

SOPAG/CDC Task Force on CDL-Licensed News Resources  
**Report to the Collection Development Committee**  
University of California Libraries, December 13, 2006

**Appendix C: Database Descriptions and Analyses**

Access World News	p. 1
AltPressWatch	p. 5
America's Historical Newspapers	p. 6
Ethnic News Watch	p. 8
Factiva	p. 9
GenderWatch	p. 11
LexisNexis Academic	p. 12
ProQuest Current Newspapers	p. 14
ProQuest Historical Newspapers	p. 15

## **ACCESS WORLD NEWS**

### **General Product Description:**

*Access World News* is a product of the NewsBank company which has long supplied news resources to a variety of audiences. They moved from microform products targeted to specific audiences into the electronic delivery of full text of a paper. It offers some specialized products separately, such as *Global NewsBank* and full images of selected major newspapers, not just text. *Access World News* contains 1903 newspapers at this time.

### **Dates of Coverage**

Coverage dates vary by title. Though a few begin coverage in the 1980s, many began in the late 1990s and later. Where there is title overlap, *Factiva* often has the longer run. Though updates are posted daily, the delay for some papers varies from 1-14 days. .

### **Nature of Content**

The package which UCI has licensed has these characteristics:

- Supply full text access to newspapers from around the world. No images or graphics are available.
- Except for the Spanish language Noticias portion of the database, the text is in English
- Some of the foreign language papers are not a translation of the original text, but the English language version with selected text.
- Is not specific subject coverage as you get in sources such as *Factiva* or *Global NewsBank* but the full text of the paper.
- What is not included are those articles or features which are copyrighted by someone other than the newspaper itself. Copyright law applies for those items.
- Time span is not yet considered historical.
- Aiming for an affordable product that is aimed at a general market, not an intense academic market

### **Search and Display Characteristics**

- All text is in English, except a few of the Spanish language papers in the *Acceda Noticias*. This makes searching across newspapers from around the world much easier, especially for a novice audience. Searching *Noticias* is better done in Spanish.
- When down to a specific title level, can select a specific day and search the whole paper. This feature is not always readily visible. One needs to know this feature exists and scroll down to the bottom of the search page after selecting a specific title.
- Has just article coverage. Does not include advertisements or copyrighted material that is not available without author permission
- Coverage is from small local U.S. papers to foreign and international news sources. When searching, the user can limit to everything from a specific paper to a state or to a region or to a country or to the world.
- Search
  - Can be from either from a simple search or a more complex Advanced search
  - Can limit a search by date but if looking for very recent articles, need to know the lapse time for getting newest material. Even though there is a drop down menu for "Today or yesterday", it does not insure that coverage for some papers.
  - Can specify display by date or relevance
  - Can limit search to specific geographic or specific news paper
  - For Spanish language newspapers can search in either English or Spanish
  - Can select area of the world from a map and from a list of countries arranged by continent
  - Can also limit search to full text, lead paragraph, headlines, author, section, edition, caption, page and source.
  - Has both help screens and a useful tutorial
- Company has been responsive to ideas for changes in search function, layout, etc.

- No graphics such as pictures or charts

**Problems**

- Many of the versions included are not the full coverage one would get if it were in that foreign language but is the English version which is not always as complete
- Some major titles are not included in *Access World News*, e.g. *Le Monde*; *Los Angeles Times*.
- Heavy use by lower division classes but sometimes hard to get a good search. Many of them are not used to searching a full-text database which is different than a subject index database
- Scholars who would want full text of foreign databases will not find what they want
- Has good breadth of coverage, but not always depth some academics want.
- No graphics and photos can sometimes be a problem as they could be central to an article. But not including them is how the cost is kept low..
- Not having full content that includes advertisements, special features, syndicated features, reduces its value to some academic researchers, but usually not the general user.

