



## NEWS *preservation*

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### *President's Message*

## Preserving the World's News

Many signs indicate that the World Wide Web has become, among other things, a global newsstand. The way news is delivered and consumed is changing, and newspapers are losing their market share to online news sources. A survey conducted in June 2005 by the Pew Research Center for the People and the Press indicated the degree to which newspaper readership is dwindling. According to the Pew report “a third of Americans below age 40 cite the internet as their main source of news, and many of these people are reading newspapers online.”

The decline in newspaper readership creates a domino effect: reduced advertising revenues for newspapers, which leads to less news coverage of foreign and local affairs, which then causes a further decline in demand for newspapers. If news-

On page 1: Front page of *L'Intelligence*, Paris, May 9, 1849. From CRL's digital collection of French Revolution pamphlets and periodicals.

*continued from page 1*

papers do not actually disappear they are at least in danger of no longer being the “edition of record” or the prime venue for original news reporting.

This development will change the way news is preserved and made available to researchers. For decades, CRL has collected and preserved newspapers from all parts of the world. In this issue of *Focus*, articles about the International Coalition on Newspapers and the Foreign Newspaper Microfilm Project describe some of those efforts. Electronic news, however, is not “collected” by libraries in the same sense as news in paper form. Libraries acquire, catalog, microfilm, and store newspapers; and make them available locally for researchers to study. Users of electronic news go directly to the news site (or blog), or are notified of news reports through RSS feeds. Libraries license access to non-current electronic news content from commercial aggregators like LexisNexis, NewsBank, and Factiva. These aggregators ingest news text daily from thousands of media organizations like *The New York Times* and *Chicago Tribune*, index and annotate it, and deliver it online. Such aggregators have become the repositories of an enormous amount of the world’s electronic news content.

To “cover the waterfront” we include in this issue two articles that explore how the work that the aggregators do might be leveraged to help libraries preserve today’s news for tomorrow’s researchers: Victoria McCargar’s analysis of the news archiving activities of NewsBank and LexisNexis (and their limitations); and CRL’s exploration of the potential for large-scale digitization of world news.

—Bernard F. Reilly, Jr., *President*

# International Coalition on Newspapers

Linda Ronan

Project Coordinator, ICON

The printed newspaper as we know it today has a history of almost 400 years. During that span of time, over much of the world, the daily events that affect the lives of ordinary people have been written, discussed, photographed, satirized, praised, and analyzed. It is a fascinating, first-hand source not only of history, but also of fashion, the arts, entertainment, culture, commerce, and the thousand seemingly trivial things that people want to know. In every language, the newspaper is an irreplaceable primary resource.

Increasingly, researchers from amateur genealogists to professionals and academics are finding a treasure trove in newspapers. CRL has long understood the valuable assets it holds for use by its members. Our collection holds over 12,000 newspapers, with more than 7,000 current and retrospective newspapers published outside of the United States. The International Coalition on Newspapers (ICON) emerged out of recognition of the need for increased preservation of and better access to global newspapers.

## ICON's Beginnings

Even before ICON, CRL had a long history in cooperative foreign newspaper preservation activities. Having started filming and acquiring the film of some 50 foreign newspapers for its members in as early as 1952, by 1961, CRL was filming 146 titles for 54 participating subscribers as part of the Foreign Newspaper Microfilm Project (FNMP). For the next two decades, CRL maintained



Front page of *La Bourse Egyptienne*, Cairo, May 8, 1945, Victory in Europe Day. From ICON collections.

its role as one of the few institutions in the United States with an ongoing commitment to foreign newspaper preservation and access, even as funding priorities shifted to the necessary preservation of domestic papers.

In May 1997, CRL, in collaboration with the Association of Research Libraries, Council on Library and Information Resources (Commission on Preservation and Access), and the Library of Congress, convened for the “Symposium on Access to and Preservation of Global Newspapers” held in Washington, D.C. Participants were asked to design a course of action that would guarantee acquisition of and access to international newspapers. The International Coalition on Newspapers (ICON) was sparked as a response. A working group, with support from the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation, met three times in 1998 and issued a [final report of their findings](#). The culmination of the working group’s assessment was a recommendation to form a permanent body to monitor and coordinate an international effort of newspaper acquisition and preservation.

In 1999, ICON was officially established and a permanent steering committee was formed from among the charter participating institutions, including the Library of Congress, the British Library, the Library and Archives Canada, the New York Public Library, the University of Illinois, and

the University of Washington. During its history, ICON has received generous support from the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH). In doing so, the NEH has signaled that the preservation of foreign newspapers and bibliographic access to them is vitally important for scholars and researchers today and in the future.

