

National Digital Newspaper Program
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I was chatting with Nadina Gardner yesterday between a couple sessions about the National Digital Newspaper Program. This program is a partnership between the National Endowment for the Humanities, where Nadina is the director of the Division of Preservation and Access, and the Library of Congress, where I help manage the technical aspects of the program that I'm going to show off now.

While we were chatting, Salim Malik, a coworker from the Library of Congress happened by. I made an introduction, explaining that Salim had worked on NDNP from the Library of Congress side, which led me to make a further observation that when I looked around the room, a large number of the people I know here, I know from some part of that program. The astonishing and singular thing about the partnership is that its programmatic and technical successes have been a rising tide that has lifted a lot of boats- not only just at NEH and LC, but also with partners in states, and now beyond.

It is that beyond part of the program that I'm going to talk briefly about today.

As part of this program, we've now put almost six point six million pages online. Here is a preview of the version of Chronicling America that will be released at the end of this week:

[<http://chroniclingamerica2.loc.gov>]

By itself, this is a pretty big accomplishment, but that's still just on the way. With sponsorship from the NEH, the Library of Congress and a number of NDNP awardees got together to prepare the software we use to power the site for an Open Source release. This process began over three years ago, but has really gathered steam over the past six months.

[<https://github.com/LibraryofCongress/chronam>]

Here is the Open Source project, as seen from space. As a nod to all of the people who worked on the project, I'm going to now read all of the source code out loud until my time is up.

[<https://github.com/LibraryOfCongress/chronam/wiki/Sites-Using-ChronAm>]

Or, I could just show a few, I suppose. There is, of course, the one I showed at the beginning, the Chronicling America homepage. Here's an example of an awardee that's using the software to make pages available that are both part of the NDNP program, and those which are not.

[<http://oregonnews.uoregon.edu/>]

But awardees are not the only people using the software now. Here's an example of someone else who simply signed up on the GitHub project and joined the mailing list, who's making New York State historic newspapers available:

[<http://nyshistoricnewspapers.org/>]

In keeping with this, we've also used the software again at the Library of Congress, which is shown with the screenshots you see below.

All the while, the people who are using the software, using the data, using the website, participating in the program, are beginning to foment a little community around providing access to newspapers, which in turn serves the goals of the program to enhance access to historic newspapers.

I have not had time to show specifications, big data projects, the details of our own nifty website, or any of the other tools we've used, but I encourage you all to grab me afterward to visit the GitHub site and the website on your own. Thanks very much.