

Library Research Workshop

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<https://calendar.lib.unc.edu/appointments/amyfader>

Today You Will

- Work as a group to learn about library databases and resources by
 - examining features of a library database
 - examining a resource found within this database
- Discuss the database and the resource as a group
- Organize your thoughts and prepare some key points
- Share that information with the class

Explore an E-Resource - ProQuest Historical Newspapers

Examine the features of this database by visiting the links below. As you explore, consider these questions:

- What general information did you learn about the collection?
 - This collection houses centuries worth of newspapers, containing 500M documents, including 6 regional and special collections. It allows you to look at the original coverage of historical events from local, contemporary, and firsthand perspectives that are generally more difficult to find in national media.
- What kind of material does it contain? Can you find a list of titles included?
 - It contains newspaper collections; there are lists of newspaper titles, but they also offer groupings of newspapers based on what kind of topics you might be interested in: US, Canada, International, Black newspapers, Jewish newspapers
- Do you have a sense of what time period or location these materials cover? (“No” or “Sort of” is an okay answer here, sometimes it is hard to nail down.)
 - This database encapsulates a vast geographic landscape as well as time periods. There are different collections on newspapers in Canada, U.S., and

International Collections spanning history; the earliest I found was a 1719 English newspaper.

Link to the item in UNC Libraries catalog

<https://catalog.lib.unc.edu/catalog/UNCb7021427>

(within the database, explore the publications tab)

More information from the vendor's website

<https://about.proquest.com/en/products-services/pq-hist-news/>

Explore an Item from ProQuest Historical Newspapers

As you examine the document below, consider:

- What is your initial response to this item? (Does it seem easy or hard to understand? What kinds of thoughts and feelings does it conjure up?)
 - This article is very easy to understand, in large part because of how it's organized by ProQuest. The three pages are high-quality scans where the text is readable, which is especially helpful given the fact that there is a lot of small text to read. Articles that may have been next to this one have been cut out, eliminating the need to search for relevant information.
- Can you provide some context for the item? (Can you tell who the author is? Where was this published or found? Whose story is being told and in what way? What voices are present or absent in this material?)
 - LA Times 21 March, 2005. The article author is Matea Gold. Miguel Contreras was the labor union leader in LA for the AFL-CIO as a successor and disciple of Chavez. His voice is present as well as the voices of those around his friends, colleagues, as well as foes.
- Explore this page of the database a little. What kinds of tools and links are available
 - You are able to search within the newspapers because the scans are so high-quality
 - You can see whether or not a story from the newspaper was a front page story or if it was buried deeper within the paper
 - You can browse the larger issue from which your article was taken and look at other documents written by the same author
- How might this item or other material from this database/resource be incorporated into a project for this course?

- Newspapers are a primary source that can be used to gain historical context to get a better idea of what everyday people from a certain time period/geographic region cared about and the media they were consuming
- What other types of research material (outside of this database/resource) might you search for to complement this item?
 - Other primary sources that can compliment newspapers are speeches and interviews that the subject of the paper gave
 - To go along with a source like a newspaper you would also need more of a generalized nonfiction source that cites historical facts and a timeline of events

MATEA GOLD Times, Staff Writer. 2005. "L.A. Power Broker Faces Test: Miguel Contreras Built a Political Machine Based on Labor's Clout. Siding with Mayor Carries Risks." *Los Angeles Times* (1996-), Mar 21, 3.

<http://libproxy.lib.unc.edu/login?url=https://www.proquest.com/historical-newspapers/l-power-broker-faces-test/docview/2184482953/se-2>