

The Public Library and the Public Record
Preserving Local History in the Digital Age
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Libraries and the Newspaper Publishing Business
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The situation:

- Newspaper industry struggling
 - Revenue way down, major companies in or near bankruptcy
 - Fewer pages
 - Significant staff cuts
 - Industry consolidation [e.g. Pioneer/Sun Times]
- Less local coverage in print
- Inconsistencies and problems with coverage in many electronic formats
 - Local sections included? Wire stories? Gaps
 - OCR [optical character recognition] problems]

Library related issues

- Affirmation of the library's role as a center for community information and community memory in library mission and goals.
 - Relationship between knowing your community and knowing its history
 - It's a big part of what makes your library unique and an essential part of your library's identity
 - Problem: Has community changed in today's world? Who cares about local issues, when do they care?
- Preserve and expand access to the archives of local press.
 - Digital editions-Full image vs. text
 - Searchability
 - Local indexing?
- Filling in the gaps
 - Identify and link to alternative sources of local information.
 - Governmental, organizational.
 - Minutes, publications online, archives?
 - Online news feeds and alerts
 - Monitor the blogosphere & social media
 - Problem: Preservation of digital content