## ICON's Goals and Progress

Among ICON’s original and continuing goals are: to amass information on the preservation status of the world’s newspapers; to provide access to and unprecedented array of newspaper holdings; to preserve global, cultural and intellectual resources; and to provide an ongoing forum for discussion of issues related to global newspapers. ICON has honored its commitment to preserve and improve access to international newspapers by the pursuit of several core activities:

### *Preservation Microfilming of Important and Underrepresented Titles*

Through funding from the NEH, ICON has preserved whole runs or significant parts of 40 titles from around the globe. These titles include historically valuable newspapers, such as the Czech paper *Národní Listy* (Prague), a foremost daily of its time, of which ICON provides the only comprehensive filmed version for the years 1918–1931. Other titles include *La Bourse Egyptienne* (Cairo, Egypt) and the *Eritrean Daily News* (which is currently being filmed).

The *Eritrean Daily News* (Asmara, Ethiopia) and its companion publication, *Il Quotidiano Eritreo*, were issued by the British Ministry of Information during the tumultuous years of the Second World War. The paper reflects the politics of British military rule in Eritrea and Ethiopia after the Italian colonial era. ICON's preservation efforts with this title complement the holdings at the British Library.

*... a freely accessible electronic resource intended to provide reliable information about newspapers published outside of the United States.*

ICON also identifies and preserves underrepresented titles, such as the relatively undocumented *Vanguardia* (Lima, Peru) which professed to be “the voice for what the people think.” ICON preserved a run from 1945–1963, an important period for Peru's emerging democracy. ICON also preserves titles outside of the mainstream, such as the Lithuanian-language *Argentinos lietuviu balsas* (Buenos Aires, Argentina) and *Shanghai Times* (Shanghai, China).

Institutions that contribute to ICON's preservation microfilming with hard copy holdings receive film of their contribution at the end of the filming process. ICON has been fortunate to have collaborative relationships with several institutions in the United States, including the Library of Congress, Stanford University, Harvard University, University of Texas, Columbia University, University of California, University of Connecticut, Tulane

University, and others. CRL members can also receive loans of ICON film at no cost, or duplicates of film on a cost-recovery basis. A [complete list of the titles preserved by ICON](#) is available on ICON's Web site.

#### *Creation of the Database of International Newspapers*

The ICON Database of International Newspapers is a freely accessible electronic resource intended to provide reliable information about newspapers published outside of the United States. It includes a bibliographic description of titles as well as specific information on institutions' holdings of the same. The database serves as a central locus for information about international newspaper collections available in North American libraries and in selected libraries outside North America, providing a tool for resource discovery, access, and collection management. The database is available from [ICON's home page](#).

#### *Coordinated Cataloging of Partner Institutions' International Newspaper Holdings*

Increasing access to international newspapers depends on the creation and sharing of bibliographic information in local and national catalogs or databases. Bibliographic control of foreign newspapers is a resource-intensive activity that requires language or area specialization in addition to high-quality cataloging skills. ICON's role as an advocate and support structure for original cataloging of international newspapers was an early goal of the project's visionaries. As ICON moves forward, it is expected that hundreds of new records will be added, greatly increasing the visibility of historic global newspapers.

#### *Dissemination and Coordination of Substantive Information about International Newspapers*

After a complete redesign in 2006, the ICON Web site now contains the ICON database as well as a variety of re-

sources, including a “clearinghouse” of international standards for newspaper preservation and bibliographic access. ICON is mounting information relating to project reports and presentations; links to newspaper informational sites; news and developments of current preservation projects; reference resources; and digitized guides. It is ICON's goal that the Web site will become a vital and comprehensive stopping place for gathering data about accessioning and preserving newspapers.

#### *Creation of a Long-Range, Sustainable Business Model and Operating Plan for ICON*

ICON has largely been successful in pursuing the original objectives of the project. The database, cataloging, preservation activities, and clearinghouse services are all fully in process. In terms of future activities, ICON will remain focused on its objectives, expanding whenever need or opportunity makes sense. Such activities will include increasing the number of participants and including preservation projects for material held in other regions; coordinating filming activities and communication among existing and prospective projects and institutions; and engaging in further collaboration with national and international organizations (e.g., International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions) concerning conservation of materials in microform and print (including repositories for the “copy of last resort”).

ICON was envisioned to be a global initiative, involving national and local libraries from every region. In order to achieve this, an expansion of activity and articulation of the reciprocal benefits of the project must be undertaken. CRL continues to provide support to ICON and eagerly welcomes expressions of interest from other organizations. ❖

## NewsBank and LexisNexis News Archiving Activities

Preserving news is an important CRL activity. Researchers at North American universities rely heavily on CRL's vast collections of newspapers from all parts of the world for information on important events, viewpoints, trends, and accomplishments. CRL is now exploring ways to continue to ensure scholarly access to the news record as news reporting "migrates" from paper to electronic form. This may entail working with aggregators to extend the life of electronic news that they maintain, rather than independently creating archives specifically for historical purposes. Although their products are designed primarily for users in the legal and information fields, NewsBank and LexisNexis add useful functionality and value to the news they assemble.

