

2008 IFLA International Newspaper Conference

Old Issues, New Issues: Impact of Digital Technology upon Contemporary and Historic Newspapers
reported by Pär Nilsson, National Library of Sweden



A deeply concentrated audience at the conference



*(Images courtesy of
National Library Board, Singapore)*



*Edmund King, Dr N Varaprasad, Hartmut Walravens
and Ngian Lek Choh*

The conference was held at the National Library in Singapore 1-3 April 2008 and 140 delegates attended from more than 20 countries, including Australia, Brunei, Canada, China, Finland, France, Germany, Ghana, India, Indonesia, the republic of Korea, Luxemburg, Malaysia, Nepal, the Netherlands, New Zealand, the Philippines, Singapore, the United Kingdom, the United States, Vietnam and Zimbabwe.

The conference was co-organised by National Library Singapore, IFLA Newspapers Section, IFLA Preservation & Conservation Section, and IFLA Core Activity on Preservation & Conservation (PAC).

Opening speaker was Edmund King, secretary of IFLA Newspapers Section. He commented on the difficulties in keeping up with the development in

information technology and the necessary, but by no means easy, integration of new solutions into library procedures and processes. He noted, however, that conferences such as this one make it possible to exchange ideas and opinions about the rapid changes taking place in the area of newspapers.

The welcome address was given by Dr N Varaprasad, Chief Executive, National Library Board of Singapore. Dr Varaprasad stressed the importance of sharing experiences about the impact of digital technology on the preservation and access of both historic and contemporary newspapers.

In his keynote address Dr Hartmut Walravens, chair of IFLA Newspapers Section, presented a review of the past 20 years in newspaper librarianship, covering preservation, microfilming, digitization, cataloguing and

the new challenges facing librarians in the form of online newspapers. He also reflected on the role of the IFLA Newspapers Section in this context and described the Section's activities of the past decade.

During the three days there were three tracks of presentations in the two meeting rooms, appropriately called the Possibility room and the Imagination room:

1. Physical and Digital Preservation of Newspapers
2. Service and Access Models of Southeast Asian Newspapers
3. Online Newspapers

The presentations will be made available on the conference web site at:
http://blogs.nlb.gov.sg/news/paper_conf08/

Sidang pakar bincang pulihara akhbar

PARA pakar dunia dalam bidang perpustakaan dan maklumat kini berada di Singapura untuk menghadiri satu persidangan tiga hari yang akan membincangkan strategi-strategi baru dalam memulihara akhbar cetak, selain daripada menyahut cabaran yang dibawa teknologi baru kepada akhbar cetak dan juga online.

The conference received some news coverage in the Singaporean Malay newspaper Berita Harian (2 April, pg 3)

The IFLA International Newspaper Conference 2008

Report by Edward Tasikani, Faculty of Social Science Librarian, University of Zimbabwe Main Library

Introduction

The National Library Singapore hosted the IFLA International Newspaper Conference whose theme was *Old Issues, New Issues: Impact of Digital Technology upon Contemporary and historic Newspapers*. The dates were as from 1st April to 3rd of April 2008. It was a resounding success which attracted participants from Africa, Asia, Australia, Canada, Europe and the USA. This provided a cross fertilization of ideas on the digitisation and preservation of newspapers from countries at various stages in the process of digitisation of their newspaper collections.

Coverage of presentations

The Conference highlighted national newspapers as a prime source of national heritage for a country. In addition, various presentations gave an insight into the extent to which various institutions have digitised their collections. The Conference was punctuated by a variety of presentations from libraries as well as some organisations which specialise in the digitisation of collections. Pressmart world's online press; AEL Data; CCS; Gale Cengage Learning; FotoHub Zeutchel; Kodak; ProQuest; DL Consulting; Planman Technologies; Swets and Goethe-institut Singapore

sponsored the conference. The sponsors exhibited and marketed some of their wares. They explained their capabilities to handle all sizes of databases including the conversion of microfilm to digital or hard copies to digital born material making them accessible on online open access databases. Some new state of the art equipment used to convert hard copies to digital born material was on display and the specialists offered other software to go along with an online database for example Greenstone, OCR and DSpace as open source software that can be used for that purpose. During presentations it became clear that there was a need to index the material on the database to promote easy retrieval of metadata. Newspapers as one of the primary sources of information cover a wide spectrum of information. It emerged that in the process of digitisation one has to develop a plan of action and the stages to take note of during digitization of the collection. Some information might not necessarily have to be included on the database. In addition one would need to set a starting point according to user need.

