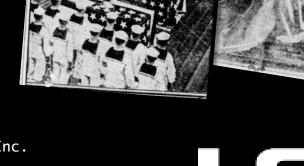
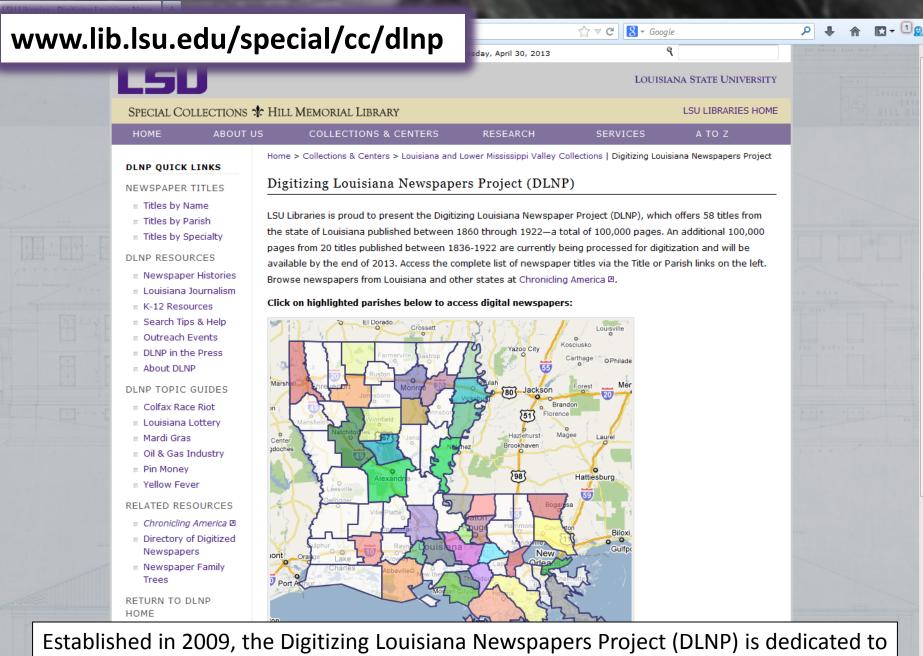
# SEARCHING FOR PAST LIVES:

DLNP & CHRONICLING AMERICA
IN GENEALOGICAL RESEARCH



Created for the Southwest Louisiana Genealogical Society, Inc. By Laura Charney, Project Manager Digitizing Louisiana Newspapers Project LSU Libraries Special Collections

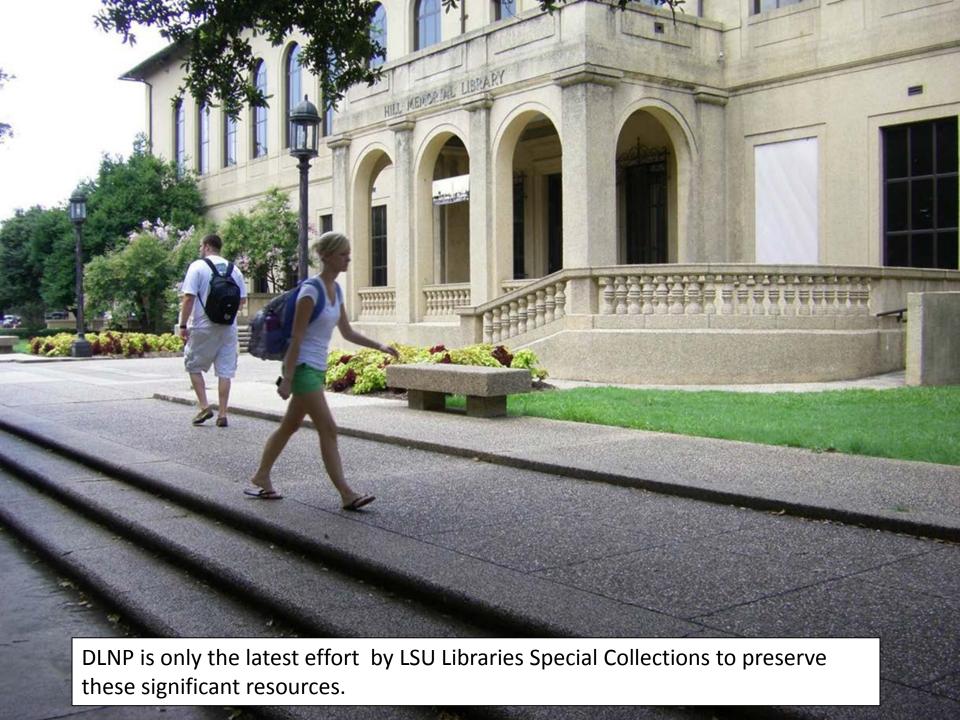




developing and improving online access to Louisiana's historical newspapers.





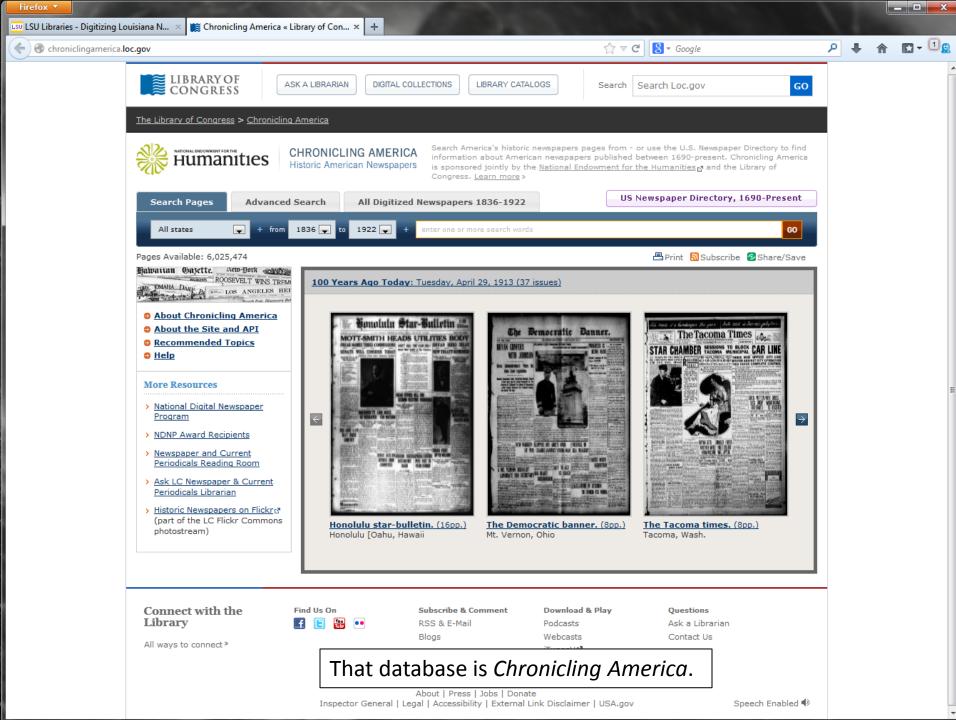


## National Digital Newspaper Program (NDNP)

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



DLNP is made possible by a grant from the National Digital Newspaper Program (NDNP), which is a long-term effort by the Library of Congress and the National Endowment for the Humanities to develop a searchable online database of digitized U.S. newspapers.

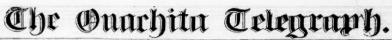


Abbeville Meridional | Abbeville Progress | Abeille de la Nouvelle-Orléans | Acadia Sentinel | Acorn | Advance | Advertiser | Algiers Meraid | Algiers Meraid | Algiers Meridional | Algerine Newsboy | Algiers Advertiser | Algiers Heraid | Algiers Press | Algiers Weekly News | American | Ascension Advocate | Amite City Democrat | Amite City Gazette | Amite City Sun | Amite City Times | Amite Times | Army and Navy Messenger | Ascension Advocate | Ascension Democrat | Ascension Leader | Ascension Republican | Assumption Chronicle | Assumption Eagle | Assumption Pioneer | Attakapas Cazette, and St. Mary, St. Martin and Lafayette | Attakapas Register | Attakapas Sentinel | Attakapas Signation Pioneer | Avant-Coureur | Avenir | Avenir | Avenir de la-Nouvelle-Stension Rouge Orleans | Avoyelles Stension Rouge Meraid | Baton Rouge Meraid | Baton Rouge Standay News | Baton Rouge Bulletin | Baton Rouge Tri-Weekly Gazette & Comet | Baton Rouge Weekly News | Baton Rouge Standay News | Baton Rouge Bienville Democrat | Bienville Messenger | Black

	2009 Grant Cycle	2011 Grant Cycle
Previous Digitization?	No	No ati
Copyright?	No	No
Time Span	1860-1922	1836-1922 ar 18
Content Language	English	English, French, Spanish, German, or Italian

Republican luca | Republican standard | Republican standard | Revenit Review blade | Review blade | Review blade | Review blade | Rural Foics | Ruston Caligraph | Ruston Daily Leader | Ruston Leader | Sabine Banner | Sabine Democrat | Sabine Index | Saint Landry Progress | Saint Michel | Semaine de la Nouvelle-Orleans | Semi-Weekly Courier | Semi-Weekly Courier | Semi-Weekly Republican | Semi-Weekly Shreveport Review | Semi-Weekly Times-Democrat | Semi-Weekly Republican | Semi-Weekly Shreveport Review | Semi-Weekly Times-Democrat | Semi-Weekly Republican | Semi-Weekly Shreveport Buily Times | Shreveport Daily Standard | Shreveport Daily Standard | Shreveport Semi-Weekly News | Shreveport Semi-Weekly News | Shreveport Daily Times | Shreveport Daily Times | Shreveport Daily Standard | Shreveport Daily Standard | Shreveport Semi-Weekly News | Shrevepor

Each two-year grant awarded to DLNP allows for the digitization of 100,000 newspaper pages. Newspaper selection begins by first determining which newspapers meet the NDNP digitization specifications. Out of 1,052 historical Louisiana newspapers, approximately 937 were eligible for digitization in either the 2009 or 2011 grant cycle.





- ✓ High Research Value
- ✓ Representative of the Diversity of Louisiana

To further narrow down options for digitization, an advisory board composed of historians, teachers, archivists, journalists, and genealogists ranked each of the newspapers based on research value and diversity. The highest ranking titles were selected.

### DLNP 2009-2011 Grant Cycle Titles

#### **English Only**

**Abbeville Progress Louisiana Capitolian** The Banner-Democrat Louisiana Democrat The Bienville Democrat The Louisiana Populist **Bogalusa Enterprise** Louisianian The Caldwell Watchman **Lower Coast Gazette** The Carrollton Sun Lumberjack Claiborne Guardian The Madison Journal Colfax Chronicle: 1876 **Madison Times** Colfax Chronicle: 1877 The Morning Star and Catholic Comrade Messenger **Concordia Eagle Natchitoches Populist** Concordia Sentinel **Natchitoches Spectator** The New Orleans Crescent Constitutional **Daily Gazette and Comet Ouachita Telegraph Daily Telegraph People's Vindicator** The Era-leader **Progress** Feliciana Sentinel **Rapides Gazette Gazette and Sentinel** The Rice Belt Journal The Herald Richland Beacon **Homer Guardian** The Semi-Weekly Louisianian The Jennings Daily Record The Semi-weekly Natchitoches The Lafayette Gazette **Times** 

**Semi-weekly News** The Semi-weekly Shreveport News **Shreveport Daily News Shreveport News Shreveport Semi-Weekly News: 1861 Shreveport Semi-Weekly News: 1865 Shreveport Weekly News: 1861 Shreveport Weekly News: 1862 Shreveport Weekly News: 1866 Tensas Gazette True Democrat** Voice of the People The Weekly Messenger **Weekly Thibodaux Sentinel West Feliciana Sentinel** Woman's Enterprise

In the 2009-2011 grant cycle, 58 titles from 25 parishes were digitized.

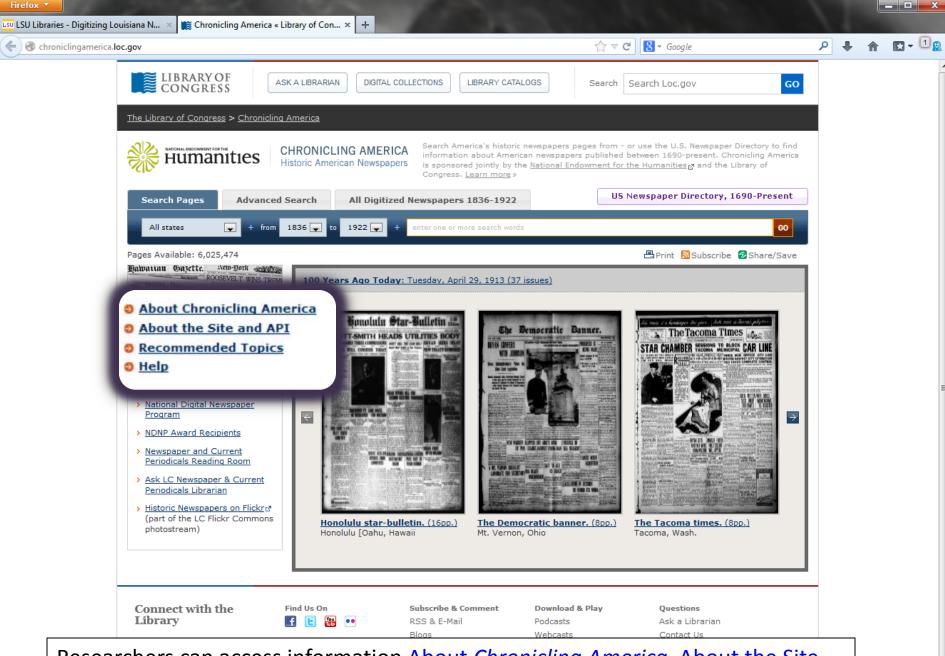
## **DLNP 2011-2013 Grant Cycle Titles**

English Only	French Content	Spanish Content			
The Caucasian The Donaldsonville Chief The Feliciana Democrat New Orleans Daily Crescent The New Orleans Daily Democrat The Southern Sentinel The South-western St. Tammany Farmer Sugar Planter True American	Houma Ceres The Lafayette Advertiser The Meridional Le Meschacébé Le Messager The Opelousas Courier Pioneer of Assumption The Planters' Banner St. Landry Clarion	El Pelayo			
The 2011-2013 grant cycle, in	cluded 20 additional titles from 14	parishes. By the			

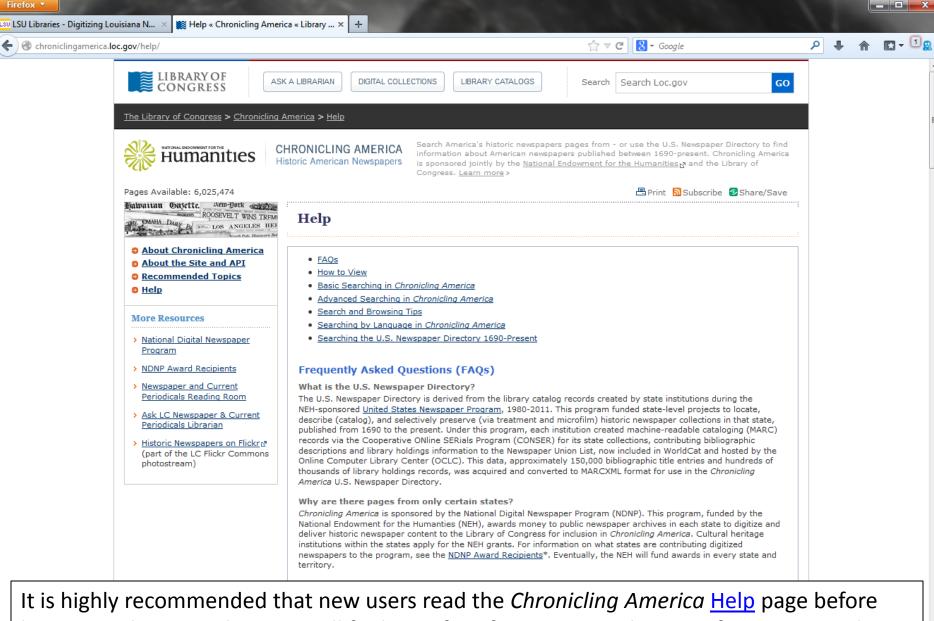
end of 2013, 78 titles from 34 parishes will be available on *Chronicling America*.



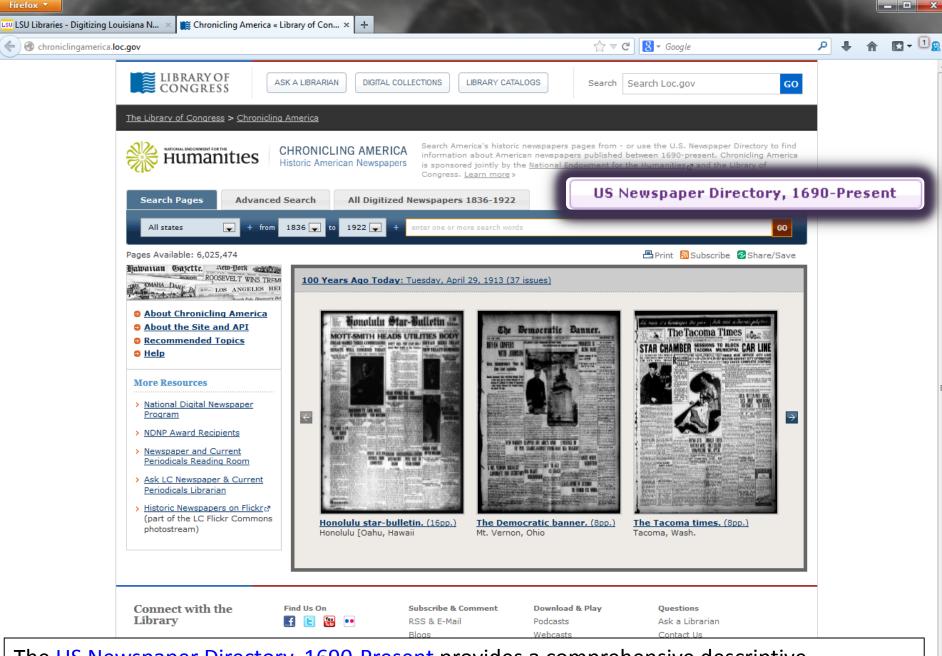
In addition to offering searchable digitized newspapers, the *Chronicling America* site offers a number of other resources for researchers.



