

Narrative

1. History and scope of the project

Although Delaware was the first state to ratify the Constitution on December 7, 1787, it was not one of the original colonies. Claimed successively by Sweden, Holland, and England, the area that comprises modern Delaware became a part of William Penn's colony by the end of the seventeenth century. Its three counties, Sussex, Kent, and New Castle, were administered by the colonial governor in Philadelphia, and were known collectively as the three "lower" colonies of Pennsylvania.

The complexity of the political development of the state is disproportionate to its diminutive size and population. As a border state during the Civil War, Delaware was neither a southern state nor a northern one. Although a scant one hundred miles separate its largest city, Wilmington, in northern New Castle County, from the southern border dividing Sussex County from the state of Maryland, the cultural and political divisions within Delaware are almost as great as those dividing New England from the southern states. It was an understated but stubbornly held sense of difference that led to Methodist Delaware's autonomy from Quaker Pennsylvania and that today characterizes the relationship among its three counties. Single counties in some of the nation's western states comprise a greater geographic area than does the state of Delaware, and Delaware's total population of 925,000 is surpassed by many cities throughout the country. Yet for all of its geographic compactness and limited population, the three counties that comprise the state remain startlingly diverse.

The marked ethnic and cultural differences between industrial New Castle County in the north, the agricultural Sussex County in the south, and the transitional Kent County in the center of the state are, and have always been, reflected in the newspapers printed in the state. Newspaper publishing, as indeed all publishing, started later in Delaware than in any of the other original thirteen states, except Georgia. The first book was published in Delaware in 1761 and the first newspaper in 1762. The success of Delaware newspapers was impeded by the small size and population of the state as well as its position as a border state. It was not until the start of the Civil War that the demand for daily newspapers allowed Delaware publications to flourish.

The *Wilmington Courant* was established by James Adams in 1762 and was published on a weekly basis for a period of six months. The *Delaware Gazette*, Delaware's second newspaper was also established as a weekly and was founded by Jacob Killen in 1785. In 1842, Caleb Parker Johnson purchased interest in the paper. Johnson established the *Gazette* as one of the most influential Democratic newspapers in the state and this eventually led to the paper being called the *Democratic Bible*. The *Delaware Gazette* continued publication under a variety of owners through 1882, shifting from weekly, semi-weekly, and daily issues. In 1786, the *Delaware Courant and Wilmington Advertiser* was founded. There has been at least one newspaper continuously published in the state of Delaware since the inaugural issue of the *Advertiser*.

In 1831, the *Delaware State Journal* was founded by Peter Bynberg and Robert Porter and soon established itself as the leading Whig and Republican newspaper in the state. In 1845, the *Blue Hen's Chicken* was founded and became one of the first newspapers to emphasize local news and interests. Established by William T. Jeandell and Francis Vincent, Jeandell retired from the paper within three months and left sole ownership with Vincent. Vincent encouraged the inclusion of local news and editorials addressing local issues. The *Blue Hen's Chicken* remained in print for almost nine years before it merged with the *Statesman*, a paper established by Henry Eckel in 1855. Eventually, the *Statesman* merged with the *Delaware State Journal* and was renamed the *Delaware State Journal and Statesman* which later merged with the *Every Evening*.

The growth of the city of Wilmington following the Civil War also impacted the successes and failures of many Delaware newspapers. As Wilmington grew into the business and social hub of New Castle County, the demand for daily newspapers and the dissemination of local news increased. However, it was not until 1866 that a subscription-based newspaper, the *Daily Commercial*, was founded in Wilmington. The *Daily Commercial* was well supported and respected by the community. Republican in nature, the political emphasis of the paper may have been its downfall when the editor of the *Daily Commercial*, Howard M. Jenkins, ran as a Republican candidate for the State House of Representatives in 1876 and was defeated. In 1877, the *Daily Commercial* was sold to the Every Evening Publishing Company, merged with the *Every Evening* and renamed the *Every Evening and Daily Commercial*.