Other activities

Apart from the presentations, the organizers were innovative enough to have delegates have a

chance to relate the conference with national heritage of the host country. Delegates got a chance to have a tour of Singapore's places of historical importance. This dovetailed perfectly well with the national heritages that are part of the primary information preserved in national newspapers. Delegates had a chance to visit the food market. Here, local dishes "satay" is prepared on an open market and sold for individuals to taste. These were quiet interesting in that one gets to know local inhabitants' food tastes. In line with preservation of newspapers delegates were accorded a chance to visit the Straits Times, a local newspaper publishing house. During the visit delegate were accorded a chance to have an insight into other modes news is channelled to the consumers. While delegates had a chance to observe the newspaper production line at work, they also had a chance to see the various methods used by this publishing house to preserve some of their articles.

Cultural Night and Welcome Dinner

On 2nd April, Cultural Dinner was provided in the Library's POD on level 16. This like the rest of the programme fell squarely in place with the theme of the Conference. In line with the Conferences theme, Old

Issues, News Issues, delegates had a chance to view Singaporean culture in the form of traditional dance and art. This provided funfair for those who attended. This like the rest of the items on the programme was perfectly slotted into the programme as a means of having delegates relax from the busy schedule of presentations during the day.

Conclusion

I would like to thank both organizers and sponsors of the Conference and suggest that a full list of members who attended the conference be mailed to them as a means of encouraging continuous communication amongst members working on similar projects. I would like to heartily thank IFLA and organizers of the conference for according and enabling me to attend this memorable occasion. Last but not least, I would like to thank my employer, the University of Zimbabwe for according me time to attend the conference. I hope to get the necessary moral and financial support from my employer and other well wishers to harness some of the ideas obtained at the conference to successfully digitise Zimbabwe's National Newspapers and provide the resource on an open access platform for the benefit of humanity.

This is a slightly abbreviated version of mr Tasikani's report.

National Digital Newspaper Program (NDNP)
*Library of Congress Update for the 28th Business Meeting
of the IFLA Newspaper Section Standing Committee*

The NDNP is a long-term (over 20 years) partnership project of the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) and the Library of Congress (LC) with the goal of creating a national digital resource of historically significant newspapers published between 1836 and 1922 from all the states and U.S. territories. This resource also includes a searchable database of U.S. newspapers containing bibliographic and holdings descriptions that provides users information on all formats of newspapers held in US libraries. Also included on the NDNP website

(<http://www.loc.gov/ndnp/>) are the technical specifications and guidelines used for the program. All content is freely available.

In March, 2008, the public website for the program, *Chronicling America* (<http://www.loc.gov/chroniclingamerica/>) was updated to include:

- "See All Available Newspapers," a downloadable, browsable table listing all available newspapers and dates
- 79,000 additional pages
- RSS feed and E-mail service

The database now contains over 568,000 digitalized newspaper pages representing 61 titles from six states and Washington, D.C. The institutions

participating in the program are: University of California, Riverside, University of Kentucky, University of Utah, the Library of Virginia, the New York Public Library, Minnesota Historical Society, the University of Nebraska, and the University of North Texas. An announcement of the next group of awardees (to continue and expand the NDNP program) is expected in June 2008. The time period of newspapers to be digitized will expand to 1880-1922.

Inventory Projects

Two newspaper inventory projects are in process, the Newspaper Master Negative Microfilm Inventory and the Print Newspaper Inventory. In 2009 the Library will begin an inventory of the U.S. microfilm holdings housed in the Serial and Government Publications Division. Once these inventories have been completed the Library expects to export, through batch processing, U.S. newspaper holdings to OCLC for subsequent availability through Worldcat.