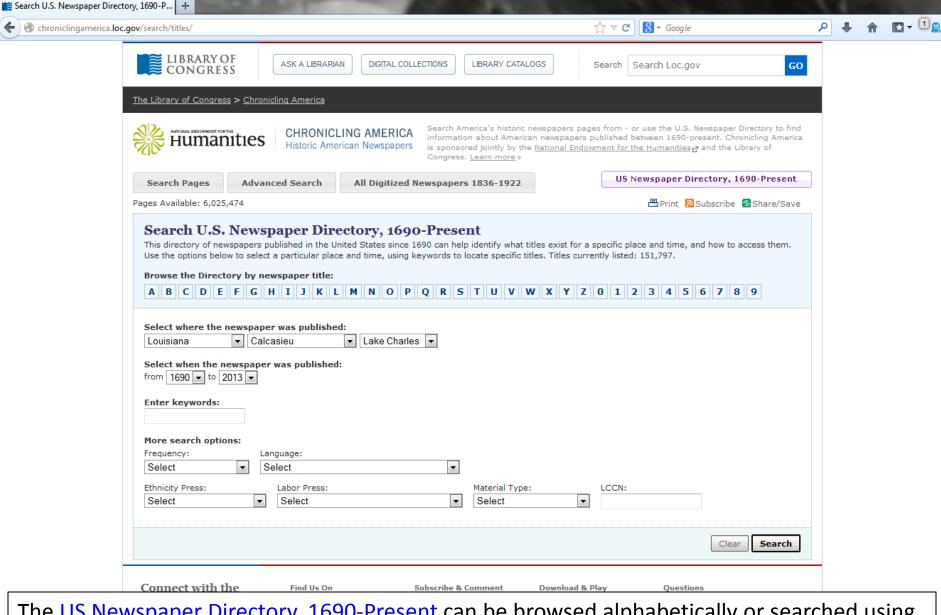
Researchers can access information <u>About Chronicling America</u>, <u>About the Site</u> and <u>API</u>, <u>Recommended Topics</u> for research, and <u>Help</u> via the links in the sidebar.



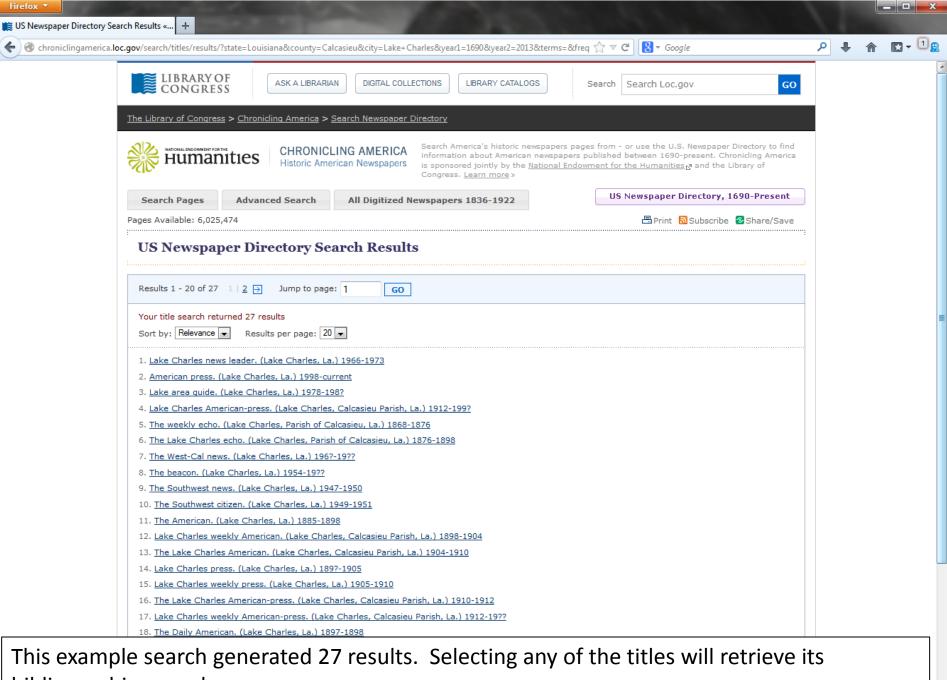
It is highly recommended that new users read the *Chronicling America* Help page before beginning their search. Users will find specific information on this page for <u>Basic Searching</u>, <u>Advanced Searching</u>, <u>Search and Browsing Tips</u>, <u>Searching by Language</u>, and <u>Searching the U.S. Newspaper Directory</u>, <u>1690-Present</u>.



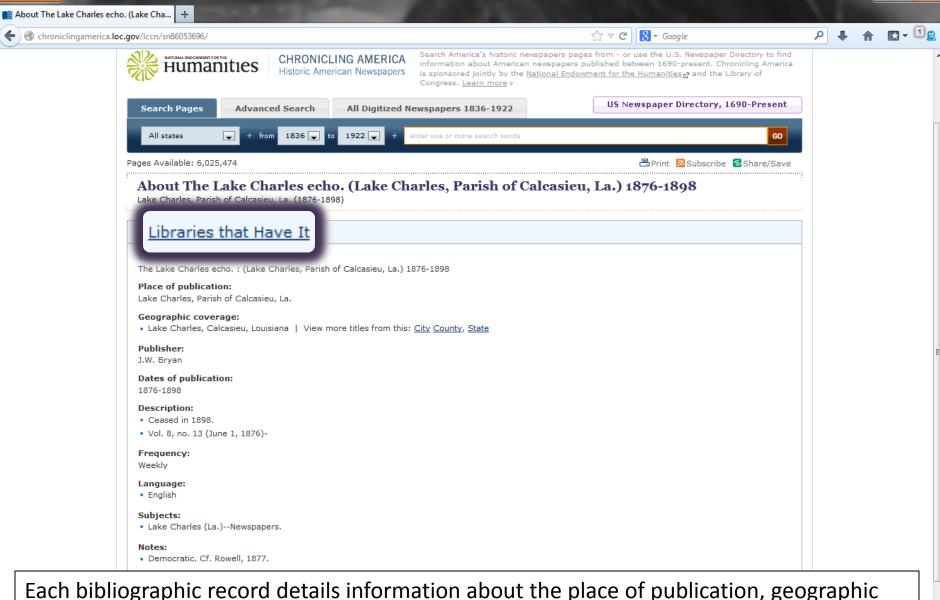
The <u>US Newspaper Directory</u>, <u>1690-Present</u> provides a comprehensive descriptive bibliography of newspapers published in the U.S. and information for locating copies.



The <u>US Newspaper Directory</u>, <u>1690-Present</u> can be browsed alphabetically or searched using the limiters provided. For example, this search will retrieve newspapers identified as having been published in the city of Lake Charles, county of Calcasieu, and in the state of Louisiana.



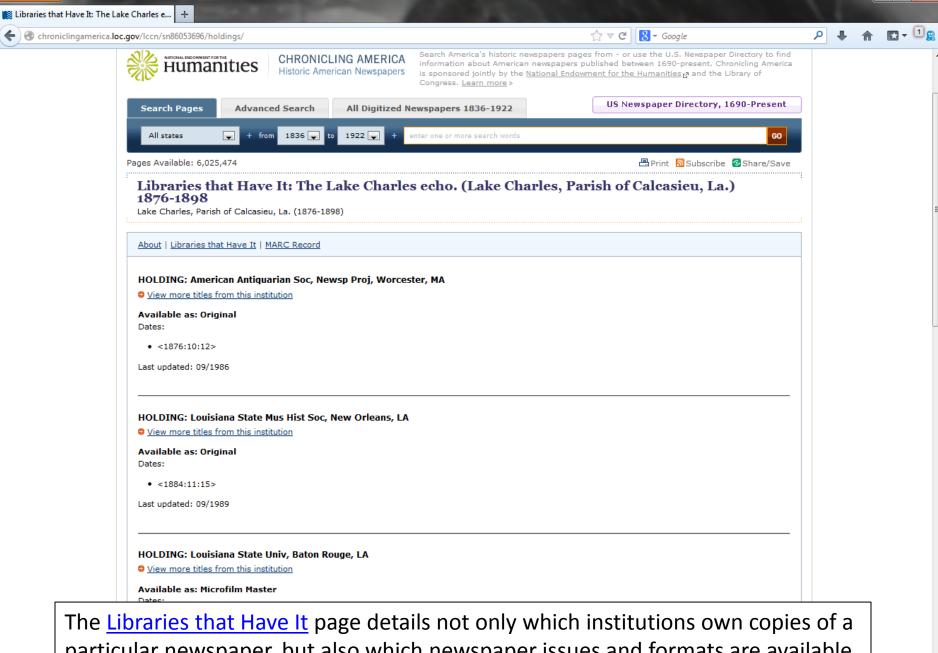
bibliographic record.



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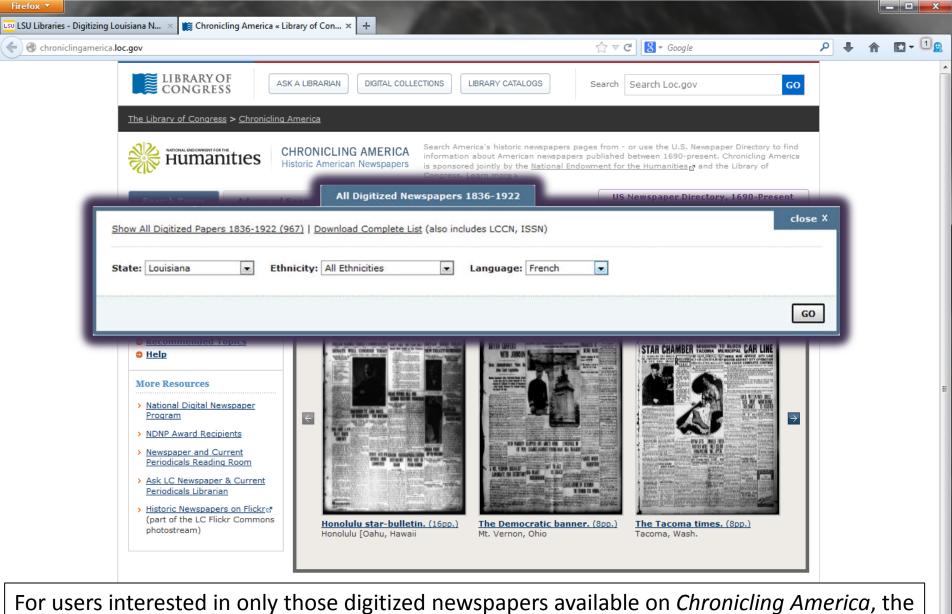
Firefox ▼

Each bibliographic record details information about the place of publication, geographic coverage, publishers, dates of publication, a description of the newspaper, and information on preceding/succeeding titles. To locate a copy of the newspaper, select the <u>Libraries that Have It</u> link for a detailed listing of holding institutions.

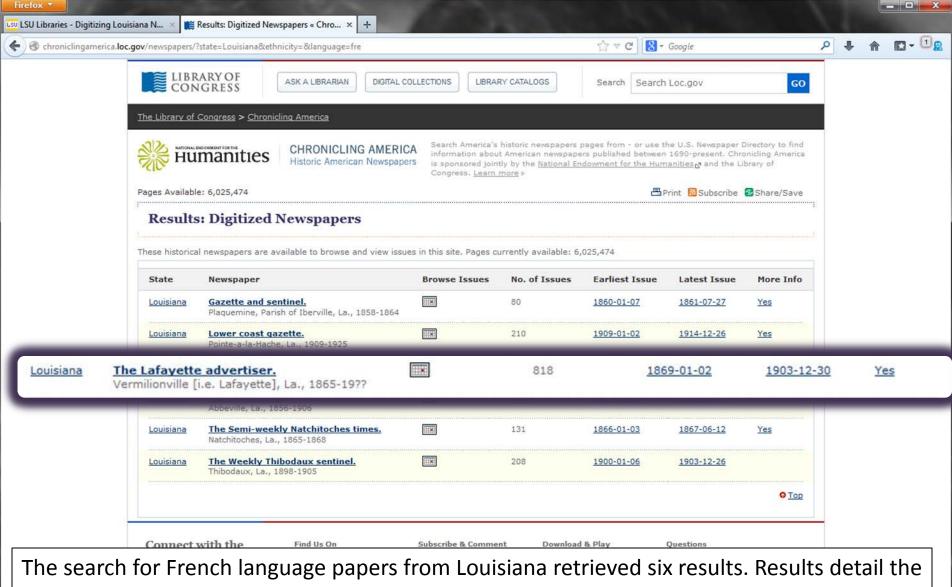


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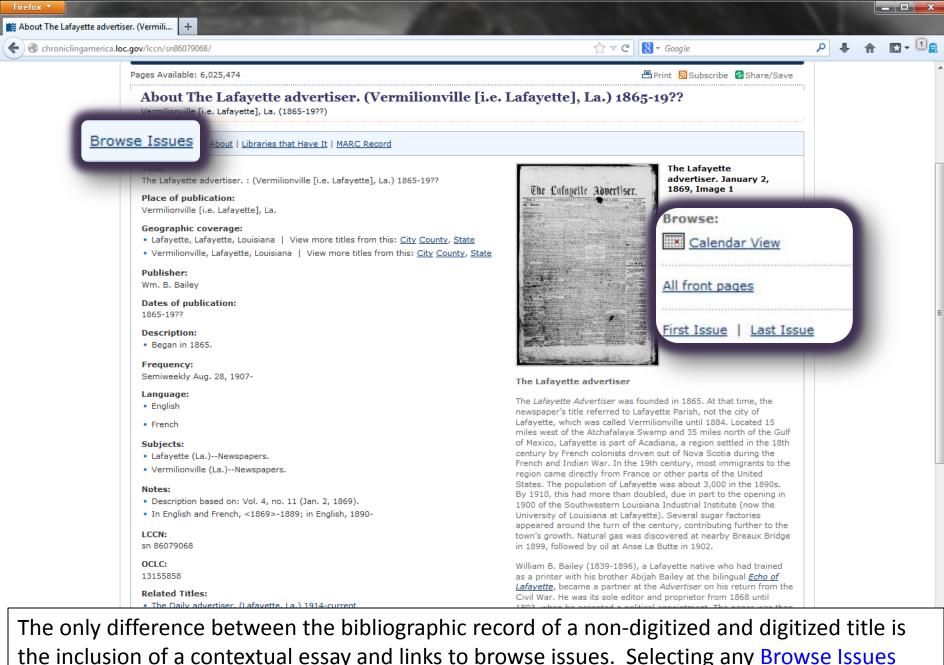
particular newspaper, but also which newspaper issues and formats are available. (Issues are listed in the format <yyyy:mm:dd>.)



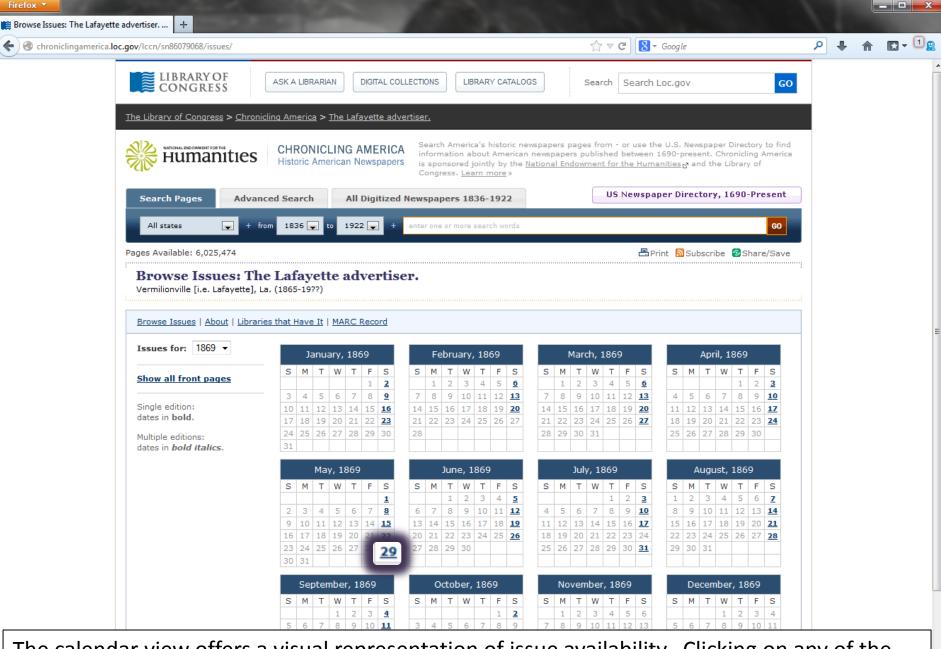
For users interested in only those digitized newspapers available on *Chronicling America*, the <u>All Digitized Newspapers</u>, <u>1836-1922</u> tab offers a complete list of titles in HTML and PDF. Users can also search for digitized newspapers by limiting their search by State, Ethnicity, or Language. In this example, Louisiana and French have been selected as the search limiters.



