

From Attic to Online

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Abstract:

As one of four regional sites established to participate in the United States Newspaper Program for the state of Pennsylvania in the mid-1980s, the Central Field Office was assigned the task to survey and travel to towns and cities in 30 of the state's 67 counties, in the rural, remote areas in Central and Northeastern Pennsylvania, to locate and catalog all newspapers that could be found. The systematic process the Project Team established yielded extraordinary discoveries and significant runs of presumed lost titles from once thriving towns and communities. By the end of their 30-county assignment in 1988, the Team had discovered that an astonishing number of titles were held in the hands of private citizens and newspaper publishers, who represented 59% of the sites visited, or over half. What the Team accomplished in rural Pennsylvania, including recommending many of these titles for microfilming, ultimately laid the groundwork for the digitization efforts now underway as part of Pennsylvania's involvement in the National Digital Newspaper Program (NDNP). By 2014 an estimated 350,000 pages of Pennsylvania newspapers, including many found in private hands, will be freely accessible online, meaning for these papers their journey from "attic to online" is complete. This paper chronicles the innovative field work conducted by the Central Field Office Project Team in rural Pennsylvania as they cultivated relationships within communities and with private citizens in their attempt to seek, find, and ultimately gain access to previously unknown and rare newspaper collections.

Keywords:

Pennsylvania Newspaper Project
Pennsylvania State University
Pennsylvania newspapers
private collectors
newspaper publishers
microfilm

The United State Newspaper Project (USNP) *and* the Pennsylvania Newspaper Project (PaNP)

Recognizing their importance as primary accounts of local and regional source information, the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH)¹ undertook a massive effort to preserve the history of United State's towns and cities as reported in the 300,000 newspapers published from colonial days to the start of the USNP² in 1983 . The Project would be nationwide; in the early 1980s all 50 states (and eventually all United States territories - the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, and the U.S. Virgin Islands) were invited to submit proposals for funding. The National Endowment for the Humanities, in collaboration with the Library of Congress and OCLC (Online Computer Library Center)³, established the rules for cataloging and the necessary protocols which would be employed by all states, thereby assuring nationwide uniformity in recording all newspaper data on the OCLC database.

In Pennsylvania, by July 1983, a Steering Committee was convened to develop a newspaper cataloging plan for Pennsylvania. By August NEH had awarded the State Library of Pennsylvania in Harrisburg \$10,000 to support the development of a plan to identify, catalog, and enter holdings into the OCLC database of newspapers published in Pennsylvania, and papers from other States held by Pennsylvania libraries, historical societies, and other repositories. The funding was also designated to support the development of a plan to microfilm Pennsylvania newspapers. Brief questionnaires were sent out to all known repositories to determine the number of titles held at each institution. Data from these surveys equipped the Steering Committee with the necessary statistics to apply for a subsequent NEH grant to initiate an inventory of the newspapers published in Pennsylvania.

Results of the questionnaires showed that newspaper collections were "maintained" in about 1,400 locations throughout the State. The two largest newspaper collections were held at the Historical Society of Pennsylvania in Philadelphia with 1,614 titles and the State Library in Harrisburg with 1,560 titles (bound in 3,600 volumes and 63,000 reels of microfilm). Other collections were at the University of Pittsburgh, the Western Pennsylvania Historical Society, the Carnegie Library, Penn State University, and other repositories in Philadelphia and throughout the State.