To evaluate the potential for exploiting the aggregators' work for preservation purposes, CRL commissioned Victoria McCargar to undertake analyses of NewsBank and LexisNexis. McCargar has written extensively on the challenges of preserving electronic news and news archives, on the basis of considerable experience and original research in the news business. Her profiles of the two organizations are available as PDF files in the Preservation section of CRL's Web site.

In her analysis McCargar drew upon the criteria for the certification of trusted digital repositories developed by the RLG-NARA Digital Repository Certification Task Force. The profiles provide the organizational and financial context for the NewsBank and

LexisNexis aggregating activities, and identify areas in which each organization fulfills archiving functions and areas in which they fall short of meeting preservation needs.

It must be stressed that neither of the two organizations considers itself to be in the business of preservation. Nonetheless McCargar's analysis suggests that library preservation efforts may well be able to benefit from these organizations. ❖

[Link to NewsBank and LexisNexis profiles](#)

# 1956–2006: Fifty Years of the Foreign Newspaper Microfilm Project

James Simon

Director of International Resources



Announcement of the first U.S. moon landing. From *El Universal*, Mexico City, July 21, 1969, CRL's Foreign Newspaper Microfilm Project collections.

CRL commemorates the 50th anniversary of the Foreign Newspaper Microfilm Project (FNMP) this year, one of the longest-running cooperative preservation programs in existence. Global newspapers are one of the main collection components of CRL and play a historically important role in CRL's mission. This article summarizes the history and development of the newspaper program that led to the integration of FNMP into a vibrant and sustainable program for CRL and its members; and possible future activities.

## Foundations of FNMP

Though officially founded in 1956, the program traces its lineage back to the beginning of cooperative filming projects. In 1938, microfilming gained a toehold in research institutions, as Harvard University, New York Public Library, the Library of Congress, and others adopted this technology to capture and preserve materials in their collections.

Harvard began a program of filming foreign newspapers with seed funding from the Rockefeller Foundation and the Harvard Corporation. Harvard selected 37 important titles to film and offered positive copies to other universities on a subscription basis. Its innovative funding strategy became the *modus operandi* for the future FNMP: in selling copies to other institutions, Harvard put the resulting revenue into

a revolving fund to finance the ongoing microfilming operation.

It became clear that, while admirable, the Harvard program and other efforts were not expansive enough to sufficiently address the desires and needs of all research libraries, and that broader coverage of other parts of the world (and more intense coverage of certain regions) was still needed. In an appeal from Luther Evans, the Librarian of Congress, to the Association of Research Libraries (ARL) in 1946, the suggestion was made to create a nationally coordinated and cooperative plan for the microfilming of "extensive runs of library materials." Following the recommendations of an ARL committee (chaired by Herman Fussler of the University of Chicago) and utilizing newly created union lists of international news holdings within the United States, FNMP was launched in 1956 to provide worldwide coverage of representative foreign titles.

## CRL Administration of FNMP

CRL's international newspaper collection was built initially from newspaper deposits made by member libraries as a space-saving measure on their part. In response to its members' call for coverage of other world regions, CRL began subscribing to microform editions (and undertaking original filming at the University of Chicago's photoduplication

laboratory) of 57 foreign newspapers beginning in 1952.

It was evident that a much larger number of institutions than CRL's 16 existing members could benefit from access to a shared pool of foreign newspapers. Institutions choosing not to subscribe to any particular title could have access through interlibrary loan, while titles with greater local demand could be purchased and retained in the traditional way. A program based on a larger number of institutions could extend world coverage and leverage cost savings. During the formation of the national plan, the ARL committee recommended that CRL (then the Midwest Inter-Library Center) be the repository and administrator for the project, due to its ability to "make fast nation-wide loans and handle other necessary arrangements of the project." CRL agreed to act as agent to FNMP on a cost return basis. It was decided that any library could subscribe to the project regardless of ARL or CRL status.

An ARL standing committee was formed to help CRL administer the project, and on January 1, 1956 FNMP was inaugurated with 46 subscribing institutions and a first-year budget of \$14,000. Initially, the committee selected up to 100 titles to be acquired and/or filmed,<sup>1</sup> and the project assumed the possession of film negatives and responsibility for filming the titles begun by Harvard University. FNMP also inherited or subsumed film from the Pan American Union (of Latin American newspapers) and CRL's own newspaper pool. In three years, the number of titles had expanded to 146 titles, with 54 participating subscribers.