Newspaper Master Negative Microfilm Inventory

In late 2006 the Library began an intensive effort to fully inventory its newspaper master negative microfilm collection,

consisting of over 240,000 microfilm reels, in order to prepare the collection for transfer to a specially designed cold storage facility. For each microfilm reel an electronic item record is created and a basic preservation condition assessment is undertaken (film type identified, vinegar syndrome detected, damage noted, reels rehoused, etc.). Summary holding records are established from the newly created item records and displayed with bibliographic information via the Library's online catalog. To date, over 150,000 reels have been processed. The project is on schedule for completion by the close of 2008.

Print Newspaper Inventory

In late 2007 the Library began an inventory of its 33,000-volume print newspaper collection in preparation for transfer to a specially designed high-density storage module at Ft. Meade, Maryland. Like the newspaper microfilm inventory, each volume will have an electronic item record with basic preservation condition assessment information. Volumes will be boxed for transfer after the collection has been inventoried and when the facility is opened in 2009. The contractor has identified over 1000 newspaper titles that have never been cataloged by the Library. The project is

scheduled for completion by the end of summer 2008.

United States Newspaper Program (USNP)

The United States Newspaper Program is a cooperative national effort among the states and the federal government to locate, catalog, and preserve on microfilm newspapers published in the United States from the eighteenth century to the present. Funding is provided by the National Endowment for the Humanities. The Library of Congress provides technical assistance. During the life of this twenty-five year program (1982-present) over 140,000 U.S. newspaper titles have been cataloged, more than 900,000 local holdings records have been created, and approximately 65 million newspaper pages have been preserved on microfilm.

The California, Illinois, Pennsylvania, and Virginia projects are still active. The National Endowment for the Humanities expects to complete all USNP projects by the end of 2009. Resulting bibliographic and holdings information has been incorporated into the newspaper directory function of the National Digital Newspaper Program's *Chronicling America* web resource and is also available from OCLC's Worldcat system.

ICON Report to IFLA Newspaper Section, March 2008

Submitted by James Simon, Center for Research Libraries (CRL)

Grant from National Endowment for the Humanities

In June 2007, ICON was awarded a \$350,000 grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities titled "Preserving Latin American Newspapers in U.S. Repositories." The 18-month grant facilitates the continuing work of ICON by pursuing the following activities:

- Reformatting in microfilm important and endangered newspapers from Latin America held in U.S. institutions.
- Cataloging Latin American newspaper holdings at partner institutions, thereby increasing the accessibility of these resources for scholars.
- Expanding the ICON Database of International Newspapers to include detailed bibliographic and holdings statements from additional participant libraries.
- Disseminating information on the availability and preservation status of Latin American newspapers by aggregating and creating unique Web content.

Preservation microfilming

Preservation activities under the current grant are well underway. Of the nine newspapers selected

(equaling nearly 250,000 pages on 200 reels of film), five are completed or in the final stages of preparation. ICON staff is awaiting the shipment of materials from participating institutions to complete long runs of material.

1. *Diario* (La Paz, Bolivia) [1904-1917] – pending.
2. *Epoca* (Montevideo, Uruguay) [1962-1967]– At filmer Jan. 2008.
3. *La Gaceta Commercial* (Valparaíso, Chile) [1929-1930] – complete.
4. *Hogera* (Lima, Peru) [1945-1950] – Shipments expected May 2008.
5. *Mercurio Peruano* [1827-1834] - Shipments expected May 2008.
6. *Telegrafo de Lima* [1827-1839] – pending.
7. *Tribuna Libre* (El Salvador) [1950- 957] – At filmer Feb. 2008.
8. *Universal* (Caracas, Venezuela) [1911-1921, 1932-1940, 1944]– complete.
9. *Universo* (Ecuador) [1951-1961] – Shipments received March 2008. In process.

ICON database of international newspapers

Work proceeds with the ICON database. In January 2008, 1,729 bibliographic and holdings records were received from the Library of Congress. These have been imported into the ICON

database. These are important records, as many contain holdings data not publicly available in electronic format prior to this time.

