

# Chronicling America and History Day Research

Webinar

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The background of the slide features a collage of historical newspaper clippings. Visible text includes "PRESIDENT WILLIAM HENRY CLAY", "CHRISTMAS CHIMES", "STATISTICAL DAILY", and "The Malabar Dispatch". There are also illustrations of a person and a landscape.

# Agenda

- Introduction to NDNP
- Using *Chronicling America*
  - What is Chronicling America?
  - Browsing
  - Basic Search
  - Working With Your Search Results
  - Advanced Search Features
  - Overcoming Historical Language Barriers
  - Understanding Keyword Searching
  - Tips for Historical Newspaper Research



# National Digital Newspaper Program

- Funded by the National Endowment for the Humanities & managed by the Library of Congress
- Preserve historic newspapers
- Provide increased access to historic newspapers
  - Keyword searchable
  - Freely available
  - No need to visit a library or archives

**National Digital Newspaper Program (NDNP)**

A partnership between the Library of Congress and the National Endowment for the Humanities



# *Chronicling America*

- Information about newspapers, 1690-present (Newspaper Directory)
- Digitized pages from 1836-1922
- <http://chroniclingamerica.loc.gov>

# Historical Vocabulary Differences

**Geographical**  
(e.g. Place Names)

Peking

Beijing

**Events**  
(e.g. War Names)

War with Spain

Spanish-American War

**Nouns**  
(e.g. People, Objects, Political Movements, etc.)

Suffrage

Voting Rights

# Historical Vocabulary Differences

## Current Vocabulary

Thailand



184  
results

## Historical Vocabulary

Siam



20592  
results

several hundred locations have been He  
made, the reason for such being that sor  
at that point there will be a large city cha  
as soon as the railroad is built to that floo  
point. **The land** at this particular lo-  
cality is desirable for agricultural sho  
purposes, and it will be in addition Va  
to that a nearby point to ship from sor

The people of Siam, that very  
interesting nation in southeastern  
Asia, are passionately fond of music,  
the theater and dancing. History and  
tradition show that the drama has  
existed in **Siam** for thousands of  
years.

The plays, as staged in **Siam** to-

# Alternatives to Controlled Vocabulary

- What is Controlled Vocabulary?
  - Method to organize knowledge for later retrieval
  - Used in databases and library catalogs
  - Require use of predefined, authorized terms that have been preselected by designer of vocabulary
  - Source: Wikipedia

## A. Lincoln, his last 24 hours / by W. Emerson Reck.

Author: Reck, W. Emerson (Waldo Emerson), 1903-  
Imprint: Jefferson, N.C. : McFarland, c1987.  
Description: vii, 232 p. : ill. ; 24 cm.  
Notes: Includes index.  
Bibliography: Bibliography: p. 199-221.  
Library of Congress Subjects: Lincoln, Abraham, 1809-1865 -- Assassination.  
Presidents -- United States -- Biography.  
ISBN: 0899502164 (alk. paper) :  
OCLC Number: ocm15109485



# Alternatives to Controlled Vocabulary

- *Chronicling America* does not use controlled vocabulary
- Must use more than one word or phrase to find information about a topic if:
  - Words describing a topic changed over time
  - Different regions referred to the same events, places, people, etc. with different names



# Understanding Keyword Searching

THE MAEION Q AILY M1RR( )R. PAGE?  
FIRST  
SECTION  
fh  
7-  
T08  
H  
VOLUME XI NUMBER 273.  
MARION, OHIO, SATURDATrW'UNE 3, 1911.  
PRICE TWO OENT  
V,  
GARY TAKES ISSUE  
WITH J, W, GATES  
GOVERNMENT MAY  
BRING CRIMIL ACTIONS  
INDIAN PRINC '  
HONOF KING GEORGE  
04DV AURTACTO  
null I fl It It Iflrl .i  
univi fuiijj ini i, u  
MAIfPRTY  
'TRAVELED  
WAS THE MAINE  
BLfliUPBy  
1EGISLATURE  
yunnpn  
I  
J' R,  
1  
i-  
IN TRUST CASE  
,

- Optical Character Recognition (OCR)
- Done by computer software
- Not always perfect
- May not always get the results you want and/or expect

# Working with Historical Newspapers

- 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> Century Papers
  - Multiple newspapers in one city/county/region representing different interests
  - Be aware of bias!
  - Paper may report on local news from areas within its circulating area, beyond city of publication
  - Fewer pictures/graphical elements





# Thank You!

- Questions? Comments?
- Email us!
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