**Browser Compatibility:**

*Access World News* is compatible with most browsers, depending upon the version. This information is provided with the help screens. See below:

Requirements	Minimum	Recommended
Netscape Navigator	7.1	8.0 or newer
MS Internet Explorer	5.0	6.0 or newer
Firefox	1.0	1.5 or newer
Opera	8	9.0 or newer
Safari	1.2	1.3.1 or newer

**Overlap**

- Major overlaps are with *Factiva* and *LexisNexis*. *Business Source Premier* also has some overlap but I would like to see more analysis of those specific titles. NewsBank does not consider it significant. Some overlap with Gale.
- As the overlap dates are examined, *Factiva* often has longer runs.
- *Serials Solutions* indicates 1462 unique titles with at least some overlap of 342 titles. This compares *Access World News*, *Factiva* and *LexisNexis News*. Percentage wise that is an 8.7% overlap and 76.8% unique titles. All three sources combined had a total of 16,271 titles with 12,729 being unique.
- The local newspapers are probably much of their t unique coverage. Many local papers are the smaller papers. California is exceptionally well covered.

**Cataloging:**

The consortial subscription included MARC cataloging records which have been supplied to the shared cataloging group. Not all campuses chose to load these records. They are also stand alone records and not one record for each title so how they tie to existing microfilm or paper holdings at each campus will vary. Usually there will more than one record per title. At UCI they are loaded and contain the link to the paper, the PID and the beginning year of coverage. The link goes right to the single title with the option to browse any day's paper or to search by subject. I do not know if that will change with the new system of linking to the SFX UC-eLinks.

*Access World News* is open URL compliant.

**Reliability and Stability of Content:**

So far, the content has remained stable. However, with the sale of the Knight-Ridder papers to McClatchy and others, it could change. Current indications are it should stay fairly stable. New papers may be added but these will not be added to our subscription without re-negotiation. New papers are not added automatically. We are also waiting to see the outcome of the law suit over the *Los Angeles Times* and also any possible management changes. These issues are more the news happening about newspapers than anything Readex can control.

**Other**

- I hear people say that the overlap with *Factiva* looks good on paper but the method of searching Factiva is so bad we could never put our numerous basic search students there and have hopes of a successful search. LexisNexis takes some explaining on how to search as well.
- As packages are put together by publishers for their various markets, there will be overlap we cannot control. What we might need to evaluate is whether the overlap is in significant titles from major newspapers.
- Packages make it hard to eliminate overlap.
- How would we track overlap or specific titles? Just having a cataloging record by title is not enough.
- How many catalogs allow genre searching so you can limit to newspapers?
- If we dropped some package like LexisNexis, we also lose some unique titles? What are they and is it worth it? Can we separate the newspapers from the rest of LN Academic?

(Kay Collins)

## **AltPressWatch**

### **Description:**

AltPressWatch is a multi-disciplinary full text database of more than 170 newspapers, magazines and journals from alternative and independent presses, covering a wide range of topics in contemporary society and culture pertaining to local, regional, national and international issues.

**Value of the Database:** The range of resources included provides both scholarly and alternative perspectives on issues from resources that are often otherwise difficult to obtain.

**Coverage:** Varies. 1970 to date. Over 190,000 articles from over 170 publications. Completely full text.

**Nature of Content:** Includes abstracts and full text that is indexed and searchable; text of results is displayed in html, and does not include graphics/illustrations.

**Overlap or not?** There is some overlap with GenderWatch and Ethnic NewsWatch, but very little outside of these three databases.

**Search and Display capabilities:** Offers both Basic and Advanced search options. Basic search (single box/keyword) allows Boolean, truncation, field tagging, as well as searching across several ProQuest databases, with useful limits for scholarly journals and biographical materials. The Advanced Search offers multiple search boxes for searching by specific fields, including document type, in addition to features in Basic Search. Not clear that cover to cover browsing is possible, though it is possible to search simply for a publication title.

Useful help screens, and useful links to specifically needed information once search selections are made.

**Cataloging Issues:** Open URLs are available. MARC records are available and the vast majority of titles have been distributed through SCP.

**Browser Compatibility:** Similar to all other ProQuest products. Recommends IE 5.0 or higher or Netscape 4.5 or higher.

**Reliability and stability:** Some titles have limited runs in the database (approx. ¼), due some to their own publishing histories.

