Building a Catholic News Archive

Catholic Media Conference June 25, 2015
Pat Lawton, Digital Projects Librarian
Jennifer Younger, Executive Director
Today’s discussion

• You have an e-edition. What next?
• Why an archive? Value proposition & problem
• Catholic Newspapers Program
• Building a Catholic News Archive
• Dark archiving & preservation
• Collaboration & partners
• Sustainability
Value proposition

• Foster use – put Catholic newspapers “in front” of people who don’t imagine reading them
• Foster subscriptions through historical availability
• Probe inquiries across newspapers for new connections & historical perspectives
• Gain appreciation of those living the faith
• Learn more about family history
• Reflect the significant impact of the Church, its communities, its families
• Be good stewards of Catholic newspapers
What is the need?

• Print is fragile, endangered, scattered
• Often stored in the basement
• Only a handful of microfilm archives exist
• Diverse & scattered digitization underway
• E-editions emerging
• No coordinated plan for long-term preservation of print, digitized or e-editions
• Our responsibility to the Church
Catholic Newspapers Program

Started 2011

The goal is to provide freely available access to extant Catholic newspapers published in the U.S. and Canada
CNP’s parts & partners

- A comprehensive directory
- Digitization projects
- A Catholic News Archive - digitized, e-editions
- Ten newspapers plus CNS (1920-1986)
- Twenty five partnering institutions
This list is being compiled by the Catholic Research Resources Alliance with the help of all in support of the goal to provide access to all extant Catholic newspapers in North America. Thank you in advance for your participation.

How You Can Help

Browse Titles Alphabetically:
#A B C D E F G H I J K L M N O P Q R S T U V W X Y Z

#

885 (Newton College, Newton, Mass.)
1952-1973
http://bit.ly/VmR6go
The 885 was the student newspaper of Newton College of the Sacred Heart, a Catholic women's college in operation from 1946 through 1975 when it merged with Boston College. Boston College recognizes the alumna of Newton College of the Sacred Heart and considers these graduates part of the legacy that is the Boston College Alumni.

A

Arkansas Catholic, formerly The Southern Guardian/The Guardian (Little Rock, AR)
1911 - 1965
http://ar-catholic.org/

The Arkansas Catholic was the student newspaper of the University of Arkansas for Women, a Catholic women's college in operation from 1907 through 1976 when it merged with the University of Arkansas. The Arkansas Catholic, formerly The Southern Guardian and The Guardian, is part of the Arkansas Catholic newspaper family.
Snowflakes in the air

- 20th century is missing
- Selected articles only available on most sites
- No presence in major newspaper databases
- No unified access to Individual archives and sites
- Standardized data formats?
- Commitments to digital preservation?
- Recent survey suggests interest in collaboratively digitizing the 20th century
Join the revolution

• Digital humanities – historians can search for every trace of a person, relate these across documents, write history rich with details
• A vast body of historical newspapers accessible
• Catholic newspapers are under-represented in leading online sources
• Catholic Church – less visible in U.S. histories?
• Tim Meagher, The Catholic University of America
Building our foundation
Priority papers for digitization

$2 million to digitize 1.5 million pages

*Diocesan*
Boston, 1829-
Chicago, 1852-
Hartford, 1829-
New Orleans, 1842-
New York, 1860-
Philadelphia, 1830-2002
San Francisco, 1861-
St. Louis, 1941-
National: • Catholic News Service newsfeeds, 1920-1986 • National Catholic Reporter, 1964- • Our Sunday Visitor, 1912-
A CRRA collaborative project underway

• Digitize ten newspapers and CNS (1920-1986)
  – European Immigration (1880-1919)
  – Vatican II (1958-1972)

• Aggregate into Catholic News Archive

• Benefits
  – Enable digital learning and scholarship
  – Shared, lower costs for institutions
  – Expert management
http://newspapers.bc.edu/

• 9 student, diocesan, Jesuit newspapers
• 5,007 issues comprising 88,717 pages and 318,973 articles
• Includes the first three of the many titles used for the newspaper known as the *Pilot*
• Reader / researcher experience is key
• High degree of functionality, speed, and ease—Veridian platform
http://newspapers.bc.edu/

BOSTON COLLEGE

SEARCH THE COLLECTION

ABOUT THIS COLLECTION

This collection contains 5,007 issues comprising 88,717 pages and 318,973 articles.

The Heights
The Boston College student newspaper began publication in November 1919. Issues from 1919-2013 are available online. For current news, see the paper's website: http://boheights.com. Copyright for 1970 to the present is held by the Heights, Inc. Copyright for 1964-1970 is held by the Trustees of Boston College. Issues from 1919-1963 are in the public domain.