The years following the Civil War proved to be a turning point in Delaware newspaper publishing. During the decade following the war, all of the established weekly newspapers in Wilmington began publishing daily editions. In addition, during that period, three new newspapers emerged: *Daily Commercial*, *Every Evening*, and the *Morning Herald*. While eventually the *Daily Commercial* and the *Every Evening* would merge, the *Morning Herald* was renamed the *Morning News* in later years. Founded in 1871, the *Every Evening* would go on to become the leading newspaper in the state of Delaware and had a larger circulation rate than that of any of its competitors.

Beginning in 1878, Sunday newspapers were introduced in Delaware with the publication of the *Sunday Dispatch*, which ceased operation two and a half years later. Founded in 1880, the *Sunday Mirror* lasted only six months before being succeeded by the *Sunday Critic*, which continued publication for two years. In 1881, the *Sunday Morning Star* began publication and in 1887 it became part of the Star Publishing Company. The *Star* continued publication through 1908 and was very well respected for its independent editorials and its commitment to the Wilmington community. In fact, the *Star* became so successful that attempts to establish additional Sunday newspapers in the city of Wilmington failed.

In 1886, the *Evening Journal* was started by Charles Edwards and Frederick Eden Bach. The paper displayed a Republican slant until the retirement of Bach, at which time it became Democratically oriented. In 1905, the paper was sold and was merged with the *Daily Republican*. In 1898, a new morning daily paper, the *Sun*, was introduced. It continued daily publication through October 1904.

Among politically oriented newspapers, the *Delaware Gazette* reflected the interests of the Democratic Party in the post-Civil War period while the *Every Evening* and the *Morning News* reflected the Republican Party interests. In 1840, the political climate fostered the establishment of a number of politically directed publications including the *Democrat*, *Delaware Blue*, *Locofoco*, *Patriotic Politician*, and *Porcupine*. Each of these newspapers ceased publication at the end of the election season. In 1860, the *Delaware Inquirer* was founded as a Democratic newspaper in support of Stephen Douglas. Following the election of Abraham Lincoln, the paper became Republican in nature. The *Inquirer* continued to be published until the end of the Civil War.

In addition to political and partisan newspapers, newspapers catering to the special ethnic, religious, social, political, and economic interests of Delawareans have always been published. There were a few temperance newspapers, such as the *Temperance Herald*, as well as a working-class oriented paper called the *Labor Herald*. Most of these newspapers were short lived.

While Wilmington quickly emerged as the center of Delaware publishing, up to the Civil War era, a number of different newspapers were published in all three counties and in cities and towns such as Dover, Georgetown, Milford, and New Castle. Following the Civil War weekly newspapers were founded in smaller towns such as Bridgeville, Laurel, Lewes, Middletown, Millsboro, Milton, Newark, Odessa, Seaford, and Smyrna, and numerous other villages and townships.

Newspaper publishing in the state capital of Dover was begun in 1802 with the creation of the *Federal Ark*, a Federalist party newspaper. In the following 25 years, three other papers, the *Record*, the *Federal Advertiser*, and the *Delaware Intelligencer* were published. In 1851, the *Sentinel* was published in support of the Whig party. From 1853 to 1859, a Democratic and anti-Prohibition newspaper named the *Delaware State Reporter* was published in Dover. Also in 1859, the first issue of the *Delawarean* was published. Known as an ultra-Democratic newspaper, the *Delawarean* became renowned throughout Eastern states and was highly regarded for its level of journalism. The *Delawarean* continued to be published well into the twentieth century. Two other politically oriented papers emerged in Dover during this time period. A Republican paper, the *State Sentinel*, began publication in 1874 and continued in print through the early 1910's while the *Index*, a Democratic newspaper, was begun in 1887. The *Delaware State News* was established in 1901 and was published weekly, with a distinctive Democratic perspective. It is the only Dover publication that remains in print today.