(Lucia Snowhill)

## **America's Historical Newspapers, 1690-1876 including Early American Newspapers, Series I**

**General description:** EAN is a digital archive of American newspapers from the colonial period through the middle of the 19<sup>th</sup> century, based on the Readex microform archive of the same name. It currently provides UC with the only broad digital collection of daily and weekly newspapers for that era. Individual newspapers can be browsed by day or week, or the database can be searched collectively or by individual papers or any groupings of papers. Because it is part of the Readex Archive of Americana, it can also be searched together with Early American Imprints, American State Papers, and the U.S. Congressional Serials Set.

**Value of the Database:** Early American Newspapers are an essential primary source for the study of U.S. history in the 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> centuries. It is used not only by students and scholars in US History, but also in a variety of disciplines doing historical studies (e.g., Ethnic Studies, Gender Studies, Urban Studies, Political Science.)

**Coverage:** Series I includes 754 newspapers from 24 U.S. states (including their years as colonies), and is essentially complete. Serials Solutions lists 966 titles as of August 2006, but this number includes the first newspapers from the just-introduced EAN Series II and III, which are not being broken out. Series II and III would bring the coverage to the rest of the U.S. and would expand coverage in the mid- to later-19<sup>th</sup> century.

Because EAN is based on microfilm from specific archival collections, coverage of individual newspapers varies greatly, ranging from many years in major cities to a few months (or even single issues) of smaller titles and in smaller towns. Geographic coverage is also mixed: extensive coverage in the Northeastern states (more than 160 titles in New York state); much fewer in others (for example one each in Arkansas and West Virginia); and nothing in the remaining 24 western states. So the gap in CDL's current coverage is both geographic (nothing in what we would consider the West) and chronological (not much after mid-19<sup>th</sup> century.) This gap could be dealt with either by EAN Series II and III, the Thomson Gale product just announced (19<sup>th</sup> Century Newspapers) or other digital products or collections that may come along. For every issue included, content is cover-to-cover. Most content is in English, but there are also a number of newspapers serving French and German-speaking communities.

**Nature of the Content:** Full text has been indexed and is searchable, but results are displayed as page-mapped images (i.e., images of each page, with each article image retrieved either from the page or a table of contents on the side.)

**Overlap or not?** It duplicates the Readex microform collection of the same name at one or more UC campuses. The only known potential overlap with a commercial product is Thomson Gale's 19<sup>th</sup> Century Newspapers, and while both vendors state there will be very little duplication, actual title lists were not available until September 2006 and have yet to be analyzed closely. Other source of potential duplication might be from competing products not yet announced, or public-domain digitizing projects undertaken in individual states, but the scope, coverage, interfaces and quality of such projects are likely to vary greatly and, in many states, may be nonexistent. (Research on what projects might be underway could start with the website of the US Newspaper Project <http://www.neh.gov/projects/usnp.html>).

**Search and Display Capabilities:** Migration to a new interface is scheduled at momentarily, to better integrate with the recently released Series II and III, with only a first glance on September 13 at a demo version. So comments below are based on the original interface.

Both search and browse modes are available. Individual newspapers may be browsed by issue and by page. Search capability allows limit by publication type and date and in "advanced" searching either by headline/title or full text (but not by author or any form of subject descriptors).

Each page is “mapped” so individual articles can be viewed either by clicking on its location in the page or on an adjoining table of contents for each page. Easy to produce an open URL for each article, easy to navigate back and forth between article, page and issue. Results can be downloaded (with the usual Readex 25-pages at a time limit), viewed and printed as PDF, and saved to a folder during the session. Help is available through an online guide, though not context-sensitive help.

**Cataloging Issues:** Currently, 274 of the EAN titles have been cataloged with PIDs, about 30 percent of the more than 800 titles analyzed from the original microform version. Providing 856 field links to all titles is presumably in the queue. Currently MELVYL largely only reflects holdings at UCSD, but the link will work for all campuses.

Open URLs are a problem though because almost all of the titles lack ISSNs, which seem to be part of the CDL/SFX definition of open URL. For that reason, all the links go directly to the EAN menu of all newspapers. There have been discussions about creating “fake” ISSNs alleviate this. The alternative may be using stable URLs rather than open URLs.

**Browser Compatibility:** Netscape Navigator 7.1 or newer; Firefox 1.0 or newer; Internet Explorer 5.0 or newer. Readex technical support considers Safari to be unstable and have not evaluated for compatibility.

