

Wisconsin Historical Newspaper Portal

The Wisconsin Public Library Consortium (WPLC), Wisconsin Historical Society (WHS), Wisconsin Newspaper Association (WNA), and Recollection Wisconsin are working together to provide digital access to Wisconsin's historical newspapers. A pilot set of content from eleven communities across the state will be available through the Wisconsin Newspaper Association Digital Research Site in BadgerLink (<http://badgerlink.newsmemory.com/wna/badgerlink/>) in early 2016. Funding for the pilot project is provided by WPLC as well as Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA) funds awarded to the Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction by the Federal Institute of Museum and Library Services.

Thinking about digitizing your library's newspapers?

Benefits of working with this collaborative statewide project include:

- WHS will scan its master microfilm negatives, which provide a cleaner, more readable digital version than microfilm that may be scratched and worn from years or decades of patron use. WHS has the second largest collection of microfilmed newspapers in the United States, surpassed only by the Library of Congress, including hundreds of daily and weekly titles from Wisconsin communities.
- WNA will coordinate with newspaper publishers on behalf of libraries to secure permissions to digitize copyrighted content (publication date 1923 or later). WNA is the professional association for the state's newspaper publishers, serving 222 members.
- The historical newspapers will be full-text searchable alongside current Wisconsin newspapers (2005-present). Patrons can also browse newspapers by city, county, or date, and save or print individual newspaper pages.
- Access to the research portal will be provided through BadgerLink authentication, freely available to all Wisconsin public library cardholders. Access options for out-of-state researchers are currently under investigation.

How can my library participate?

- 1) Check the WHS microfilm catalog (<http://www.wisconsinhistory.org/microfilm/search.asp>) to see if your community's newspapers are part of WHS's microfilm holdings. Contact microfilmsales@wisconsinhistory.org if you can't find your community's newspapers in the online catalog, or if you have any other questions about microfilm holdings at WHS. If your library has print copies of daily or weekly community newspapers that are *not* available on microfilm, WHS is interested in hearing from you, and may be able to microfilm the print copies.
- 2) Consider your priorities for digital access. What are the specific titles or date ranges that are most heavily used or in high demand by researchers?
- 3) To be added to an interest list for future stages of the project, please fill out a brief questionnaire available here: <http://goo.gl/forms/7yGsNB1gV4>

What if we've already had our newspapers scanned?

It may be possible to add existing digitized historical newspapers to the portal. Files will need to be renamed according to WNA requirements and file splitting or other reformatting may also be necessary.

Questions?

Contact Emily Pfothauer, Recollection Wisconsin Program Manager at WiLS, at emily@wils.org or 608-616-9756.