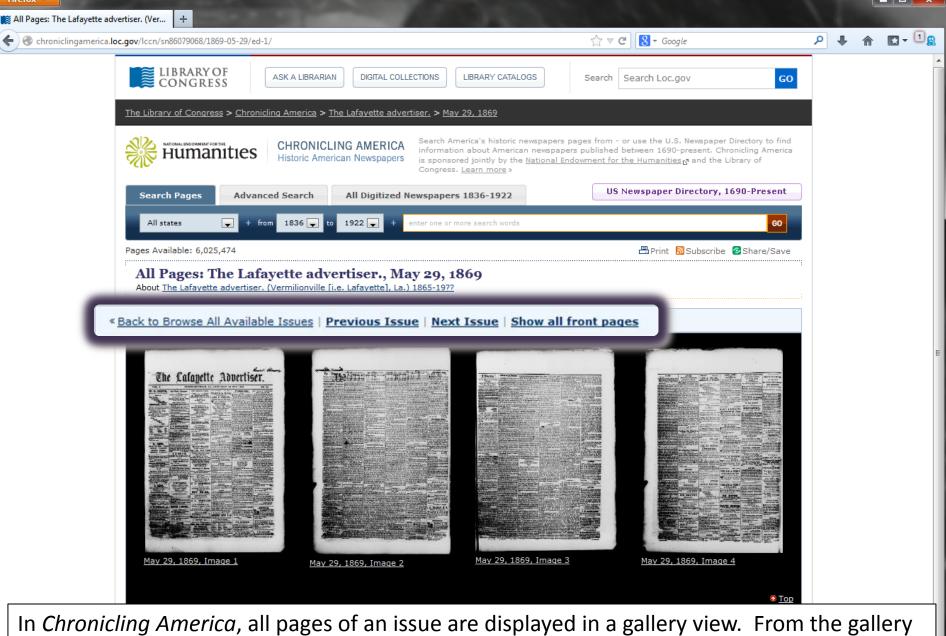
The search for French language papers from Louisiana retrieved six results. Results detail the State, Newspaper title, Number of Issues, Earliest Issue, Latest Issue, and the option of finding out More Info. It should be noted that whenever a newspaper's title link, a Yes for More Info, or an About link is selected, the user will always be taken to the bibliographic record for that newspaper.



the inclusion of a contextual essay and links to browse issues. Selecting any <u>Browse Issues</u> link or the Calendar View will always retrieve the calendar view of digitized issues.



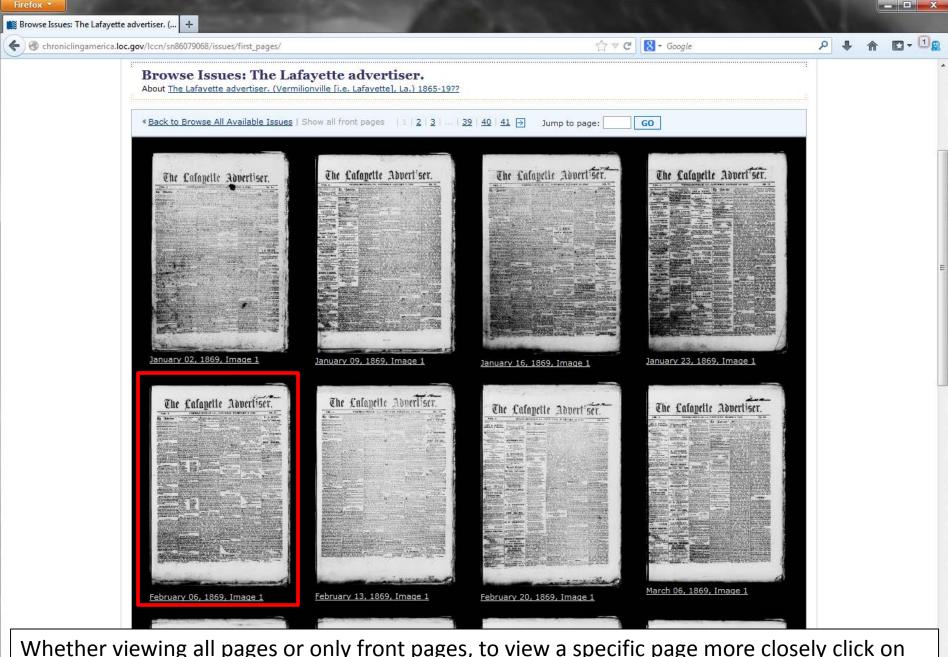
The calendar view offers a visual representation of issue availability. Clicking on any of the linked dates will retrieve the full issue for that particular date.



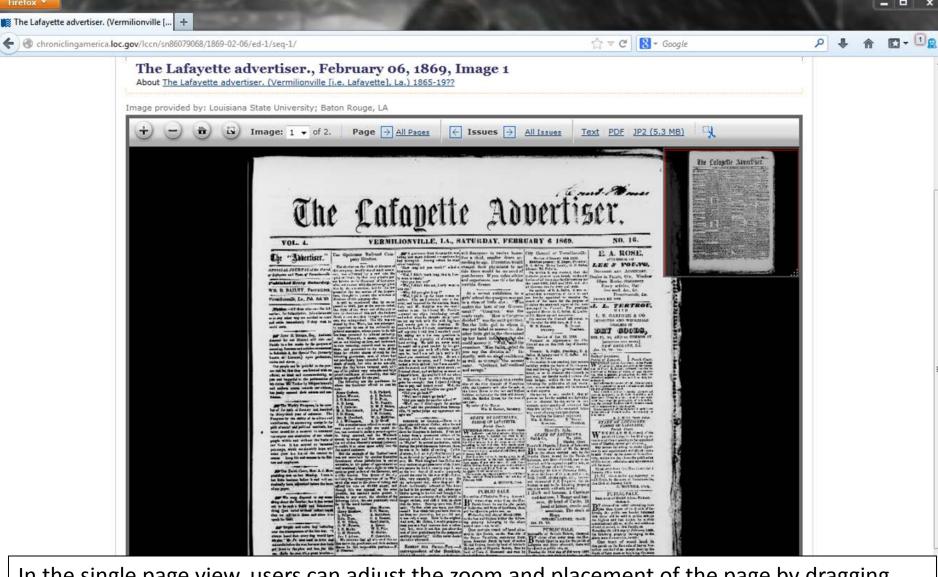
In *Chronicling America*, all pages of an issue are displayed in a gallery view. From the gallery view, users can return <u>Back to Browse All Available Issues</u>, move between the <u>Previous Issue</u> and <u>Next Issue</u>, or opt to <u>Show all front pages</u> of a particular title.

All ways to connect >

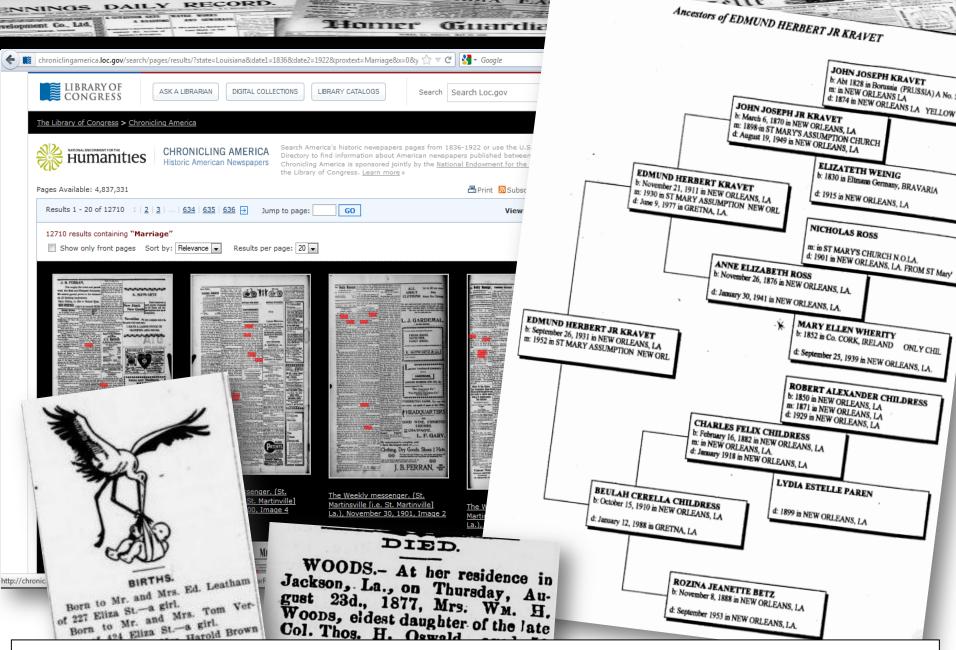
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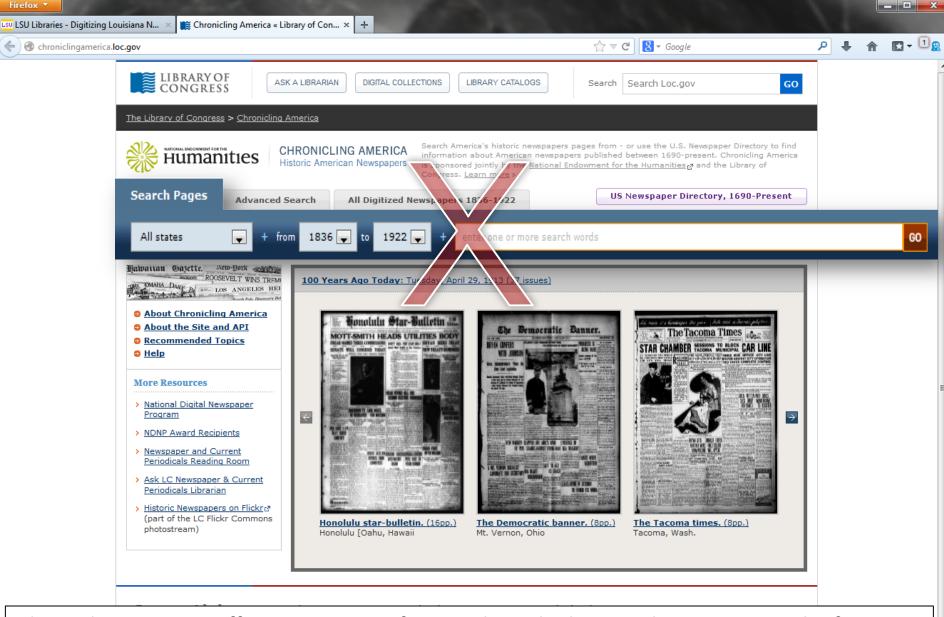
Whether viewing all pages or only front pages, to view a specific page more closely click on the desired page.



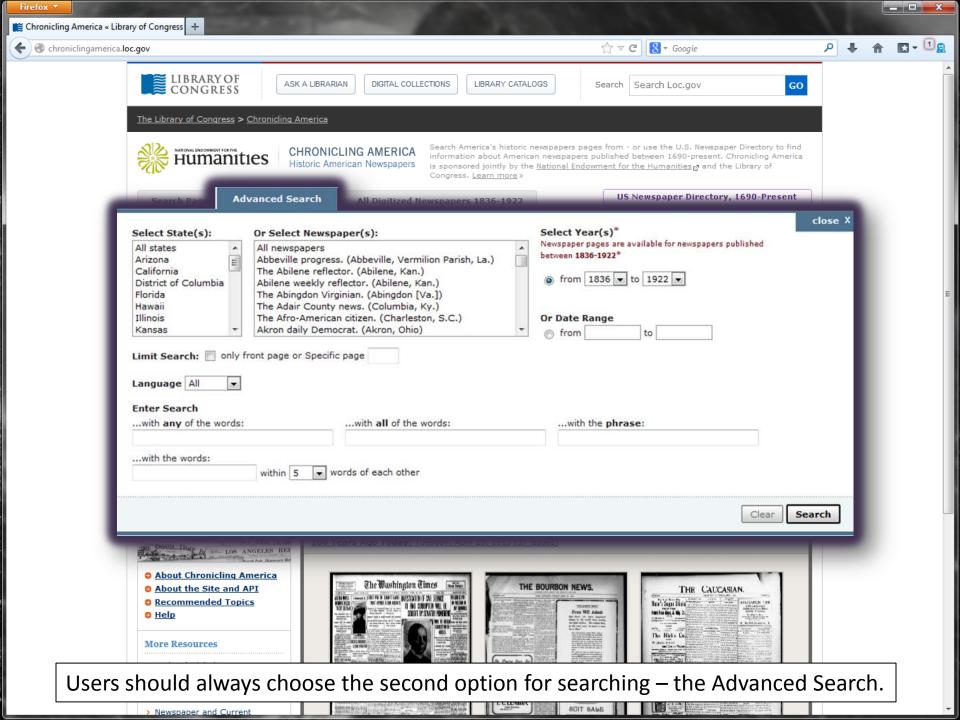
In the single page view, users can adjust the zoom and placement of the page by dragging with their mouse or selecting from the navigation buttons in the upper left corner of the viewer. The features on the top bar also allows users to drop-down to particular pages, page forward, view all pages, browse to previous or next issues, view all issues, view the text, download a PDF, download a JPG, or clip an image to download.



When it comes to genealogy most users aren't browsing; indeed, they are searching and they are searching for something or someone in particular.

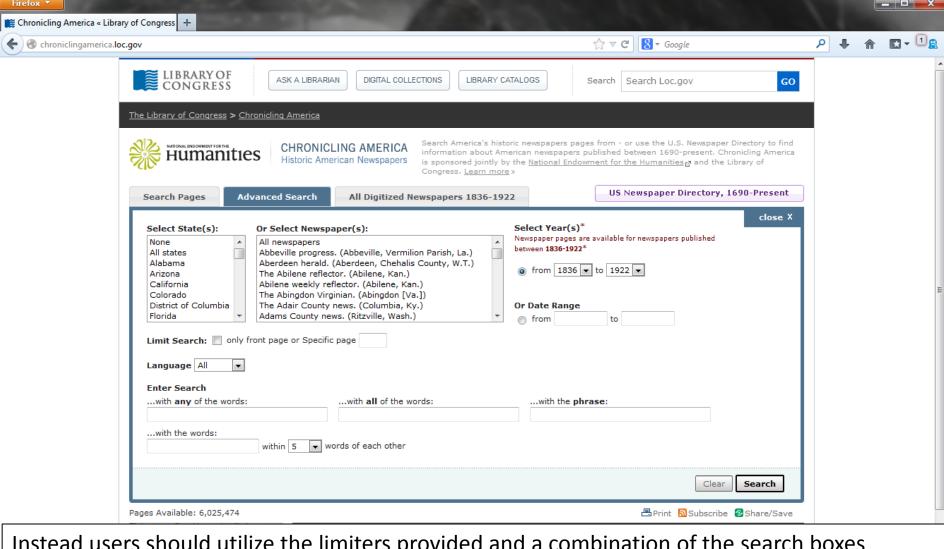


Chronicling America offers two options for searching the historical newspapers. The first is the basic search found right on the homepage. While it appears Google-esque in its simplicity and minimalism, it is an inefficient and imprecise means of running a search.



- Quotes around terms for exact searching
- Operators: AND, NOT, OR
- Diacritic marks and special characters
- Capitalization to identify proper nouns (e.g., Civil War vs. civil war)
- Common words: THE, A, AN

Experienced researchers may already regularly employ some tricks when searching other sites and databases such as placing quotes around search terms for exact searching; using AND, NOT, or OR operators; including diacritic marks and special characters for foreign language search terms; or using capitalization or common words such as THE, A, or AN to designate proper nouns. These tricks will not work with *Chronicling America*.



Instead users should utilize the limiters provided and a combination of the search boxes available to construct their searches. Users may select specific states, newspapers, or years from the limiters available. Users may also designate their search date ranges, while keeping in mind that events that happened on a specific day may not be reported in these historical papers for days or weeks afterwards. Finally, users may wish to select from available languages or limit their search to a particular page of a newspaper.

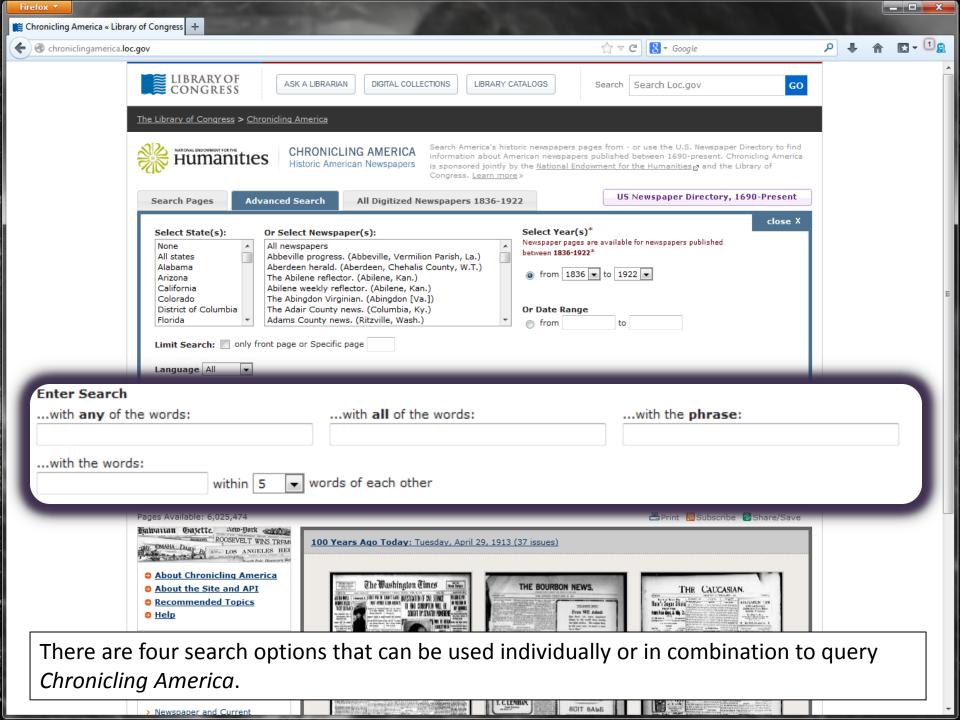
ININGS DAILY RECORD.



