Digitizing Newspapers with the Quartz A0 Scanner

National Digital Newspaper Program Awardee Conference 2014

Microfilming technology is becoming increasingly rare, yet there is still a great need to preserve physical newspaper collections. In July 2013, University of North Libraries purchased an A0 planetary scanner, which has allowed the Digital Newspaper Unit to scan large-format content, primarily newspapers in full color. With the generous support of organizations such as the Tocker Foundation, the Ladd & Katherine Hancher Foundation, and the Texas State Library and Archives Commission, the Libraries have partnered with several public libraries across Texas to digitize their newspaper collections and preserve the history of their communities.

University of North Texas Libraries
Digital Newspaper Unit

Sarah Lynn Fisher Project Coordinator, NDNP

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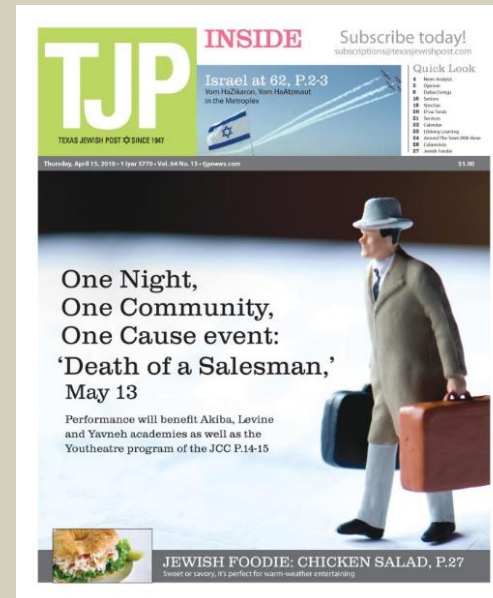
UNT

TDNP's mission to preserve Texas newspapers, from any time or place, for any title requires…

Three Content Streams for Preservation

Microfilm   Born Digital .PDF
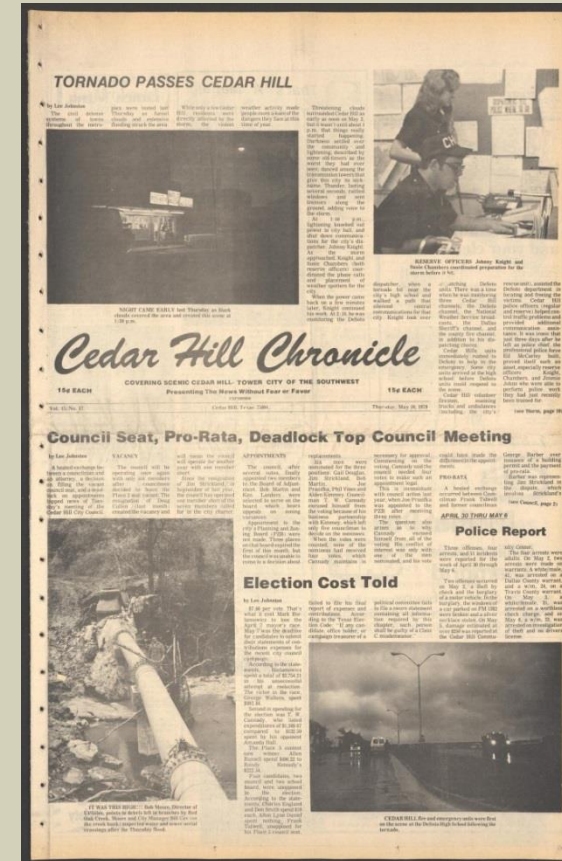
Suprascan Quartz A0
University of North Texas Libraries' Digital Newspaper Unit

Digital Newspaper Scans

- Images scanned as 24-bit, full color TIFFs, 400 dpi

- Suprascan: non-UV light, 8 seconds per scan

- Our team averages 500-700 pages per week.

- TIFF images serve as master files (500 MB each)

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Newspapers in queue
University of North Texas Libraries' Digital Newspaper Unit

The Texas Mesquiter, Friday, December 13, 1912

Microfilm vs. Paper
2nd image courtesy of Mesquite Public Library

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Problems solved!