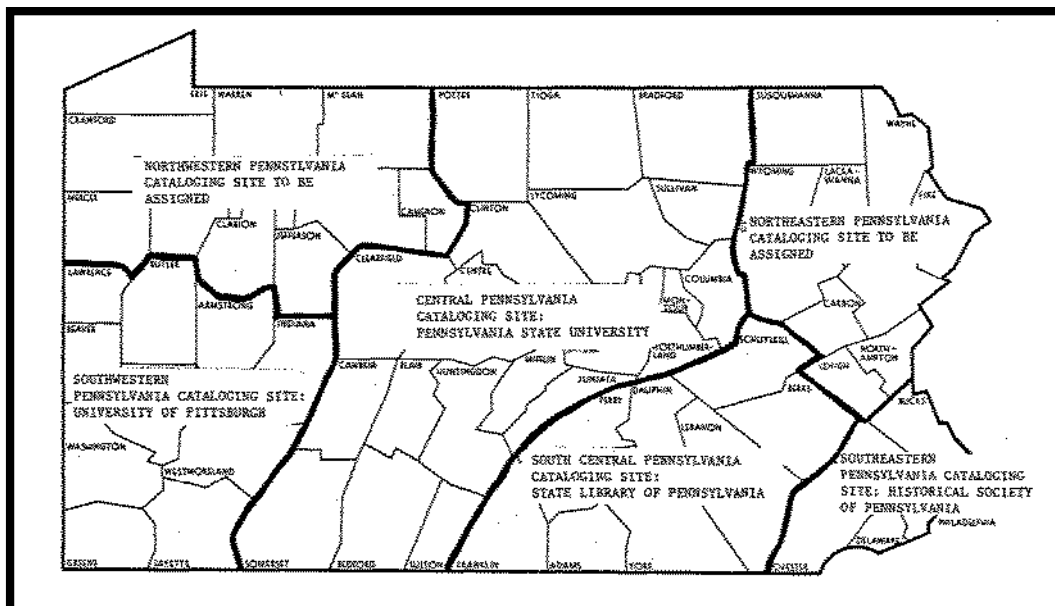
By October 1984 NEH awarded the State Library an outright grant of \$200,000, for 1985 and 1986, to inventory and catalog newspapers held in Pennsylvania libraries, historical societies, publishers' files and other collections. An additional \$30,000 was appropriated by the Pennsylvania General Assembly for the Project as part of the match required by NEH. It was also officially announced at that time that regional cataloging sites would be established at the State Library in Harrisburg, the University of Pittsburgh, and

the Historical Society of Pennsylvania in Philadelphia. These sites were to locate and catalog newspapers in south central, southwestern and southeastern Pennsylvania during the life of the two-year grant. It was also announced that one-year cataloging sites would be established at the Pennsylvania State University, University Park campus, and at libraries in northeastern and northwestern Pennsylvania, yet to be identified.

The actual work on the Pennsylvania Newspaper Project (PaNP) began in 1985. The Project's goal, as it was for every state, was to identify and locate all extant newspapers published in the United States, catalog them, inventory holdings for all institutions and individuals, and enter the information into the OCLC database to ensure immediate accessibility. Moreover, field catalogers were asked to recommend titles for microfilming as a means to preserve the contents and to ensure long-term permanent accessibility.

Pennsylvania held the distinction of being one of the first large states to join the USNP, (Texas being the other), the first to be divided into geographic regions to carry out the work, and the first to conduct field work. The regional cataloging sites (field offices) established were:

- Northwestern - to survey 10 counties
- Southwestern - to survey 9 counties
- Central - to survey 20 counties
- South Central - to survey 8 counties
- Northeast - to survey 10 counties
- Southeast - to survey 10 counties



Map of the Cataloging Site Areas as shown in the April 1986 *PA Reporter*, pg. 4

Another distinctive characteristic of Pennsylvania was that its newspaper collections were not held centrally as was the case in many other states. Only two institutions – the Historical Society of Pennsylvania in Philadelphia and the State Library in Harrisburg – held large collections of papers, each with more than 1,500 titles. Surprisingly, it was discovered that in the rural counties of central Pennsylvania, 59% of places visited were private citizens and newspaper publishers.

Out of the Attic: Cultivating Communities and Private Citizens in the quest to locate newspapers

The Project Team located at the Central Field Office, who were assigned the most rural and remote areas of Central and Northeastern Pennsylvania and whose area was devoid of any large collection of newspaper holdings, began their work by compiling lists of newspaper titles known to have been published in the area - by county. Glenora Rossell's 1978 edition of *Pennsylvania Newspapers: A Bibliography and Union List*, published by the Pennsylvania Library Association served as the reference guide to compile these title lists. Using standard directories and reference sources of cultural heritage institutions and repositories in the state, the Team compiled a comprehensive file of all known locations holding newspapers which included historical societies and museums; county court houses; and academic, public, special and school libraries. Private collectors such as newspaper publishers, owners of defunct newspapers, antique dealers, and private citizens were identified through the "grapevine". By calling local Post Offices⁴, the names, addresses, and phone numbers of historians or retired teachers of the area could be easily obtained. Likewise, asking local people whom the Team met on a field visit or by word of mouth often yielded good results and new contacts. Moreover, their willingness to explore leads on behalf of the Project Team before or after a field visit often proved most productive. It was clearly demonstrated time and time again that building a network of key individuals in any given area or region increased the probability of locating the hard-to-find titles.