The Sacred Heart Review
The Review was a newspaper published in Cambridge and Boston between 1888-1918. Not merely a church bulletin, the Review contained sections dealing with local, national and international news, and had a nation-wide subscriber base. It is important for its reporting of the Catholic Church in general and the Church in New England in particular; its pieces that explicate and defend Catholicism; and its advertisements. The entire 60-volume run is available online and is in the public domain. The online version was made possible, in part, by the John and Ruth

Featured in this Collection

Catholic Sentinel (Boston, Mass.: 1833) 9 February 1833
The *Pilot*: 3 early titles

**The Stylus**
The earliest of the Boston College newspapers, the *Stylus* was founded by students in 1883. The paper featured literary contributions, as well as alumni, athletics, and other college news. By 1933, the *Stylus* was entirely an undergraduate literary magazine; it continues as such today. Issues of *Stylus*, from January 1883 through December 1922, are available online.

**Jesuit, or, Catholic sentinel (Boston, Mass. : 1829)**
Founded in 1829 by Benedict Fenwick, a Jesuit priest and the second bishop of Boston, this is the first of several titles used for the newspaper that is now known as the Pilot.

**United States Catholic Intelligencer**
This is the second of several titles used for the newspaper that is now known as the Pilot.

**Jesuit, or, Catholic sentinel (Boston, Mass. : 1833)**
This is the third of several titles used for the newspaper that is now known as the Pilot.
Browse by title – 1st issue of

Jesuit, or, Catholic sentinel (Boston, Mass. : 1829), Number I, 5 September 1829

Contents

Page 1
- Masthead
- PROSPECTUS.

Page 2
- TITLE "JESUIT."
- ON TRUTH.

Page 4
- Untitled
- THE TRUE CHURCH.

Page 5
- OF COMMON CONTROVERSIES.
- CHAP. I. OF THE HOLY SCRIPTURE.

Page 7
- SINGULAR PREDICTION.
- TRULY CURIOUS.

Page 8
- PIOUS REFLECTIONS.
- DIALOGUE BETWEEN MATILDA AND
Jesuit, or Catholic sentinel – 1st issue
The Ursuline Convent, 1834
• Charlestown (MA) convent burned to ground
• A school for girls run by Ursuline nuns; not to teach Catholicism but it was open to all
• Prior to the riot, Rebecca Reed claimed to be an escaped nun from the Ursuline Convent; her tales of their cruelty were published in *Six Months in a Convent*
• Now, the book is considered fictionalized, a prime piece of anti-Catholic propaganda
• Bostonians read this tale and were angered
Searching across issues of the Pilot: “Ursuline Convent”
JESUIT-KIDNAPPING.
A young lady, an orphan, has lately been inveigled into the Ursuline Convent, Mount Benedict, Charlestown, Mass., after having been cajoled to transfer a large fortune to the Popish Massmen. The above is taken from the New-England Herald, Aaron Lummus and William Brown, Editors and Publishers. Office, 127, Washington Street, Vol. I. No. 28. The source from which the above is derived is too contemptible to deserve further notice, or even contradiction.
Destruction of the Charlestown Convent

It is our painful duty to record one of the most atrocious and disgraceful acts of violence, ever perpetrated in any clime or civilized country. We allude to the destruction, by a lawless and fanatical mob, on last Monday night, of the magnificent Convent erected a few years since in Charlestown, by Bishop Fenwick of this city. This splendid institution bad, for its object, the education of young ladies in all the branches of polite learning, and at the time of the woful disaster in question, had actually under the government of the Ursuline Ladies, between 50 and 60 young ladies chiefly of the best families of Massachusetts. A report had been industriously circulated for several weeks previous, that a young lady was detained in this Convent against her will—that she was immured in a dungeon and there cruelly treated. However absurd the report, the fanatical preachers in Boston and the adjacent towns, seemed glad of so
INFORMATION WANTED

A Database of Advertisements for Irish Immigrants Published in the Boston Pilot

FROM OCTOBER 1831 through October 1921, the Boston Pilot newspaper printed a "Missing Friends" column with advertisements from people looking for "lost" friends and relatives who had emigrated from Ireland to the United States. This extraordinary collection of 72,249 records is available here as a searchable online database, which contains a text record for each ad that appeared in the Pilot.

The advertisements contain the ordinary but revealing details about the missing person's life: the county and parish of their birth, when they left Ireland, the believed port of arrival in North America, their occupation, and a range of other personal information. Some records may have as many as 50 different data fields, while others may offer only a few details. The people who placed ads were often anxious family members in Ireland, or the wives, siblings, or parents of men who followed construction jobs on railroads or canals.

