**FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS.**

**What is the National Digital Newspaper Program?**

The National Digital Newspaper Program (NDNP) is a partnership between the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) and the Library of Congress (LC) to develop an online, searchable database of digitized U.S. newspapers. The NEH funds one institution, or one partnership between institutions, from each state and territory to select and contribute digitized newspaper content published between 1836 and 1922. Within the two-year grant period, awardees deliver 100,000 digitized pages. Newspapers are digitized from microfilm—specifically from a second-generation duplicate of the camera master. The digitized pages are available for free at Chronicling America (http://chroniclingamerica.loc.gov/), which is maintained by LC. Project staff also evaluates the technical quality and completeness of the title on microfilm before a title is digitized. Sometimes print copies are used to supplement the run on microfilm.

**Can I nominate a title for digitization?**

Yes! To nominate a title for digitization, email ecaringo@umd.edu with as much of the following information as possible:

- Title
- LCCN
- Years of publication
- City of publication
- Institution that holds the master microfilm

If the title meets the NDNP criteria for digitization, it will be forwarded to the advisory board for consideration.

**How are titles selected for digitization?**

Projects that are awarded an NDNP grant are responsible for establishing an advisory board to recommend titles for digitization. Our advisory board is made up of historians, archivists, librarians, and educators from across Maryland. At the beginning of a two-year NDNP award, advisory board members recommend titles and prioritize them for digitization. To be considered for digitization, a title must meet these basic requirements:

1. The newspaper must have been published in the state of Maryland;
2. The newspaper must reflect the political, economic, and cultural history of Maryland, with preference given to papers of record; and
3. The newspaper must have been published between 1836 and 1922.

**1st Grant Awarded September 1, 2012**

107,414 pages digitized and available
Pages span 1840-1913, 3 cities, 8 titles

**2nd Grant Awarded September 1, 2014**

At least 100,000 additional pages by August 31, 2016
Pages span 1841-1922, 10 cities, 10 titles

**Content Partners**

Maryland State Archives
Maryland Historical Society
Library of Congress
We will soon launch an online database of digitized Maryland newspapers. This resource will assist users in determining if a title has been digitized and where they can access it. It will include both newspapers freely available and those behind pay walls. Look for an announcement on the Maryland History and Culture Collaborative Google Group as soon as it is up and running.

We also hope to expand the scope of the project beyond participation in the NDNP in the future. Possibilities include:

- Developing a digital repository for Maryland newspapers
- Digitizing content not eligible for the NDNP
- Offering services that increase access to newspapers:
  - Digitization
  - Hosting
  - Digital preservation
  - Grant writing assistance

Let us know how the project can grow to better fit the needs of your institution, collections, and users!