



# Preserving News on the Margins

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Dodging the Memory Hole, San Francisco, November 16, 2017

# Team

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## STAFF

Emily Gore, PI  
Katherine Skinner, research lead  
Donald Brown, consultant  
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Nathan Brown, TrueBearing

## ADVISORS

Franky Abbott (DPLA)  
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Tyler Walters (Virginia Tech)  
Frederick Zarndt (Consultant)



Photo: <https://www.barcelonasegwaytour.com/los-castellers-discover-one-particular-attractions-barcelona/>



# Why is this particular project needed?

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- Historic preservation efforts (microfilm projects, etc.) have usually focused on mainstream voices - even if the efforts have been focused on smaller communities
- Many of you may participate in a statewide newspaper digitization project and/or NDNP. We all LOVE and APPRECIATE those projects, but we realize that ALL projects have limitations.
- Papers that are born-digital or potentially have copyright challenges are usually avoided
- We have often brokered deals with vendors who have digitized our materials to place behind a paywall. While there are cases where this makes sense, it is still restricted/privileged access and might include preservation? (trusted source?)



# From the 2018 NEH NDNP application

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“Titles should reflect the political, economic, and cultural history of the state or territory. Such newspapers usually have **statewide or regional influence**. 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**. In addition, **selected titles should provide state, or at least multi-county, coverage of the majority of the population areas**. Newspapers with a **broad chronological span** are preferred to those with short runs and those that published sporadically.”



# From the NDNP Technical Guidelines

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- Digital reproductions should be made **from a preservation copy of microfilm, a clean second-generation duplicate silver negative.**
- Provide the master page images, delivered to LC, as **uncompressed images in TIFF 6.0** format.
- Provide access to **Public Domain** content
- For each newspaper page, **structural metadata** must be provided to relate pages to title, date, and edition, to sequence pages within issue or section; and to identify associated image and OCR files
- Include **technical metadata to support the functions of a trusted repository**

# Realize there is a need!

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- The Digital Public Library of America was awarded a planning grant by the John S. and James L. Knight Foundation to research a role and develop a plan for DPLA regarding newspaper content
- DPLA had an original goal for the project to look at statewide projects and build an aggregation of non-NDNP newspapers
- After spending months doing initial research and surveying statewide projects about their newspaper content, we realized that most of the digitized non-NDNP newspaper were similar voices
- We decided to change directions and had to make a hard call with our Program Officer to ask for an extension and a significant shift in direction
- We wanted to research news content of voices that have rarely been aggregated and/or digitized and potentially develop a project to make those news sources available via DPLA

Sometimes you have to do a...

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# What happened next

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- DPLA staffers Emily Gore and Franky Abbott started trying to tackle this research ourselves and began to focus on researching newspapers in the African American and LGBT communities
- We knew we wanted to do research, bring together colleagues and experts to advise us on developing a large scale project
- We didn't have the time we needed to do this work and we needed to engage with a knowledgeable consultant who could help us figure out this landscape
- Emily called Katherine, and we worked to develop a scope of work, and we are here today to learn about those findings and discuss next steps

# News on the Margins

Researchers rely on news sources by and for marginalized communities to reveal the density of perspectives and experiences embedded in U.S. local and national cultures.

## 300,000 MARCH! GREATEST DAY IN U.S. HISTORY



Freedom! ... We All Are Americans  
The unidentified Freedom Marchers display approval of march as they march to the War Relocation Authority building in the shadow of the Lincoln Memorial in Washington. Their noisy files and warm intentions were met by a warm smile from the War Relocation Authority.

**The Voice of Militant Labor**  
**LABOR UNITY**  
Published twice a month at 212 West Monroe Street, Chicago, Ill. Subscription price \$1.00 per year. The Labor Unity Publishing Association, Publishers.  
Vol. 1, No. 1 CHICAGO, JANUARY 1, 1927 Page 1, Col. 1

**Railwaymen Begin Drive To Restore 1920 Scale**  
**Shopmen Lead Fight For Wage Raise**  
BY MORTON F. CRAWFORD.  
THE shopmen on the Chicago, Milwaukee and St. Paul railway have taken the lead in raising the demand against the "retrograde" three cents, and for restoration of the 1920 scale. In a statement issued today the railway men demand the restoration of the 1920 scale. The railway men demand a powerful left wing movement and progressive demands to get back the wage scale of recent years. Until the scale of "retrograde" the all day working union officials, succeeded since 1911-1922, in deprive our whole series of wage scale. Since the shopmen's strike was led by means of a lack of a general strike—a strong movement for which was characterized by the union leaders—the entire movement overworked and the companies succeeded. This movement was led.