### Growth of FNMP

By 1968, the number of foreign newspaper titles and separate microfilming projects had proliferated so rapidly that the ARL Foreign Newspaper Microfilm Committee began seeking an expanded national approach to the coordinated

coverage of foreign newspapers. ARL proposed an undertaking to include 2,000 titles and to utilize resources of ARL, the Library of Congress, and other interested research institutions that had begun their own filming programs.<sup>2</sup> The Library of Congress took a lead role in this initiative, sponsoring a feasibility study and summary recommendations for action.<sup>3</sup> In 1972, the Library of Congress expanded its newspaper preservation program and established a full-time coordinator of foreign newspaper microfilming. It continued to publish its *Newspapers in Microform* union list (established in 1948), but split the title into two volumes: one for domestic titles and one for foreign. The Library also instituted a new publication titled *Foreign Newspaper Report* to provide a clearinghouse of information on newspaper microfilming from nonprofit and commercial publishers. This was a critical tool for sharing news on title changes, cessations, and "intents to film" for new titles.

At its peak in 1974, FNMP was subscribing to positive copies of 71 titles and filming 93 additional titles for its 80 subscribers, and it was able to spend a substantial amount of its surplus account balance on backfiles of important titles. However, due to a variety of factors, the program quickly declined in succeeding years. Rising costs of newsprint, microfilm, and personnel had led to a rapid increase in subscriber dues. With each increase in costs, participating members dropped out of the project. High costs of access to the backfiles under the devised introductory pricing structure made it difficult to attract new participants. Another problem was the increasing involvement in newspaper filming by commercial microfilm publishers, which would secure exclusive rights to titles previously filmed by FNMP. There was little assurance in the long-term commitment of commercial firms, and it was common for them to cease filming unprofitable titles, leaving substantial gaps in the microfilm

of titles that were costly for FNMP to resume. As a whole, commitments in place by FNMP far outstretched the ability of the program to support itself.

The ARL Foreign Microfilm Committee had met infrequently in the several years leading to its discharge in 1980. ARL's role in the project had been reduced to the point that it exercised only titular responsibility. In response to this, CRL submitted a proposal to ARL, requesting full strategic and operational responsibility for the program. In 1982, ownership of FNMP was officially transferred from ARL to CRL.

### Integration into CRL

CRL responded to project losses by cutting back the number of titles being filmed (in some cases replacing these with positive produced elsewhere) and inviting CRL members to join the project without paying the sizable fee for access to project backfiles. It also prioritized filming schedules for the 51 remaining titles for filming, based on their profitability. Despite these efforts, the project continued to suffer problems of sustainability, and the maintenance of current filming schedules was often sacrificed in order to stay within the budget limits of the project.

In 1985/86, an internal task force of CRL performed a close examination of the project to develop a plan to make FNMP solvent financially and effective programmatically on a long-term basis. The task force examined FNMP's purpose and the question of how it fit within CRL's mission, policies and collections. The task force recommended the absorption of the project into CRL's General Fund (merging FNMP activities with CRL's PL-480 newspaper acquisition activities). With this change, CRL members would have access to all FNMP titles as part of their membership, rather than paying a separate FNMP fee.<sup>4</sup> Existing non-CRL FNMP subscribers would be allowed to continue participation through an annual

fee of \$1300 (allowing access to titles as well as discounted purchase rates). FNMP membership was otherwise frozen. Other modifications included:

- Staff allocations would be changed to better reflect time spent on the project.
- Storage charges for film would be absorbed by CRL.
- Royalty fees would be recovered from subscribers.
- Processing fees for film production would be increased.
- Some title changes would be made, including cancellations and new additions.
- The program would strive to film one year's holdings per title, with excess funds going to eliminating the backlog of material as available.
- Demand purchases would be temporarily restricted to currently subscribed titles only (as opposed to any title as previously offered).

The recommendation to absorb FNMP was approved at the CRL Council of Voting Members in April 1987. This absorption was a positive development in the history of FNMP. The stability of funding (plus the influx of extra funds from CRL as a result of underspent and reallocated funds each fiscal year) allowed the program to expand its acquisitions of foreign titles, and in 1986 and 1990, title additions expanded CRL's offerings to its membership. Advisory roles for the newspaper program were assumed by CRL's Collection Development Officer Advisory Panel (now, Collections and Services Advisory Panel).

