



Chronicling America Search Strategy Video Transcript

Searching by a Specific Date – Death of Ray Chapman

Background

In collaboration with the National Endowment for the Humanities and the Library of Congress, the National Digital Newspaper Program in Ohio developed and produced a series of video tutorials to teach users advanced search strategies and highlight interesting topics in Chronicling America. These build on the search skills demonstrated in the Using Chronicling America Podcast Series.

Searching by a Specific Date – Death of Ray Chapman

Description	If your search in Chronicling America about a specific person or event is receiving too many or irrelevant results, one way to improve your search results is to search by date. This video will show why it is helpful to limit your search by a specific date using Chronicling America's Advanced Search feature.
Hosts	Kevin Latta
Duration	2:36
URL	http://www.ohiohistoryhost.org/ohiomemory/resources/tutorials

0:00	Hi, my name is Kevin Latta, and I work on the National Digital Newspaper Program in Ohio at the Ohio Historical Society. Today I am going to show you an advanced search technique for the Library of Congress's Chronicling America Historic American Newspapers website. This is a great resource for historical research because newspapers covered such a wide range of topics. I am going to show you how to find information on a topic related to sports in this screencast: specifically, the death of the Cleveland Indians baseball player Ray Chapman in 1920.
0:27	Ray Chapman is the only major league baseball player to have died from being hit by a pitch. On August 16, 1920, Chapman was struck in the head by Carl Mays of the New York Yankees in the fifth inning. Chapman was taken to a nearby hospital but would die 12 hours later on August 17, 1920. Let's go to the newspapers to see what we can find about Ray Chapman's death.
0:47	Chronicling America currently has over six million pages available to view dating from 1836 to 1922. That's a lot of newspapers to search through. If we just search for <i>Ray Chapman</i> in the search box on the front page we can see that we get almost 800 results. That's a lot to look through. Just looking at the first page we can see that some of our results are relevant but most aren't.
1:09	We can get more precise results by using the Advanced Search tab and limiting the time frame of our search.



1:15	You can limit just the Year Range , or, if you want to get even more specific, you can limit the date to the specific month and day that you want. In this instance, I know that Ray Chapman was beamed on August 16, 1920. I want to start my search here because some newspapers may have had an evening edition that may have had articles printed about the incident. For our ending date, I'll select August 27, 1920. I want articles on Chapman's death as well as some memorial articles or follow-up articles.
1:46	Let's search for <i>Ray Chapman</i> as a phrase , and let's see what we get. We get 99 results. Most of these are relevant to what we want.
1:55	If we want to get even more precise results, we can search for <i>Ray Chapman</i> again but add the word <i>beam</i> . We can see here that we get 31 results all looking relevant to what we want. This is just one example of how you can use Chronicling America to look at sporting news of the past.
2:14	Do you want to learn more about Ray Chapman, the Cleveland Indians or other topics covered? Try your own searches. Chronicling America is freely available and more newspapers are added on a regular basis. Visit the Ohio Digital Newspaper Portal to view additional resources such as subject guides and the Using Chronicling America Podcast series. Thanks for watching, and Go Tribe!