- Loss of color data on microfilm

- Microfilming mistakes (missing pages, incorrect lighting, inaccurate focus, scratched film)

- Lack of microfilm

- Less processing time

- Improved OCR output

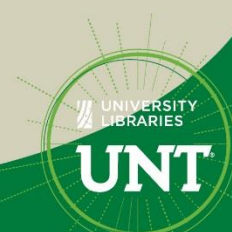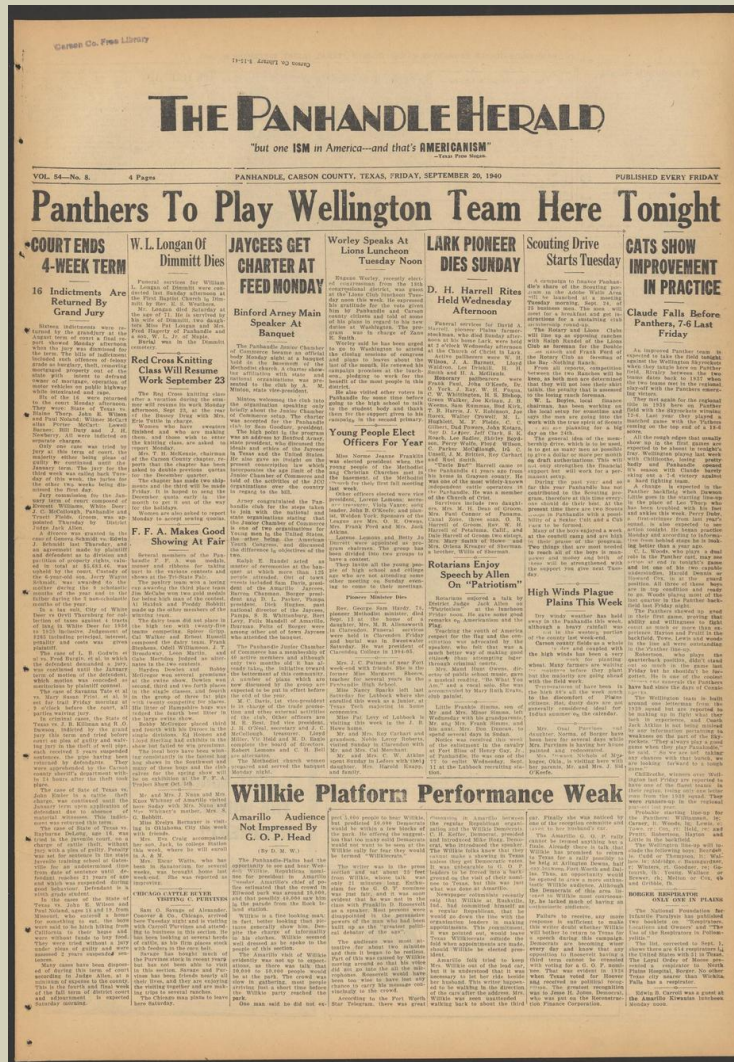http://texashistory.unt.edu/ark:/67531/metapth403337/

Preservation and The Portal to Texas History

All file-types are treated the same.

- Open source Python tool converts images for access to derivative files

- Zoomify: Provides capability to display tiled newspaper structure

- A single WARC file contains the 2000+ images for displaying each newspaper page.

- CODA PREMIS app tracks preservation events

Tocker Foundation Grants Received

With the support of the Tocker Foundation, the UNT Libraries have digitized the following newspaper collections in partnership with local public libraries serving populations >12,000:

- *The Meridian Tribune*, 1900-1947, various issues
Meridian Public Library

- *The Kerens Tribune*, 1933-1947, various issues
Kerens Public Library

- *The Panhandle Herald*, 1940
Carson County Library

Ladd & Katherine Hancher Library Foundation Grants Received

With the support of the Ladd & Katherine Hancher Library Foundation, the UNT Libraries have digitized the following newspaper collections in partnership with local public libraries supporting populations >50,000:

- Palo Pinto County Newspapers, 1897-1981, various issues
  Boyce Ditto Public Library

- The South Jetty, 2006-2007, various issues
  Ellis Memorial Library

- Cedar Hill Newspaper Collection, 1955-2009, various issues
  Zula B. Wylie Memorial Library

http://texashistory.unt.edu/ark:/67531/metapth417294/m1/1/

What happens to the newspapers?

- All pages return to the collaborating partners; digital copies are provided to partners via external hard drive.

- We do not destroy the physical pages.

- On request of the partner, we send pages to be microfilmed at Oklahoma Historical Society.

- Newspapers will be archived at UNT Libraries upon request.

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