In the southern county of Sussex, newspaper publishing began in the town of Georgetown, in 1837 with the founding of the *Republican*. No other newspaper was established in the town until 1864. In that year, the *Union* was created and remained in print for approximately one year. The next significant effort occurred with the publication of the *Sussex Journal* in 1867, followed by the publication of the *Delaware Inquirer* in 1878. The

Delaware Inquirer continued until 1881 when it was sold and renamed the *Delaware Democrat*. In 1886, the *Sussex Republican* was founded in Georgetown, as was the *Union Republican* in 1898. In early 1906, three newspapers, the *Sussex Journal*, the *Delaware Democrat*, and the *Delaware Pilot* (a newspaper founded in Lewes, Delaware) were joined under the control of the Sussex Printing and Publishing Company, headquartered in Georgetown with each of the titles continuing to be published independently.

Milford emerged as the center of newspaper publishing in Sussex County, beginning with the publication of the *Beacon* in 1848. Its name changed to the *Diamond State* in 1859 and it continued publication into the twentieth century. The *Sussex Gleaner* appeared in 1856 but was short lived. The following year, two publications were founded, the *Peninsular News and Advertiser* and the *Observer*. Of these newspapers, the *Peninsular News and Advertiser* was the longest surviving and became one of the leading Republican newspapers in the state. For a fifteen-year period between 1863 and 1878, no other newspaper publishing efforts were successful in Milford. In 1878, the *Milford Chronicle* was founded. It eventually merged with the *Peninsular News and Advertiser* and continued to be successful well into the early twentieth century.

Although Wilmington emerged early as a center of newspaper publishing, other cities and towns in New Castle County also contributed to Delaware newspaper history. The city of Newark emerged late to Delaware newspaper publishing. The first attempt in 1875 to establish a newspaper in the college town proved unsuccessful. In 1876, the first issue of the *Saturday Visitor* was published. Shortly after, its name was changed to the *Saturday Record*. Following multiple changes in ownership, the newspaper was renamed the *Journal* and finally the *Newark Ledger*. Eventually, the *Newark Ledger* was renamed the *Delaware Ledger*. In 1909, Everett Johnson founded the *Newark Post*, a weekly paper.

Currently, Delaware citizens are served primarily through the *News Journal*. The history of the *News Journal* is similar to that of many other Delaware newspapers and includes mergers with other competing newspapers and multiple name changes. The *Daily Commercial* was first published in 1866 and merged with the *Every Evening* in 1877. Charles W. Edwards and Frederick Eden Bach founded the *Evening Journal* in 1877. This eventually merged with the *Every Evening* in 1933 and continued publication under that name until 1960 when it reverted back to the *Evening Journal*.

Throughout the mid- to late-nineteenth century, Delaware newspaper publishing was dominated by evening editions with only one morning newspaper, the *Morning Herald*, which later became the *Daily Morning News*, flourishing. In 1920, the *Daily Morning News* was sold to the *Evening Journal*. As a result, the News-Journal Company was founded. In 1989, the *News Journal* published the final edition of the *Evening Journal* and continues to be Delaware's premier daily newspaper today.

Microfilming Projects

In 1983, the University of Delaware Library, acting on behalf of the Council of Historical Libraries of Delaware (CHILD), submitted a grant proposal to the Nation Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) United States Newspaper Program (USNP) requesting support to develop a plan:

1. For a comprehensive survey of newspaper holdings in the states,
2. To prepare an inventory of newspaper locations, and
3. To develop a methodology for entering bibliographic data into an online database.

The Council of Historical Libraries of Delaware (CHILD) members included: Delaware Art Museum Library, Delaware Bureau of Archives and Records Management, Delaware Division of Libraries, Hagley Museum and Library, The Winterthur Library, Historical Society of Delaware Library, University of Delaware Library, and the Wilmington Institute Free Library. To gain wide support for the project, a statewide planning meeting of representatives from all types of libraries throughout the state and from the state's newspaper publishing community was held in Wilmington in November 1983. Under the auspices of the United States Newspaper Program, the first phase of this effort—cataloging all newspapers permanently retained in the collections of the Delaware institutions—was completed.

