

The Easiest Way to Find Every Historical Newspaper in America

The fact is that all old newspapers ever published in the United States are not online. Much less than you might think.

What is your guess of the percentage? 10%? 20%? 5%?

No, the answer (at least with respect to Chronicling America) is that there are approximately 4,000 online titles and there have been over 157,500 titles ever published in the U.S. That yields just a tad over 2.5%. That's not much, is it?

Of course, Chronicling America doesn't represent all of the online titles and digitized pages available. My research results in about 48,600 free online links for the U.S. (see the [Newspaper Links](#) page on this website for all the links). So 48,600 (online) in comparison to 157,500 (published) – that's about 31% of the titles. What about some of the paid sites, such as GenealogyBank, NewspaperArchive, Newspaper.com, etc.? GenealogyBank on their website claims over 15,000 titles and Newspapers dot com states 25,000. And that doesn't count Newspaper Archive, or My Heritage collections. And there is considerable overlap probably.

So if we are being generous, let's add another 15% for the paid sites. That says that 30% have been digitized. That's titles, NOT pages. A single title that has one page from one issue in our math example counts the same as a title published daily for every year for a hundred years. The moral of the story is that with all the date gaps that we newspaper researchers run into – it is almost impossible to figure out how much indeed has been digitized.

So let's just say for now that 15 to 30% of all U.S. newspaper pages have been digitized. Personally, I think that's a very high number, but.....

That leaves about 70-85% that are NOT online! Now, what the heck do we do? OFFLINE RESEARCH – that's what.

And the Library of Congress helps us out with the [US Newspaper Directory from 1690 – Present](#) so we can do offline research.

This handy directory provides not just multiple ways to find newspapers published, but tons of facts about those newspapers. Just do your choice of searches from the main [US Newspaper Directory from 1690 – Present](#) page. Here's an example of a "fact" page". It is presented in two parts. the first image is the Top Half, and the second is the Bottom Half.

About The villager. (New York [N.Y.]) 1933-current

New York [N.Y.] (1933-current)

[About](#) | [Libraries that Have It](#) | [MARC Record](#)

Title:

The villager. : (New York [N.Y.]) 1933-current

Place of publication:

New York [N.Y.]

Geographic coverage:

- Brooklyn, Kings, New York | View more titles from this: [City](#) [County](#), [State](#)
- Greenwich Village, New York, New York | View more titles from this: [City](#) [County](#), [State](#)
- New York, New York, New York | View more titles from this: [City](#) [County](#), [State](#)

Publisher:

W.G. Bryan and Associates

Dates of publication:

1933-current

Description:

- Vol. 1, no. 1 (Apr. 13, 1933)-

Frequency:

Weekly

Language:

- English

Subjects:

- Brooklyn (New York, N.Y.)--Newspapers.
- Greenwich Village (New York, N.Y.)--Newspapers.
- Kings County (N.Y.)--Newspapers.
- New York (N.Y.)--Newspapers.
- New York (State)--Kings County.--fast--(OCoLC)fst01220099
- New York (State)--New York County.--fast--(OCoLC)fst01234953
- New York (State)--New York--Brooklyn.--fast--(OCoLC)fst01312516
- New York (State)--New York--Greenwich Village.--fast--(OCoLC)fst01322891
- New York (State)--New York.--fast--(OCoLC)fst01204333
- New York County (N.Y.)--Newspapers.

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Here is the Bottom Half.

Notes:

- "A weekly newspaper reflecting the finest traditions of Washington Square and Greenwich Village."
- Available on microfilm from New York Public Library (1933-1985).
- Latest issue consulted: Vol. 70, no. 22 (Sept. 20, 2000).
- Published at: New York, N.Y., <1933>; Greenwich Village, N.Y. <1947>; Brooklyn, N.Y., <Dec. 14, 1989->; New York, N.Y., <1999->.
- Publishers: W.G. Bryan and Associates, <1933>; Bryan Publications, <1947>; Serif Press, <Dec. 14, 1989->; Community Media LLC, <Sept. 1999->

LCCN:

sn 83030608

OCLC:

9548003

ISSN:

0042-6202

Related Links:

- <http://www.thevillager.com/>

Holdings:

- [View complete holdings information](#)

See all the interesting information about the paper? If you had an ancestor from the area that you think might be mentioned in this paper – and the paper was not online – maybe you could find it at an archive or library in original form or microfilm. From this “facts” page, you can actually find out where the newspaper is held. Just click on the “View complete holdings information” link at the bottom. Here are some of the results for this newspaper:

Libraries that Have It: The villager. (New York [N.Y.]) 1933-current

New York [N.Y.] (1933-current)

[About](#) | [Libraries that Have It](#) | [MARC Record](#)

HOLDING: Cornell Univ, Ithaca, NY

- [View more titles from this institution](#)

Available as: Unspecified

Last updated: 03/2014

HOLDING: Franklin D Roosevelt Libr, Hyde Park, NY

- [View more titles from this institution](#)

Available as: Microfilm Service Copy

Dates:

- s= <1945:4:19>

Last updated: 05/1991

HOLDING: New York Hist Soc, Newsp Proj, New York, NY

- [View more titles from this institution](#)

Available as: Original

Scattered issues wanting

Dates:

- <1933:4:13, 5:25-1934:5:3, 17-6:14, 28-8:16, 30-9:27>
- <1934:10:11-25, 11:8-12:6, 20-1935:7:11>
- <1935:8:1-11:21, 12:5-1936:2:20, 3:5-7:16, 8:6, 9:24-10:22>
- <1936:12:17-1937:4:15>
- <1937:5:6-1961:6:8, 28-7:20, 8:3-24, 9:28-10:12-26, 11:9>
- <1961:11:23-1963:1:24, 2:7-5:16, 30-7:25, 8:8-1964:9:17>

Last updated: 09/1992

So, you can see that it is available for your browsing pleasure at several libraries and archives – both in original and in microfilm form. Don't give up if your paper of interest is not online. Visit the [US Newspaper Directory from 1690 – Present](#) from the Library of Congress. Good Luck – persistence will win out.