1862

1922

Before attempting to limit a search to a particular page, users should keep in mind that the format of historical newspapers has changed greatly over the past two centuries (see the DLNP page on <a href="Louisiana Journalism">Louisiana Journalism</a>, <a href="1836-1922">1836-1922</a> for a more detailed account of the development of Louisiana newspapers). This feature is best saved for users who are familiar with the particular layout and content of a specific newspaper they want to search.

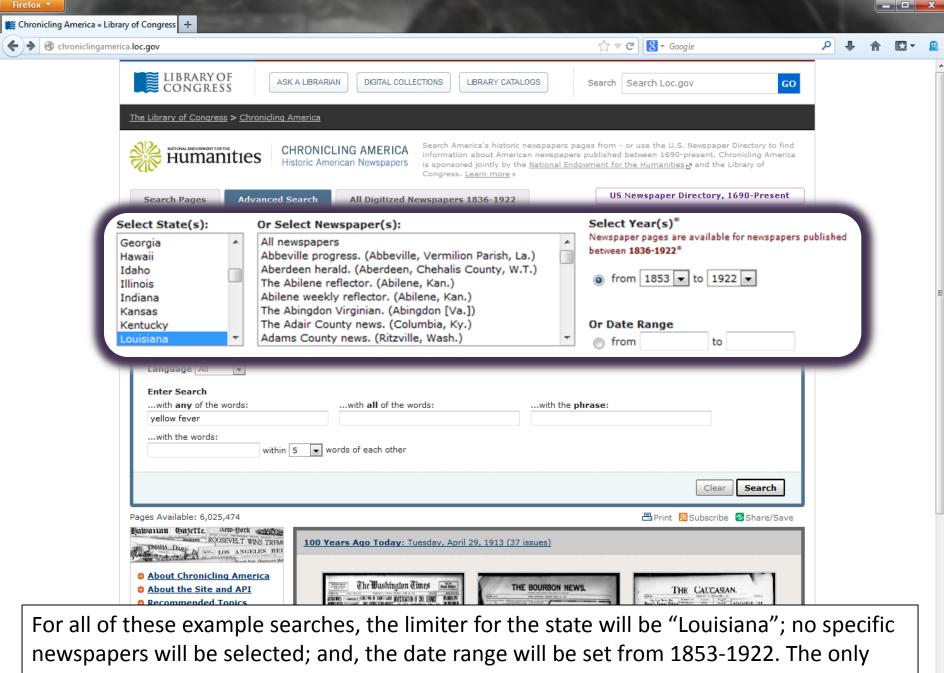


## Yellow Fever

Inter	nante	in the city of New Orleans from	Tale 24
TOTOLD	neuss	in the city of New Orleans, from October 18, 1847, inclusive :	July Ju
		Yellow Fever.	Total
Week	endin		12
**		July 17 6	14
**		July 24 16	13
**	**	July 31 47	177
**		August 8 118	263
**	**	August 15 179	353
**	**	Angust 92 322	433
**	**	August 29 328	461
**	**	September 5 435	56
**	++	September 12 355	491
**	**	September 19 169	3457
**	**	September 26 85	181
**	**	October 3 61	149
**	**	October 10 44	156
From (	Octobe	or 10 to 18 53	144
To	tal		:930
The	inter	rments in the city of Lafayet	te now
part o	f Ne	w Orleans, from July 25 to 8	eptem-
		lusive, were 793; of which 49	
from	yello	w fever, thus making the	total
	The second second		

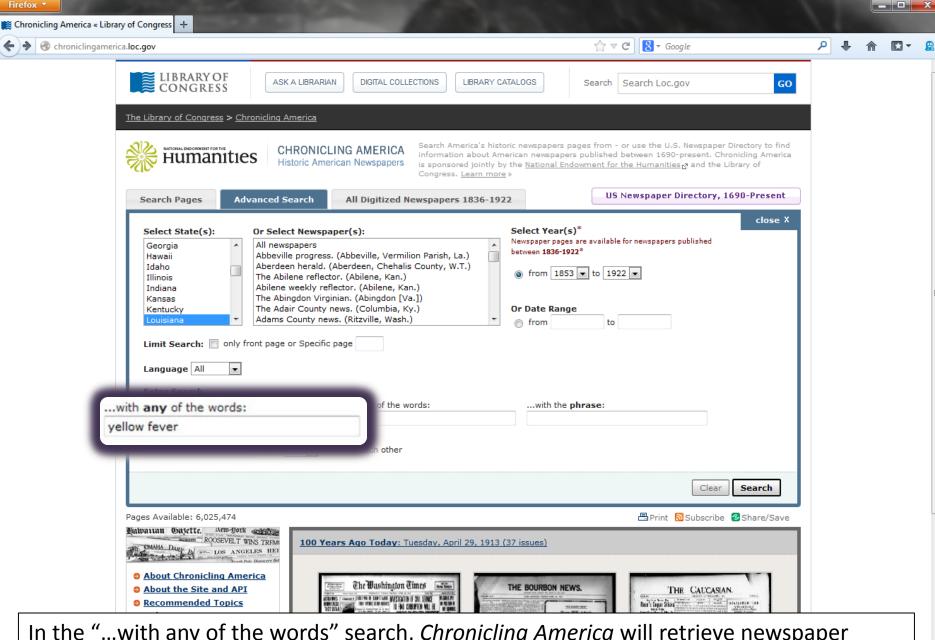


To demonstrate the differences between the search options, all of the example searches will be looking for information on yellow fever.

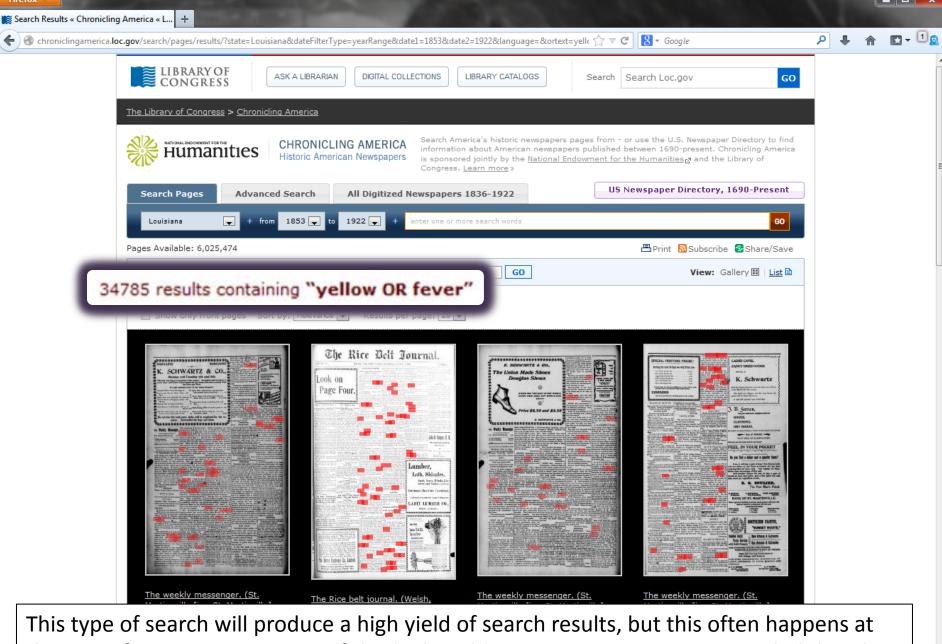


changes in search will be which search box option is utilized.

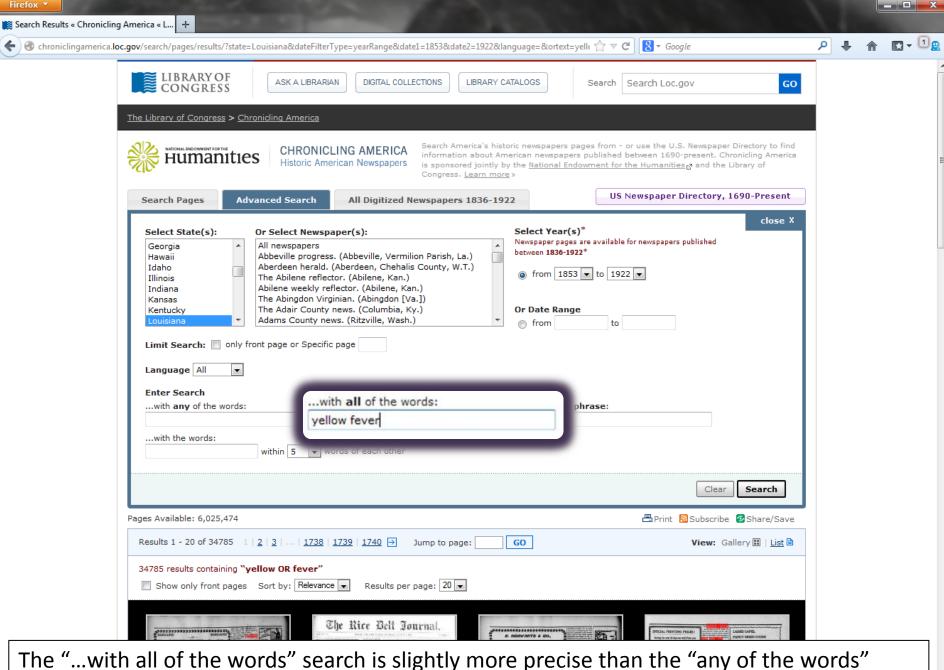
Newspaper and Current



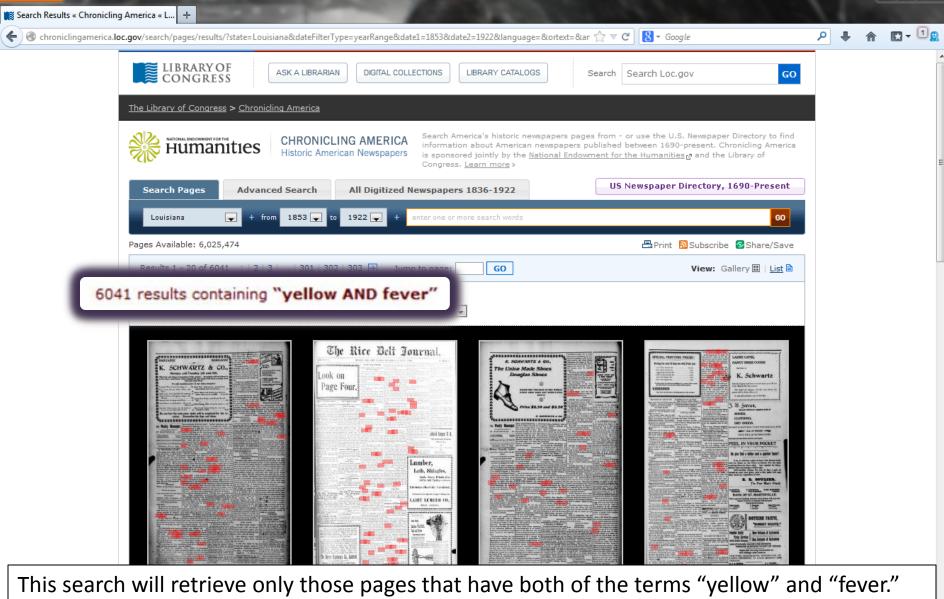
In the "...with any of the words" search, *Chronicling America* will retrieve newspaper pages that have either of the terms you are searching for, but not necessarily both. In this instance it will retrieve any newspaper page that contains the word "yellow" or "fever".



This type of search will produce a high yield of search results, but this often happens at the cost of precision. Because of this high-yield-imprecision, it is recommended that the "any" search be reserved for searching similar terms as opposed to phrases.

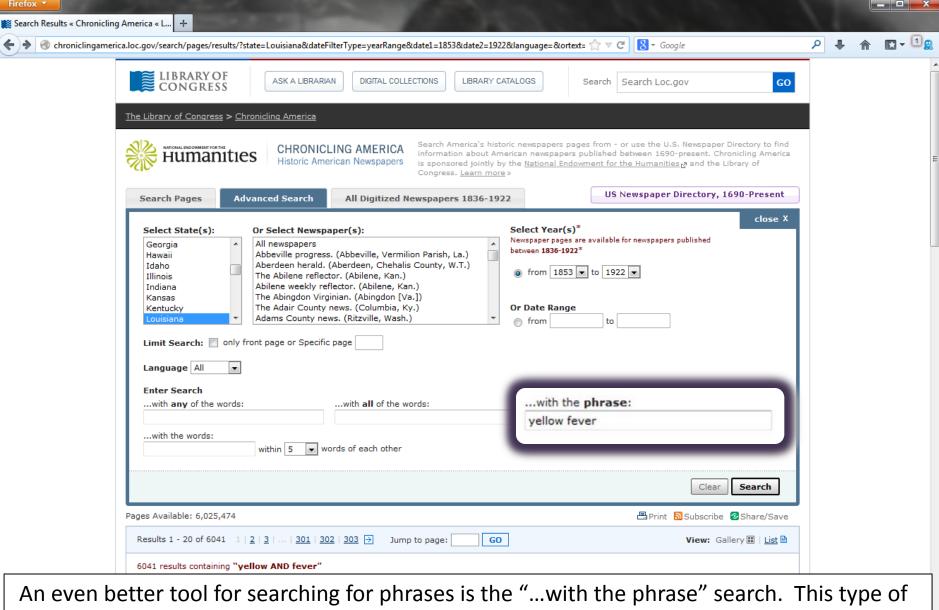


The "...with all of the words" search is slightly more precise than the "any of the words" option.

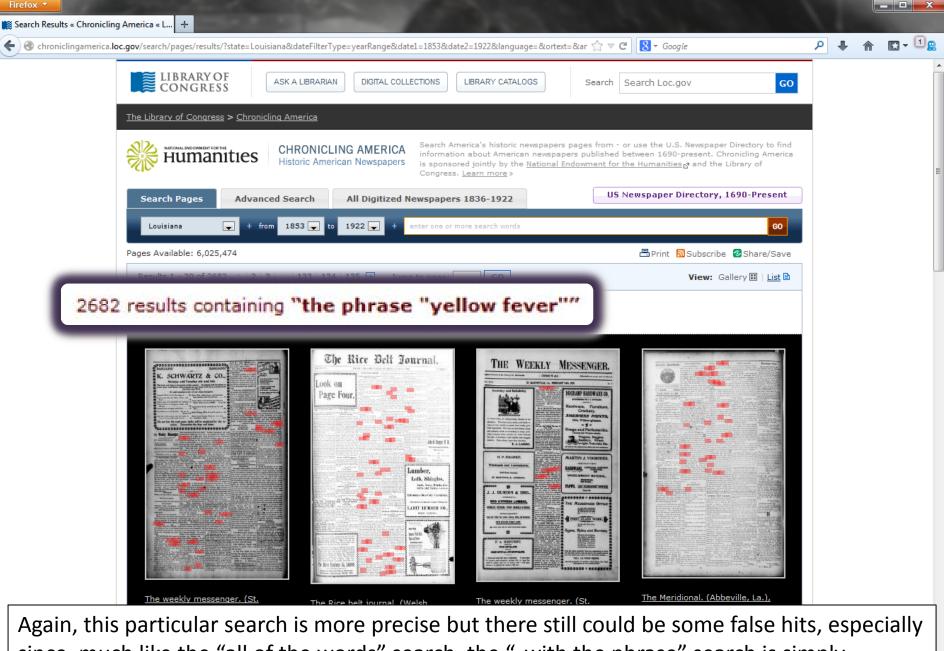


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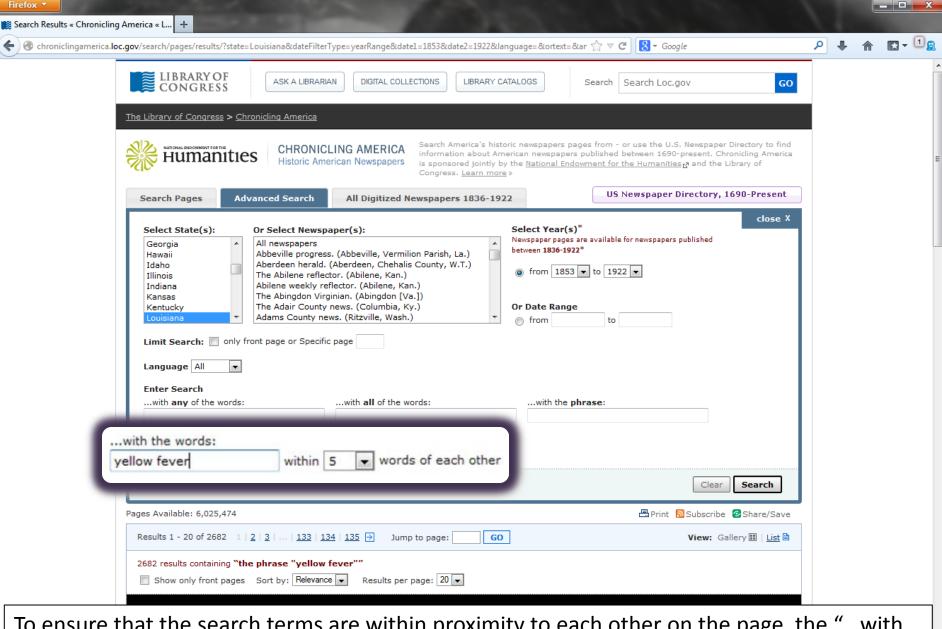
This search will retrieve only those pages that have both of the terms "yellow" and "fever." Unfortunately, *Chronicling America* pulls results if the terms are on the same page even if they are not necessarily in the same sentence, paragraph, article, or even column. This type of search is still more precise than the "any" search but will probably contain many false hits.