**Reliability and Stability of Content:** Since the content is based on archived newspaper microform collections, titles are not going to come and go. Reliability/stability of the digital collection itself is as good as the license.

(Elliot Kanter)

## **Ethnic NewsWatch**

**Description:** The Ethnic NewsWatch database contains comprehensive full text coverage of news, culture and history from 264 publications of the ethnic, minority and native press from both journals and newspapers that provide alternative viewpoints from the mainstream press. Publications continue to be added to the database. More than 7,500 new articles are added each month. Ethnic NewsWatch is searchable in both English and Spanish, with titles in both languages; slightly less than 1/4 of the articles are in Spanish.

**Value of the database:** Coverage of resources outside of mainstream publication and often difficult to acquire. Complementary to mainstream news and research sources.

**Coverage:** Varies. Nearly 500,000 complete articles dating back to 1990 are available, along with a few archival materials dating back as far as the mid 1960's. . Approx. 1/3 of the titles begin with coverage 1996 or later. As of 7/20/06 there were 1,108,477 articles (with 237,984 of them in Spanish) in the database.

**Nature of Content:** Full text is indexed and searchable; text of results is displayed in html, and does not include graphics/illustrations.

**Overlap or not?** There is some overlap with GenderWatch and AltPressWatch, but very little outside of these three databases.

**Search and Display capabilities:** Offers both Basic and Advanced search options. Basic search (single box/keyword) allows Boolean, truncation, field tagging, as well as searching across several ProQuest databases, with useful limits for scholarly journals and biographical materials. The Advanced Search offers multiple search boxes for searching by specific fields, including document type, in addition to features in Basic Search. Not clear that cover to cover browsing is possible, though it is possible to search simply for a publication title.

Useful help screens, and useful links to specifically needed information once search selections are made.

**Cataloging Issues:** Open URL compliant, and MARC records are available. The vast majority have been cataloged by SCP.

**Browser Compatibility:** Similar to all other ProQuest products. Recommends IE 5.0 or higher or Netscape 4.5 or higher.

**Reliability and stability:** Some titles have limited runs in the database (approx. ¼), due some to their own publishing histories.

(Lucia Snowhill)

## **FACTIVA**

### **General description**

Business and news database from Dow Jones and Reuters. 10,000 sources, global coverage, including regional and industry publications. Acquired in December 2005 as a major news and business information service, supported by the business and economics bibliographers. License: Tier 2 acquisition negotiated on behalf of seven participating campuses: UC Berkeley, UC Davis, UC Irvine, UCLA, UC Merced, UC Riverside, and UC San Diego.

### **Coverage**

Date coverage varies; many major newspapers back to early 80's, other news titles vary.

**Nature of the Content:** Content ranges from trade and industry publications to general and financial newspapers, newswires, media transcripts, web sites, photographs, and more. Content is from 152 countries in 22 languages. Newspapers in foreign languages are made available in the vernacular, rather than in translation, although there are sometimes English language abstracts as a separate source (for example, Le Monde). Includes more than 120 continuously updated newswires, including the exclusive combination of Dow Jones, Reuters, and The Associated Press. Includes more than 500 newswires, many from business organizations. More than 900 sources are available on or before the date of publication. Includes television and radio transcripts from BBC, ABC, CBS, NBC, Fox, CNN, and NPR.

### **Overlap or not**

Using Serials Solutions, 84 % of *Factiva* (news titles) is unique when compared with *LexisNexis Academic News* titles. Only 110 of 2000 or so titles overlap completely, a 2.7 % overlap. Compared to *Access World News*, there is a 9% overlap (345 titles that overlap completely or partially). One difference between the two is that *Factiva* contains a substantial number of titles in foreign languages; *Access World News* is in English.

**Search and Display Capabilities** Search interface is available in multiple languages. Search interface is difficult to use effectively. Free text search (single box) requires use of Boolean connectors; this is only apparent when you click on the Examples link. Search interface allows limiting by date, language, search or limit by subject, company or industry. When limiting in the current search interface you must be sure to add in Boolean connector to link the limit with the search terms; this is not intuitive. A variety of display formats is available.