**Progressives Rally to Save the Miners' Union**  
**Lewis Uses Wholesale Fraud in Election**  
BY JACK LEE.  
THE United Mine Workers of America is witnessing with amazement the wholesale fraud in the election of the National Executive Board. The United Mine Workers of America is witnessing with amazement the wholesale fraud in the election of the National Executive Board. The United Mine Workers of America is witnessing with amazement the wholesale fraud in the election of the National Executive Board.

**That Billion Dollar Dividend**  
PROFITABLE AND UNPAID dividends are being distributed to the shareholders of the United States Steel Corporation. The dividends are being distributed to the shareholders of the United States Steel Corporation. The dividends are being distributed to the shareholders of the United States Steel Corporation.

**The Arab American News**  
VOL. 33 • ISSUE NO. 1639 • JULY 8 - 14, 2017

## Local Yemenis feel marginalized as Lebanese brethren gain momentum

**THE MUNCIE POST-DEMOCRAT**  
THE ONLY DEMOCRATIC NEWSPAPER IN DELAWARE COUNTY  
WHAT ARE THEY—33 1/3 PER-CENT AMERICANS?  
Bulgian Stamps On The P.M. Democrat At Certain Falls  
THE RED-LED LAW  
There is a battle in the State House today. President. There is a battle in the State House today. President. There is a battle in the State House today. President.

**GAY** 50c  
Vol. 2, Issue 56

## ARE YOU IN THIS PICTURE?

**Activists Arrested At City Hall**

**Librarians Get To "Kiss A Homosexual!"**  
The librarians at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign have been asked to kiss a homosexual. The librarians at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign have been asked to kiss a homosexual. The librarians at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign have been asked to kiss a homosexual.

**INSIDE**

# FREEDOM'S JOURNAL.

" RIGHTEOUSNESS EXALTETH A NATION."

CORNELIUS & RUSSELL,  
Editors & Proprietors.

NEW-YORK, FRIDAY, MARCH 16, 1839.

VOL. I. NO. 1.

## TO OUR PATRONS.

IN presenting our first number to our Patrons, we solicit the confidence of persons entering upon a new and untried line of business. But a moment's reflection upon the noble objects which we have in view by the publication of this Journal; the expediency of

works of trivial importance, we shall consider it a part of our duty to recommend to our young readers, such authors as will not only enlarge their stock of useful knowledge, but such as will also serve to stimulate them to higher attainments in science.

We trust also, that through the columns of the *Freedom's Journal*, many practi-

narrative which they have published; the establishment of the republic of Hayti after years of sanguinary warfare; its subsequent progress in all the arts of civilization; and the advancement of liberal ideas in South America, where despotism has given place to free governments, and where many of our brethren now fill important civil and military stations,

of his countrymen he possessed a mind superior to his condition; although he was diligent in the business of his master, and faithful to his interest, yet by great industry and economy he was enabled to purchase his personal liberty. At the time the relations of several Indian tribes, who originally possessed the right of soil, resided in Massachusetts, Cuffee became acquainted with a woman descended from one of those tribes, named Ruth Moses, and married her. He continued in habits of industry and frugality, and soon afterwards purchased a farm of 100 acres at the point in Massachusetts.

Cuffee and Ruth had a family of ten children. The three eldest sons, David, Jonathan, and John, are farmers in the neighborhood of West Point; filling respectable situations in society, and endowed with good intellectual capacities. They are all married, and have families to whom they are giving good education. Of six daughters four are respectably married, while two remain single. Paul was born on the Island of Castaway, one of the Elizabeth Islands, near New Bedford, in the year 1750—when he was about fourteen years of age, his father died, leaving a considerable property in land, but which being at that time unproductive, afforded but little provision for his numerous family, and thus the care of supporting his mother and sisters devolved upon his brothers and himself. At this time Paul conceived that commerce furnished to industry more ample rewards than agriculture, and he set out

We wish to plead our own cause. Too long have others spoken for us. Too long

there are five persons of col- light peruse, and the publication of ation, as yet, has

with the cordial approbation of every friend in humanity.