Taken from the August 1985 Monthly Report:⁵

The Project Team had two excellent 4-day visits to Cambria County and met wonderful, enthusiastic guardians of newspapers. We uncovered several backfiles of papers in the hands of private collectors - mostly defunct titles: North Cambria News from Hastings, Gallitzin Item, Johnstown Observer, Cresson Record, Weekly Sun from Barnesboro and the Patton Courier. In the attic of a Cambria County private collector's home where the entire file of the North Cambria News from Hastings, PA was located. The owner's father published the paper from May 23, 1902 - May 14, 1953.

Taken from the April 1985 Monthly Report:⁶

Extensive publicity in Centre County netted one of the counties earliest published titles - *Der Centre Berichter*.

In April 1985 an area antique dealer called to say he had a few issues of an early German language newspaper in his shop. On further examination, it was discovered that the dealer owned six issues covering a large enough span of time to establish five different title changes that effectively documented the publication history of an early Centre County newspaper that flourished from 1827 to 1876.

For each institution or private citizen found with a newspaper collection, a Master Card file was created as a ready reference guide and served as a means to record all subsequent phone contacts and correspondence. The Master Card file included names of individuals in the field for all sites, as well as phone numbers, addresses, directions, secondary contacts, brief notes regarding newspaper holdings (collections), storage conditions, and other pertinent information. Added to this would be dates for site visits, phone calls made, and follow-up information, e.g., "thank-you" letters written.

PIKE CO.		Yes.	AQOC Milford
Pike County Dispatch		8:30-4 pm.	
105 W. Catherine St.		1-4:30 pm.	
Milford, Pa. 18337		Office	site visit 4/7/87
Douglas N. Hay (Ed.)		Phone # on survey: 491-2250	Doug's home #
Est. 1829		Wkly	
JAN 7 1987	Rec. '83 Survey	- *Leith Hoffman*	
3 Pa. titles		filled out. →	
JAN 9 1987	Sent '87 survey		
JAN 22 1987	He has paper copy 1870's → various dates. Bd + unbound - Bad to good condition. Says H Mus Com m. has film.		
4/22/87	Tell.		

3-13-87 Called Doug. Said to call Leith. Files are at the office. Paper goes back earlier than film.

3-24-87 - Called Mr Hoffman. Set visit date. No reader. all filmed things should be on paper. Do paper first & verify on film.

3-24-87 Called & spoke to Mr. Orben. He's a stamp collector. No papers tho.

6/15/87 reviewed newsp. article from Doug Hay

ON FILM AT HARRISBURG: 1889-1912; 1924-1930; 1933-43, 1944-10 issues 1945-1 issue, 1946-sept → date.

Master Card file for the *Pike County Dispatch* (newspaper publishing office) located in Milford, PA.

In addition to building a network of local contacts in a given region, the Team found that publicity played a major role in identifying collections. Prior to each field visit, the Project Team composed a publicity release about the project and sent introductory letters to current newspaper publishers to facilitate the creation of a news release that would be published in their paper or used in a radio broadcast. Letters were composed for both pre- and post- site visit publicity releases, and sent out both before and after the site visits occurred.

THE PENNSYLVANIA STATE UNIVERSITY
THE UNIVERSITY LIBRARIES
UNIVERSITY PARK, PENNSYLVANIA 16802

Dear Madam,

We would greatly appreciate it if, in the interest of community service, you would run the attached announcement in your newspaper.

Because of the importance of the project (endeavoring to put all of Pennsylvania's newspaper titles in a common data base), we need to reach the entire population, town by town. Eventually, all the states will be participating.