Easy to use browse by categories (Front page, Marketplace) for last two weeks of WSJ, NYT, LAT, Chicago tribune, Washington Post.

A new "Search 2.0 Beta tab provides a single box search that does not require Boolean connectors and also a more advanced helpful "More search options" page. Sort by relevance or date. Date and source limits. However, searching is limited to a 90-day archive. There are no plans to increase this as of yet.

Newspaper coverage is browseable by region and county via a tree structure.

### **Reliability and Stability of Content:**

Content seems stable. *Factiva* occasionally issues a title update list.

License: Tier 2 acquisition negotiated on behalf of seven participating campuses: UC Berkeley, UC Davis, UC Irvine, UCLA, UC Merced, UC Riverside, and UC San Diego.

Open URL and SFX: Non-compliant. In September of 2006, *Factiva* reported they are working with ExLibris but do not yet have a project timeline.

Cataloging: SCP has no plans at this time to catalog the individual titles, since it is not open-URL, nor can one link to a specific title or a way to look up a specific title.

Browser compatibility: Windows: Internet Explorer 5.5 or higher: Firefox version 1.0.2 or higher  
\*\* Macintosh: Safari 1.2+ (administrator capabilities supported only on Internet Explorer via Windows)

Thank you to *Factiva* CDL Liaison: Michael Oppenheim, UCLA, who assisted with obtaining a *Factiva* title list and information about the interface.

(Linda Kennedy)

## **GenderWatch**

### **Description:**

GenderWatch provides full text of scholarly journals, magazines, newspapers, newsletters, regional publications, books, and reports from governmental and non-governmental organizations. The focus of the database is on gender impact in a wide range of subject areas. With its inclusion of materials as far back as 1970, it provides resources on the development and evolution of the women's movement and changing gender roles.

**Value of the Database:** The range of resources included provide both scholarly and alternative perspectives on issues related to gender. The resources are often otherwise difficult to obtain.

**Coverage:** Varies. GenderWatch now has over 110,269 articles from 208 publications.

**Nature of Content:** Includes abstracts and full text that is indexed and searchable; text of results is displayed in html, and does not include graphics/illustrations.

**Overlap or not?** There is some overlap with GenderWatch and AltPressWatch, but very little outside of these three ProQuest diversity databases.

**Search and Display capabilities:** Offers both Basic and Advanced search options. Basic search (single box/keyword) allows Boolean, truncation, field tagging, as well as searching across several ProQuest databases, with useful limits for scholarly journals and biographical materials. The Advanced Search offers multiple search boxes for searching by specific fields, including document type, in addition to features in Basic Search. Not clear that cover to cover browsing is possible, though it is possible to search simply for a publication title.

Useful help screens, and useful links to specifically needed information once search selections are made.

**Cataloging Issues:** Open URLs are available. MARC records are available and the vast majority of titles have been distributed through SCP.

**Browser Compatibility:** Similar to all other ProQuest products. Recommends IE 5.0 or higher or Netscape 4.5 or higher.

**Reliability and stability:** There are limited runs of about 1/3 to 1/2 of the titles in the database, potentially due to their own publishing histories as much as stability in the database itself.

(Lucia Snowhill)

## **LexisNexis Academic**

**General description:** Academic market packaging of content from Lexis and Nexis database services, incorporating thousands of primarily full-text news, business, and legal publications, some core and some marginal.

**Coverage:** Depth varies widely by publication, but most are at best back to the 1980s or 1990s. Updates are made throughout the day for some feeds, but daily is the most typical. Some news sources are posted on a delayed basis a day or more after actual release.

**Value of the Database:** Offers something for almost every discipline spanning the undergraduate and graduate curricula, although other services can compete with it on specific slices (Factiva for news, Westlaw Campus for legal).

**Nature of Content:** The public source list carries more than 6300 titles, of which some 4200 are coded broadly as “news” of various types (papers, wires, transcripts, newsletters, trade journals). True newspapers in the system number approximately 1100. Around 750 of these are classed as true “full text,” with others noted as selected full text or abstracts/summaries. English is the overwhelming language of the newspapers, with Spanish, Dutch, French, German, Italian, and Portuguese also represented. All are presented in plain text. Indexing keywords are applied to many news articles.