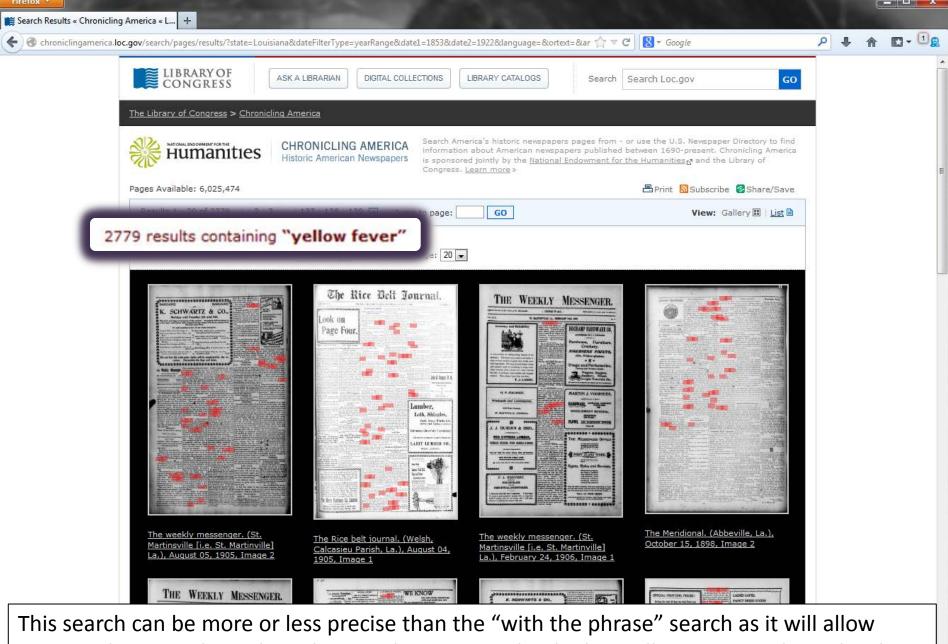
An even better tool for searching for phrases is the "...with the phrase" search. This type of search will retrieve only those results that have **all** of the search terms **in the order** they are listed in the search box. In this case it will retrieve those pages that have the words "yellow" and then the word "fever" but no pages that have "fever" and then "yellow".



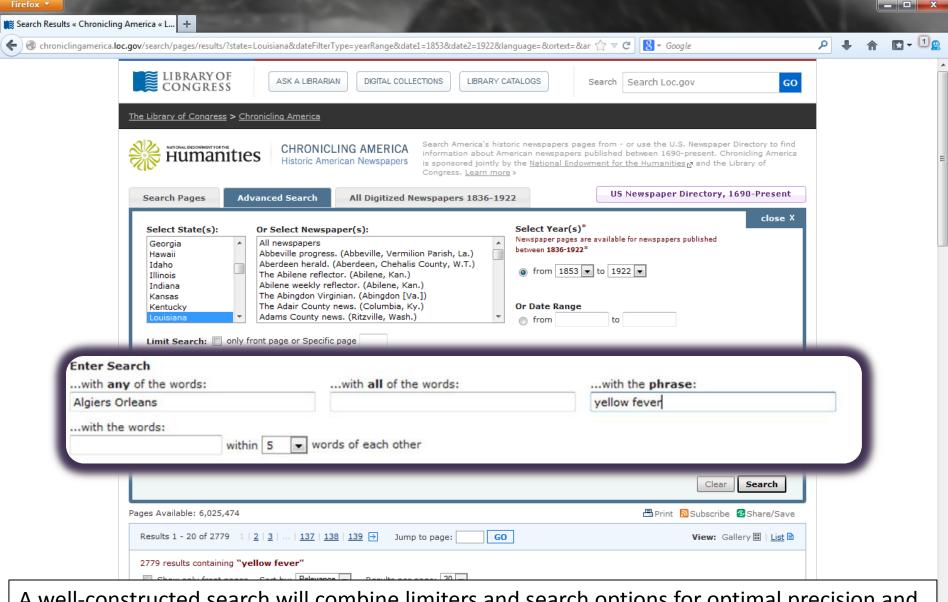
Again, this particular search is more precise but there still could be some false hits, especially since, much like the "all of the words" search, the "..with the phrase" search is simply retrieving pages with the terms "yellow" and "fever" in that order anywhere on the page.



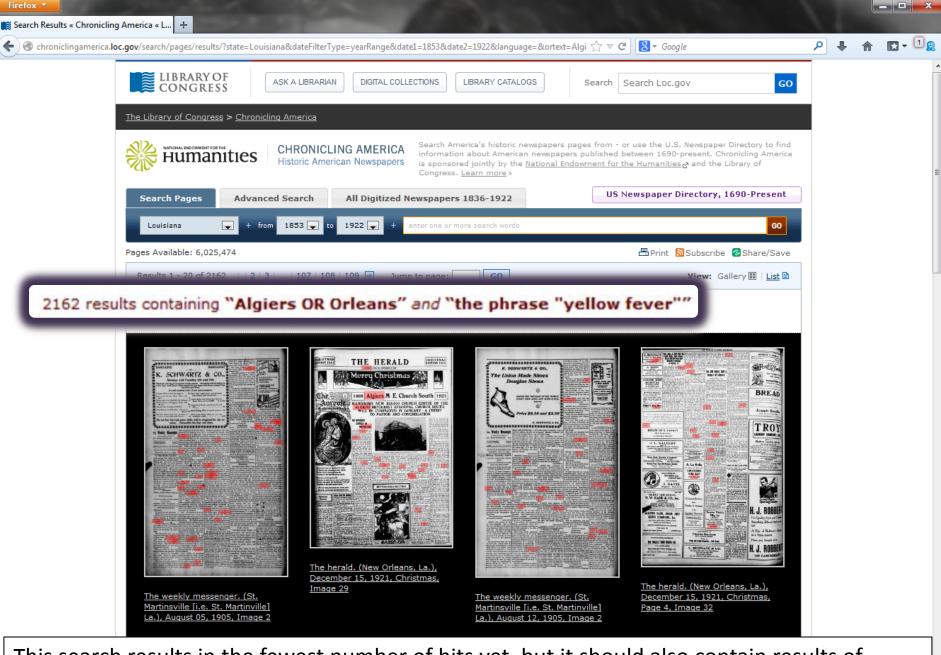
To ensure that the search terms are within proximity to each other on the page, the "...with the words...within X words of each other" search should be utilized. Users can designate whether they want the search terms to be within 5, 10, 50, or 100 words of each other.



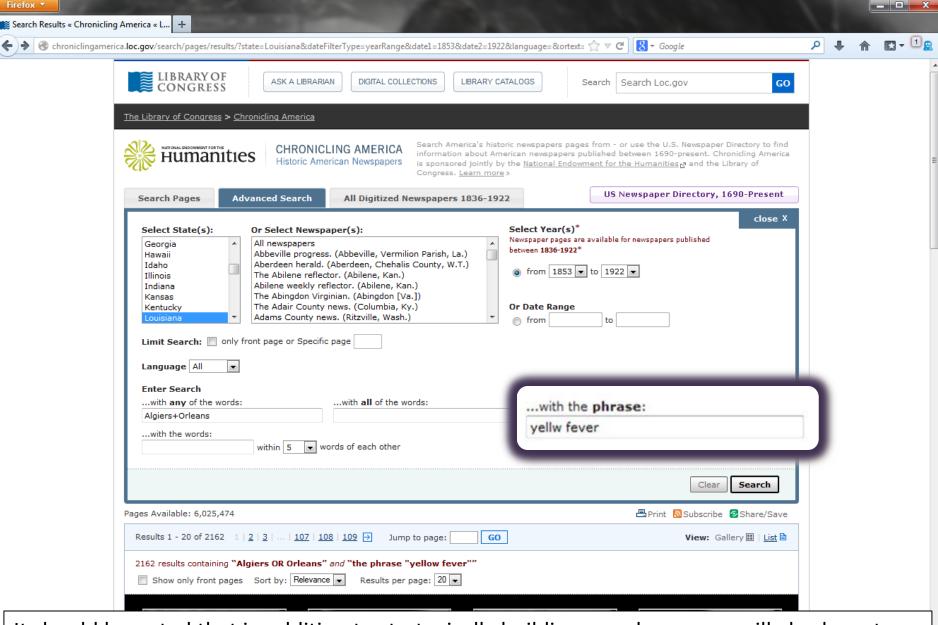
This search can be more or less precise than the "with the phrase" search as it will allow users to designate how close the search terms need to be but will not ensure the order they appear on the page.



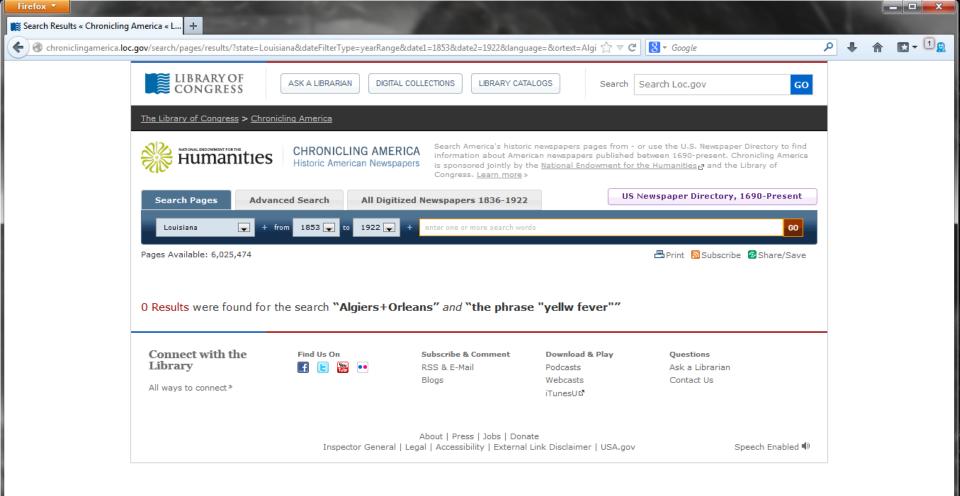
A well-constructed search will combine limiters and search options for optimal precision and relevancy. In this example, we are still searching for newspapers from Louisiana published between 1853 and 1922, but we are also searching for pages that have either "Algiers" or "Orleans" and the terms "yellow" and "fever" in that order.



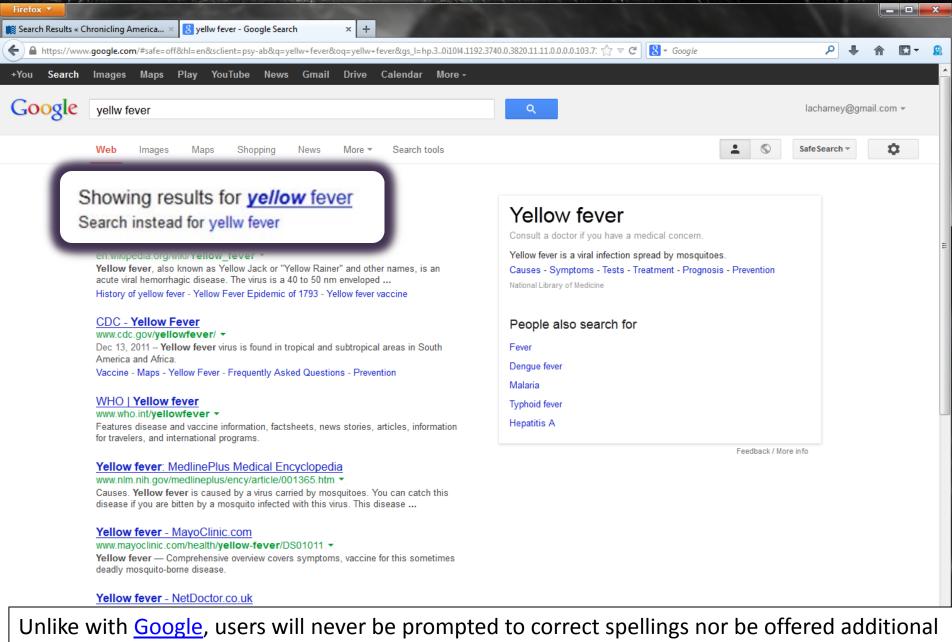
This search results in the fewest number of hits yet, but it should also contain results of higher relevancy than previous searches.



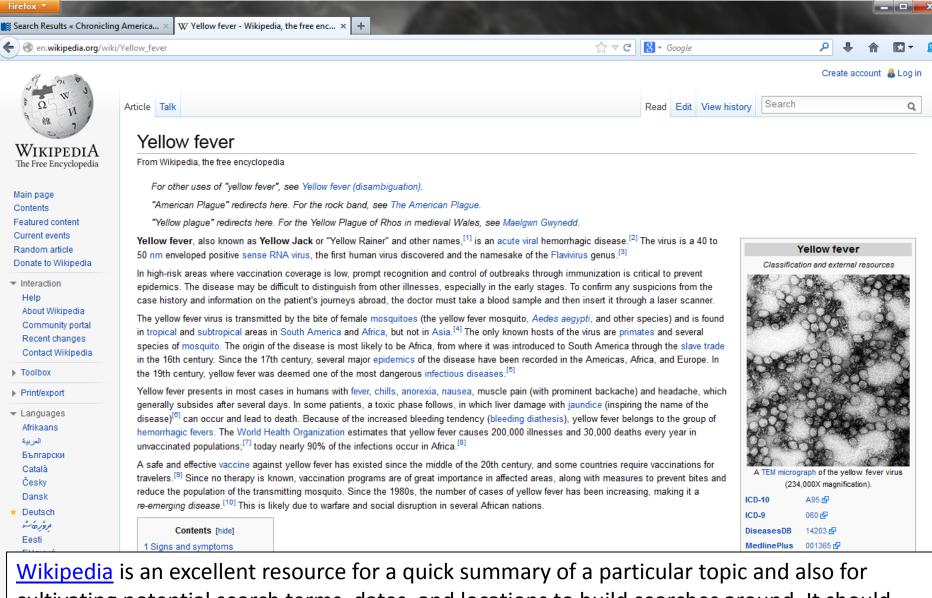
It should be noted that in addition to strategically building searches, users will also have to be very careful about their search terms. For example, misspellings or typos such as "yellw fever" will result in...



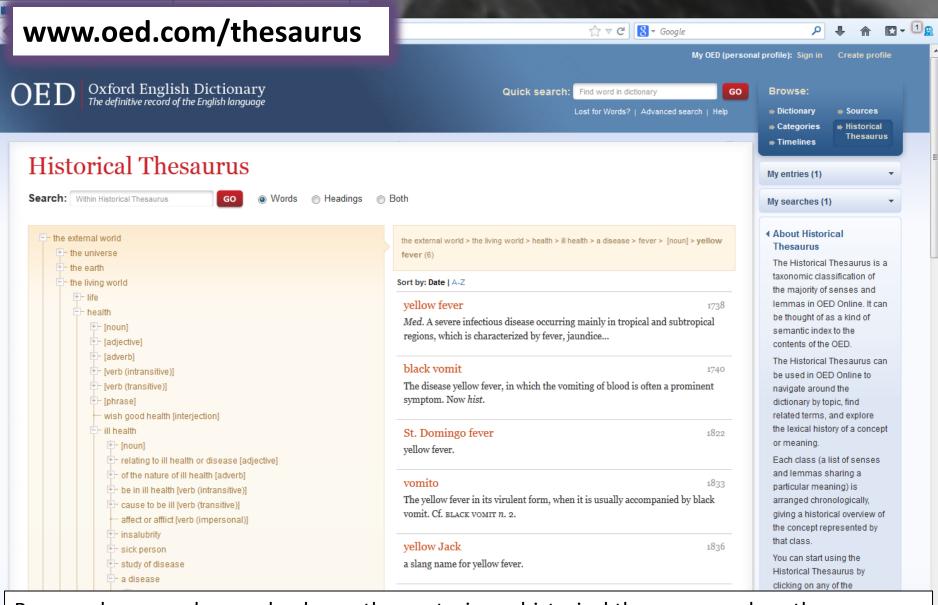
0 results. This is yet another way that *Chronicling America* differs from traditional search engines and databases.



Unlike with <u>Google</u>, users will never be prompted to correct spellings nor be offered additional recommended search terms. Savvy users will incorporate information like this from <u>Google</u> and other resources when building their searches.

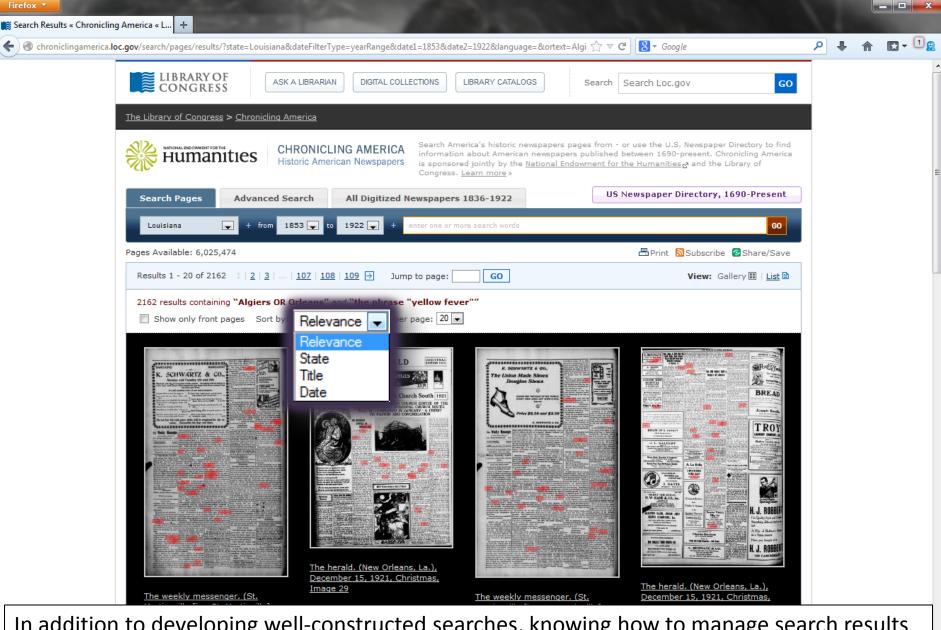


<u>Wikipedia</u> is an excellent resource for a quick summary of a particular topic and also for cultivating potential search terms, dates, and locations to build searches around. It should also be noted that <u>Wikipedia</u> regularly cites newspapers from *Chronicling America* in the References section of many of its historical entries, making it another point of access to these historical newspapers.