A second proposal was submitted to NEH in 1985, again by the University of Delaware Library acting on behalf of CHILD. This proposal requested funds to inventory newspaper repositories in the state and to enter bibliographic holdings data into a national database according to CONSER

guidelines. The cataloging work, completed in 1989, resulted in 796 titles cataloged (340 were Delaware newspaper titles) and produced a union list of institutional newspaper holdings for the state of Delaware. A bibliographic record for each title, with holdings information, was made available online through OCLC (Online Computer Library Center) WorldCat as well as in the following print publications: *Union List of Newspapers in Delaware* (1990) and *United States Newspaper Program National Union List* (1993).

In 1992, the University of Delaware Library submitted a third grant proposal to fund the microfilming of significant and historical newspapers identified in earlier phases of the Delaware Newspaper Project. The successful grant began in 1993 and was completed in 1996. More than 150 newspapers (700,000 pages) were microfilmed under this phase of the United States Newspaper Program. A bibliographic record for each title, with holdings information, is available via DELCAT Discovery, the University of Delaware's discovery service. Scholars can determine what newspapers exist in Delaware and which institution retains them in permanent collections.

There have yet to be any systematic efforts to digitize Delaware newspapers from the 1836-1922 timeframe. Completion of this project would immeasurably increase access to Delaware newspapers. The University of Delaware Library is currently in the process of digitizing, from microfilm, the *Newark Post* from 1923 to 1991.

Newspapers have played an important role in the history of Delaware. As a small state, serious scholarship and research related to the history of Delaware has been relatively limited. Many of the cities and towns in Delaware have scant written history. As a result, these historic newspapers play a significant role in documenting the changes in politics, culture, society, and economics within these cities and towns of Delaware. In addition, these newspapers have reflected the local interests of the citizens and the physical changes occurring in these communities. Providing access to digitized versions of these newspapers will open new avenues for research and scholarship, as well as benefit the citizens of the state of Delaware and the nation.

2. Methodology and standards

2.1 Access to Master Negative Microfilm

Through its participation and leadership in the previously discussed United States Newspaper Program grants, the University of Delaware Library owns and has access to all of the master negative microfilm of the newspapers under consideration for digitization. All of the titles under consideration were produced to USNP microfilming guidelines.

2.2 Title Evaluation

The Advisory Board will be charged with the responsibility for the evaluation of newspaper titles from the list of master negative microfilm (see appendix for Delaware Newspaper Project: Microfilmed Newspaper List).

The evaluation work of the Advisory Board will conform to the principles as set forth in the program description:

1. Titles should reflect the political, economic, and cultural history of the state or territory. Such newspapers usually have statewide or regional influence.
2. Preference should be given to titles that are recognized as “papers of record” at the state or county level and that contain published legal notices, news of state and regional governmental affairs, and announcements of community news and events.
3. Selected titles should provide state, or at least multi-county, coverage of the majority of the population areas.
4. Newspapers with a broad chronological span are preferred to those with short runs and those that published sporadically.
5. Special consideration should be given to titles meeting these criteria that have ceased publication, lack ownership, and therefore would be less likely to be digitized by other sources.

To aid in the evaluation process, the Advisory Board will be provided with the following information for each of the titles under consideration:

1. Time period coverage
2. Complete title change and merger information
3. Political leanings, if known
4. Sample images from the positive reels
5. Review form for ranking titles

Delaware is perhaps atypical in that the total number of titles under consideration, as listed in the Delaware Newspaper Project: Microfilmed Newspaper List included in the appendix, is approximately 80. Of these 80 titles, approximately 50 were published in the city of Wilmington. Given the small scale of the state of Delaware, it is likely the case that many of the Wilmington newspaper included coverage of the entire state. The Advisory Board will be able to ensure that these 80 titles are of sufficient historical value and interest to merit inclusion in the project.

It should be noted that this list of 80 microfilmed titles represents virtually all of the known titles for the time period of 1836-1922. The three previously mentioned grants through the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) United States Newspaper Program (USNP) entailed a thorough, systematic and incredibly exhaustive search for all available Delaware newspapers that could be located in the state of Delaware. Institutional collections were scoured for Delaware newspapers as well as collections held by private individuals and even accumulations in private residences. To the best knowledge available, these titles represent the extant Delaware newspapers on microfilm for this time period.

