

## Subject Guides

# Online Newspaper Collections: 18<sup>th</sup> & 19<sup>th</sup> Centuries

*Accessible Archives* offers fulltext searchable access to the content of numerous 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> century newspapers/periodicals. One may search any or all of the newspapers simultaneously. For other older online periodicals, try the electronic journal aggregator JSTOR under “Electronic Journals” in the “Online Resources” section of the ULS homepage.

### Newspaper Collections:

*Civil War: A Newspaper Perspective* — This database contains the full text of major articles gleaned from over 2,500 issues of *The New York Herald*, *The Charleston Mercury* and the *Richmond Enquirer*, published between November 1, 1860 and April 15, 1865. Events are described in detail by both Union and Confederate papers. Included are descriptive news articles, eyewitness accounts and official reports of battles and events, editorials, advertisements and biographies. Extra-military topics such as travel, arts and leisure, geographical descriptions, sport, and social events, are also included.

*African-American Newspapers: 19<sup>th</sup> Century* — This enormous collection contains a wealth of information about African-American cultural life and history during the 1800s. They include first-hand reports of the major events and issues of the day, including the Mexican War, Presidential and congressional addresses, Congressional abstracts, business and commodity markets, the humanities, world travel and religion. They also contain large numbers of early biographies, vital statistics, essays and editorials, poetry and prose, and advertisements. With nearly a million words of new text downloaded each month, this database will ultimately contain the complete text of the major African-American newspapers published in the United States during the 19th century.

*Godey's Lady's Book, 1830–1880* [completed through December 1845] — Published in Philadelphia by Louis Antoine Godey, *Godey's Lady's Book* was designed specifically to attract, inform, and educate the growing audience of American women. In addition to extensive fashion descriptions and plates, the early issues included biographical sketches, articles about mineralogy, handcrafts, female costume, the dance, equestrienne procedures, health & hygiene, recipes & remedies, etc. Under the editorship of Sarah Josepha Hale, the periodical gradually matured into an important literary magazine. Content grew to include extensive book reviews and works by Harriet Beecher Stowe, Edgar Allen Poe, Nathaniel Hawthorne, Henry Wadsworth Longfellow and many other celebrated 19th century authors.

*The Pennsylvania Gazette, 1728-1800* — Considered *The New York Times* of the 18th century, *The Pennsylvania Gazette* provides the reader with a first hand view of colonial America, the American Revolution and the New Republic, and offers important social, political and cultural perspectives of each of the periods. Thousands of articles, editorials, letters, news items and advertisements cover the Western Hemisphere, from the Canadian Maritime Provinces, through the West Indies and North and South America, giving a detailed glimpse of issues and lifestyles of the times.

*The Pennsylvania Newspaper Record: Delaware County (1819-1870)* — this database documents the industrialization of a predominantly agrarian culture established by Quaker farmers in the 18th century. Contains the full text of articles, advertisements, and vital statistics, providing insight into technology, business activity and material culture in a down-river milling and manufacturing community at the height of the Industrial Revolution.

*The Pennsylvania Genealogical Catalogue: Chester County (1809-1870)* — This database is primarily a listing of marriages, deaths and obituaries from the *Village Record*, published in West Chester, Pennsylvania. However, the database also includes information about emigration patterns, customs and traditions, important events, medical history, biographical data, etc.

### Searching the Databases:

*Simple Searches* — You can search for any word or phrase by just typing the word or phrase into a query form and clicking the button to execute the query. Words typed in succession are searched as a phrase. If your phrase includes special characters or punctuation, enclose it in quotation marks (however, period [.] , colon [:] , semicolon [;] , and comma [,] are always ignored during a search). Queries are not case sensitive, so you may type your queries in upper or lower case letters.

*Advanced Searches* — Queries may utilize Boolean search operators AND, OR, and AND NOT, as well as the proximity operator NEAR.

Ex.: civil war and (lincoln near jefferson)

Searches with AND, OR, and AND NOT will list all hits matching the query. Searches with NEAR will order results according to proximity (with results with search terms in nearest proximity ordered first). For best results, nest complex queries using Boolean operators in parentheses in the order to be searched. *For more information on advanced searching, see the “Search Tips” page next to the query box.*

*Truncation/Special Search Functions* — To find words with the same prefix, use an asterisk [\*] at the end of the word. To search for *all forms* of a word, use a double asterisk [\*\*].

Ex.: Entering *key\** finds *key, keying, keyhole, keyboard,* and so on.

Ex.: Entering *sink\*\** finds *sink, sinking, sank,* and *sunk.*