Newspaper publishers can play a crucial role by helping us to make our project known to all members of the counties for which we are responsible. Since we will be working in this county in the next two weeks, we would appreciate it being run as soon as possible.

On our part, we have contacted over 450 institutions individually, asking for information on their holdings. We now need to reach the general public, and your help can make the difference in the project's success.

Please assist us. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Rebecca Wilson
Project Staff

Sue Kellerman

/kr

Attachment

AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY UNIVERSITY

Pre-site Visit - Introductory Letter

It was found that mailing out pre-site-visit publicity letters and asking publishers to promote the Project greatly aided the Team and got many newspaper publishers personally involved and interested in the Project. It also increased the chances of locating "hidden" collections. People who read an article in their local newspaper about the Project gave the Team extra-warm receptions, and it lent legitimacy to the work. In addition, to further build good rapport, weeks before an actual site visit, telephone calls⁴ were made to confirm scheduled dates and times of upcoming visits with participating sites and individuals. Placing phone calls - hundreds for each county - was the most effective means of establishing contacts, finalizing field visits, locating obscure titles, tracking elusive private collectors, and verifying numerous bits of data. Serendipity played a major role too.

Miscellaneous News Items taken from the **November 1985 Monthly Report:**⁷

At the *Grit Office* in Williamsport, we were pleased to examine and record their holdings in four hours - a task the editor assured us would take several days. The editor photocopied the history of the title changes we assembled before we left.

An unscheduled visit to the *Express Office*, Jersey Shore branch, produced a host of local titles and unexpected long runs of three titles. A lucky stop due to a tip from a historical society member.

A private collector and newspaper dealer in Williamsport allowed us, on two separate visits, to catalog 178 newspapers - a fraction of his permanent collection. It was difficult deciding what to include ...

Being in the right place at the right time ... as we stood in the Potter County Historical Society recently, a patron came in asking for a local paper we had not found in our tour of Potter County. He happened to have one issue and upon coaxing [him to see the paper he] allowed us to visit him on our way home and catalog it. It was a new title from Austin, PA.

In the case of this private collector in Susquehanna County, a television show about the Project prompted him to contact the Field Office.

Taken from the October 1987 Monthly Report:⁸

On the way back from field work in Susquehanna County, the Project Team stopped at a private collector in Troop, PA who had called in [to the office] after seeing our TV show⁹. He reported having a vast newspaper collection in his basement. And he did! He had significant long runs of titles from Lackawanna County - previously we had seen only one or two issues when we visited that county in May. Many titles from Pottsville (Schuylkill County) were there too. Additionally, he had records, day books, blueprints, foreman's journals and photographs (from 1920s and 1930s) from the defunct Hudson Coal Mining Company.

Equally important in cultivating positive relationships within communities and with private citizens was the follow-up after the field visit. Follow-up was very valuable!¹⁰ Letters were written to everyone thanking them for their hospitality and assistance during the site visit. Responses to questions, requests for information, and linking title histories showing changes of titles throughout history of publication were sent immediately. Comprehensive listings of titles and specific holdings lists were sent to individual institutions upon request. People were pleased that we would continue to interact with them and provide assistance after the site visit. In turn, the Team frequently called on institutions and private citizens alike to verify data or get information we missed.

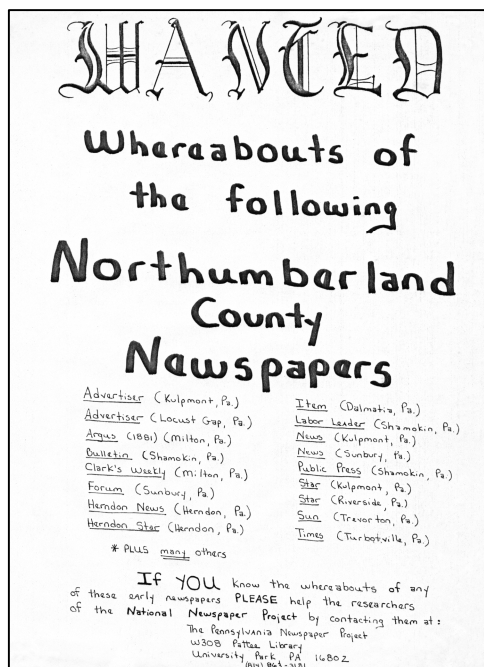
In addition, although not initially part of the Project, it was found that institutions and private collectors desired information on how they could preserve their newspapers collections. As a direct result of this request, the Project Team developed and assembled a packet of preservation information of basic preservation techniques including where to get supplies; this was distributed at almost every site visited.

