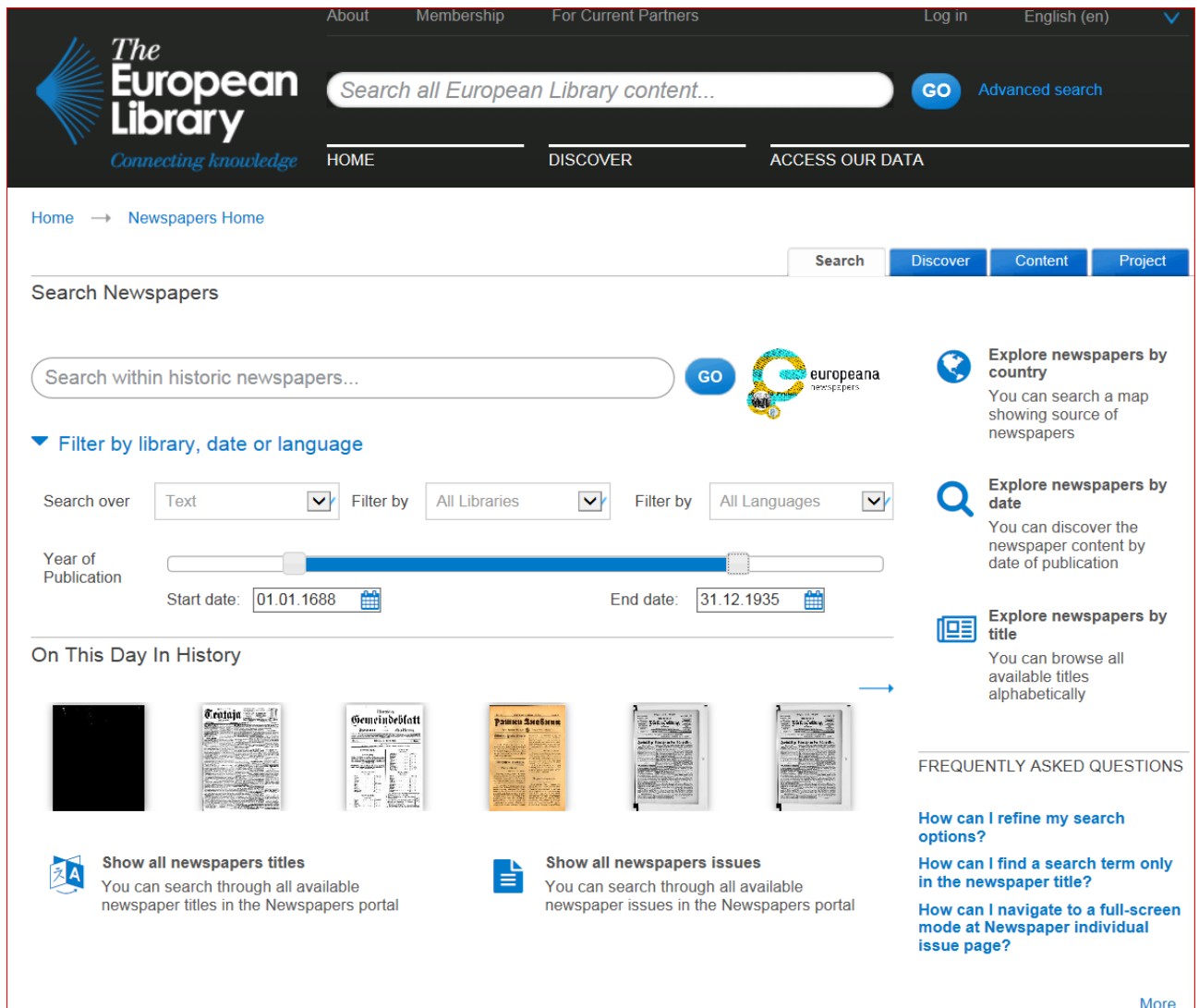
Language

COUNTRY OF CONTRIBUTOR

69,655 | 776,817

[World](#) [Europe](#) [Western Asia](#) [Zoom](#)

Note the map indicating the scale of their coverage and the fact you can search by Contributor, title, decade, country or language.



The screenshot shows the 'The European Library' website interface for the 'Newspapers Home' section. The header includes navigation links: About, Membership, For Current Partners, Log in, and English (en). The main search bar is labeled 'Search all European Library content...' with a 'GO' button and a link to 'Advanced search'. Below the header, there are tabs for 'HOME', 'DISCOVER', and 'ACCESS OUR DATA'. The 'Newspapers Home' page features a 'Search Newspapers' section with a search bar, a 'GO' button, and a 'Search within historic newspapers...' option. There are also filters for 'Filter by library, date or language', including 'Search over' (Text), 'Filter by' (All Libraries), and 'Filter by' (All Languages). A 'Year of Publication' slider is set from '01.01.1688' to '31.12.1935'. Below the filters, there is a 'On This Day In History' section displaying a timeline of newspaper front pages. To the right, there are three informational cards: 'Explore newspapers by country', 'Explore newspapers by date', and 'Explore newspapers by title'. At the bottom, there are two more cards: 'Show all newspapers titles' and 'Show all newspapers issues'. A 'FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS' section is also visible on the right side.