2.3 Digitization Infrastructure

Molly Olney-Zide, Discovery Services Librarian, in the Library Information Technology User Support Department will serve as the project manager for the project. She will work closely with the Head of the Center for Digital Collections for the duration of the project. Ms. Olney-Zide has a broad background in library technical services and has worked on several digitization projects at the Hagley Museum and Library. Her background is well suited to the management of such a project.

The staff of the Center for Digital Collections staff includes:

1. A full-time librarian department head
2. 4 full-time salaried staff members devoted to digitization and metadata creation
3. A full-time salaried staff conservator
4. Approximately 1 FTE student assistants

The Center for Digital Collections (CDC) is a department within the Library Information Technology and Digital Initiatives Division. All members of the staff have had varying degrees of involvement with digital projects; three members have had extensive experience from inception to production, organization and completion of large digitization projects.

The Center for Digital Collections has undertaken several large digital conversion projects, most recently the digitization of several thousand bookplates held in the Special Collections Department (See Appendix B). All five of these CDC staff members have been involved in all phases of the management of numerous digital assets from file and folder organization and naming conventions through the selection, installation, and configuration of digital asset management software.

The Center for Digital Collections does have some experience in the digitization of newspapers from microfilm. A project is currently underway to digitize the *Newark Post* from 1923 to 1991. Issues of the *Newark Post* from 1992 were digitized from print issues

The computing infrastructure of the Center for Digital Collections is supported by the Library Data Support and Management Department and the Library Information Technology User Support Department. The Library Data Support and Management Department (3 FTE IT professionals) supports the server and data storage infrastructure. The Library Systems Support Department (6 FTE professional staff) provides support for desktop PC's, scanning equipment, application software and general troubleshooting. The Center for Digital Collections also works closely with Metadata Services staff on metadata issues.

The Library currently maintains digital collections in DSpace which is backed up to central IT servers. The Library is an early adopter and participant in the ARTstor Shared Shelf/Shared Shelf Commons program

and has numerous collections available via this platform. A streaming video server provides access to digitized audio and video materials. The computing infrastructure makes accessible approximately 40 TB of mirrored storage.

3. *Work plan*

3.1 Initial Organization and Setup (September 2015 – November 2015)

- Coordinate grant accounting infrastructure with the University
- Prepare RFP for digitization vendors
- Attend NEH/LC Awardee meeting
- Contact Advisory Board Members to confirm participation and schedule initial meetings
- Prepare representative samples from titles under consideration and create information sheet for said titles
- Begin initial microfilm inspection and analysis

3.2 Confirmation of Titles (October 2015)

- Convene Advisory Board Meeting (October 2015)
 - o Review title holdings list
 - o Go over criteria and scope for NDNP
- Evaluate and confirm title suitability
- Communicate title evaluation results to Advisory Board

3.3 Evaluation of Microfilm and Metadata Creation (November 2015 – April 2013)

- Select digitization vendor (November 2015)
- Confirm microfilm suitability for digitization using the USNP preservation microfilming guidelines and the *NDNP Technical Guidelines*
 - o Physical condition, resolution, density, reduction ratio, focus
 - o Completeness of content on reel
- Record required metadata as specified in *NDNP Technical Guidelines*
- Send master negatives to vendor for creation of duplicate silver negative

microfilm reels

- Prepare summary descriptions of the scope, content and significance of each digitized newspaper title

3.4 Digitization, Processing, and Conversion by Vendor (February 2016 – July 2017)

- The reels will be scanned at a minimum of 400 dpi and in 8-bit grayscale.
- Images will be cropped and deskewed.
- Additional structural and technical metadata will be supplied by vendor
- Deliverables will include
 - o TIFF 6.0 and JPEG 2000 for each page image
 - o OCR text and bounding boxes
 - o PDF image with hidden text
 - o METS objects with descriptive, structural, and technical metadata as specified in *NDNP Technical Guidelines*
- Deliverables will be divided into batches to fit on a large capacity external hard drive.
- Batches will be validated using NDNP supplied software
- Vendor will deliver batches to the University of Delaware Library for quality inspection
- Test batch will be prepared and sent to Library of Congress (February 2016)