In 1992, CRL released a two-volume compilation of foreign newspaper holdings. This publication was followed shortly by the debut of the foreign newspaper database on CRL's Web site, providing comprehensive information on titles in print and film available from CRL. Grant awards from the Department of Education and the National Endowment for the Humanities assisted

with bibliographic enhancements to the newspaper collection, resulting in virtually complete bibliographic control of all newspapers held by CRL (between 1994 and 1998, nearly 5,300 titles were cataloged or had records upgraded in CRL's local catalog and in OCLC).

With the closing of University of Chicago's photoduplication services in February 1994, FNMP was suspended for a period of about a year. A request for proposal and careful review of microfilming institutions resulted in the selection of Preservation Resources to assume the filming responsibilities for CRL. The negatives residing at the University of Chicago were shipped to Bethlehem, PA. The change in micro-

filming institutions resulted in the need to increase costs of microfilm reels.<sup>5</sup>

## FNMP Today

Since 1995, preservation of current global newspapers continues to prosper under the program, albeit in modified form. Rather than a strong, centrally-coordinated effort to preserve and store multitude of foreign titles, FNMP has taken on a far more distributed nature. In the years between 1956 and today, microfilm has gained widespread acceptance as a reliable, long-term preservation mechanism (as well as a commercially viable distribution means). The number of institutions worldwide with archival-quality microfilming units has

### *Foreign Newspapers Currently Filmed by CRL*

CRL currently engages in original microfilming of selected current foreign newspapers, in order to preserve important primary resources and make them accessible for future scholarship. These materials are also available for sale and distribution to other academic institutions. For more details, please see: <http://www.crl.edu/content.asp?l1=6&l2=27>.

#### *Latin America*

- *El Comercio*—Quito, Ecuador (daily) [1940–1947; 1956–present]
- *Diario*—La Paz, Bolivia (daily) [1956–present]
- *El Diario de Hoy*—San Salvador, El Salvador (daily) [1956–present]
- *Estado de Sao Paulo*—Sao Paulo, Brazil (daily) [1923–1924; 1956–present]
- *La Nacion*—Buenos Aires, Argentina (daily) [1923–1939; 1951–present]

#### *Middle East*

- *Cumhuriyet*—Istanbul, Turkey (daily) [1956–present]

#### *Africa*

- *Daily Graphic*—Accra, Ghana (daily except Sunday) [1956–present]
- *Daily Nation*—Nairobi, Kenya (daily except Sunday) [1962–present]
- *Ethiopian Herald*—Addis Ababa, Ethiopia (daily except Monday) [1956–present]

#### *Europe*

- *Aftenposten*—Oslo, Norway (daily except Sunday) [1938–present]
- *Frankfurter Allgemeine*—Frankfurt am Main, Germany (daily except Sundays and holidays) [1953–1955; 1972–present]
- *De Volkskrant*—Amsterdam, Netherlands (daily except Sunday) [1970–present]

*CRL subscribes to more than 200 current foreign titles in microform.*

grown, and the need to preserve titles in hand has diminished. National Libraries in many countries have taken on much of the burden to preserve their own cultural heritage. Commercial organizations such as ProQuest/UMI, East View Information Services, Thomson Gale, and others have established markets in filming and distributing major foreign titles to libraries in North America. At the same time, other institutions in the United States (such as the Library of Congress, University of Florida, and New York Public Library) and overseas have picked up the preservation of materials from other countries that may be important to scholars but fall outside the realm of national capacity or commercial viability.

CRL still preserves a limited number of titles on a cost recovery basis. These include valuable resources from Latin America, Africa, Europe, and the Middle East. In addition, a number of additional titles are preserved on an ongoing basis by the Area Studies Microform Projects.

Whenever possible, CRL prefers to subscribe to positive copies of titles being preserved elsewhere, to reduce the cost and redundancy of preservation efforts. CRL subscribes to more than 200 current foreign titles in microform. These materials are made widely accessible to CRL's membership, and to non-members on a cost-recovery basis.

CRL has also turned its attention to the more pressing needs of retrospective conversion of news titles that were not included in early decisions of the ARL program. For instance, while the Library of Congress has engaged in systematic microform preservation of its current receipts since 1962, a variety of issues prior to this date remain in a fragile state. The majority of preservation funds at the Library go to reformatting of the incoming receipts only. CRL and the Library of Congress work closely together through the International Coalition on Newspapers (*see related article*)

to address the retrospective preservation of critical newspaper titles.

### **FNMP Tomorrow**

In 50 more years, where will the conservation of news resources stand? Will libraries continue to collect newspapers, maintain their print collections on a long-term basis, and make them available for preservation on a stable medium? A survey performed in 2003 of research libraries showed that just one in four responding institutions attempt to retain and make available indefinitely any of their international newspapers in hard copy. Such libraries are also likely to acquire some newspapers originally in microform; discard hard copy of titles subscribed to in print when microforms arrive; and discard titles altogether that are "regarded as primarily of value for research on current events" or titles known or "assumed to be" filmed and available through CRL or other consortia.

