

## Growing a statewide newspaper portal

The Wisconsin Public Library Consortium, in partnership with Wisconsin Historical Society (WHS), Wisconsin Newspaper Association (WNA), and Recollection Wisconsin, is undertaking a pilot project to provide access to digitized historical newspapers.

The goals of the pilot are:

- To educate the Wisconsin public library community on newspaper digitization best practices and challenges, including copyright.
- To develop procedures for securing and loading content into a centralized platform.
- To provide proof of concept for a centralized model for digitized newspaper content in Wisconsin.

The pilot will load 65,000 pages of digitized historical newspapers alongside current newspapers in the same interface and platform used for BadgerLink:

<http://wna.eclipping.org/ee/nmum/public/freesearchtest/search/index/type/badger>

WiLS and Recollection Wisconsin will work with the Wisconsin Historical Society to create digital copies of microfilmed newspapers, including appropriate file naming in order for metadata to be created upon ingestion into the WNA platform. WiLS will work with WHS to manage the transfer of files to WNA. WNA will load content into the existing platform run by Tecnavia, a third-party e-publishing provider. Tecnavia will process the content, which includes formatting the pages and extracting text for searching. Once the content is available in the WNA platform, the pilot libraries will review and test the collections before sharing with patrons.

As this work is being done, WiLS and Recollection Wisconsin will document procedures and best practices, including work related to acquiring rights for newspaper content.

The pilot libraries and titles are:

- Baraboo Public Library: *Baraboo Republic*
- Brodhead Memorial Public Library: *Brodhead Independent*
- Dwight Foster Public Library: *Jefferson County Union*
- Florence County Library: *Florence Mining News*
- Hartland Public Library: *Hartland News, Hartland News and Dairyman*
- Kiel Public Library: *Tri-County Record*
- New London Public Library: *New London Press*
- Pittsville Public Library: *Yellow River Pilot*
- Prairie du Chien Public Library: *Prairie du Chien Leader, Prairie du Chien Union*
- Rib Lake Public Library: *Rib Lake Herald*
- Waupun Public Library: *Waupun Times*

Pilot libraries were selected based on the following factors:

- Representation from public libraries in a range of sizes and locations across the state
- Whether newspapers are already digitized or need to be digitized, as the pilot includes libraries with pre-digitized content and others with content to be digitized.
- Availability of a microfilm copy of the newspaper at WHS
- Availability of a consecutive run of years in microfilm.

Benefits for pilot libraries include:

- Content from pilot libraries will be loaded into the WNA platform at no charge to the library.
- Educational opportunities around digitization topics including copyright, prepping materials, etc.
- Opportunity to beta test the content platform and assist in identifying and resolving concerns.

The pilot will conclude by early 2016 and a review of the pilot will be conducted and presented to the WPLC board at their February meeting.

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