

## Library Instruction 2

### Lesson A

#### Newspapers and Other News Sources

##### Newspapers

The first newspapers were developed in the seventeenth century. They consisted of a single, large sheet printed on one side only. These early newspapers were issued weekly, or biweekly, and were sometimes called “news-pamphlets” or “newsbooks”. The first newspaper that resembled a modern newspaper appeared in November 1665. It was called the Oxford Gazette and was published biweekly in England.

The first newspaper published in America appeared in Boston in 1690. It was called Publick Occurances, Both Foreign and Domestick; only one issue was published. In 1851, the New York Times began publication. Since its beginning it has been one of the world’s outstanding newspapers, covering both national and world events.

Newspapers are useful sources of information, for everyday news events, cultural or social events, economic news, and discoveries in the sciences and the humanities. Besides facts, they also present various points of view and opinions about the information and events they cover. Because they are generally published daily, newspapers supply more recent information than books or most magazines. However back issues of newspapers are equally useful because they preserve a valuable record of how individuals viewed an event at the time the event occurred. In some cases, a newspaper article may be the only printed record of an event long past or offer the only eye witness account of an event.

Large newspapers, such as the New York Times, focus their attention on national and world news. They frequently include the full text of speeches by national or international political figures or public officials. Large and medium-sized cities usually have their own papers. They cover national and world news in lesser depth and put their emphasis on local, regional and state news. Hartnell College Library subscribes to several national newspapers, as well as local papers from the Monterey Bay area, San Francisco and San Jose.

In addition to newspapers that cover all kinds of news, there are newspapers that cover the news on a certain subject or aim their information at a particular audience. Two examples of these specialized newspapers are the Wall Street Journal and La Opinion. The Wall Street Journal is a national publication emphasizing financial news but it also covers national and international events which may impact the financial world. La Opinion is a Spanish language paper which focuses on information and events of interest to the Hispanic community.

In Hartnell College Library, current issues of newspapers are located on a rack at the Circulation Counter. Older issues of most newspapers are stored behind the Circulation Counter and will be brought to you on request. Check the Magazine List to learn which newspapers the Library has, how long the Library keeps back issues and where they can be found.

**Turn to the Assignment pages of this lesson and answer questions 1 and 2. Then return to this page and read the information below.**

##### Newspaper Indexes

Unlike magazines that are frequently indexed, only some newspapers are indexed. The New York Times is one major newspaper, which publishes its own separate print index. Hartnell College Library has this index back to 1966. These indexes are located on the **Indexes Tables** near the Reference Desk. Indexing newspapers is a time consuming and expensive project so it is not unusual for local smaller newspapers to have no printed index. To fill the

gap, local public libraries often selectively index their hometown papers. The staff at the Steinbeck Library selectively indexes the Salinas Californian.

With the advent of computers many newspapers like the New York Times are also indexed in web based databases. A group of major national newspapers, including the New York Times are in Proquest Newspapers database which is available on the Library's home page. Proquest Newspapers also includes indexing to articles from the Wall Street Journal, Christian Science Monitor, The Washington Post, and the Los Angeles Times. Unlike the print index to the New York Times, the web based Proquest Newspapers database includes the full text of articles (no photographs or graphics), which can be read on the computer screen, can be printed or can be emailed when needed. The database indexes full text articles in the New York Times from 1999 to present. This database can be accessed on the Library's home page or from any computer with Internet access. You will need a student user ID and password to search this database while off campus. To access Proquest off campus ask at the Reference Desk or pick up the Library's handout "Electronic Resources". There are search tips for using this database on the opening page of the database or ask for assistance at the Reference Desk.

There is a third way to access the New York Times; it maintains a site on the Internet at <http://www.nytimes.com/> Like most newspaper web sites, access to full text articles is limited unless you subscribe to the online edition or are willing to pay for individual full text copies of older newspaper articles. There is a search engine on the site which will search the archives of the newspaper since 1996. However the results list the headline and a brief summary or abstract of the article unless you pay to access the full text of the article.

Many local newspapers also maintain web sites. However, to locate information in local newspapers may be more difficult unless you know the approximate date the article appeared or when an event occurred. Both the Californian <http://www.californianonline.com/> and the Monterey County Herald <http://www.montereyherald.com/mld/montereyherald/> maintain web pages with current local news and limited searching of past issues.