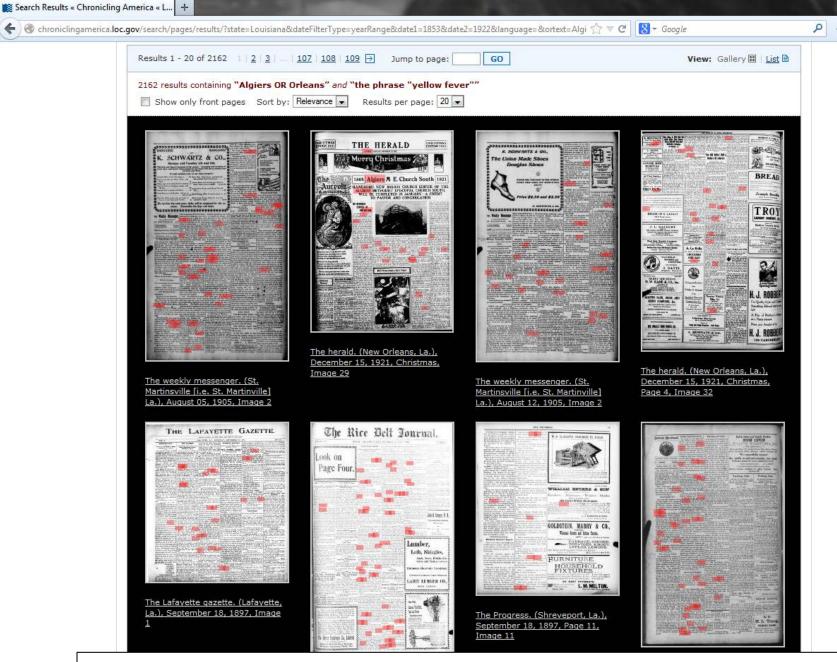


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Because language has evolved over the centuries, a historical thesaurus such as the one provided online by the <u>Oxford English Dictionary</u> can assist in developing search terms using anachronistic language.



In addition to developing well-constructed searches, knowing how to manage search results can also ease the research process. The "Sort by" limiter offers the options to sort by Relevance, State, Title, and Date.



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Results are usually defaulted to sort by "Relevance" but this can be misleading.

Homer Guardian

## Relevance = # of times search terms appear on page

# of words on the page

For *Chronicling America*, relevance is currently defined as the number of times a search term appears on the page versus how many words are on a page. If a user has a newspaper that has fewer words on a page due to formatting, large advertisements, or illustrations, will require fewer search term hits to make it "more relevant" than a page that has many more words and even more search term hits.

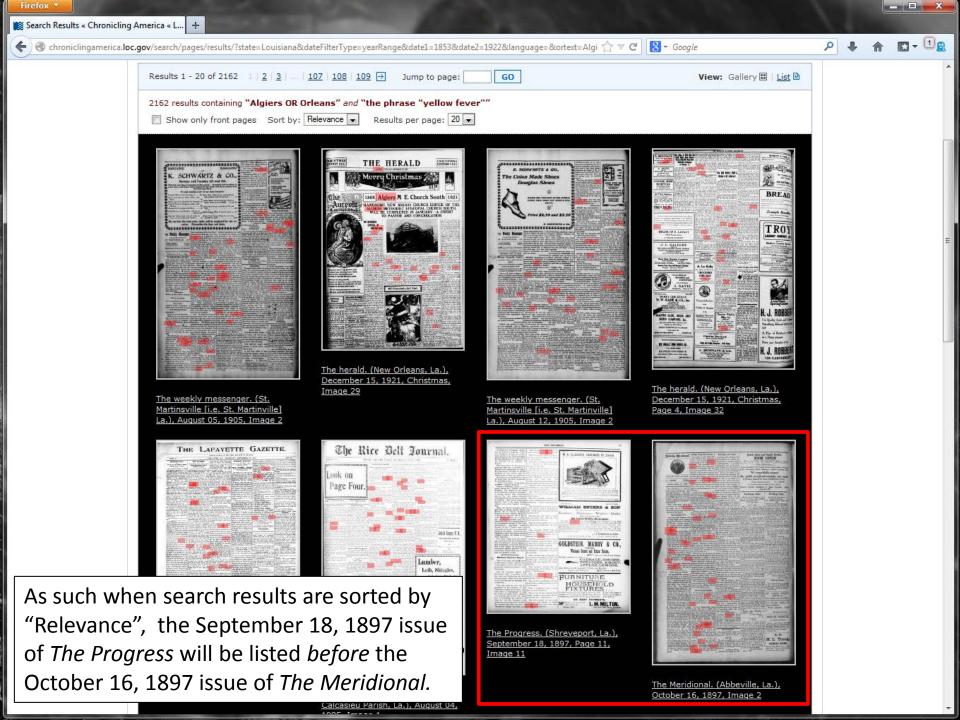
DAILY RECORD.

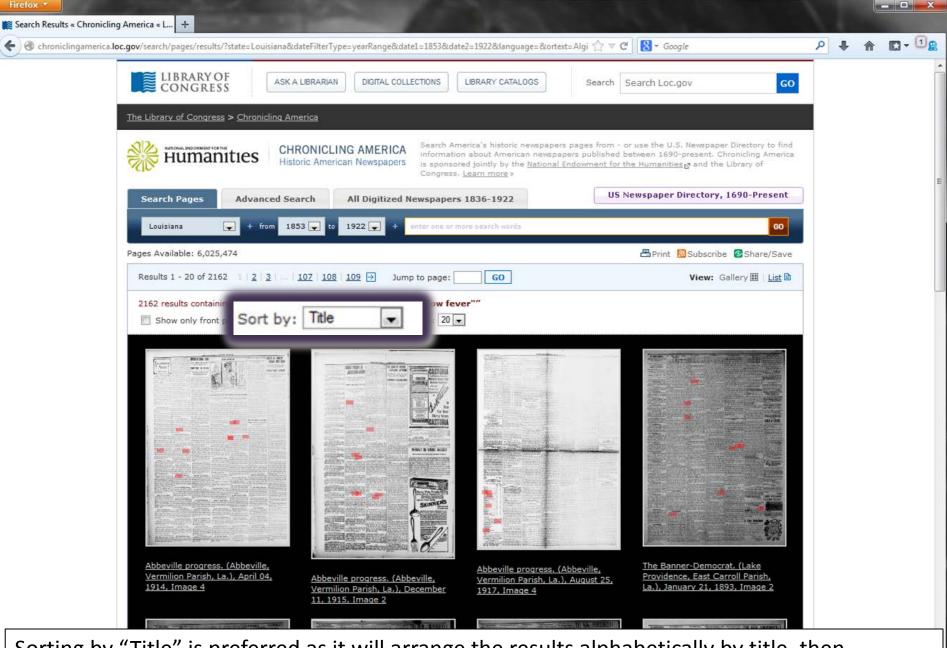
## Which has greater relevance?





So which has greater relevancy? For *Chronicling America*, the September 18, 1897 issue of *The Progress* has greater relevancy than the October 16, 1897 issue of *The Meridional*, even though we can clearly see a greater number of search term hits and closer proximity between terms in *The Progress* than *The Meridional*.



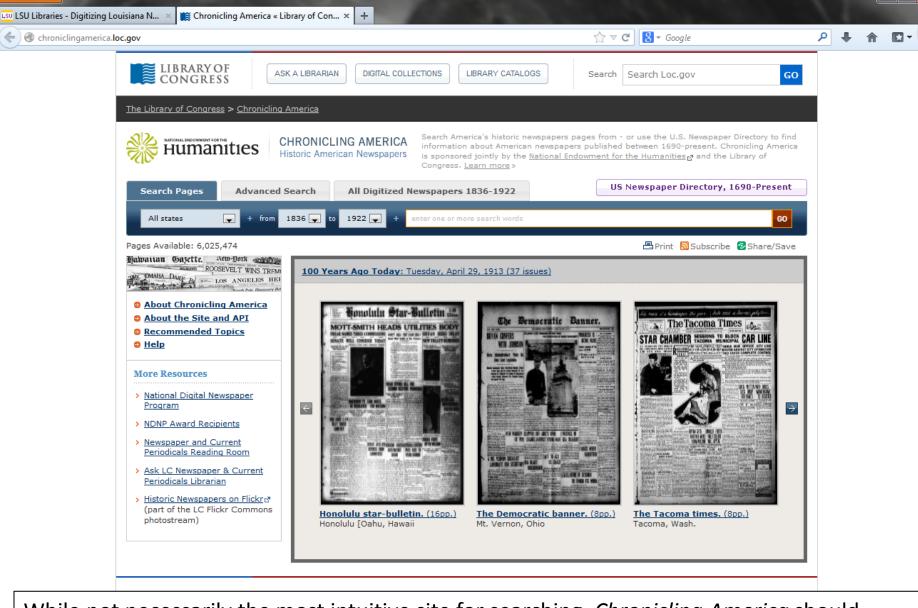


Sorting by "Title" is preferred as it will arrange the results alphabetically by title, then chronologically by date, and then in order of page number.



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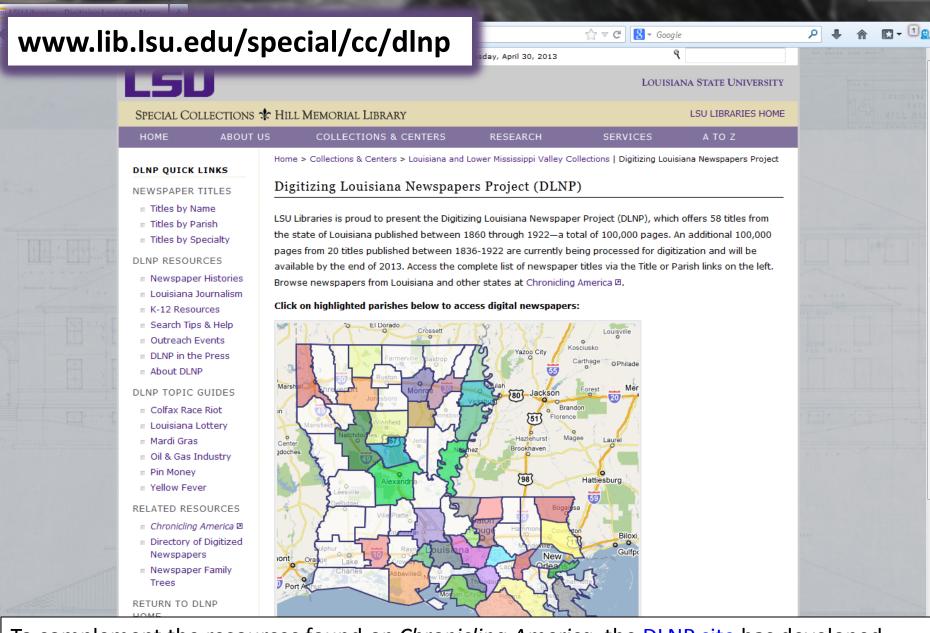
This arrangement will place multiple pages from the same issue featuring the search terms next to each other, an arrangement that is often lost in "Relevance" sorting.



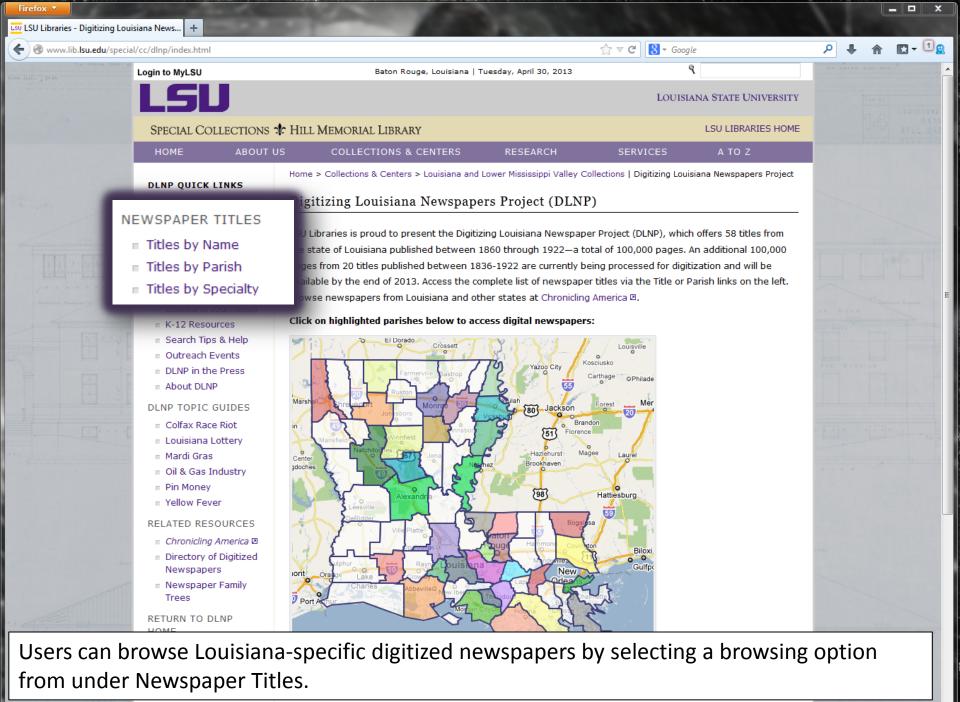
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While not necessarily the most intuitive site for searching, *Chronicling America* should prove a worthy tool for users willing to invest the time and gain the experience necessary to reap the greatest reward from its historical newspaper holdings.

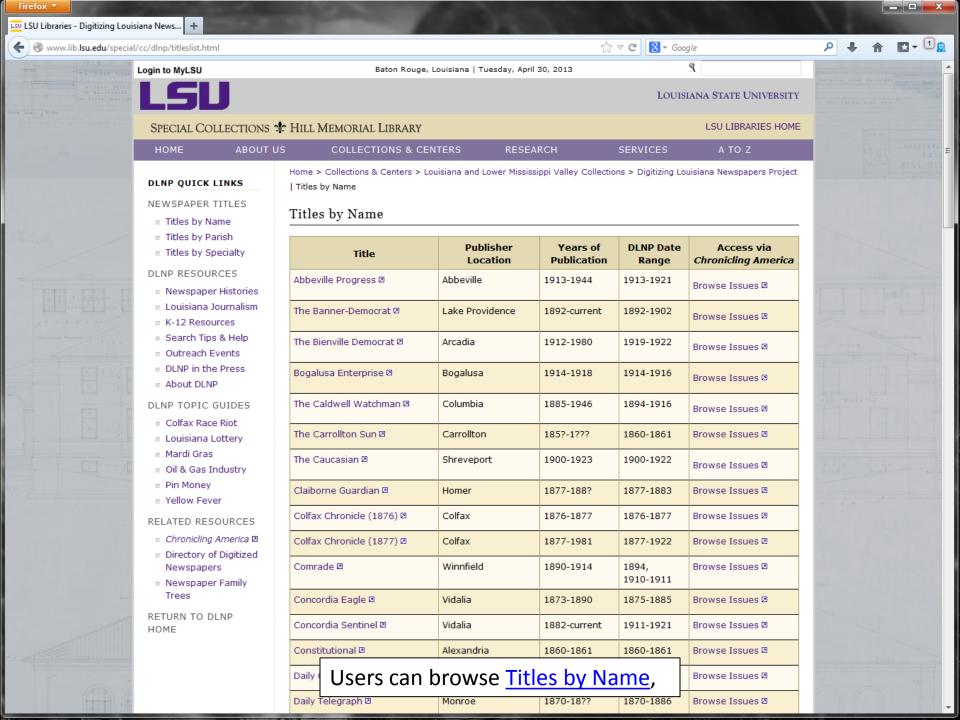
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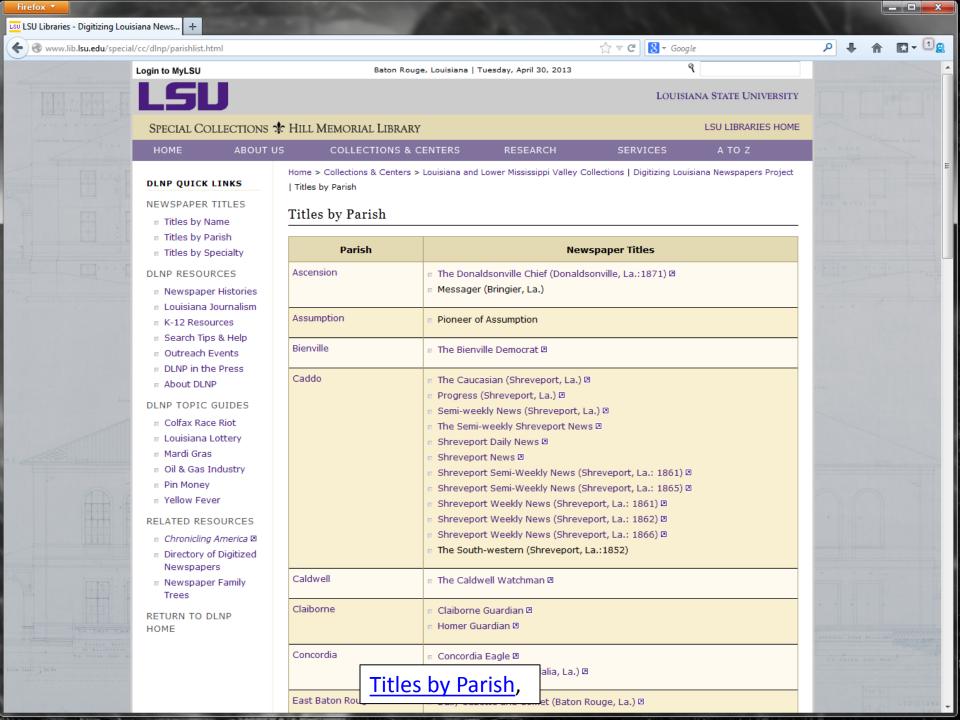


