

Graduate Library Newspaper Collection Policy

Background Information:

National Context

Nationally, academic libraries are moving away from paper subscriptions of domestic and foreign newspapers in favor of microfilm and electronic alternatives. Justifications vary among institutions, but the general sense is that newspapers in print are costly, require more space, are no longer received in a timely fashion and deteriorate too quickly to support long-term research. Electronic versions, in particular, are more current and provide for enhanced access with the ability to search article text. Even microfilm readers have evolved, now including the ability to scan images. With the proliferation of formats for both current and research needs, combined with reductions in purchasing power, there is simply less justification to collect paper formats of the same titles.

Local Context

Along with our national colleagues, the University Library is facing many of the same questions and decisions. We are concerned about providing current news, while at the same time providing the best possible research experience. To aid our decision-making, we chose to launch a study that would better inform on current use of the print newspaper collection. In 2005/2006 the Hatcher Graduate Library undertook a 6-month (November, 2005-April, 2006) newspaper usage study to determine usage patterns for its print newspaper collection. The study was undertaken for several reasons including:

1. Noticeable lack of usage of many of the current print newspaper titles
2. Increased availability of online versions
3. Rise in cost of print subscriptions
4. Increased budgetary constraints
5. Lag-time in receipt of many titles
6. Concern over the rapid deterioration of highly acidic newsprint
7. Loss of individual print issues
8. Increasing storage required for retention of the print format

The study simply counted the number of times titles were used over the six-month period. Comments from patrons were also solicited and encouraged. Results of that study indicated that all but a few select newspaper titles were rarely read, if at all (Please see Appendix A).

Armed with this information, we have set out to develop guidelines for collecting newspapers in the Graduate Library. As a research library, we are concerned with the instructional, research and recreational needs of our patrons. To that end, we have developed multiple approaches to collecting news. The following criteria are not intended to be prescriptive. [Subject selectors](#) will assess individual situations and research needs based on the approaches described below.

Collecting Print Newspapers

Despite their documented low use, there are instances when subscribing to print newspapers is appropriate and necessary. However, newspapers are printed on highly acidic paper and deteriorate quickly, so they are not appropriate as archival copies. Given our emphasis on preserving newspaper content, we are recommending that print newspaper subscriptions be limited to the following circumstances:

- When the print newspaper supports language instruction. -- responsibility for collecting these titles will reside with the Language Resource Center.
- When the print newspaper supports instruction in the Humanities and Social Sciences. -- responsibility for collecting these titles will reside within the Graduate Library.
- When there is high usage or when there is moderate usage and no preservation format exists.
- When only an electronic or microform version with abbreviated content exists.
- When balanced or geographic coverage requires that a point of view can be obtained solely from a title unavailable in a preservation format.
- When current news is necessary, but not provided either by electronic access or RSS feeds

Alternative Formats

Where appropriate, every attempt should be made to ensure preservation archiving of this newspaper content. Preservation of newspaper content may be reformatted on microfilm, microfiches, or digitally. Selectors may also choose to rely on various formats housed elsewhere such as the Center for Research Libraries (<http://www.crl.edu/content.asp?l1=3>), consortia or university Interlibrary Loan partners.

Collecting Microform Titles

Microfilm continues to be the preservation format of choice. Microfilm makes full runs of newspapers readily accessible to our patrons, better supporting current and future research needs. Freely available online versions of newspapers provide immediate online access to both news feeds and reports, filling the gap between time of publication and filming. Further, with enhancements in the technology of microfilm reader/printer/scanners, the access and manipulation of microfilm formats has improved over the last several years, providing for a more stable and accessible format. For all of these reasons, we recommend the purchase of microfilm in the following instances :

- When a title is needed locally for instruction and/or research.
- When the full serial run exists only in microformat.

- When the electronic version has only abbreviated content or otherwise does not meet preservation standards.
- When access to consortially purchased microfilm will not suffice (<http://www.crl.edu/content.asp?l1=3>).

Collecting Electronic Titles

Each selector has the responsibility to remain informed about new formats. Each new development has the potential of increasing access, either by expanding the level of analysis of the content, or expanding access to it. In this way we are able to continue to accommodate the research and instructional needs of our users. The electronic format (such as digital access to current newspaper titles) shows promise both as a future preservation format and as a format containing added value through optical character recognition. However, electronic newspapers generally do not satisfy current preservation format standards. As such electronic versions will be considered preservation copies only where appropriate. Instead, we recommend choosing electronic newspapers when:

- titles have critical research and/or instructional value.
- titles can be relied on for currency.
- the content of the electronic format provides added value.