### **New York Times Index**

The New York Times publishes its own index and has been doing so since the paper began in the 1860's. As mentioned earlier, an index to the newspaper is also available on the Web. This library has both the print index since 1966 and the full text web based version since 1999. Limited indexing of the New York Times is also included in the web-based magazine database EBSCOhost, but it does not index the complete newspaper and there is no full text available.

Therefore, in order to search thoroughly for a subject in the New York Times, a combination of print and computerized indexes may be necessary depending on your topic. This would be the case, particularly, for searches about certain events, about people whose work spans decades, or for tracking social problems or issues that have been developing over a period of time. This Lesson includes questions using both the print and web based index of the New York Times. Instructions for using the web based index can be found in the database. Instructions for using the print version of the index are located in the front of each volume of the Index. Brief instructions on how to use the print index are also given below.

### **Instructions for Using New York Times Index**

Go to the **Index Tables** and find the New York Times Index. The Index is issued every two weeks during the year. At the end of the year a cumulated volume replaces all the biweekly issues. Each index volume is arranged by subject. Under each subject heading, article titles are listed chronologically; the earliest article comes first. This index is particularly useful because news stories are briefly summarized as part of the index. Although the entire text of the newspaper articles are not in the Index, by reading the titles of the articles and the

summaries of the articles one can read a summarized version of an event written at the time of the event. Summaries of important articles are printed in **heavy type**. After the summary, you are given the information you need to locate the article in the newspaper: date of the newspaper, section, page, and column. This information is called the citation to the article.

Open the 1988 volume of the New York Times Index to page 1167 and find the heading “**Smoking**”. Right under the heading is a list of other subject headings called “**see also references**”. Under these other headings are articles that also deal with smoking. For example, go down the “see also” list to “**Restaurants**”. The three dates that follow this heading mean that there are three articles (on those dates) that deal with both smoking **and** restaurants. To read the summaries of these articles you would need to look under the subject “**Restaurants**”.

Now look at the second important article (in **heavy type**). After the summary is the citation:

(M), My 17, 1, 1:3

This citation means that the article is

medium length (M);

appeared on May 17 (My 17);

is in the first section of the paper (1);

on page 1, column 3 (1:3)

Notice that the year of the newspaper is not given in the citation. You need to supply that information yourself by noting the year of the index you are using.

For a longer explanation about column length and section numbers of letters, see the “How to use....” page in the front of each volume of the index.

To use the web based version of the New York Times in ProQuest Newspapers database, choose the advanced search function and then type in the title of the newspaper and select the date range you want to search. Add any subject or key words to limit your results. Follow the instructions on the screens. The ProQuest database includes full text of all articles.

### **Other News Sources**

The Internet is a rich source for locating current events on a local, national or international level. Like many newspapers, television and radio stations, and news wire services also have web sites with current news. Access to news stories on these web sites can sometimes be limited to selected full-text stories, summaries of stories, or full access for those who pay (subscribe) for access to the site. These Internet sites can also limit coverage to the current week, month, or the current year. Some newspaper web sites maintain a news archive covering headline articles for several years. Each site varies in terms of access and coverage.

This lesson will introduce you to three Internet news sources. **ABC News** and **CNN** are examples of broadcast news sites. **Yahoo! News** is an example of a news search engine. These sites are structured to allow the reader to browse the daily news by selecting broad subject categories such as “world news”, “sports”, or “politics”. You can then read summaries of headline articles or go to the full text of the article. Frequently you will also find links directing you to related stories, links to other web sites and in-depth analyses of national or international news stories. Each site also includes a search engine that will allow you to search the site by specific subjects or topics. These Internet sites allow you an opportunity to explore sources of either breaking news not yet published in daily newspapers or to keep up with the latest news of an ongoing event or topic which you read about last week or some time ago.

**Now, finish the assignment starting where you left off at question 3.**

Name \_\_\_\_\_

## Lesson A: Newspapers and Other News Sources

### Assignment

1. Go to the circulation counter near the entrance to the Library. Ask to borrow current issues of the newspapers you need to answer these questions.

- a. Find La Opinion. Where is this newspaper published?