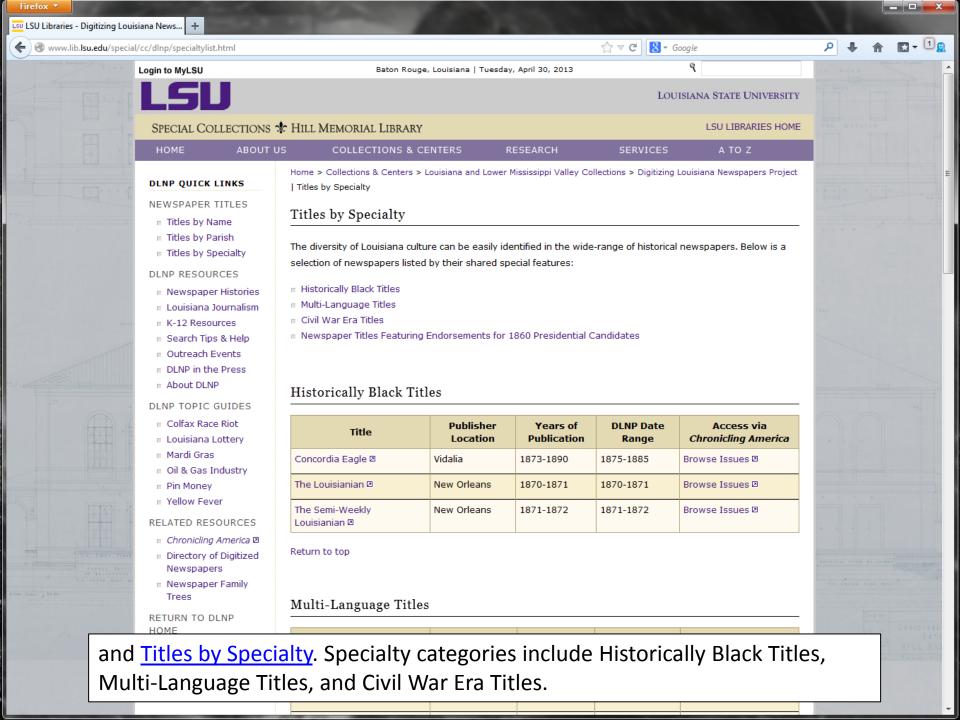
To complement the resources found *on Chronicling America*, the <u>DLNP site</u> has developed many resources for users interested in topics and digitized newspapers specific to Louisiana.

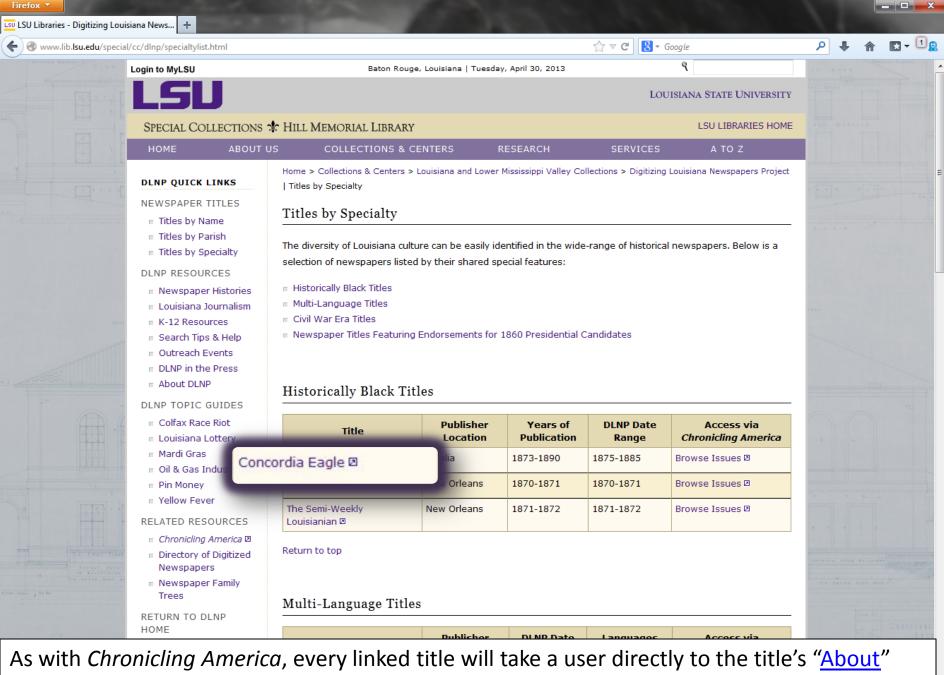


a partnership between the National Endowment of the Humanities (NEH) 🛭 and the Library of Congress 🖪 , which

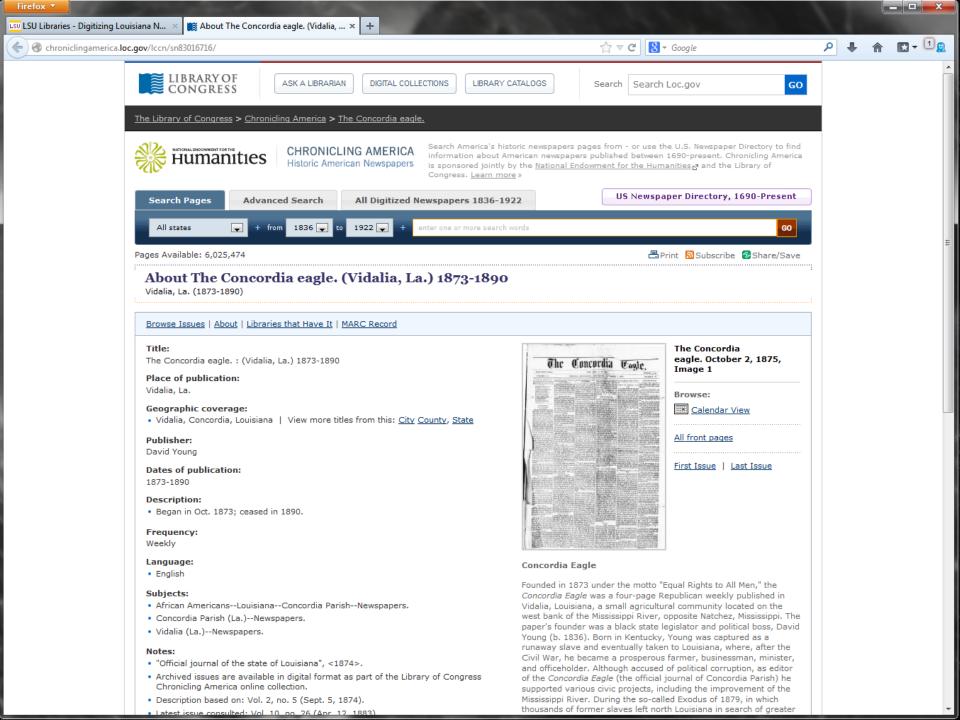


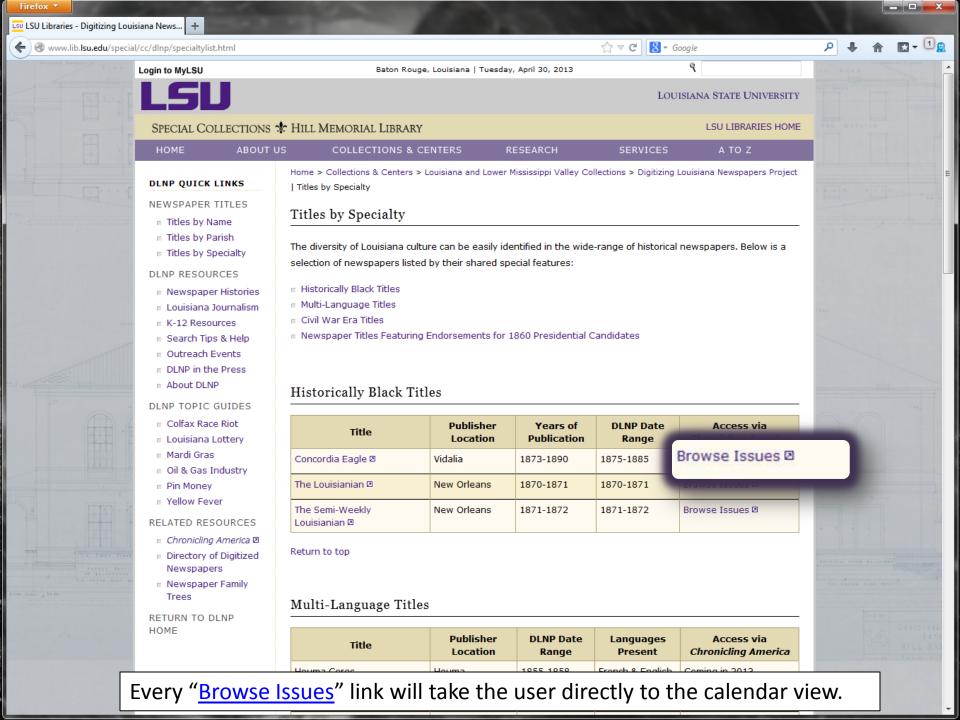


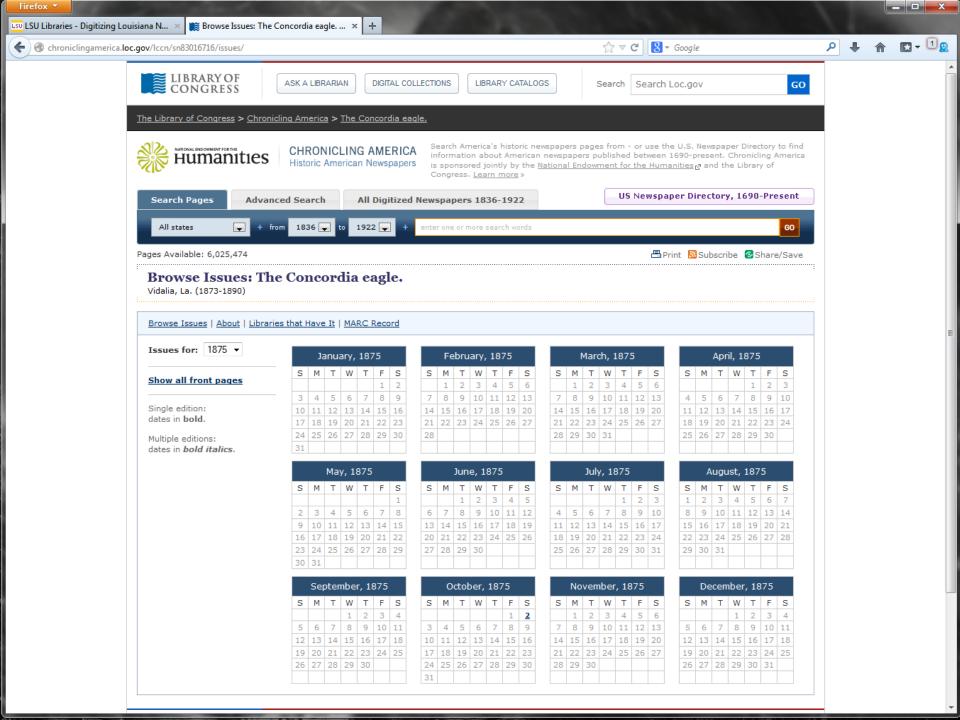


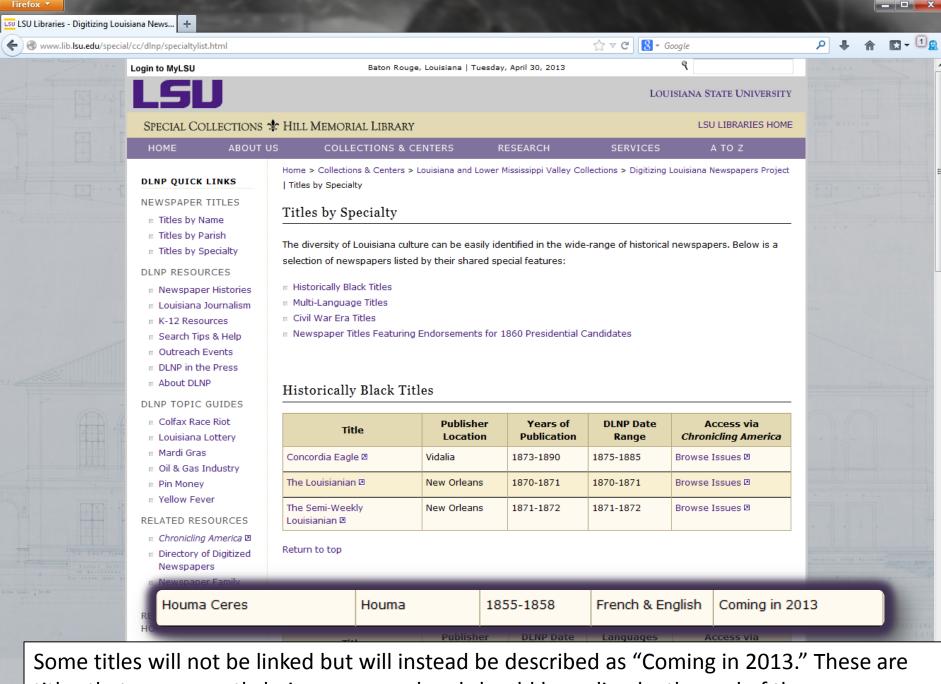


As with *Chronicling America*, every linked title will take a user directly to the title's "<u>About</u>" page.

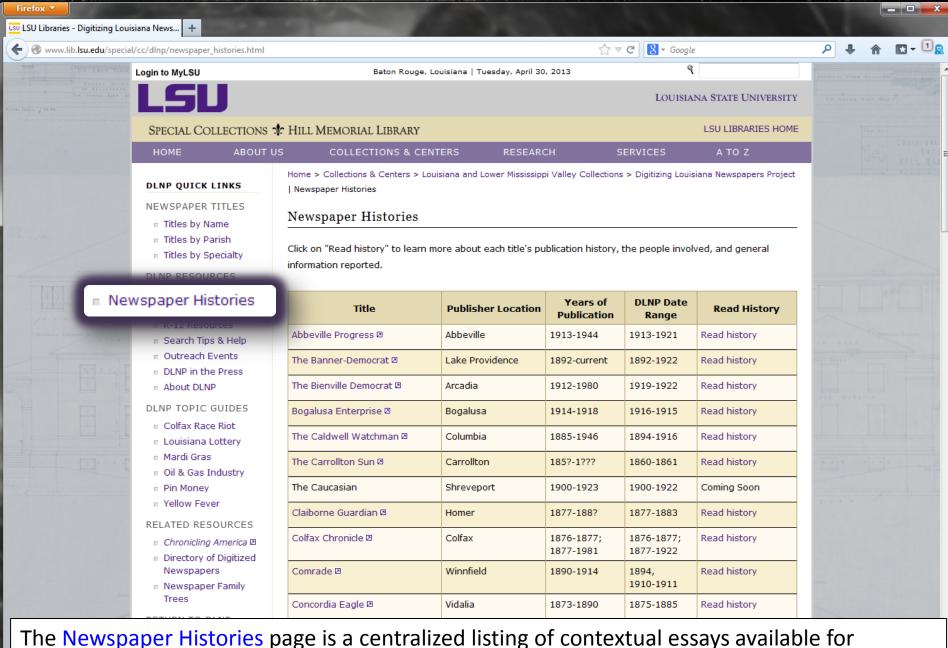






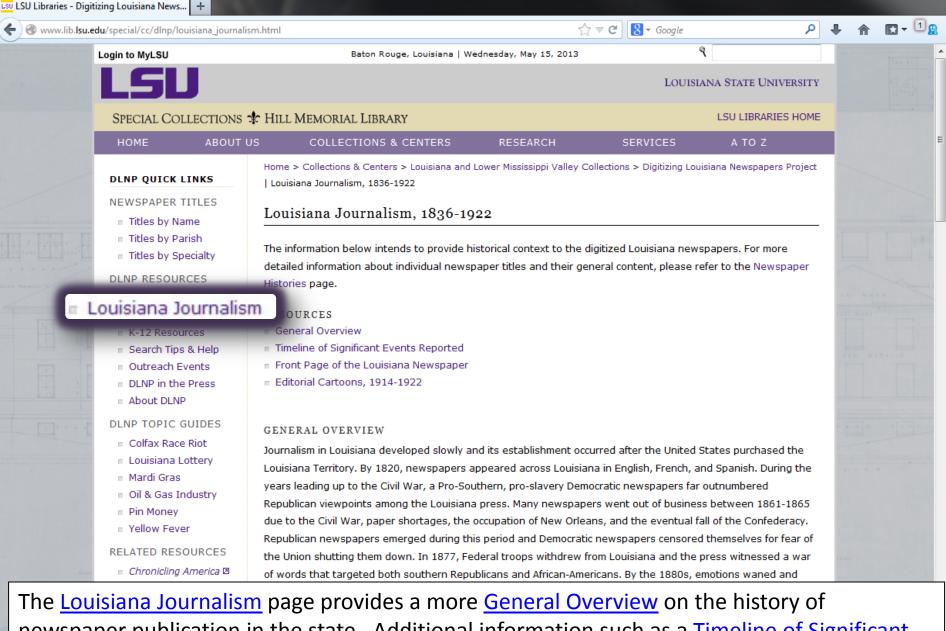


titles that are currently being processed and should be online by the end of the year

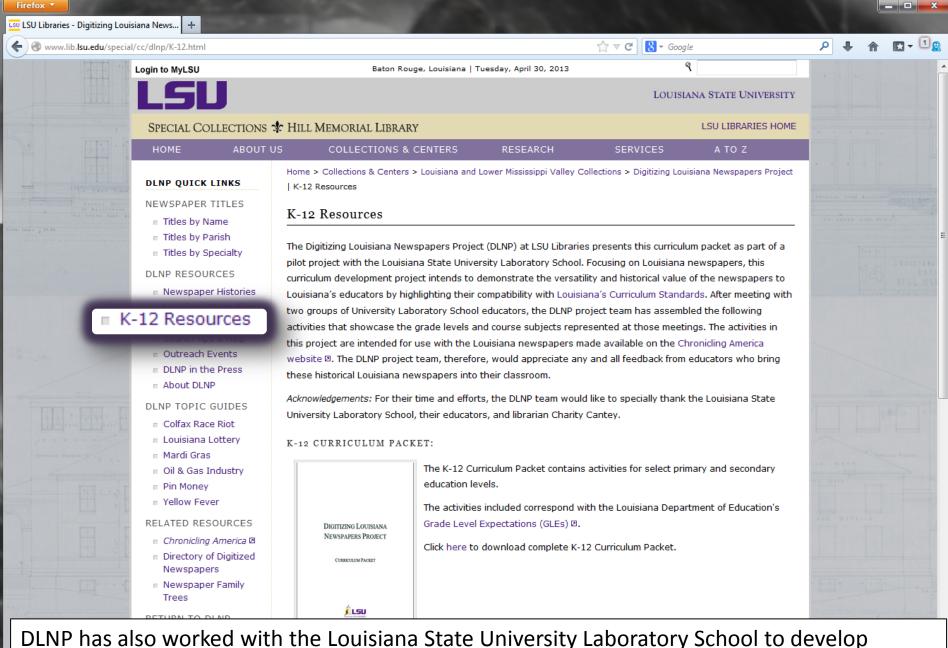


The <u>Newspaper Histories</u> page is a centralized listing of contextual essays available for newspapers currently on *Chronicling America*. Clicking the <u>Read History</u> link will take you directly to the history of the newspaper.

