

Groups combine efforts for collection

Online digitization gives access to state's historic newspapers

By Nancy Burkhardt

The state of Colorado has an impressive history of journalistic endeavors starting in 1859 with the April 23 edition of one of the state's first newspapers, the Rocky Mountain News Weekly, located in Cherry Creek, Kansas Territory.

When it became evident that a number of libraries and historical societies throughout the state were trying to create regional collections of newspapers and were applying separately for library services and technology funds, the Colorado State Library and the Colorado Historical Society joined forces to create a statewide

collection, according to Jim Duncan. Duncan is Director of the Colorado Historic Newspaper Collection and Director of Networking and Resource Sharing for the Colorado State Library.

"By centralizing this as a statewide service, it allows the community to focus purely on the fundraising piece which goes to digitizing their local newspaper," Duncan explained. "We worry about the new technology and how to ensure that the content is deliverable through the new technology for the general public. You go to a single web site and search more than 145 newspaper titles. It's a diverse collection representing a significant chunk of the state."

The Colorado Historic Newspaper Collection has some 514,000 digitized pages online at www.coloradohistoricnewspapers.org. Duncan said that the site

is accessed by teachers, historians, students, and academic researchers as well as people interested in exploring their family roots. During the last calendar year, more than 225,000 distinct visitors came to the web site, which translates to more than 21 million hits, he said.

Digitized pages shows the newspapers' entire content, including advertising.

"The user of the system can see the actual newspaper as it was published, as it was laid out, as it looked in 1898," Duncan said. "They can flip through it page by page. They also can search it."

"You actually see the page as it was published," he said. "We believe that brings the history to life, to see that obituary, that ad, to see the font of that article gives an added richness to that content."

Only newspapers from 1859 to 1923 are part of the collection, and

only those issues for which people from the newspaper's community obtain funding are included.

The collection starts in 1859 because "1859 is the earliest known publication date that we've been able to identify for newspapers that are currently in the collection," Duncan said.

The end of the collection is 1923 because of copyright law, according to Duncan.

"Everything prior to 1923 is considered to be in the public domain, so there are no legal issues," he explained. "After that, 1923 to 1963 is a gray zone. It's not automatically considered to be in the public domain. It's thorny - about writer's rights and owner's rights. Papers may have changed hands and in the sale there was nothing specific about historic content. Who owns it? Before 1923, it's not an issue."

The Colorado Historic News-

paper Collection will aid citizens who want to find funding to digitize their local newspaper to add it to the collection. Community leaders must take charge and "own" the project, Duncan said.

"We will come to the community to do presentations to see what the state collection is all about, but somebody in the local community has to take responsibility" he explained. "We've seen communities start small. Loveland started with raising about \$3,500 to digitize a single reel of historic newspaper content. Now that's delivered through the web site. You may not see funds raised for three years or five years."

The current rate for making the pages available online through the collection is \$1.25 per page, Duncan said.

For more information call Jim Duncan at 303-866-6907.

More weekly papers for DNA to print

Editor's note: The following story by Gargi Chakrabarty is reprinted from the May 16 issue of The Denver Post.

The Denver Newspaper Agency, which manages the business of The Denver Post, will print 13 weekly community newspapers such as the Highlands Ranch Herald and the Centennial Citizen beginning Tuesday.

The DNA press plant, at 5990 Washington St. in Denver, will print 120,000 copies each week, said Bernie Szachara, senior vice president of operations and information technology.

That's on top of the millions of copies the press already puts out each week, including daily editions of The Denver Post, The Wall Street Journal, USA Today, the Daily Camera and the Fort Collins Coloradoan newspapers.

"This is a common theme in newspapers today as we struggle through the economy," Szachara said. "Newspapers are looking at other newspapers to do the printing of them."

Szachara declined to reveal the financial details of the agreement but said, "it's a multi-year deal."

Printing the community weeklies at the DNA press will "better meet customer needs," said Asa Cole, president and publisher of Colorado Community Newspapers.

"Here we have a lot of machinery that is very old and not as efficient," he said. "The DNA has state-of-the-art equipment, and they can do it quickly and economically for us."

The weeklies will electronically send over pages to the press, and the printed copies will be trucked to the distribution center in Castle Rock for final delivery to customers.

The shutdown of the Rocky Mountain News, which used to be printed at the same plant, didn't result in the deal, Szachara said.

"We'll print the community newspapers during the day," he said. "That's a good fit for the available press time we have."

CSU: Board didn't violate meeting law

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breaking the law is a public release of the recording.

"In excluding the public from the chancellor selection process, the Board of Governors' position has been 'trust us,' and that was echoed in court Thursday," said Coloradoan editor Bob Moore. "But the board's own recordings and filings show that members have repeatedly violated the law in the selection process. They need to abandon the 'trust us' approach and

involve the public, as the law requires, in making critical decisions."

Separately, three ethics watchdogs Thursday afternoon called on CSU to throw out Blake's nomination and restart the chancellor search, with Blake as one of the candidates.

A prepared statement from the CSU System Thursday rejected calls for restarting the chancellor selection and once again insisted the board did not violate the open-meetings law.

"There have been opinions expressed about the search process, but the facts are that the board took steps to ensure the process leading up to and through the five-month search was open and that as many voices from constituent groups had the opportunity to be heard," said the statement, prepared by spokeswoman Michele McKinney.

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