Chronicling America:
Searching Historical American Newspapers
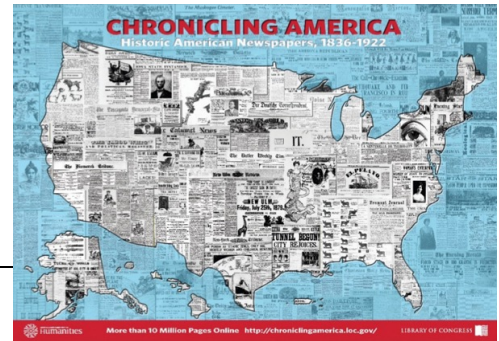
Chronicling America (ChronAm) website: http://chroniclingamerica.loc.gov/

Quick Facts

45 = Total state/province representation (includes DC, Piedmont, Puerto Rico)
1,968 = Total titles available (as of 2/1/2016)
10,334,379 = Total digitized pages (as of 2/1/2016)

Searching ChronAm

Simple Search
- Use for an initial search to retrieve the most inclusive results
- Allows for choice of state and date
- Example: Search for "tin pan alley"
  - 282 results from all states
  - *New York Tribune*, April 16, 1922 (p. 64) -- "If it isn't a Song of the South, Take it Away" by Arthur Chapman: http://chroniclingamerica.loc.gov/lccn/sn83030214/1922-04-16/ed-1/seq-64/

Advanced Search
- Use for a more detailed search to narrow results
- Allows for choice of state, newspaper, year, specific date, language, etc. (all optional)
- Check box for "only front page or specific page" if you want to limit location of results
- Use quotation marks to guarantee a phrase search (i.e. "tin pan alley)

All Digitized Newspapers 1836-1922
- Use if you want to search within a specific newspaper title
- View titles for a specific state or show full list of all digitized papers
- Full list shows state, title, date, # of issues available, etc.

US Newspaper Directory 1690-present

US Newspaper Directory, 1690-Present

- Use for newspapers not yet digitized
- Search for specific title retrieves public catalog record
  - Basic newspaper information
  - Preceding/Succeeding titles -- indicates newspaper title changes
  - Libraries that own it
  - MARC record

Searching Limitations

- Because Delaware joined the National Digital Newspaper Program in 2015, Delaware newspapers will not be fully digitized and available on ChronAm until the end of 2016.
- OCR text is not verified and cannot always be perfect. Poor scanning quality (i.e. faded or too close to gutter) may affect some searches. Key phrases and names often appear multiple times in an article, which should include them within searches.
- Newspapers don't lend themselves to be read on a computer screen. Opening in PDF view makes viewing easier.
- You can download single pages, but you cannot download a full issue of a paper.
- Search preferences and search terms do not always save from one search to another.

Links

About *Chronicling America*
http://chroniclingamerica.loc.gov/about/

National Digital Newspaper Program (NDNP)
http://www.loc.gov/ndnp/

U.S. Newspaper Program (USNP)
http://www.neh.gov/us-newspaper-program

OCR (Optical Character Recognition)
http://chroniclingamerica.loc.gov/ocr/

Delaware Digital Newspaper Project (DDNP) Blog
http://library.udel.edu/ddnp/

Twitter
@DelDigNews