These "Missing Friends" advertisements provide a window on the world of Irish immigration. For further resources...

United States Catholic Intelligencer, Number XXXIX, 22 June 1832

Why may this text contain mistakes?

INFORMATION WANTED of Owen Prouty from Drummerhave, near Roslea, county Fermanagh, Ireland. He arrived at St. John's, N. B. in June, 1831, whence he embarked for New York in the autumn. Any information respecting him will be thankfully received by his Sister Margaret, or * chart Kennedy, Sister Street, Boston. June 8.
Global search of historic newspapers

https://www.elephind.com/

About Elephind.com

The goal of [Elephind.com](https://www.elephind.com/) is to make it possible to search all the world's online historic newspapers from one place. We aren't there yet, but we are adding more newspapers every day.

With Elephind.com it is now possible for family historians, genealogists, and researchers to search historic digitized newspaper archives from around the globe. Elephind.com is much like Google, Bing, or other search engines but is focused on only historical, digitized newspapers. It enables you to search, for free, across many newspaper sites simultaneously, rather than having to visit each site separately. By clicking on the Elephind.com search result that interests you you'll go directly to the newspaper site which hosts that story.

Many of the smaller newspaper sites are not well known and may be difficult to find with the usual search engines but are searchable from Elephind.com.

We're continuing to add more newspapers to Elephind.com, so if at first you can't find what you're looking for, please check back later. Or you can add your name to our mailing list, and we'll email you when a new collection is added.

Here at Veridian we've been involved with lots of newspaper digitization projects for customers like Cornell, Princeton, the National Libraries of New Zealand and Singapore, and many others. If you have any comments or suggestions about this site, or if you know of other free online newspaper collections which you'd like to see added to Elephind.com, please contact us.

### Elephind.com Statistics

<table>
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<th>Sources</th>
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<th>Items</th>
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<td>Trove (National Library of Australia)</td>
<td>681</td>
<td>1,303,275</td>
<td>117,749,878</td>
<td>5 March 1803</td>
<td>1 November 2007</td>
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<td>Chronicling America (US Library of Congress)</td>
<td>1,060</td>
<td>908,612</td>
<td>6,846,382</td>
<td>5 January 1836</td>
<td>31 December 1922</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
Building a Catholic News Archive

• Identify digitized and digital content
• Set up a discovery and delivery platform
• Engage with online audiences
• A dark archive & digital preservation
• Sustain the archive
Discovery, delivery and use

- A first-rate reader & researcher experience
- Find articles in one newspaper or across newspapers in seconds
- Download a PDF of an issue
- Blog & tweet to tell the story
- Crowd-sourcing text correction
- Veridian has expertise delivering newspapers
Digital content in perpetuity

• An archive is a vault
• Critical to long-term institutional strategies
• CRRA mission – *enduring* global access
• *Dodging the Memory Hole*
A dark archive

- Secure, low-cost online backup for recovery or repair
- Guards against data degradation
- Does not curate data for hardware/software changes
- Amazon Glacier, Individual repositories
- First step in digital preservation
A trusted digital repository

• Preservation services curate digital material for long-term usability in face of data, hardware or software changes

• Library collaborations: Digital Preservation Network, MetaArchive Cooperative

• Commercial services: Preservica Cloud

• Audited and certified
Collaboration & partnering

• 107 responses to survey
• Everyone is archiving
• Eighty percent of all survey respondents (libraries, archives and publishers) want to know more about collaboratively implementing a searchable archive
• Many partners essential for success
A shared Catholic News Archive

• Aggregation is powerful
• Shared costs & cost savings
• Expert management
• Many voices participate in development
• Content in the archive and individual sites
• New revenue streams for institutions as use drives traffic to websites, sells subscriptions, higher ad revenue
A shared Catholic News Archive

• Community infrastructure and asset
• Identify scope, terms of participation and use
• Disseminate digitizing, PDF guidelines
• Accept digitized/digital content from many
• Create an incentive for digitization
• Respect needs of publishers, libraries, archives and users in North American Catholic Newspaper Community
Sustainability

- Cost recovery model
- Freely available
- Fees for participants / premium services
- Supporters, members, sponsors
- Why support?
- Access to knowledge improves our world
- Affirm contribution of Catholic Church
What is known must be shared

• This digitizing effort will make available at the click of a button nearly 175 years of local Catholic history.

• The Catholic Church needs to have its history easily accessible to researchers and interested readers, Catholic and non-Catholic alike.

• We can tell our story directly and effectively.

• Most Reverend Gregory M. Aymond, Archbishop, New Orleans
Looking ahead

- Directory
- Digitization
- E-editions
- Catholic News Archive
- Collaboration
- Sustainability