Home → Newspapers Home

Search Newspapers

Search within historic newspapers...

GO

Filter by library, date or language

Search over Text Filter by All Libraries Filter by All Languages

Year of Publication

Start date: 01.01.1688 End date: 31.12.1935

On This Day In History

Explore newspapers by country

Explore newspapers by date

Explore newspapers by title

Show all newspapers titles

Show all newspapers issues

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

How can I refine my search options?

How can I find a search term only in the newspaper title?


How can I navigate to a full-screen mode at Newspaper individual issue page?

More...

Here they're even experimenting with search mechanisms to offer a timeline with slide bars which I particularly like, also the "Today in history" option, and as we've done some of our newspaper presentations at NZMS, the simple ability to browse by title. Sometimes you just don't have a keyword and simply want to have a nosy...

But with a history as long-standing as theirs it's important to acknowledge the size of the problem. For example The UK has approximately 800million pages of newspaper pages and their immediate goal is three fold – preserve the paper originals in converted caves where they can lower the oxygen (robotic retrieval, no human interaction), protect and digitise their microfilm, and over 10 years digitise 40million prioritised pages.

They have outsourced the latter to a private genealogical company who offer a pay per view version for those who cannot get to the British Library buildings and see them online for free in those locations. Importantly this touches on the Collection management aspects of the problem I have identified and is something we must acknowledge in NZ.

 LIBRARY OF CONGRESS

ASK A LIBRARIAN

DIGITAL COLLECTIONS

LIBRARY CATALOGS

Search GO

The Library of Congress > National Digital Newspaper Program

NATIONAL DIGITAL NEWSPAPER PROGRAM

GO

- NDNP Home
- About the Program
- Guidelines & Resources
- Award Recipients
- Program News
- NDNP Extras
- Contact the NDNP

Chronicling America

Search newspaper pages from 1836-1922 digitized through the NDNP or find information about American newspapers published between 1690-present.


- [Go to Chronicling America](#)
- [Topics in Chronicling America](#)

Get Program & Application Information from NEH


For important information and application materials to the NEH

National Digital Newspaper Program

A partnership between the Library & the National Endowment for the Humanities



About the NDNP




The National Digital Newspaper Program (NDNP), a partnership between the [National Endowment for the Humanities \(NEH\)](#) and the Library of Congress (LC), is a long-term effort to develop an Internet-based, searchable database of U.S. newspapers with descriptive information and select digitization of historic pages. Supported by NEH, this rich digital resource will be developed and permanently maintained at the Library of Congress. An NEH award program will fund the contribution of content from, eventually, all U.S. states and territories.

[Learn more about the Library's role in the NDNP >](#)

[See what states are participating in the program >](#)

Guidelines & Resources

 Information on technical specifications for NDNP, best practices,

Program News

Check here for the latest news on NDNP and its website, [Chronicling America](#).

- 10/03/2014: [NEH Announces Guidelines for 2015 NDNP Awards - Application Deadline: January 15, 2015](#)
- 09/29/2014: [NEH Releases National Digital Newspaper Program Impact Study](#)
- 08/08/2014: [8 Million Pages Now Online and 2 New States Joining NDNP!](#)

Extra! Extra! NDNP Extras!

America has one of the oldest and arguably strategically-minded approaches, commencing in 2006 using the National Endowment for the Humanities organisation to fund multiple 100,000 page digitising projects that individual may apply for.

Like other programmes there are strict standards and guideline adherence requirements. But the onus is on the organisation to meet these if they want to join the club and receive the funding (unlike Aussie & NZ who prefer to do the work themselves to ensure the same).

Search Pages

Advanced Search

All Digitized Newspapers 1836-1922

US Newspaper Directory, 1690-Present

All states + from 1836 to 1922 + enter one or more search words

GO

Pages Available: 9,381,572

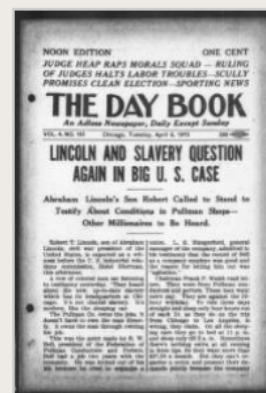
[Print](#) [Subscribe](#) [Share/Save](#) [Give Feedback](#)

- [About Chronicling America](#)
- [About the Site and API](#)
- [Recommended Topics](#)
- [Help](#)