ICON is pursuing an assessment of Latin American bibliographic sources, such as Steven M. Charno's *Latin American Newspapers in United States Libraries*, to identify titles that require cataloging and add them to the ICON database and other bibliographic utilities.

Distributed cataloging

Ongoing work in cataloging collections at ICON partner institutions continues. Two partners, the University of Connecticut and the University of Illinois, are collating their print newspaper holdings and submitting data to the ICON cataloging coordinator for the creation of original MARC records. These records are being added to OCLC and the ICON database.

Expansion of ICON membership

In February 2008, ICON issued a call for participation to major international institutions responsible for the acquisition and preservation of newspapers in their respective countries. The expansion of participants in ICON is a goal that will help sustain the program and expand its scope.

As the news acquisition and preservation landscape continues to shift,

institutions around the globe should work together to pursue common goals and resolve challenges. ICON is a ready-made framework for such action.

In 2008, ICON will be brought under the umbrella of the **Global Resources Network**, an initiative administered by CRL to provide support for a range of programs that preserve and afford access to important knowledge and historical cultural evidence from around the globe. For more information about the Global Resources Network, see:

<http://www.crl.edu/grn/index.asp>.

Center For Research Libraries' World News Archive

CRL continues its effort to identify appropriate partners for the digitization of historical news resources. CRL and nine affiliated U.S. institutions with significant international news content are discussing terms with several prospective partners to convert and host digital versions of newspapers and other news content from around the globe. Emphasis is being placed on supporting developing regions without adequate capacity to digitize their own resources. The first phase of activity will focus on public domain materials from Latin America, though the program will ideally expand its scope to encompass all world regions and all time periods.

Personnel changes

In January 2008, Project Coordinator Linda Ronan departed the Center for Research Libraries. A recruitment search for a new coordinator is underway. All inquiries regarding the program can be sent to Project Director James Simon (simon@crl.edu)

Find out more about ICON at: <http://icon.crl.edu/>

News on Canadian newspaper digitization

British Colonist issues online

“Part of the University of Victoria's digital collections, this is the first digitization effort of a major daily, historical newspaper in British Columbia. Although not the first newspaper in British Columbia, the British Colonist newspaper survives today as the Times-Colonist and began publishing on December 11, 1858. Contents can be browsed or searched for full-text”

<http://bchistoryportal.tc.ca/SPT--FullRecord.php?ResourceId=693>

For a comprehensive list of newspaper digitization projects go to: <http://icon.crl.edu/digitization.htm>

Delivery of newspaper PDF files at the National Library of Norway

By Mona Løkås, National Library of Norway

In 2007 the National Library of Norway started cooperating with two Norwegian newspapers (Aftenposten and Adresseavisen) on daily deliveries of PDF files. It is the high quality PDF files used for printing which are delivered. The quality of the PDF files is important in view of the long-term preservation of the newspapers.

The microfilming of the two newspapers delivered as PDF files has ceased. There is now ongoing work on creating an interface to replace the usage of microfilm in for example reading rooms and to provide a service for the microfilm subscribers. Even though the library receives

PDF files of newspapers, we always preserve the printed newspaper as well. According to the Norwegian legal deposit law for publically available documents, the National Library is required to preserve the documents in the form they were published. This also ensures that all supplements distributed with the printed newspaper are delivered and preserved. The PDF versions do not contain supplements with only advertisements, but many newspapers have regular weekly supplements and these are included in the PDF files.

The file names of the delivered files follow a naming standard:

```
<title_timeofedition_zone_date_
volume_number_edition>-
<sequentialnumber_pagenumber_
supplementtitle>.pdf
```

This naming standard makes it possible to automatically transfer the files to its own metadata system and we are not planning to add further metadata manually. The responsibility for the content and the delivery of the files lies with the librarians handling acquisition

Many of the large Norwegian newspapers are published in different editions, which may vary on a daily or weekly basis, with for example individual pages for different regions. All these editions are delivered to us as PDF files. The National Library has

developed a system to ensure that all the delivered files are quality controlled and logged. In this way we can be sure that the files are complete and contain even pages that have gone missing in the printed paper.