3.5 Quality Review (February 2016 – July 2017)

- Validate batch using NDNP validation supplied software tools
 - Inspect all thumbnail images and look at film for inconsistencies if errors appear
- Verify number of expected pages
- Use the NDNP Digital Viewer and Validator to inspect OCR and metadata from sample pages
- View full images for inspection of every first and last page of each reel and approximately every six images including all first pages of each issue
- Rectify any problems with vendor and modify batch if needed
- Send validated files to the Library of Congress as specified in the Delivery of Digital Assets in the *NDNP Technical Guidelines*

3.6 Delivery to the Library of Congress (February 2016 – July 2017)

- Deliver sample set of data to Library of Congress (February 2016)
- Deliver batches monthly of approximately 3,500 pages in 16 batches (March 2016 – July 2017)
- Deliver silver negative microfilm reel duplicates at close of project (July 2017)

3.7 Cataloging (December 2015 – June 2017)

- CONSER records for newspaper titles will be updated according to MARC21 standards with an 856 field linking to the digital newspapers
- Records will be delivered to Library of Congress

3.8 Reports and Progress (February 2016 – August 2017)

- Interim reports will be written and delivered to NEH (approx. February 2016, August 2016, and February 2017)
- Final report will be completed and submitted to NEH in August 2017

4. Staff

Gregg Silvis
Associate University Librarian
for Information Technology and Digital Initiatives
Project Director
.03 FTE

Mr. Silvis will provide administrative oversight of the project, particularly as it relates to budgetary matters. He will coordinate the activities of the Advisory Board, and serve as the contact person for NDNP staff for all administrative matters. Mr. Silvis has over 25 years experience in library computing and is well versed in IT project management.

Project Manager
Molly Olney-Zide, Discovery Services Librarian
Library Information Technology User Support Department
.60 FTE

Ms. Olney-Zide will have oversight of the project, ensuring that program objectives, requirements and milestones are met. She will also be responsible for communication with the digitization vendor as well as communication with project staff, NEH, and the Library of Congress. Ms. Olney-Zide will ensure the suitability of microfilm for digitization, gather project statistics, and prepare and submit progress reports to NEH. She will also attend the annual NDNF meetings.

Anna Ashikhmina
Associate Librarian and Coordinator, Original Cataloging and Authority
Control
Metadata Services Department
.03 FTE

Ms. Ashikhmina will be responsible for updating CONSER bibliographic records with links to websites related to newspapers in the state or territory, for inclusion in the national newspaper directory. As per the grant requirements, she will ensure that these updates include links to sites that provide access to digitized historic print newspapers, as well as websites for newspapers that are currently publishing. Ms. Ashikhmina is currently responsible for original and complex copy cataloging for serials and monographic publications in all formats and variety of languages at the University of Delaware Library.

Theresa Hessey
Library Assistant III
.20 FTE

Ms. Hessey will support the work of the project manager in the day-to-day activities of the project. She will oversee the shipping and tracking of all materials and deliverables between the vendor, the University of Delaware Library, and the Library of Congress. She will work with the Project Manager in the creation of the summary descriptions of the scope, content

and significance of each digitized newspaper title. Ms. Hessey's history background will serve her well in the creation of the brief descriptions of the historical significance of the title selected for digitization. She will also attend the annual NDNP meetings.

Advisory Board Members

Stephen M. Marz, State Archivist (or his representative)
Delaware Public Archives

Anne E.C. Norman
State Librarian and Director, Delaware Division of Libraries.

Jonathon S. Russ
Associate Professor of History (University of Delaware)

Gregg A. Silvis
Associate University Librarian
for Information Technology and Digital Initiatives. *ex officio*

Ben Yagoda
Professor of English (University of Delaware)