Informal surveys have shown that even this trend is reversing itself. With the advent of online newspapers and commercial organizations that aggregate news content, libraries are increasingly ceasing subscriptions to the titles formerly collected for current awareness, favoring Web access to electronic versions of the publication or other limited digital solutions offered by commercial aggregators. While fulfilling the needs of scholars who seek information on immediate events, these activities have the net effect of abandoning "collections of record" in favor of economical solutions that make no provision for persistent access to these resources.

Even if microform holds its (increasingly tenuous) status as the preferred medium for preservation reformatting, will institutions continue to collect these materials for long-term retention? Increasingly, digitization initiatives are opening access to hundreds of retrospective newspaper titles.

FNMP must adapt to the changes surrounding it. While CRL is pursuing mechanisms to convert its historic microfilm collections to electronic media (*see related article*), it must also plan the transition to digital capture, dissemination and, eventually, storage in its preservation of traditional source materials for international studies. This will undoubtedly include current foreign news titles.

To do this will require securing from publishers and rights holders the necessary digital rights for scholarly uses of international source materials. The guidelines recently specified by ICON identify a set of progressively liberal rights that libraries might acquire from newspaper publishers whose works they microfilm. In order to minimize copyright and other intellectual property barriers to the dissemination of scholarly source materials, CRL will, to the extent possible, acquire broad access rights in its reformatting and purchase agreements with publishers, archives, and other rights holders. The draft rights are available for comment at: <http://icon.crl.edu/rights.pdf>.

CRL will also need to provide for secure and reliable archiving of materials in digital formats. CRL is working on its capacity to implement archiving solutions suitable for the digital formats used to capture and disseminate source

materials. Thus, FNMP ties directly into CRL's strategic goals to provide its constituency persistent access to critical resources for advanced scholarly research and teaching. ❖

<sup>1</sup> These were selected from the list entitled *Current Foreign Newspapers Recommended for Cooperative Microfilming*, prepared by area specialists at Library of Congress in 1954. Forty titles were considered "new" (*i.e.* unfiled) while 60 were previously being filmed by Harvard, MILC, or other agencies.

<sup>2</sup> These institutions included Hoover Institution, Cornell University, University of Florida, New York Public Library, and University of California at Berkeley. Other nonprofit and commercial institutions also began filming foreign newspapers.

<sup>3</sup> Shaffer, Norman J. "Study to Develop Recommendations for a National Foreign Newspaper Microfilm Program." 244 p. Presented at 30 June 1970 meeting of Foreign Newspaper Microfilm Committee, Association of Research Libraries. A summary was presented in U.S. Library of Congress Foreign Newspaper Report, (1973) 1:3-5.

<sup>4</sup> The task force recommended a modest increase in general membership fees to cover costs of filming titles and adding revenue to the program.

<sup>5</sup> This also necessitated changing the pricing structure from sales calculated by length of film to a single price per reel of film.

### *Online Newspaper Search Feature*

CRL's Web-based finding aids include sophisticated newspaper search features that enable patrons to retrieve bibliographic information on all newspapers held by CRL via a customized search function for the major newspaper collections and by geographic origin:

[Foreign Newspapers](#)

[U.S. Ethnic Newspapers](#)

[Civilian Conservation Corps](#) camp newsletters and newspapers

[Newspapers by Country, State or Province, and Region](#)

The search features include drop-down boxes to search by language (*e.g.*, Arabic, Cajun, and Icelandic) and for newspapers accessible through CRL-based area studies programs.

# Archiving the World's Newspapers

Through a century of major, sustained investment in acquisition, documentation and preservation, North American research libraries have amassed a vast and valuable corpus of newspapers from all regions of the world. Those libraries' aggregate holdings of newspapers in paper and micro-formats span four centuries and constitute a body of historical and cultural evidence that is not replicated elsewhere.

Microform, the chief means of access to these primary source materials, affords only limited use and discoverability of the newspaper contents. Consequently various national libraries, including the Bibliotheque Nationale de France, British Library, Library and Archives Canada, Library of Congress, and the Österreichischen Nationalbibliothek, have begun to digitize back runs of their respective domestic newspapers. These national projects, however, are not likely to provide access to newspapers from regions outside of the United States, Canada, Europe, and the United Kingdom. Hence, CRL and a number of major North American research libraries are exploring undertaking the systematic, large scale digitization of world newspapers and news-related materials from their paper and micro-form holdings.

