Researching News Databases

Researchers working on historical topics will frequently have to turn to newspapers to find information. While most newspapers have websites and some have their entire archives available, generally speaking those websites require a subscription or they charge fees for access to older articles. An alternative to single-newspaper websites is news aggregation databases, but there are a few things to be aware of when using them.

If you are looking for a major national newspaper, you can search for its name in the catalog. If you need to find an article from a smaller newspaper, you can go to the Databases page and search the various databases for the term “newspaper,” though this will bring up a large number of databases.

One of the larger databases of news materials that Georgetown Law Library subscribes to is Proquest U.S. Newsstream. If you want to see if they have a specific news source, you can click on “publications” and search for a word or words in the title. Click through to see the specific coverage – coverage may not be current or may not go back as far as you need.

Georgetown Law Library also subscribes to several Proquest single-newspaper databases. If you know what you are looking for is in one of these sources, it is most efficient to search the specific database.

Another wide-ranging database for news sources is Factiva. If you want to search a specific news source, search for it here, then click the source to add it. Then enter the search terms you are looking for.

You may also search either Proquest U.S. Newsstream or Factiva for topics without selecting a source first. Your results will then come from a variety of newspapers.