

Analyzing the Historic Maryland Newspapers Project Collection

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Abstract: Pamela A. McClanahan, Digital Projects Librarian at University of Maryland Libraries and Project Manager for the Historic Maryland Newspapers Project (HMNP) will share research conducted on the Maryland newspaper collection from the Chronicling America newspaper database at Library of Congress. HMNP is the Maryland state awardee of the National Digital Newspaper Program (NDNP), a partnership between Library of Congress and National Endowment for the Humanities, and selects and digitizes newspapers published in the state of Maryland to be included in Chronicling America. HMNP has been digitizing newspapers since 2012 and includes newspapers from throughout the state from the mid-19th to mid-20th century. There has been an emphasis on selecting diverse titles such as those representing political minority groups, labor groups, non-english language, immigrant communities, and the women's suffrage movement in the state. HMNP has been analyzing data from Chronicling America to better understand the Maryland newspapers including number of titles and number of pages by such factors as region of state and county, year published, ethnicity of community audience, language, and political leaning. Data visualization software is being used to provide a new way of looking at the collection. Not only will this help researchers to better understand and utilize the Maryland newspapers, but also assist HMNP with future selection decisions for digitization. While still in the beginning stage of this research, this poster will highlight the reasoning for this data analysis, share preliminary findings, and discuss next steps and considerations for further research.

About the author:

Pamela A. McClanahan has been the Digital Projects Librarian at University of Maryland Libraries since 2019 and serves as Project Manager for the Historic Maryland Newspapers Project, as well as other grant-based digitization initiatives. Prior to that, Pamela was an Archival and Record Management Fellow at the National Park Service. As a 2017 National Digital Stewardship Resident, she completed a user needs analysis of the digital Biodiversity Heritage Library at Smithsonian Libraries. Pamela has her MLS from the University of Maryland ischool specializing in Archives, Records and Information Management and holds a BA in History from Hood College.