- b. Find copies of the New York Times and the Wall Street Journal. Compare the scope of the subjects of the articles on the front page of each. You will notice some similarities but one of the newspapers provides more news on articles covering one subject area.

New York Times covers: \_\_\_\_\_

Wall Street Journal covers: \_\_\_\_\_

2. In order to find out which other newspapers the Hartnell College Library subscribes to, check the colored pages at the back of the Hartnell College Library Magazine List. Look under the subject heading "newspapers".

- a. Give the titles of the two newspapers listed last:

\_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_

- b. Look in the alphabetical section (the white pages) of the Magazine List to find which dates we have in the Library. Look up the two newspapers given in the above answer. How far back do we have each of these papers?

Name of paper \_\_\_\_\_ Dates we have \_\_\_\_\_

Name of paper \_\_\_\_\_ Dates we have \_\_\_\_\_

- c. Newspapers can be checked out at the Circulation Desk. They have the same loan restrictions as magazines. Can you take them out of the library? \_\_\_\_\_ How long is the in library loan period? \_\_\_\_\_

**Go back and read the rest of the information about newspapers and other news sources, then return to this page and complete the assignment.**

Use the 1988 edition of the New York Times Index to answer the following sets of questions.

3. Find the subject heading "Olympic Games". Note that specific games are listed in order by the year that they occurred or will occur. Find the articles on the 1994 Games.

- a. Write down the subject heading for the 1994 Games \_\_\_\_\_

- b. On what page of the Index does this subject heading appear? \_\_\_\_\_

c. Where were the 1994 Winter Olympics played?

\_\_\_\_\_

d. Write down the citation for this article. The citation has the following parts:

Date \_\_\_\_\_ Section \_\_\_\_\_ Page \_\_\_\_\_ Column \_\_\_\_\_

4. Look up "Gay Rights". What is the subject heading used to find articles on this subject?

\_\_\_\_\_

Go to that subject heading in the Index to answer the following questions:

a. Some of the summaries are partially printed in heavy bold type. Why?

\_\_\_\_\_

(Hint: If you do not know the answer, either re-read the information portion of this exercise or read the "How to use..." page in the beginning of the Index.)

b. Go to the last article under this heading, the one that mentions Judge Hampton. Is this a short, medium, or long article? \_\_\_\_\_

c. Copy the citation for the article. \_\_\_\_\_

d. Go back to the subject heading. Underneath the subject heading you will see a list of "see also" references. Find the "see also" reference "United States Naval Academy (Annapolis, MD)" followed by a date. Write down the date following that heading \_\_\_\_\_

This means that there is an article that deals with both homosexuality and the Naval Academy that appears on the above date. Notice that you have not been given a full citation; you do not have the page or column.

e. To find the full citation to the article, look up the heading, "United States Naval Academy", in the Index. Using the date given in the above answer, find the summary that deals with both homosexuality and the Naval Academy. Write down the full citation:

\_\_\_\_\_

5. Book reviews are listed in one place in the Index; they are under the heading, "Book Reviews". Under that heading books are listed alphabetically by the title of the book. Go to the book review section in the Index; find a review for the book, Nowhere to Go.

a. What is the name of the reviewer? \_\_\_\_\_

b. Who is the author of the book? \_\_\_\_\_

c. What is the citation for the review? \_\_\_\_\_

6. Obituaries and other articles summarizing the lifetime achievements of well-known persons, recently deceased are listed under the heading, "Deaths". Under this heading, obituaries are arranged alphabetically by the person's last name. Go to the heading "Deaths" in the Index. Find the entry for **Louise Nevelson**, who was a famous artist.

One of the entries is called an obituary. Obituaries are written about people after they die and summarize their life histories.

What is the citation to that obituary? \_\_\_\_\_

The New York Times Index provides access to articles written at the time an event occurred. This Index can provide a daily, monthly or yearly chronicle of ongoing events that may not be available in any other format. You can use this news source to trace events back several decades and read about events as they occurred. These articles may or may not reflect future historical views of these events as later documented in books. Some stories provide first hand accounts of events that may not appear anywhere else.