More Resources

- [National Digital Newspaper Program](#)
- [NDNP Award Recipients](#)
- [Newspaper and Current Periodicals Reading Room](#)
- [Ask LC Newspaper & Current Periodicals Librarian](#)
- [Historic Newspapers on Flickr](#)
(part of the LC Flickr Commons photostream)

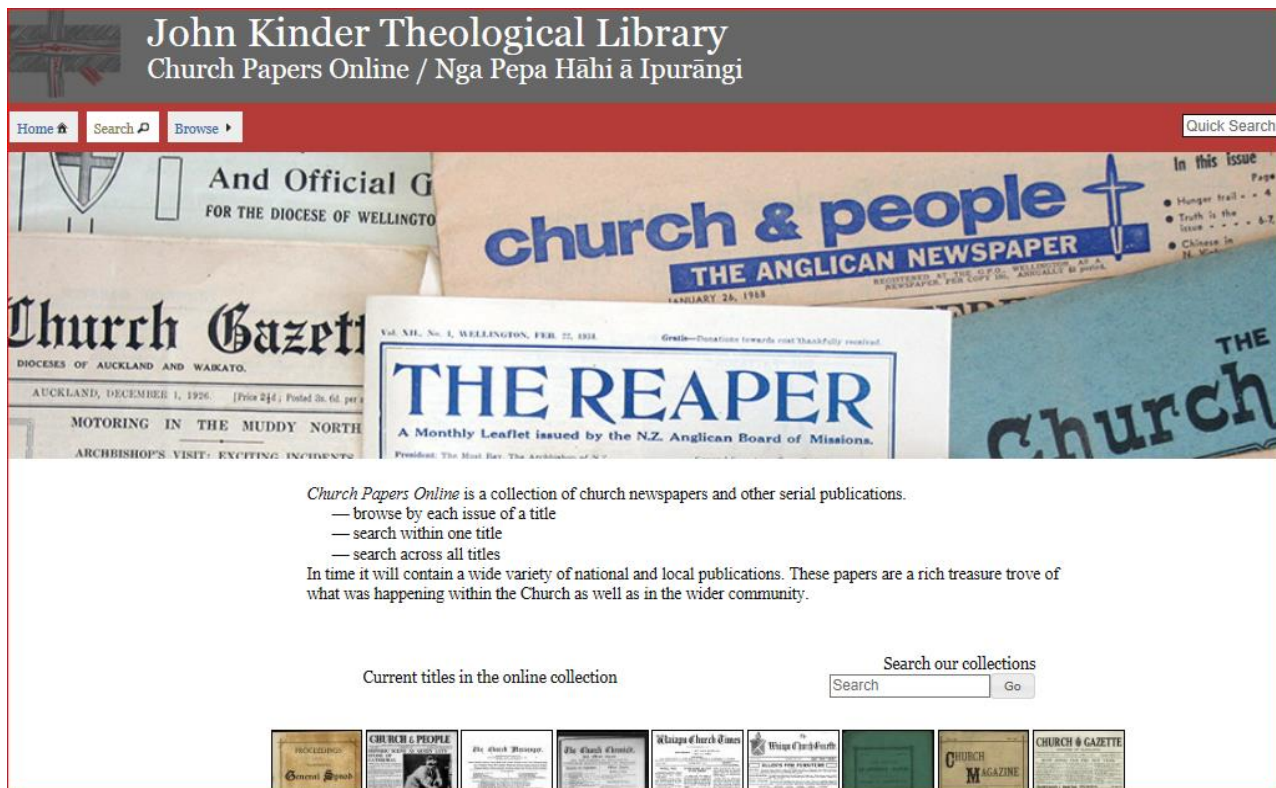
100 Years Ago Today: 6/04/1915 (61 issues)

[The Daily Ardmoreite. \(8pp.\)](#)
Ardmore, Okla.[Evening star. \(20pp.\)](#)
Washington, D.C.[The day book. \(32pp.\)](#)
Chicago, Ill.

The fund provides for a 2 year project to digitise from microfilm but only one organisation per state will be successful in any one year. Also with their copyright law covering SEVENTY YEARS after death of author they cut off at 1922... something to consider for the Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP)... I believe they have content from roughly 30+ of the 50 US States to date, with 8 million pages – so in context we in NZ and Australia are doing ok.

They present the newspapers on the Chronicling America website as you can see.

Bringing it back home... in New Zealand we have Papers Past of course and like the other countries some independent sites where communities want their own control of their content, or one source of the truth for local history online at their place. For example St John's College did such a fine job of collating their own Anglican content other churches (arguably their political opposites, or competitors) asked if they could join their initiative – now that's collaboration:



John Kinder Theological Library
Church Papers Online / Nga Pepa Hāhi ā Ipurāngi

Home Search Browse Quick Search

And Official G... FOR THE DIOCESE OF WELLINGTON

church & people THE ANGLICAN NEWSPAPER

Church Gazette

THE REAPER
A Monthly Leaflet issued by the N.Z. Anglican Board of Missions.

