

ABSTRACT

Digitizing historic newspaper runs and releasing the images on the web has a long history at many public and private institutions. With ever-increasing digitized content hosted by institutions striving for open access, the need for metasearch tools that locate, organize and connect researchers to specific digitized materials has arrived. In its most basic distillation, this project will aim to create a searchable database of MARC format generated records capable of connecting users to the freely-available, online content of historic newspapers. However, its true objective is to serve as a model for how librarians and scholars can readily use their subject expertise combined with library MARC record content to begin to develop similar database projects, enabling specific open access resources to be better organized and accessible for research. Keywords : library-created databases, database-backed Web pages, Refworks, digital collections.

BACKGROUND

UF has worked for many years to provide better access to online newspaper content via proprietary databases, internal digitization projects and organized reference resources for both Florida and national news titles. In November 2009 a small group applied for a library grant to further develop a new concept of in-house digital discovery tools.

The Florida Digital Newspaper Library exists to provide access to the news and history of Florida. All of the over 800,000 pages of historic through current Florida newspapers in the Florida Digital Newspaper Library are openly and freely available with zoomable page images and full text. The Florida Digital Newspaper Library builds on the work done in microfilm within the Florida Newspaper Project.

The Florida Digital Newspaper Library includes:

- Current Florida newspapers, digitized from 2005 - present
- Digital Military Newspaper Library - a pilot project for military newspapers published in Florida and the Caribbean
- Historic Florida newspapers
- Historic News Accounts of Florida

With the exception of the East-Florida Gazette in the 1780s and a small press at Fernandina in 1817, Florida had no colonial newspapers. Even in the immediate aftermath of cession in 1821, only a few newspapers served Florida. Historic News Accounts of Florida consists of stories and reports about Florida gathered together by the Goza and Mickler families and donated to the P.K. Yonge Library of Florida History. All are from non-Florida newspapers and cover events in Florida from 1762 - 1885. The articles pre-dating the Territorial Period help to "fill in" the journalistic record at a time when there was no Florida press, while the articles from after 1821 both complement and supplement news published in Florida.

Florida's newspapers are a state treasure, the historian's and genealogist's best friend, and the community's collective memory. In the world of newspapers, today's news is already history, from the moment their stories are printed.

SUBCOLLECTIONS

Examples of Catalog Databases of Full-Text Content

Search Manuscripts

Manuscript Search Results

Manuscripts Found: 51... Page 2 of 518

Records Per Page: 10

QUALITY: 2000

Manuscript: Switzerland, St Gallen, Abbey of St Gallen, MS 7

Manuscript: Switzerland, St Gallen, Abbey of St Gallen, MS 7

Manuscript: Switzerland, St Gallen, Abbey of St Gallen, MS 7

Manuscript: Switzerland, St Gallen, Abbey of St Gallen, MS 7

Tests and Measures in the Social Sciences: Tests available in compilation volumes. January 2009 ed.

Items (initial frames show this page twice; left frame is table of contents; changing rights contents)

Compilation volumes' table of contents (127 resources, about 12,000 measures here; additional in RefShare version of database)

Help - Links to Various Libraries' Tests and Measures FAQs - Publications examined but not indexed

Please search by either the Quick Search using RefWorks' RefShare Interface or

Quick Search, using Google (refreshed about once a month) [Powered by Google]

Results open in new window

GO UTA Web Site

Entire Web

1. Limit to Tests & Measures Pages: do UTA Web Site search, include "compilation volumes" as one of your keywords. (E.g. penitentiary "compilation volumes")

2. Search for author last names, no first names included. (E.g. John W. Brown, Jr. listed as Brown Jr. JW)

3. For "tagged" type searching, always consider searching with other synonyms (E.g. learning OR teaching OR educating)

This resource is designed as an aid in locating known assessment instruments. As such, entries include only instrument title, author, date, & pages located in a larger compilation. We assume a proper literature review has been done to identify the appropriate tools.