7. Use the 1981 Index to read headlines and summaries of articles written about the attempted assassination of President Ronald Reagan. By reading the important entries (in **bold-face type**) you will be able to answer the following questions.
  - a. Including the President, how many people were shot during the assassination attempt?  
\_\_\_\_\_
  - b. What caliber bullet was removed from the President's lower left lung? \_\_\_\_\_
  - c. What actress did federal investigators believe Hinckley was trying to impress?  
\_\_\_\_\_
  - d. On what date did a detailed profile of John Hinckley appear in the New York Times?  
\_\_\_\_\_
  - e. Which Constitutional Amendment deals with Presidential succession?  
\_\_\_\_\_
  - f. The FBI determined that the bullets used during the assassination attempt were special because they were \_\_\_\_\_
  - g. How many days after he was shot did President Reagan return to the White House?  
\_\_\_\_\_
  - h. The headlines and summaries of articles about the attempted Presidential assassination start on page 899 of the Index and end on page \_\_\_\_\_
  
8. The web based database Proquest Newspapers is a good source for finding recent articles in the New York Times newspaper. Proquest Newspapers provides the full text of the articles since 1999 and prior to 1999 provides only citations to articles with short abstracts.

To access Proquest Newspapers on campus go to the "Articles Databases" on the Library home page at <http://www.hartnell.cc.ca.us/library/> . For off campus access to the database ask at the Reference Desk or pick up the handout "Electronic Databases" near the Reference Desk. Look for an obituary on **Johnny Cash** in the New York Times (Follow the directions on the screens.) **To begin searching, click on the "Advanced Search" tab.** "Advance Search" lets you to limit your search terms to fields within the full text or citation of the article. Notice that all the field limit boxes are set to "citation and article text". To find how you can limit your search, click on the check mark next to the phrase "citation and article text" to display the other field limit options. Since you are looking for an obituary that appeared in the New York Times limit your search to "News – ProQuest Newspapers" in the Database search box.

Type New York Times in the first search box and select "Publication title" in the field limit box to the right. In the second search box type "Cash, Johnny" and select "Person" in the field limit box to the right. In the next search box type "obituary" and select "Document type" in the field limit box to the right.

- a. How many obituaries did you find? \_\_\_\_\_
  - b. Read the abstracts of both articles and give the number of words for the longer obituary \_\_\_\_\_. Use this obituary to answer the following questions.
  - c. Who was Johnny Cash? \_\_\_\_\_ At what age did he die? \_\_\_\_\_
  - d. How many songs did he record? \_\_\_\_\_
  - e. For which album did he win his sixth Grammy? \_\_\_\_\_
  - f. Because of his clothing, Johnny Cash was know as the \_\_\_\_\_
9. Conduct another **advanced search** of the New York Times in Proquest Newspapers. Find articles on **Kenneth Lay** and **Enron**.

Type **Lay, Kenneth** and select **Person** from the field limit box to the right. On the next row enter **Enron** in the search box and select **Company/Org** from the field limit box to the right. In the third search box enter New York Times and select **Publication title** from the field limit box to the right. Keep News – ProQuest Newspapers in the **Database** box below the search boxes.

- a. How many articles did you find? \_\_\_\_\_

The results of the search are displayed in chronological order starting with the most recent article first. Find the bar above the first article listed in the results and change the option at the **Sort results by** box to sort the results by **relevancy** so the most significant or important articles are listed first.

- b. Print the abstract for the first article in the results list and attach it to this lesson.
10. The New York Times frequently prints the complete text or transcript of speeches of national political figures. In January 2001 President George W. Bush gave his inaugural address. Search for the full text of his speech in the New York Times. There are several ways to find the transcript. Before you start your search, think of all the key words or subjects which will help you limit your search to find the text of his inauguration speech. By limiting the search, the results list will be shorter so you will not have to search through a long results list of articles. Review how you were able to limit your search in questions 8 and 9. Now re-read the question before beginning your search.

- a. List the words, subjects, fields, and date ranges you used to successfully find the full text of Bush's Inaugural Address:

---

---

---

- b. Print the **abstract** of the article you found and staple it to this lesson.

11. Use the New York Times Index and New York Times in Proquest Newspapers to find three citations to articles for the theme subject you selected in Lesson 1. You will be using these citations for your bibliography in Lesson 6 so be sure to write down all the information you need to complete the bibliographic citation using the MLA format. A handout about MLA citations is on the racks near the Reference Desk.