The peculiarities of this Journal, render it important that we should advertise to the world the motives by which we are actuated, and the objects which we contemplate.

We wish to plead our own cause. Too long have others spoken for us. Too long has the publick been deceived by misrepresentations, in things which concern us dearly, though in the estimation of some mere trifles; for though there are many in society who exercise towards us benevolent feel-

ing a measure of intercourse between our brethren in the different states of this great confederacy; that through its columns an expression of our sentiments, on many interesting subjects which concern us, may be offered to the publick; that plans which apparently are beneficial may be candidly discussed and properly weighed; if worthy, receive our cordial approbation; if not, our marked disapprobation.

Useful knowledge of every kind, and every thing that relates to Africa, shall find a ready admission into our columns; and as that vast continent becomes daily more known, we trust

been devoted exclusively to their improvement—that many selections from approved standard authors, which are within the reach of few, may occasionally be made—and more important still, that this large body of our citizens have no public channel—all serve to prove the real necessity, at present, for the appearance of the *Freedom's Journal*.

It shall ever be our desire so to conduct the editorial department of our paper as to give offense to none of our patrons; as nothing is farther from us than to make it the advocate of any partial views, either in politics or religion. What few data we can number have

# Obstacles

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- Where on earth *is* the content
- Most content is still print/microfiche only
- What has been digitized is hard to find
- Paywalls
- Born-digital content isn't collected yet (!!)
- Rights. Rights. Rights. (right?)



Photo by [Leio McLaren](#) on [Unsplash](#)



# So what can we do?

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Photo by Evan Dennis, Unsplash.com



# Goal: to make more accessible the news outputs of marginalized communities, past and present.

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## Project Steps:

1. **Research** existing work in this area, seek out partnerships and avenues
2. **Create an open data collection framework and methodology** for recording info about print, microfiche, and digital news of marginalized communities as comprehensively as possible
3. **Pilot** the use of the framework and **collect data** for two communities: LGBT and African American
4. **Learn** from the process
5. **Scope** what DPLA and other partners might undertake in the future to increase access to these crucial historical sources.



# So what have we accomplished?

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# 1. Research existing work

## Bibliographies

- James Danky, 1998, *African American Newspapers and Periodicals* (Harvard)
- Tracy Baim, *Gay Press, Gay Power* list (125 pubs)

## Lists

- [The Black Press Held by the LOC](#) (Pluge, 1991)
- [Wisconsin Historical Society African American Newspapers](#)
- [Afro Newspaper Morgue Collections](#)
- [Internet Public Library](#)

## Microfilm Collections

- Underground Newspaper Collection (LC)
- Atlanta Lesbian Feminist Alliance archives
- African American Newspapers and Microfilms (LC)
- Lesbian Herstory Archives
- Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual and Transgender Historical Society

## Digitized content

- [NDNP and Chronicling America](#)
- [Muncie Times Collection](#) (Ball State)
- [Qnotes](#) (UNCCharlotte)
- [Southern Voice](#) (Kennesaw State)
- [Freedom's Journal](#) - Wisconsin Historical Society
- [Central Florida Future](#) - UCF
- [Reveal Digital - Independent Voices](#) (2019 open)
- [Newsbank-Readex](#) - African American newspapers
- [Gale](#) - Archives of Sexuality and Gender
- [Accessible Archives](#) - African-American Newspapers
- [Ebsco](#) - LGBT Life
- [ProQuest](#) - Ethnic Newswatch, Historical Black Newspapers