Post-publicity letters were also sent to publishers. Typically, included in these letters were sample articles from other papers, statistics on what was found, specifically what titles were found and which titles were yet to be found, and a list of titles we especially wanted them to ask their local readers to look for.

In September 1985 the Project Team experimented with a new advertising ploy by distributing "wanted" posters in various locations in Northumberland County as a means to solicit help from the general community to locate copies of known newspaper titles to have been published. The experiment proved futile as no new titles were found in Northumberland County after the initial field visit.



Article published in the *Troy Gazette*, October 17, 1985 reporting on the Team's visit to Bradford County and includes a listing of newspaper titles not yet found.



Even though the "wanted" poster failed its purpose, private collectors continued to respond to the Project Team's letters of publicity by writing to the Office to report owning titles not previously found but known to have been published.

The following chart illustrates the significance of private collectors' calls to the Field Office, reporting additional titles found *after* the initial field work in their region was completed. The figures are for the period from January 1985 to July 1986. Note that in 10 of the 15 counties, the percentage of found titles increased.

County	Original % Found *	% Found post-field work
Centre	90%	92%
Clearfield	58%	58%
Clinton	63%	83%
Union	56%	62%
Columbia	69%	71%
Potter	83%	83%
Northumberland	47%	54%
Tioga	53%	57%
Bradford	74%	77%
Lycoming	70%	74%
Snyder	71%	71%
Mifflin	88%	89%
Juniata	74%	76%
Sullivan	89%	89%
Montour	77%	77%

* Percentage is based on the number of newspaper titles found to the number of titles published.

Field work to locate, inventory holdings, and catalog titles was in itself challenging. Documenting holdings in non-traditional settings presented an unexpected procedural quandary. The Central Field Office Team's experience had shown that private collectors not only had issues but even *titles* not held in public institutions such as libraries or historical societies. To record the holdings of private collectors, citizens, and newspaper publishers alike, a specialized coding system was devised to denote which title and/or holdings belonged to which individual. The system that was developed, while onerous and ultimately difficult to maintain in over time, did allow the Project Team to accept and record holdings of private citizens. Without this system being adopted for the Pennsylvania Newspaper Project, newspaper holdings held by private collectors would have been ignored.



At the conclusion the Central Field Office's field work in 1987, the Project Team had visited 443 sites in 30 counties and had traveled 14,922 miles (24,015 km) over three years. Of the 443 sites visited, 160 visits were made to private collector's homes and another 102 visits to newspaper publishers' offices. Collectively just these two categories represented 59% of all the sites visited. See the following chart for a breakdown on the 443 sites visited by type and location.

Description of Sites Visited By County and Type of Site

443 Total Sites, 1985 - 1987

<u>County</u>	<u>Private Collectors</u>	<u>Historical Societies/ Museums</u>	<u>Public Libraries</u>	<u>Newspaper Publishers</u>	<u>Academic Libraries</u>	<u>High Schools</u>	<u>Other*</u>
<u>Bradford</u>	<u>10</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>6</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>
<u>Centre</u>	<u>7</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>1</u>
<u>Clearfield</u>	<u>7</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>
<u>Clinton</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>
<u>Columbia</u>	<u>20</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>
<u>Lycoming</u>	<u>10</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>5</u>	<u>5</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>0</u>
<u>Northumberland</u>	<u>11</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>
<u>Potter</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>0</u>
<u>Snyder</u>	<u>5</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>0</u>
<u>Tioga</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>5</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>0</u>
<u>Union</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>0</u>
<u>Blair</u>	<u>6</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>5</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>1</u>
<u>Bedford</u>	<u>5</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>
<u>Cambria</u>	<u>9</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>11</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>1</u>
<u>Fulton</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>
<u>Huntingdon</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>
<u>Juniata</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>1</u>
<u>Mifflin</u>	<u>9</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>
<u>Montour</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>
<u>Somerset</u>	<u>6</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>0</u>
<u>Sullivan</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>