- a. For each citation, give the subject heading you used and the date, section, page and column that you would need to find the article on microfilm. Unlike the New York Times Index, the citations in the New York Times in Proquest do not include a column number.

Subject heading: \_\_\_\_\_

Citation: \_\_\_\_\_

Subject heading: \_\_\_\_\_

Citation: \_\_\_\_\_

Subject heading: \_\_\_\_\_

Citation: \_\_\_\_\_

- b. Find one of your articles on the microfilm version of the New York Times. The microfilm is found near the microfilm reader/printer at the entrance to the first floor book stacks near the Circulation Desk. Thread the microfilm on the reader/printer and find your citation. When you have found your article, make a copy and attach it to this lesson. Ask at the Circulation Desk for instructions if you need help with making a copy on the microfilm reader/printer.

The next section of questions will require that you access the Internet on one of the computers near the Information or Media Desk. You will be searching news sites. You can also access these web sites from any computer with Internet access.

12. Open the Internet by clicking on the Internet Explorer icon and type the address for Yahoo! News (<http://news.yahoo.com/>) in the address box located on the menu bars.

- a. Write the date \_\_\_\_\_ and title of the top story for the day:

\_\_\_\_\_

- b. Does the Yahoo site provide a method for searching additional news stories?

\_\_\_\_\_

- c. Click on the advanced search feature to discover methods to limit a search of this site.

List 3 ways to limit a search : \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_ and

\_\_\_\_\_

Success in finding information is dependent on how familiar you are with using the source whether it is a book, index, database, or Internet site. This requires some initial time spent examining the information source. Successfully locating information is also dependent on evaluating information sources and selecting the most appropriate source for finding information on your topic. Explore the scope of information covered on the web site and how the information is organized. Are there any limits in terms of time/dates covered? Without taking the extra time you may not find the information or may not find all or the most appropriate information on your topic.

Now, go back to the main Yahoo! News page and explore how the page is set up and how you can access information using this site. Earlier in this lesson you completed several searches in the web based Proquest Newspapers database.

- d. Use your evaluative skills for comparing Yahoo! News and Proquest Newspapers. What are the similarities and differences or advantages and disadvantages between these two web based news sources. Can you think of any circumstance under which you would search a newspaper database like Proquest Newspapers instead of searching a web news source like Yahoo! News?

---

---

---

---

---

National television networks also maintain web sites with information about current news events. Check out the latest news at ABC News (<http://abcnews.go.com/>). This news web site also has an overview of current news stories. Examine the features of this site.

13. What similarities and differences are there between this site and Yahoo! News?

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

You have now had a chance to view three types Internet based news sites. ProQuest Newspapers is a web-based full text database to which the library subscribes. Yahoo! News is a news search engine and ABC News is a web-based television broadcast news source.

CNN is another example of a web based broadcast news source. Open the CNN news site (<http://www.cnn.com/>). Examine the site thoroughly before proceeding.

14. Explain what the CNN web site is and why you think it is a useful new source?

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

Think about the news sources you have used during this lesson. If necessary, review the introduction to the Lesson and the questions. Although there are many similarities among the news sources mentioned in the lesson, some of these news sources may have unique features that make them different from each other. Some sites may be easier to navigate so you may have more success in finding information. Some news sources may have restrictions in terms of dates or years covered. These differences may determine which one you use.

If you need more tips on evaluating Internet sites read the library handout "Information Literacy 10: Evaluate Information and Its Sources Critically". A copy is on the handout shelves near the Reference Desk or you can find it on the Library home page listed under "Library & Information Literacy Handouts".

15. Use two news sources covered in the Lesson that impressed you. Try searching for the same news related topic on both sites and compare the results. **Remember to think critically.**

a. \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

b. \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

16. Go to the Circulation Desk and get the latest issue of the Monterey County Herald. Write the date of the newspaper \_\_\_\_\_. Find a headline related to national or international news from the front page of the paper and write the headline

\_\_\_\_\_

Use one of the web based news sources covered in this Lesson and research the same topic. Write the name of the web news source used and how you felt it compared with the information provided by the newspaper article.

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_