New York Times and Newspaper Archive

Primary Sources (Historical Articles)

Old news is a rich source of information for historians, genealogists, and anyone who is curious about what life was like at a certain point in history.

In the field of history, **primary sources** are sources of information **written at** or shortly after the **time** historic events occurred. For research on Abraham Lincoln primary sources would come from the time period of his life and shortly after his death e.g. 1809 – 1870 or 1880. In the field of history, **secondary sources** are sources of information **written today**, by historians, about events that occurred many years ago.

Old newspapers (and old magazines, books, letters, diaries) are **primary sources**.

UNI Rod Library provides two subscription-based archives of old newspapers:

**New York Times** was first published in 1851. Though this newspaper certainly focuses in part on events in and around New York City, the New York Times routinely publishes news of national and international importance.

The **New York Times** database:

- is easy to use
- has high quality images
- can be limited to specific dates and years
- can be limited to specific types of information: articles, advertisements, editorials

**NewspaperARCHIVE** contains thousands of newspapers from small and mid-size towns and contains news from as far back as the 17th century. While much of the content is taken from U.S. newspapers, NewspaperARCHIVE also contains newspapers from a number of other countries as well.

**NewspaperARCHIVE**:

- is harder to use
- has lower quality images
- is very incomplete (only a scattering of articles from many newspapers)
- can be limited to specific dates
- can be limited to specific newspapers, cities, or states