These institutions might bring to bear their expertise and resources to digitize and make available for scholarly use, through the Web and other electronic means, a portion of their holdings of newspapers from the following regions:



Front page of *La Nacion*, Buenos Aires, July 27, 1952. From CRL's Foreign Newspaper Microfilm Project collections.

- Latin America and the Caribbean
- Sub-Saharan Africa
- The Middle East
- Slavic and Eastern Europe
- South Asia
- Southeast Asia
- East Asia

Such an initiative would obviously have to be undertaken on a multi-year, multi-stage basis. An initial goal of the endeavor would be to digitize and present in electronic form several million pages of newspapers within a five-year period. An effort on this scale would require CRL to enlist the support of an appropriate electronic publishing partner that would provide the needed capabilities and services in return for an interest in the project.

*To test the waters, CRL has invited a number of electronic publishers, aggregators, and other organizations (both commercial and nonprofit) to submit general proposals for partnership in this endeavor.* The prospective partner organization(s) will be expected to invest funds and in-kind services in the endeavor, and could expect to accrue an appropriate return on their investment.

CRL and its affiliates would expect to derive from the endeavor benefits commensurate with their investment in the project as well. If viable, the project methodology could provide a template for the conversion and electronic de-



livery of other kinds of primary source materials from the collections of CRL and its member libraries.

With a sense of the publishers' interest, CRL and its affiliates will then explore prospects for additional funding. ❖

# Recent Acquisitions— News Resources at CRL

Mary Wilke

Head of Acquisitions/User Services

James Simon

Director of International Resources

Besides the newspapers CRL receives on standing order every year, CRL has acquired more than 150 news related items in recent years using a variety of collaborative collection programs. The items range from a one month run of a specific title to more than a decade run of a title with its successive names, to a set of newspaper clippings on a specific topic. The following list highlights some of the larger acquisitions CRL has made. *Please keep in mind these acquisitions often add to our previous holdings of a title and thus may not denote the full extent of CRL's holdings for a title.*

- *The Daily Bee* (Sacramento, CA) [1883 to 1888]. This run was acquired for a researcher at a member institution through the [Demand Purchase Program](#).
- *Delhi Gazette* (Delhi, India : 1832) [1886–1889]. This title was acquired through CRL's Demand Purchase Program and complements the longer run of this title acquired through the [South Asia Microform Project \(SAMP\)](#).
- *Deutsche Zukunft* (Berlin, Germany) [1933–1940]. This title was acquired for circulation as the original hard copy held by CRL was too brittle to loan.
- *The Evening Bee* [1900–April 1907] and *The Sacramento Bee* [May 1907–Feb. 1919] These two titles were acquired through the [Shared Purchase Program](#) with the cost being shared by a number of member libraries along with funds from CRL.

- *Illustrirte Zeitung* [1843–1944]. This title was acquired through the Shared Purchase Program and provides a complete run of a brittle title which was incompletely held by member libraries. Modeled on the *Illustrated London News*, *Illustrirte Zeitung* is a nearly inexhaustible resource for the study of German culture.
- *Manchester Evening News* [1917–1921]. Portions of this title were acquired through both the [Purchase Proposal Program](#) and the Demand Purchase Program for research being done on World War I.
- *Poona Observer and Civil & Military Journal* [1876–1906]. This title was not previously held in the United States before its acquisition through the Shared Purchase Program. It covers a critical period in India's history and is of interest to researchers studying post Sepoy Mutiny up to Pre World War I thinking in British India.

## Revolutionary Mexico in Newspapers [1900–1929]

This set was acquired through the Purchase Proposal Program and is of interest to scholars investigating Mexican political movements, economics, film, and literature. The collection offers valuable coverage of the pivotal decade of the Mexican Revolution as documented both in Mexico City and in other Mexican cities. Link to the collection at <http://catalog.crl.edu/search/t?SEARCH=Revolutionary+Mexico+in+newspapers&SORT=R>.

## Recent Acquisitions of the Area Studies Microform Projects

The Area Studies Microform Projects (AMPs) pursue newspapers as one of the priorities of their preservation and collection activities. The following highlights demonstrate some of the current receipts of the AMPs:

### *Cooperative Africana Microform Project*

- *Berbanena Salam* [1925–1935]. One of the earliest Amharic newspapers published in Ethiopia, this title was commissioned from holdings at the British Library.
- Liberian Newspapers [1991–1996]. CAMP has filmed several current newspapers from Monrovia documenting the upheaval and unrest during Liberia's civil wars. Titles include [First National Poll](#), [The Inquirer](#), and many others.
- *The Monitor* (Kampala, Uganda) [Dec.1995–Aug.2003]. This title is a national independent daily in Uganda. It is an important title as a contrast to state-owned papers such as the *New Vision*, and is frequently critical of the government of Uganda.