When Will We Loan Microfilm?

Microforms of newspaper titles, are routinely loaned to other institutions by Interlibrary Loan. Selectors will make exceptions on a case-by-case basis, for example:

- when a copy of a small portion can be made, microformats will not be loaned.
- when film or fiche is deemed rare or irreplaceable.

APPENDIX A		Amount of use for newspapers in print format from Oct, 2005 - March,		
Study Summary	# of times used	# issues unavailable	Staff observed some use	
Newspaper Title				
United States	282	15		
Ann Arbor News	2			
Ann Arbor Observer				
Atlanta Constitution				
Billboard				
Boston Globe	58			
Chicago Tribune				
Christian Science Monitor	16			
Chronicle of Higher Education	1			
Chronicle of Philanthropy				
Conservative Chronicle			X	
Denver Post	381			
Detroit Free Press	390			
Detroit News	347			
Detroit Free Press & News (combined weekend edition)				
Detroit Jewish News				
Education Week				
Federal Times				
Hollywood Reporter				
Human Events				
Indian Country Today				
Jewish Week				
Lansing State Journal				
Los Angeles Times				
Metro Detroit Labor News				
Miami Herald	15			
Michigan Chronicle				
Michigan Daily	27			
National Catholic Reporter				
Native American Times				
New York Amsterdam News	437	31		
New York Times				
North Woods Call				
Off Our Backs				
The People				
People's Weekly				
Philadelphia Inquirer				
Plain Dealer				

Roll Call				
San Francisco Chronicle				
San Juan Star				
University Record				
USA Today				
Variety				
Village Voice	164	15		
Wall Street Journal				
Washington Post				
Washington Times				
International				
Arab News				
Asian Wall Street Journal				
Bangkok Post				
Bangladesh Observer				
Dawn	9			X
Forward	89	2		
Globe & Mail				
Guardian Weekly				
India Abroad				
International Herald Tribune				
Iran Times				
Jerusalem Post				
Jewish Chronicle				
London Review of Books				
Mail & Guardian				X
Osservatore Romano				
Philippine News				
Quill & Quire				
Sowetan				
Straits Times Weekly				
Taiwan Journal	36			X
Times India	117			X
Times London				
Aufbau				
Dagens Nyheter				
Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung				
Freitag				
Rheinischer Merkur				
Suddeutsche Zeitung				
Die Tagespost				
Vrij Nederland				

America Oggi				
El Comercio (Peru)				
Corriere Delle Sera			X	
Le Devoir				
El Diario				
Le Figaro				
Folha de Sao Paulo				
Liberation				
Le Monde				
L'Opinion				
La Repubblica				
Il Sole 24 Ore			X	
El Tiempo			X	
Harakah				
Harian Umum				
Jumat				
Kompas				
Koran Tempo				
Republika				
Sinar Harapan				
Suara Merdeka				
Van Hoa			X	
Al Ahram			X	
Ha Arets				
Cumhuriyet				
Al Hayah (London)				
Jang				
Jumhuri I Islami				
Kayhan-London				
Milliyet				
Al Wafd			X	
Yiddish Forward				
22				
Adevarul				
Feral Tribune				
Knjizevne Novine				
Ta Nea				
Nezavisne Novine				
Nova Makedonija				
Politika				
Slobodna Bosna				
Ljiljan				
Slobodna Dalmacija				
Vecernji List				

Vijenac				
To Vima				
Vjesnik				
Zarez				
Elet es Irodalom				
Lidone Noviny				
Literarni Noviny			X	
Romano L'il Nevo				
Rzeczpospolita				
Tvar				
Belarusian Digest				
Birobidzhaner Shtern				
Demokratychna Ukraina				
Golos Armenii				
Grakan Tert				
Kazhakstanskaiia Pravda				
Knizhnoe Obozrenie				
Kultura				
Kultura I Zhyttiia				
Literaturnaia Rossiia				
Literaturna Ukraina				
Novoe Russkoe Slovo				
Novyi Krokodil				
Pravda Vostoka				
Rossiiskie Vesti				
Rossiiskaia Gazeta				
Ruskaia Mysl'				
Sel'skaia Zhizn'				
Tribuna				
Turkiston				
Uchitel'skaia Gazeta				
Uzbekiston Adabiet				
Addis Zamen				