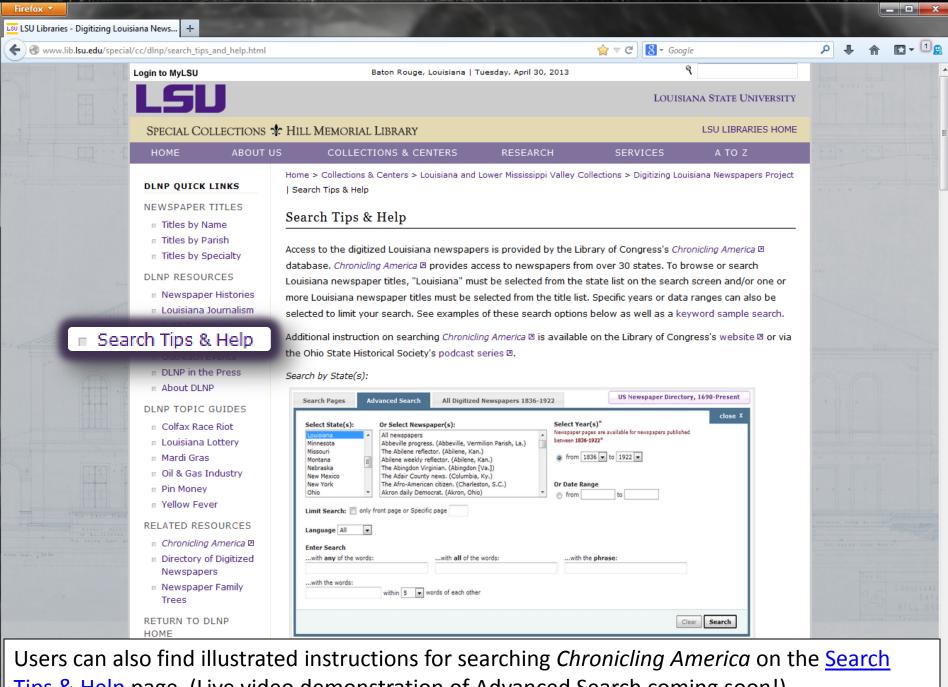




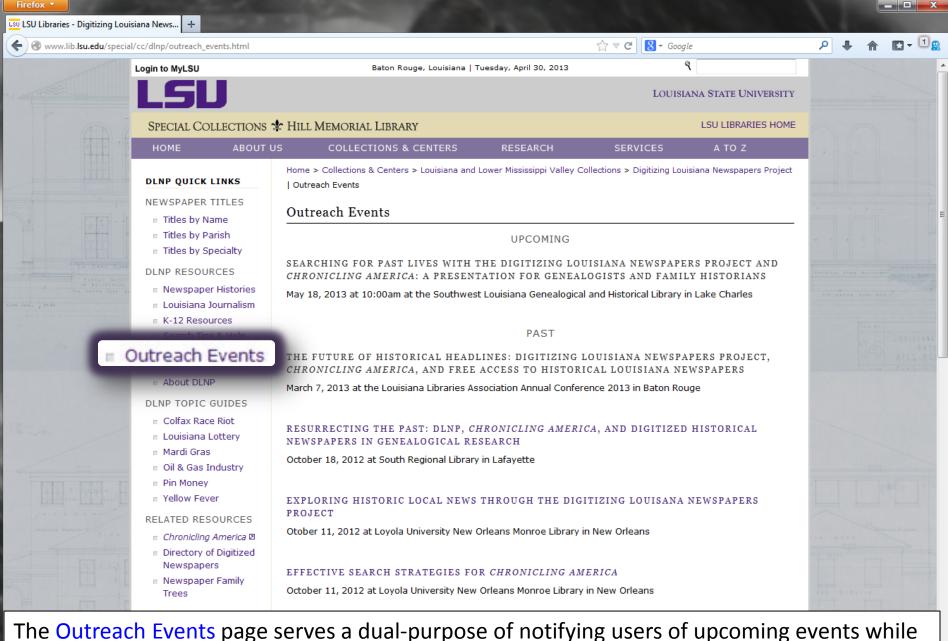
The <u>Louisiana Journalism</u> page provides a more <u>General Overview</u> on the history of newspaper publication in the state. Additional information such as a <u>Timeline of Significant Events Reported</u>, a link to a page on the evolution of the <u>Front Page of the Louisiana Newspaper</u>, and a page on <u>Editorial Cartoons</u>, <u>1914-1922</u> can also be found here.



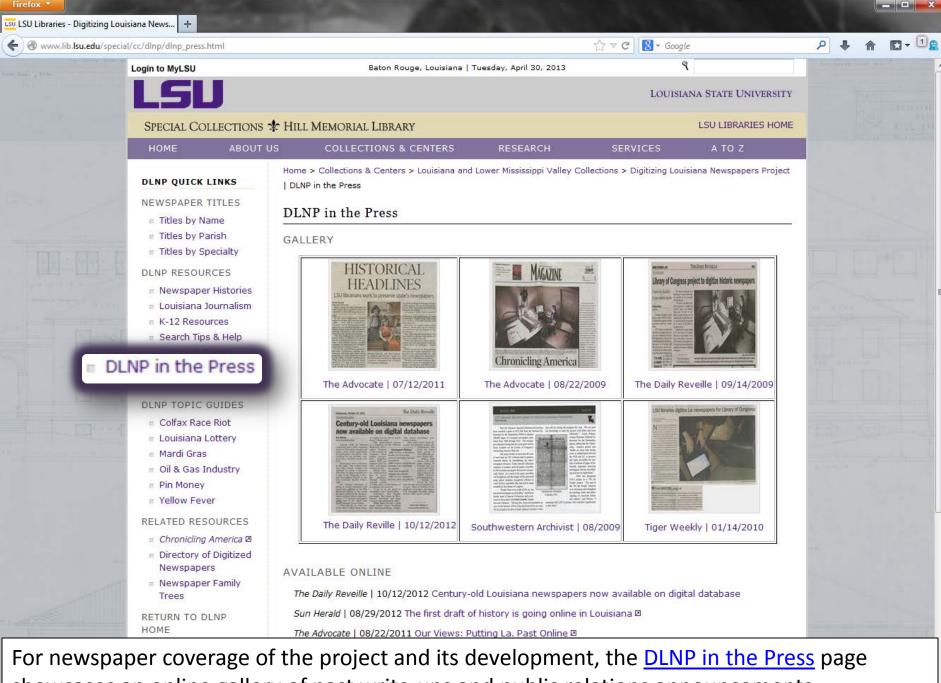
curriculum packets full of activities that are compatible with Louisiana's Curriculum Standards. Packets are available for viewing or download in PDF on the <u>K-12 Resources</u> page.



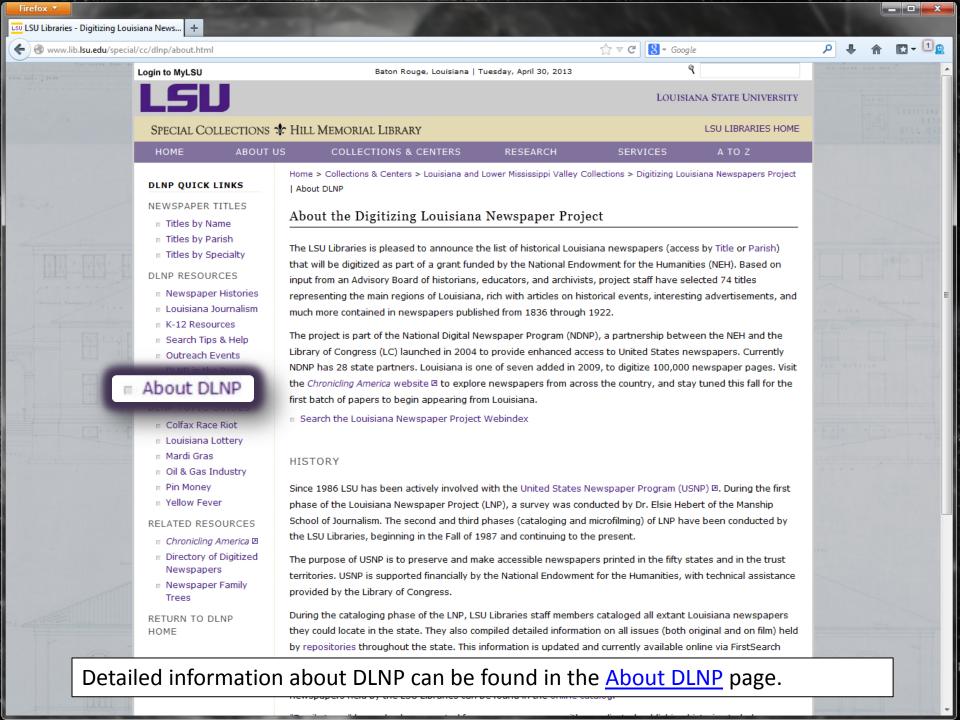
Tips & Help page. (Live video demonstration of Advanced Search coming soon!)

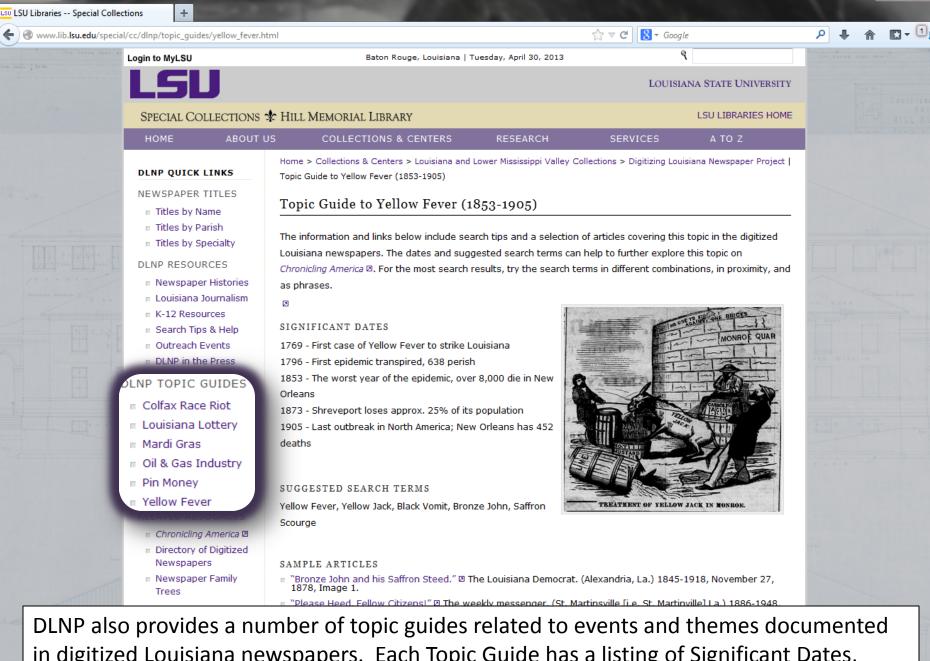


The <u>Outreach Events</u> page serves a dual-purpose of notifying users of upcoming events while also making available past presentations for viewing. Selecting any of the hyperlinked presentation titles should retrieve past presentation slides in a PDF document.

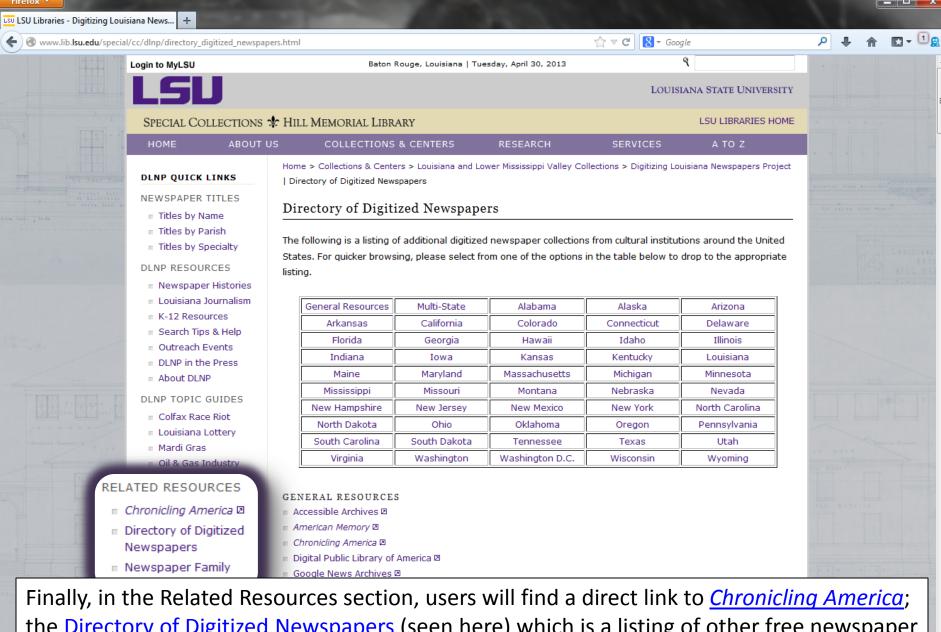


showcases an online gallery of past write-ups and public relations announcements.

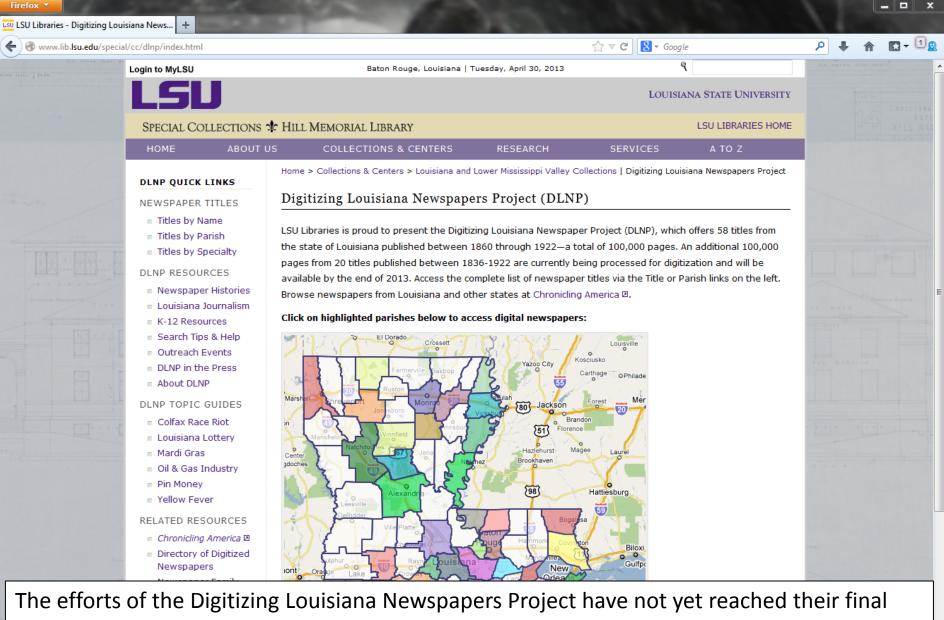




in digitized Louisiana newspapers. Each Topic Guide has a listing of Significant Dates, Suggested Search Terms, and Sample Articles to help a researchers kick start their project.



Finally, in the Related Resources section, users will find a direct link to <u>Chronicling America</u>; the <u>Directory of Digitized Newspapers</u> (seen here) which is a listing of other free newspaper resources by state; and a link to <u>Newspaper Family Trees</u>, which allows users to trace the cessation, succession, and creation of related newspaper titles.



The efforts of the Digitizing Louisiana Newspapers Project have not yet reached their final conclusion. We hope that the resources made possible by the National Digital Newspaper Program, *Chronicling America*, and DLNP will in some small way help users in their research endeavors. Please continue check back for updates on this and related projects.

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## THANK YOU

**Questions or Comments?** 

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