### *Latin American Microform Project*

- [Independent Mexico in Newspapers, the 19th-century](#). As a complementary collection to “Revolutionary Mexico . . .,” this set contains 579 Mexican newspaper titles which date from 1807 to 1900. They document Mexico's evolution from its status as a viceroyalty of the Spanish Crown

to its transition to a federalist system of government. CRL holds 284 microfilm reels.

- *The Standard* (Buenos Aires, Argentina) [1861–1874; 1938–1939; 1942–1959]. *The Standard* was the major English-language daily in Argentina. LAMP worked with the Universidad de San Andres in Buenos Aires to film its holdings.
- *Correio Paulistano* (Sao Paulo, Brazil) [1929–1963]. This project in progress will film this important newspaper of São Paulo, an excellent source for those researching the ideology of the elites and the daily life and behavior of the poorest populations and slaves. CRL holds 178 microfilm reels.

#### *Middle East Microform Project*

- *Barid al-Janub* (London, England) [1995–2001]. Published in London, this opposition paper documents the Iraqi community in exile through the events of 2001.
- *Al-Sabwah* (San'a, Yemen) [1985–2001]. Another opposition paper, this title is the organ of the Tajammu' al-Yamani lil-Islah (Yemeni Alliance for Reform), an Islamic party from Yemen.
- *Al-Samir* (Brooklyn, New York) [1936–1957]. *Al-Samir* was one of the longest-running Arabic newspapers in the United States. It was edited by the Lebanese writer, journalist, and poet Elia Daher Abu Madi (1889–1957). The newspaper contains news and articles concerning the Arabic community in America along with international news. All of the editorials were written by Abu Madi.
- Link to [Arab-American newspapers](#), *Focus* issue on Middle East Studies (Spring 2004)

#### *South Asia Microform Project*

- Nepali Newspapers from the Madan Puraskar Pustakalya. SAMP has been collaborating with the MPP in Kath-

mandu, Nepal, to duplicate holdings of important Nepali-language newspapers and journals. These materials were originally preserved in Nepal, but never distributed. They include important newspapers, such as *Nepala Samacara*, a news journal originally produced as a means to get around the ban on publishing daily newspapers.

#### *Southeast Asia Microform Project*

- **Indonesian Political Tabloids Microfilm Collection.** Following Suharto's downfall in 1998, Indonesia's press experienced newfound freedom. The world witnessed an explosion of newspapers and journals in Jakarta and provincial cities that expressed every political and social perspective. This collection of 340 newspapers, tabloids, and journals are a sample of the serials that chronicle the events leading to the June 1999 elections and beyond. CRL holds 41 microfilm reels. Search by title at <http://catalog.crl.edu/search/a?searchtype=t&searchcharg=Indonesian+political+tabloids+microfilm+collection&SORT=R&submit=search>.
- **Newspapers from the National Library of Vietnam.** SEAM's ongoing collaboration with the National Library is producing a large set of material available for scholars. The titles being preserved cover a wide period from 1919 to 1973. A complete list is available through SEAM's Web site: <http://www.crl.edu/areastudies/SEAM/index.htm>.
- *Vietnam Press* (Saigon, Vietnam) [1963–1969]. This title was issued in English, French, and Vietnamese and was a daily record of events in Vietnam during the 1950–1970s. SEAM has supported the filming of this title to fill in gaps of previous film of the English edition and to preserve the Vietnamese edition, *Viet Nam Thong Tan Xa*. CRL holdings of this title may be viewed at <http://catalog.crl.edu/search/t?SEARCH=Vietnam+press>.

#### *Slavic and East European Microform Project*

- **Russian Regional Newspapers.** SEEMP continues to commission film of important titles representing the widespread regions and oblasts of Russia. Since 1991, SEEMP has been filming 16 newspaper titles from diverse regions in Russia, and an additional eight titles were added, beginning film in 2000. They include titles such as *IAkutiia*, *Novaia Kamchatskaia Pravda*, and *Sovetskii Sakhalin*.
- *Koha Jone* (Tirana, Albania) [1996–2003]. This title is the largest circulation daily published in Albania and is characterized as a leading independent title. SEEMP worked with East View Information Services to secure the rights to this title.
- *Pesti Hirlap* (Budapest, Hungary) [1841–1847]. This title (“News of Pest”) was founded in 1841 by Lajos Kossuth, a Hungarian patriot and statesman who strove for an independent Hungarian republic in the middle of the 19th century. ❖

## MISSION STATEMENT

*The Center supports advanced research and teaching in the humanities, sciences, and social sciences by ensuring the survival and availability of the knowledge resources vital to those activities.*

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