<u>Carbon</u>	<u>7</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>
<u>Lackawanna</u>	<u>14</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>10</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>2</u>
<u>Luzerne</u>	<u>10</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>7</u>	<u>13</u>	<u>6</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>0</u>
<u>Monroe</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>1</u>
<u>Northampton</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>5</u>	<u>8</u>	<u>5</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>
<u>Pike</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>
<u>Wayne</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>1</u>
<u>Wyoming</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>
<u>Susquehanna</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>1</u>
<u>TOTAL**</u>	<u>160</u>	<u>62</u>	<u>67</u>	<u>102</u>	<u>27</u>	<u>14</u>	<u>11</u>
<u>Percent of Total</u>	<u>36%***</u>	<u>14%</u>	<u>15%</u>	<u>23%***</u>	<u>6.1%</u>	<u>3.1%</u>	<u>2.8%</u>

* **Other** represents: Court Houses, a Law Library, a Church Archives Center, a newsstand, a Bank, a Borough Building, and a Private Library

** Note: These numbers DO NOT include return site-visits made to institutions/individuals.

*** Note: 59% of the total sites for the entire Project (1985 – 1987) were Private Collectors and Newspaper Publishers.



Attic to Microfilm: Recommending titles for microfilming

Engaging local newspaper publishers to advertise and "sell" the Project to encourage private citizens to come forward with their collections proved highly successful, not only at the Central Field Office but at each of the regional field offices across the state. While private collectors and cultural heritage institutions were enormously receptive to the work of the Project Team, their greatest hope was that "their" papers would be among those selected for preservation microfilming and paid for using Project funds. At the conclusion of the entire PaNP in 1990, it was estimated that of the 7,921 newspaper titles found during the Project's inventorying and cataloging phase, fewer than 1,400 titles existed in microformat and over 6,500 titles needed to be filmed.

It was during the course of the inventorying and cataloging phase of the Project that Field Office Teams would collect data on the condition of the papers found, for both hard copies as well as microfilm copy, and make recommendations for filming. Many were identified as extremely fragile or even worse - some were too fragile to catalog and needed to be microfilmed first. Some filmed copies were found to be of such poor quality that re-filming was recommended.

While the planning for the microfilming stage of the Pennsylvania Newspaper Project began in July 1986, it was not until April 1987 that the first titles were picked-up for filming. The Project Microfilming Coordinator and his staff worked closely with the regional Field Office Teams to identify titles worthy of being considered for microfilming. Hundreds of catalog records of titles found were annotated with condition assessment notes generated by each Field Team. Newspapers proposed for filming were evaluated and ranked according to a set of criteria that included: research importance, intended audience, geographic scope, time period and date of the publication, physical condition, accessibility, and availability of substantially complete runs. The interests and concerns of the communities that the papers represented were also taken into consideration and addressed during the selection process. Although the initial thought was to preserve titles never filmed, and to film runs of newspapers from each county from the earliest surviving paper through 1980, the available funding could not begin to cover the level of filming needed. Many more titles were found in hard copy than previously thought and funding fell far short of the need. In the end, due to limited funds and an inability to raise the matching funds required by NEH to receive the full amount allocated for microfilming, only a fraction of the eligible titles were microfilmed. Many newspaper titles high on the PaNP's priority lists were filmed only partially or not filmed at all, leaving many vulnerable titles at risk of being lost -including many of the titles found at private collectors' homes and newspaper publishers' lofts and storage rooms. As a result of the PaNP's efforts, at its conclusion in 1990, only 389 titles (on 3,950 reels) representing 137 towns and cities had been reformatted to microfilm.