If, through the Google interface search, a contents page has been identified, use your browser's toolbar to EDIT, then FIND a keyword on the page. The RefShare full records will have equivalent information.

How to obtain

To obtain any of these resources, you may:

1. Check YOUR library to determine if it has the source volume;
2. Contact YOUR library Interlibrary Loan department or other services available at your institution

Review "Obtaining for academic purposes," when using these materials in research.

Consider also checking The Medical Algorithm Project, a web-based collection of over 5000 medical algorithms, with documentation, on-line spreadsheets, and on-line calculators.

Annotated with Mental Measurement Year Book (MMYB) notes starting 3/7/2005. Only those items which are identified as having a review in the MMYB are noted with the appropriate edition. This does not mean items not noted are not review in the MMYB, just not identified as being reviewed.

Collections examined:

Importance of the Project

The University of Florida's (UF) Catalog of Digital Historic Newspapers is a project to create an online resource that facilitates discovery of digitized historical newspaper content. The project was begun in November 2009 and starting October 2010 will facilitate online access to over 700 newspaper titles from the southern United States. The project is using RefWorks reference management software to organize and build an initial database of MARC format generated records that are capable of connecting users to the freely-available full-text of online facsimiles of historic U.S. newspapers. The resulting database will then be exported and further developed into an online database using a supplemental content management software. The final product will be an independent online database of digital resources.

One of the aims of UF's Catalog of Digital Historical Newspapers project is to provide an example a digital platform that librarians and information professionals can use to become more involved in organizing an ever growing amount of free and openly-accessible digital content that remains for many reasons hidden (or hard to find) from online researchers.

Further Reading on Catalog Databases of Digital Content

Find us on Facebook:

"UF Catalog of Digital Historical Newspapers"

Selected References:

- Hewitt, J.A. and Horowitz, S.A. (2007). The American South and the Public Library User: A Proposal to Improve Access for the General Public to a Database of Southern and North Carolina Materials. *North Carolina Libraries*, 65 (3/4), 70-75.
- Kahl, C. M. and Williams, S. C. (2006). Accessing digital Libraries: A study of ARL members' digital projects. *The Journal of Academic Librarianship*, 32(4), 364-369.
- Sampsel, L. (2007). Sheet Music Consortium. *Notes*, 63(3), 663-7. (website: <http://digital.library.ucla.edu/sheetmusic/>)
- Westman, S. R. (2006). *Creating database-backed library Web pages: Using open source tools*. Chicago: American Library Association.

1. Chose a Specific Theme of Digitized Content [Nov 2009]

- The theme of digitized newspapers was supported by existing content and importance of digital facsimiles to academic researchers.
- The theme appealed to both regional and national collections and left the door open for collaboration.

2. Sought Consensus and Institutional Support [Nov 2009]

- We contacted campus faculty for input and letters of support for our proposed project.
- We applied for and were awarded an internal grant of \$5000 to begin work on our database.

3. Tested Bibliographic Reference Software [Nov 2009]

- Tested RefWorks, Zotero and Citeline.
- Selected RefWorks for interim data repository based on comparisons with other software.

4. Began Creating Initial Database in RefWorks [Nov 2009 - Jun 2010]

- Exporting pertinent records from institutional catalogs and OCLC to form a database of newspapers titles.
- Groomed database records to reflect dates of available digital content and added hyperlinks to full-text content.

5. Migrating Database to Content Management Software (CMS) [Jun-Aug 2010]

- Investigating CMS options such as Drupal, Joomla, WordPress, Islandora, etc.
- Analyzing data transfer quality and experimenting with export methodology.
- Development of resource interface and design of front page.

6. Planning for October 2010 Launch of Online Database [Aug-Oct 2010]

- Data clean up and testing of online interface.
- Preparing official launch with local and global marketing campaign.
- Demonstration of database on campus.