**Overlap or not?** All sources within LexisNexis overlap most frequently with content in Factiva (13.4% full holding overlap) and Access World News (3.8% full holding overlap), although the extent of \*news\* overlap with Factiva is difficult to determine with precision owing to metadata inconsistencies and gaps in the vendor source lists.. The Los Angeles Times and New York Times are also provided here by ProQuest.

**Search and Display Capabilities:** The current interface offers “quick” (single box with date pulldowns) and “guided” (advanced multi-field) searching screens for its news content. By design, the guided screens are further subdivided into scores of news content collections (by subject, type, region, language), meaning there is no unified searching of all the news content other than through the simple and limited “quick” box. Results are sortable by date or relevance, and the search function stops when more than 1,000 items will be retrieved. Issue browsing is not supported. The system does provide stable URLs that populate pre-formatted search forms for specific news titles. Printing and e-mailing of results are supported online, although full-text views are exportable only one by one.

Two major technical upgrades are in the works. First, LexisNexis is working with ExLibris to test a new API that will support inbound (target) linking of articles via OpenURL. Links have been released in a recent SFX knowledge base update, and CDL is testing link validity.. In addition, LexisNexis is in the midst of a major platform and interface upgrade that will make its Academic product more like the powerful Nexis commercial service, with an improved (more unified) search interface, aggregated searching of content, advanced classification of results, better exporting, and more. This revamp will be unveiled at ALA Midwinter 2007 and implemented summer 2007.

**Cataloging Issues:** OpenURL access to specific journals and articles is not yet available, but is anticipated (see section above). Over 750 titles within (primarily law reviews and major newspapers) have been cataloged on Melvyl and provide online links to pre-formatted search forms for specific publications. Still, not all titles are cataloged, which may drive down usage.

**Browser Compatibility:** System documentation cites IE, Netscape, Safari, Firefox, and AOL browsers as compatible.

**Reliability and Stability of Content:** The trend in recent years has been for a net increase in titles available, with “adds” outnumbering “deletes” by a considerable margin. For example, 2005

saw 200 additions and 14 deletions; 2006 has 327 adds and 76 deletes thus far. The service remains a third-party aggregation that can fall victim to publisher decisions to exclude titles from the academic market. Some notable recent losses (Le Monde, Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung) have been restored after negotiation.

(Harold Colson)

## **ProQuest Current Newspapers**

**General description:** Indexes all editorial content of recent decades for these three major, quasi-national newspapers, but only text can be viewed. Some additional content is not included. Part of the ProQuest National Newsstand product, which includes many other newspapers not licensed by CDL.

**Coverage:** Los Angeles Times, 1985-current; New York Times, 1980-current; Wall Street Journal, 1984-current.

**Value of the Database:** Full text access to these papers is essential for research at all levels. And it is currently the only alternative for the Los Angeles Times.

**Nature of the Content:** Full text of all editorial content has been indexed; also subject indexing and/or descriptions and captions of published images in articles and editorial cartoons. Other categories of material such as advertising, birth and death notices (but obituaries are), real estate listings, entertainment listings (but reviews are included). Results are displayed only as ASCII text. For results not part of articles which are entirely graphic (such as editorial cartoons or photographs), only indexing is provided. One exception: articles from the New York Times Sunday Book Review and Magazine sections are retrieved in PDF form.

**Overlap or not?** New York Times content (text only) 1980-current is included in LexisNexis, with the omission of various syndicated and/or copyrighted material, and in Access World News, 2000-current (the "Electronic Edition of Record"). Los Angeles Times is also covered by *Factiva* and (latest 6 months only) by LexisNexis. Wall Street Journal is also covered by *Factiva*.

**Search and Display Capabilities:** Search interface offers two modes: Basic (keyword search box with date ranges and limits) and Advanced (searching by multiple fields, including subject, person, author, document type, location, dateline, section and page). It is also possible to search simultaneously two or three of the available newspapers, and also combine searches with all of the other current ProQuest databases (including the three "diversity" databases we are including in our analysis. But it is **not** possible to combine with the historical versions of the newspapers: ProQuest historical databases are currently segregated from the others.