Since 1990 when the PaNP officially ended, Pennsylvania newspapers have continued to be microfilmed. Many small libraries and historical societies have raised funds through local fund-raising events to pay to have their historic titles microfilmed. In addition, large commercial companies have partnered with newspaper publishers to film substantial historic backfiles as well as their current issues. In 2004, the Penn State University Libraries' Preservation Department applied for and was awarded \$350,000 (€61,800.00) to conduct the second phase of the PaNP. During this 2-year grant phase, 58 titles representing 355,942 pages were microfilmed. A third phase of the Project was funded by NEH in 2006 allowing the Penn State University Libraries to preserve an additional 412,034 pages from 56 titles on 488 reels of microfilm.

The following chart captures the current state of microfilming in Pennsylvania. To date only about 26% of all of Pennsylvania newspaper titles have been microfilmed, either commercially or by NEH funding.

Approximate Number of Microfilmed PA Titles

Master Negative Held By:	Approximate # of Titles*	# of Reels	# of Cities
State Library 1970 Project	243	765	55
State Library 1987 Project	389	3,950	137
PaNP2 (2004-2006)	58	360	25
PaNP3 (2006-2008)	56	448	28
IMR, Limited**	669	11,970	232
Heritage**	159	11,097	62
Readex**	96	232	21
ProQuest**	376		121
Totals	2,046	28,822	681

* It was difficult to identify all title changes.

** Microfilm vendors

Microfilm to Digital: the NDNP

The next logical step in the “attic-to-online” progression is to migrate from microfilm to digital – which Pennsylvania has been actively engaged since early 2004, primarily by a few academic institutions, public libraries, historical societies, and commercial vendors. In 2008, under the auspices of the National Digital Newspaper Program (NDNP)¹¹, Penn State Libraries was awarded its first grant from NEH to digitize historic Pennsylvania newspapers that had been microfilmed with NEH funding. Now in its third and final NEH grant period which ends August 2014, 79 titles will have been digitized¹². So the groundwork has been laid for the future.

Conclusion

The most challenging aspect of locating and cataloging Pennsylvania newspaper collections has been done, and documenting the existence of previously unknown titles has greatly enhanced the historical record of newspaper publishing in the state. Through the Project Team’s innovative fieldwork and the cultivation of relationships with private newspaper owners, numerous titles were discovered that did not exist in public repositories. A number of newspapers were microfilmed through the PaNP, but unfortunately too many were not. And while the number of titles accessible digitally is quite small, hope remains that of those titles now preserved on microfilm, a day may come when they too can migrate to a digital version.

Footnotes:

¹ <http://www.neh.gov/>

² <http://www.neh.gov/us-newspaper-program>

³ <http://www.oclc.org/en-US/home.html>

⁴ See "Telephone Calls" in Glossary of Terms at:

<https://sites.psu.edu/ourstorycentralpausnewspaperproject/glossary-of-terms/>

⁵ See "August 1985 Monthly Report" at:

<https://sites.psu.edu/ourstorycentralpausnewspaperproject/reports-1985/>

⁶ See "April 1985 Monthly Report" at: <https://sites.psu.edu/ourstorycentralpausnewspaperproject/reports-1985/>

⁷ See "November 1985 Monthly Report" at:

<https://sites.psu.edu/ourstorycentralpausnewspaperproject/reports-1985/>

⁸ See "October 1987 Monthly Report" at:

<https://sites.psu.edu/ourstorycentralpausnewspaperproject/reports-1987/>

⁹ Dr. Barbara Smith and Project Team members Sue Kellerman and Becky Wilson were interviewed by WPSX-TV Host Keith Stevens for Public Television's "Taking Note" Program that aired on Wednesday, April 22, 1987, at 5:45 p.m. on Channel 3, and 7:15 p.m. on Channel 25.

¹⁰ See "Thank-You Letters" in Glossary of Terms at:

<https://sites.psu.edu/ourstorycentralpausnewspaperproject/glossary-of-terms/>

¹¹ <http://www.loc.gov/ndnp/>

¹² <http://www.libraries.psu.edu/psul/digipres/panp/padnp.html>

For details regarding actual site visit and on-site cataloging, please see article: Wilson, Rebecca A. and L.S. Kellerman. "Challenges of On-Site Cataloging." *Cataloging and Classification Quarterly*. 6(4): 31-38 (1986).