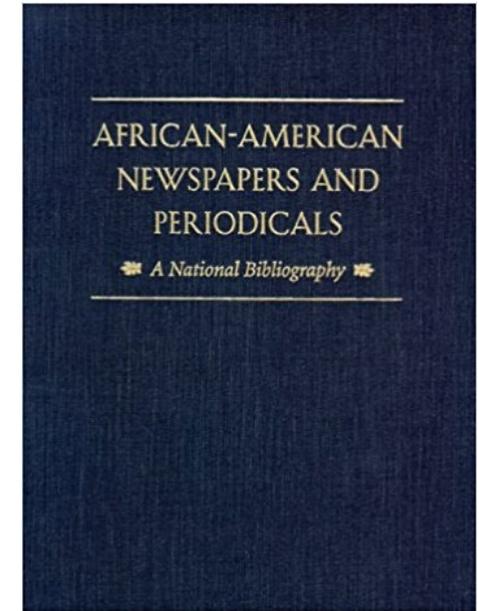
## Aggregators

- [HathiTrust](#)
- [CRL](#)
- [OCLC](#)

## 2. Create a Data Framework

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1. Building on existing works (especially James Danky's *Bibliography of African American Newspapers and Periodicals*)
2. Data framework and model vetted by 10+ leaders in news aggregation and cataloging
3. Ambition: balance between enough data to be actionable but not so much that it deters participation
4. Reality: 57 fields (none required):  
periodical (name, publisher, location, dates)  
formats (print, microfiche, digital)  
its condition and its rights information.



collecting\_institution  
title  
additional\_title  
additional\_title\_list  
tag\_line  
tag\_line\_list  
LCCN  
ISSN  
city\_of\_publication  
state\_of\_publication  
frequency\_of\_publication  
first\_publisher  
last\_publisher  
format\_print  
print\_range\_description  
format\_microfilm  
microfilm\_range\_description  
format\_digitized  
digitized\_range\_description

digitized\_range\_description  
digitized\_single\_PDF  
digitized\_individual\_pages  
digitized\_individual\_articles  
are\_individual\_articles\_saved\_separately\_as\_pdfs?  
digitized\_page\_TIFF  
digitized\_article\_TIFF  
digitized\_page\_JPEG  
digitized\_article\_JPEG  
digitized\_page\_TIFF  
digitized\_article\_JP2000  
digitized\_content\_browsable  
browsable\_date  
digitized\_text\_searchable  
digitized\_fulltext\_searchable  
digitized\_base  
digitized\_available

digitized\_paywall  
OCR\_type  
metadata\_schema  
format\_born-digital  
format\_born-digital\_describe\_url(s)  
focus\_geographical  
focus\_topical  
copyright\_status  
copyright\_status\_description  
condition\_print  
condition\_print  
condition\_microfiche  
condition\_microfiche  
condition\_digitized  
condition\_digitized  
condition\_born-digital  
condition\_born-digital  
record\_source  
record\_source\_institution

record\_source\_city  
record\_source\_state  
record\_source\_email  
OCLC\_control\_number

# 3. Collect Data

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- Crowdsourcing plea
  - Listservs (45+ association leaders across LAMs assisted)
  - Direct calls and emails to well-known archives in these two collecting areas
- Calls to major aggregators (e.g., OCLC, CRL, Readex, ProQuest, Gale, etc)
- Direct calls and emails to current news publishers in these two areas



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## 4. Analysis (preliminary)

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Framework	African American	LGBT	Total
<b>Crowdsourcing</b>	1,796 records 1,794 titles 96 institutions	3,129 records 3,126 titles 66 institutions	4,925 records 4,119 titles 132 institutions
<b>Born-digital calls</b>	62 contacted 11+ conversations 3 responses	65 contacted 2 conversations 6 responses	127 calls/emails
<b>Aggregators</b>	51,635 records 2,118 titles 2,389 institutions	5,543 records 251 titles 849 institutions	57,178 records 2,362 titles 2,453 institutions

# Data visualizations (beta)

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<https://public.tableau.com/profile/truebearing#!/vizhome/NOTMCombinedSurvey/NOTMCompositedata>

<https://public.tableau.com/profile/truebearing#!/vizhome/OCLCNOTMData/OCLCData>

# Next steps

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- *Bibliography of African American Newspapers and Periodicals* (Danky, Harvard, 1998)- digitize and bring up live (!!!)
- Directory of African American Newspapers and Periodicals - beta version launch
- White paper about the News on the Margins findings and recommendations
- Project proposals to start the work ahead



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