News - Digital Library of Georgia

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Digital Library of Georgia

New Website Devoted to Georgia Historic Newspapers Available from the Digital Library of Georgia.

The Digital Library of Georgia (DLG) is pleased to announce the launch of a brand-new website featuring historic newspaper titles from around the state. Georgia Historic Newspapers (GHN), available at: http://gahistoricnewspapers.galileo.usg.edu/

Since 2007, the Digital Library of Georgia has been providing access to the state’s historic newspapers through multiple, online city and regional newspaper archives. The DLG’s newest website, Georgia Historic Newspapers (GHN), continues that tradition by bringing together new and existing resources into a single, consolidated website.

“Historic newspapers provide a unique look at our state over time. They are invaluable to scholars and the general public alike as they provide in-depth coverage of Georgia counties and cities, report on the activities of state and local government, and reflect the social and cultural values of the time that they were created. By far, they are DLG’s most popular resources,” remarked Sheila McAlister, director of the Digital Library of Georgia. “We’re grateful for the assistance of our partners as we continue to add new content and improve how our users interact with these important historic documents.”

The GHN includes some of the state’s earliest newspapers; important African-American, Roman Catholic, and Cherokee newspapers; and issues from Augusta, Atlanta, Columbus, Fayetteville, Houston County, Louisville, Thomson, Sandersville, Waycross, and Waynesboro. The latest additions bring the total number of newspaper pages available free online through the DLG to 825,000 pages.

Like the older DLG newspaper sites, GHN provides newspaper issues that are full-text searchable and can be browsed by date and title.

Features of the new site include:

- Essays about the publishing history of various newspaper titles,
- Browsing by region (corresponding to regions of older sites), and
- Browsing by types that include community papers, papers-of-record, African-American papers, religious papers, school papers, or Native American papers.

The site is compatible with all current browsers, and the newspaper page images can be viewed
without the use of plug-ins or additional software downloads.

All previously digitized newspapers are scheduled to be incorporated into the new GHN platform. Until that time, users may continue to access the existing regional and city sites (North, South, West Georgia, Athens, Macon, Milledgeville, and Savannah). Milledgeville and the South Georgia historic newspapers are slated to be integrated into GHN next.

Digitization of the newspapers found in the initial launch of GHN was made possible through partnerships with the following organizations:

- Flint Energies Foundation
- Georgia HomePLACE/Georgia Public Library Service
- Houston County Public Library System
- R.J. Taylor, Jr. Foundation
- Roman Catholic Diocese of Savannah
- Taylor County Historical-Genealogical Society

About the Georgia Historic Newspapers Archive

The Georgia Historic Newspapers Archive is a project of the Digital Library of Georgia (DLG), a part of Georgia’s Virtual Library GALILEO and is based at the University of Georgia Libraries. Since 2007, the DLG has partnered with universities, archives, public libraries, historical societies, museums, and other cultural heritage institutions to digitize historical newspapers from around the state. The archive is free and open for public use.

New Grant Program Seeks to Increase Digital Participation

The Juliette Gordon Low Birthplace, the Johnny Mize Collection at Piedmont College, and town films and home movies at the University of Georgia media archives are among nine Competitive Digitization grants awarded through a new program with the Digital Library of Georgia.

“The projects selected for DLG’s inaugural subgranting program represent the diverse history of the state. Our partners for these projects also reflect the wealth of cultural heritage organizations in the state” said Sheila McAlister, director of the Digital Library of Georgia.

These are the first grants awarded in the program intended to broaden partner participation in the Digital Library of Georgia (DLG). The DLG solicited proposals for historic digitization projects in a statewide call, and applicants submitted proposals for projects with a cost of up to $5,000. The projects will be administered by DLG staff who will perform digitization and descriptive services on textual (not including newspapers), graphic, and audio-visual materials.

Preference in the selection process was given to proposals from institutions that had not yet collaborated with the DLG. The Juliette Gordon Low Birthplace and Piedmont College Library are new partners for the DLG.

The nine recipients and their projects include:

- Juliette Gordon Low Birthplace (Savannah) - Digitization and description of “Juliette Gordon Low Correspondence, Series India Letters.” Juliette Gordon Low traveled in northern India in 1908 and wrote
letters to her family describing her experiences and impressions.

- City of Savannah, Research Library & Municipal Archives - Digitization and description of “Record Series 3121-019, Savannah Cadastral Survey—Ward Survey Maps, 1939–1940” (Ward Survey Maps were prepared by the Works Progress Administration (WPA) as part of a survey project); “Record Series 3121-020, Engineering Department—Major Subdivision Maps, 1871–1972, no date” (Major Subdivision Maps include maps of Savannah neighborhoods and subdivisions prepared by surveyors and engineers submitted to the City of Savannah Engineering Department); “Record Series 3121-007, Engineering Department—General Maps, 1798–1961, no date” (maps illustrating property holdings, land subdivision, and private development in Savannah from the 18th–20th centuries).


- Valdosta State University Archives and Special Collections - Digitization of the *Pinebranch*, the first student publication of South Georgia State Normal College and Georgia State Woman’s College (both earlier names for Valdosta State University).

- Piedmont College Library (Demorest, Georgia) - Description of the “May Ivie Valise Collection” (a case full of historical materials belonging to Piedmont College alumna May Ivie), Johnny Mize Collection (fan letters and photographs belonging to professional baseball player and Demorest, Georgia native Johnny Mize).

- Columbus State University Archives - Digitization and description of the Civil War era material of General Henry Benning, a prominent Confederate general and Georgia Supreme Court justice for whom Fort Benning was named.

- Walter J. Brown Media Archives and Peabody Awards Collection (Athens, Georgia) - Enhanced description of Georgia town films and home movies digitized by the Brown Media Archives.

- Berry College (Mount Berry, Georgia) - Digitization of January 1907 to Winter 1942–1943 issues of the *Southern Highlander*, the official magazine of the Berry Schools.

- Athens-Clarke County Library (Athens, Georgia) - Digitization and description of *Image* magazine, a publication that documented the everyday lives of the African American citizens of Athens, from 1977–1980.

Based at the University of Georgia Libraries, the Digital Library of Georgia is a GALILEO initiative that collaborates with Georgia’s libraries, archives, museums, and other institutions of education and culture to provide access to key information resources on Georgia history, culture, and life. This primary mission is accomplished through the ongoing development, maintenance, and preservation of digital collections and online digital library resources.