THE Church

Church Papers Online is a collection of church newspapers and other serial publications.

- browse by each issue of a title
- search within one title
- search across all titles

In time it will contain a wide variety of national and local publications. These papers are a rich treasure trove of what was happening within the Church as well as in the wider community.

Current titles in the online collection

Search our collections

Search Go

Thumbnail images of various church publications: Church & People, The Church Messenger, The Church Chronicle, Whareroa Church Times, Whangarei Church Times, Church & People Magazine, and Church & Gazette.

Church Newspapers online has been praised by many for its initiative. Here, their definition of a newspaper differed slightly from Paper's Past's definition – especially in the fact the size was sometimes smaller than A3. They also wanted the option to add newsletters and leaflets in the same online collection. I believe article-ised & columnar Journals and Newsletters of organisations are historical content that can benefit from an approach akin to newspapers online.

Conclusion

New Zealand has been talking about this since 2008 but the activity hasn't changed... It's our job to ensure the papers published and stored today survive for future generations and I need your help to transform national thinking, this needs to be a group effort. It frustrates us at NZMS that we are sometimes cast as presenting a sales pitch out of this exercise but we're resolute in believing in the importance of preserving New Zealand's community & cultural heritage. I'm not even confident we are 100% sure everything that is published today finds its way to NLNZ's newspaper collection... I do KNOW our local historians, researchers, genealogists & students would be better off if we could surface more content online, or at least in our libraries backing up the

fragile paper content that all too often is unique – and the only published record - of some of our unique cities, towns & villages over the past 175 years.

As we have illustrated herein, globally this is being treated as a serious problem and that steps are being taken to protect these treasures... but is enough being done in a timely fashion? There are still cracks that some stuff is falling through.

If we don't act now, we may lose the material and information we want access to in the future. As we have shown disaster can strike at anytime. Are we guilty of the Cargo cult? – waiting for something to happen or someone else to get on with this? Or are we ever-waiting for the likes of Papers Past to cover it? Or the Gold standard to eventuate: a collection that is cared for, preserved on microfilm, digitised and then OCR'd, then corrected, digitally preserved etc etc? Why don't we simply make a start with the easy bits first: the collection management aspects. This quote from Debbie Duncan aptly expresses what we should be aiming to achieve through collecting and protecting:

"Protecting today's heritage for tomorrow's generation..."

But what do you think? Do community papers actually matter? I believe they do and that they are worth fighting for - let's unite and work on this together! ASK OF THE REGIONS: WHAT CAN YOU DO? If we had started a five/ten year plan in 2008 would we have finished by now? Can we do it now – who is responsible? Who should lead?

Here's a simple breakdown of where we could start:

(Local) Newspapers & NZ NewsPlan:

Options:

- Identify and catalogue what still need preserving.
- Preserve (multiple) paper & microfilm sets for the future digitisation.
- Reformat Acetate microfilm
- Manage & preserve the digital versions.
- Aim for full text searchability.

ABOUT US

As the name suggests NZMS (New Zealand Micrographic Services Ltd) started as a preservation microfilm bureau and that's still a big part of our business and our passion. In 25 years, we've microfilmed over 12 million pages of New Zealand's national newspaper collection and are industry leaders in the development of microfilming standards. We've also sought out the best equipment on the market for viewing microforms and are NZ agents for the ST View Scan microfilm scanners.

An absolute commitment to image quality and archival standards also underpins our digitisation work. From our first project in 1997 the Company's focus has been on providing digitisation solutions for New Zealand's irreplaceable heritage materials. Our processes and staff training are built around care of original collections and we've invested in equipment that is suitable for fragile items such as glass plate negatives, photographs, albums, manuscripts, bound volumes, textiles, maps, plans & works of art. In 2003 NZMS collaborated with the National Library of New Zealand and Victoria University of Wellington to provide NZ's only archival option for scanning large format A0+ items to a high resolution. This facility (HMIF) is now wholly owned by NZMS and located at Archives NZ.

We have always maintained close ties with our clients and have kept pace with changes in their business needs and the technology that is driving it. Recent years have seen a big expansion in our document scanning services and new services for image conversion and text repurposing. This includes OCR, transcription and XML conversion. We are also committed to offering end to end solutions for clients, recognising that the scanning may only part of the process. Increasingly the smart use of IT is our point of difference and an outstanding example of this is our leading edge hosting and digital collection software Recollect.

NZMS started as a family operated company in 1990 and now has a permanent staff of 25, with offices in Tawa, Christchurch, Auckland and the Wellington CBD. However we've retained our small company friendliness and commitment to delivering the best result for each of our clients.

μ NZMS
www.micrographics.co.nz