Cover-to-cover browsing of individual issues is also supported. Results may be viewed as full text or citations with index terms and "abstracts" (usually the lead paragraphs). Graphics cannot be displayed, but descriptions/captions are provided. Results can be saved and repurposed in a variety of ways: emailed, downloaded, saved as a web page of references, or exported to such utilities as Endnote and Reference Manager and even to create for emailing, Help is available both as context sensitive search tips and also as quick and detailed user guides

**Cataloging Issues:** Open URLs are available and used to go into the correct location for browsing each of the three newspapers. But with the latest ProQuest platform, there are problems discovered with the search feature also available on the browse page.

**Browser Compatibility:** Recommends Internet Explorer 5.01 or higher; Netscape Navigator 6.01 or higher; will also handle Netscape Navigator 4.75. Provides a Browser Health Check [http://www.il.proquest.com/techsupport/docs/health\\_check.shtml](http://www.il.proquest.com/techsupport/docs/health_check.shtml) to diagnose compatibility of browser being used.

**Reliability and Stability of Content:** Content is limited to three specific newspapers, so titles will not be likely to appear or disappear; reliability and stability are as good as the terms of the license.

(Elliot Kanter)

## **ProQuest Historical Newspapers**

**General description:** Provides historical archive of the complete content of every “available” issue for these three major, quasi-national newspapers, from the first issue to the beginning of the “current” segment also provided by ProQuest. (ProQuest offers comparable historical digital archives for only six other newspapers, not acquired by CDL: Washington Post, Christian Science Monitor, Chicago Tribune, Atlanta Constitution, Boston Globe and Hartford Courant. ProQuest representative reports a collaborative project possibly underway to produce a historical archive for a San Francisco newspaper.

**Value of the Database:** Full text access to these papers is essential for research at all levels. And it is currently the only alternative for the Los Angeles Times.

**Coverage:** Los Angeles Times, 1886-1985; New York Times, 1851-2003 (apparently new issues being digitized behind a 3 year moving wall ); Wall Street Journal, 1889-1989.

**Nature of the Content:** Full text has been indexed and is searchable; results are displayed as PDF of articles or full pages and “page maps” on which individual articles can be identified and retrieved. Coverage is complete: All photographs, drawings, maps, cartoons, display and classified advertising, real estate listings, obituaries, legal notices, even entertainment listings (radio, TV, movies, plays, concerts, etc.) Every surviving page is included for both search and display.

**Overlap or not?** New York Times content 1980-current is included in LexisNexis, but only text: no page images, no graphics of any kind, no browseability, omission of various syndicated and/or copyrighted material. *Factiva* provides modest overlap of selected coverage from Wall Street Journal, June 1979 to 1983.

**Search and Display Capabilities:** Search interface offers two modes: Basic (keyword search box with date ranges and limits) and Advanced (searching by multiple fields, including author, document type, dateline, section and page). It is also possible to search simultaneously some or all of the available historical newspapers, and also ProQuest other historical database American Periodicals Series Online. But it is **not** possible to combine with the current versions of the newspapers: ProQuest historical databases are currently segregated from the others.

Cover-to-cover browsing of individual issues is also supported. Results may be viewed as PDF of individual articles or complete pages (as PDF or page maps). Results can be saved and repurposed in a variety of ways: emailed, downloaded, saved as a web page of references, or exported to such utilities as Endnote and Reference Manager and even to create for emailing. Help is available both as context sensitive search tips and also as quick and detailed user guides.

**Cataloging Issues:** Open URLs are available and used to go into the correct location for browsing the individual newspapers. But with the latest ProQuest platform, there are problems discovered with the search feature also available on the browse page.

**Browser Compatibility:** Recommends Internet Explorer 5.01 or higher; Netscape Navigator 6.01 or higher; will also handle Netscape Navigator 4.75. Provides a Browser Health Check [http://www.il.proquest.com/techsupport/docs/health\\_check.shtml](http://www.il.proquest.com/techsupport/docs/health_check.shtml) to diagnose compatibility of browser being used.

**Reliability and Stability of Content:** Content is a specific and complete historical archive, licensed for perpetual access, and within those terms is not going to change

(Elliot Kanter)