The plan now is to increase the number of newspapers delivering PDF files and we are having discussions with several potential partners. Many Norwegian newspaper publishers wish to cooperate with the National Library, thanks to the ongoing digitization program.

Find out more about the National Library of Norway and its digitization program: <http://www.nb.no/english/facts>

Archiving and access at Sai Gon Giai Phong Newspapers

Truc Nguyen Tan Thanh, Chief Librarian, Sai Gon Giai Phong (SGGP) newspapers

I work for the Sai Gon Giai Phong (SGGP) newspapers, which has invested in an e-library since 2004. SGGP is a reliable brand name in Vietnamese media and has

developed since 1975. If you search Southeast Asia collections or Vietnamese Studies in some famous library, you will find this brand name. Not only are the

main titles being held in libraries in Vietnam, but these newspapers have also been stored in foreign libraries like Library of Congress, Cornell

University, Harvard-Yenching, University of Washington.

SGGP started with daily newspapers, then had the

supplements named *SGGP Weekly* in Vietnamese and in Chinese, *Daily* in Chinese, *SGGP Sport* in Vietnamese. In 2006, SGGP continued to expand to *SGGP Investment-Finance* in Vietnamese; *SGGP 12 h* (Afternoon News) in Vietnamese and *SGGP Guide* in English for foreign tourists.

Since 2005, we have archived all electronic version of print papers for all the titles above.

We have also indexed for main titles like *SGGP Daily* in Vietnamese since 2000 and *SGGP Weekly* in Vietnamese since 1991. and for the titles established since 2007, we have indexed for all. These databases can be accessed by remote customers by registering a private account. We provided this service for The General Sciences Library of HoChiMinh City and Library of the Television of HCMC.

At the end of each year, we also back-up the database for each title in each year following the hierarchical structure (year/month/day/number). These products we exchange with Library of Congress since 2006, and the Harvard-Yenching Library has just acquired these products and promises that this cooperation will be developed in the future.

Now we are planning to digitize all lacking numbers in electronic version from

the printed paper, starting with priority for the period of 2000-2005 and indexing for all years since 1975 up to 1999. There are some challenges for us to do these burdensome things retrospectively, especially in the budget for digitization. We are very much hoping to find the cooperation with other libraries outside our country.

A longer article by the author on Vietnamese newspapers is planned for a future issue of the newsletter.

HOT OFF THE PRESS!

Just off the press as Nr 133 in the IFLA Publications Series:

Newspapers collection management: printed and digital challenges / La gestión de la colecciones de periódicos: desafíos en impresos y digitales

This volume offers presentations at the most recent events of the IFLA Newspapers Section (Santiago de Chile, May 2007 and Durban, August 2007). The Santiago International Newspaper Conference as the first of its kind, aimed at taking stock of the Latin American newspaper collection and analyzing current needs and activities in the field which range from the basics to sophisticated digitization and software technologies. In order to make the results of this event generally available to the library community most presentations are offered here in Spanish and in English.

This publication focuses on the key issues in newspaper librarianship - preservation and access - in which digitization is a very important tool. The volume reflects the latest developments as well as the many challenges ahead.

Newspapers collection management: printed and digital challenges; La gestión de la colecciones de periódicos: desafíos en impresos y digitales. Edited by / Editado por Hartmut Walravens, Munich: K.G. Saur, 2008 (IFLA Publications; 133), ISBN 978-3-598-22039-5, Price: EUR 98,00 (EUR 73,50 for IFLA Members)

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Have you got news for us?

The editor of the News from IFLA Section on Newspapers would like to invite you to submit any articles, announcements, upcoming conferences, and news in general on the topic of providing and preserving access to newspapers and the news in your country or region. Please contact *Pär Nilsson* at par.nilsson@kb.se or write to: Pär Nilsson, Newspapers and Ephemera, National Library of Sweden, Box 5039, SE-102 41 Stockholm, Sweden