

Searching through historic newspapers from 23 European countries.

As part of the Europeana Newspapers project¹, The European Library² developed a historic newspapers browser³ that enables users to perform full-text searches in millions of historic newspaper pages.

“For the first time in history we have the opportunity to do transnational comparative research on the basis of big data!” says Toine Pieters, digital humanities researcher from the University of Utrecht.

The prototype interface has undergone usability testing in spring 2014. On the basis of the recommendations received, The European Library simplified the search page and made it possible to browse the content⁴ by date, newspaper title and geographic map. Before the end of the project a further usability study will be carried out to test the improvements made. While the amount of content in the browser continues to grow rapidly one can already explore 1.8 million historic newspaper issues and perform full-text searches across 7 million pages. By the end of January 2015, the browser will contain around 30 million newspaper pages from 25 libraries in 23 European countries. Users will be able to search:

- full text of more than 10 million historic newspaper pages of which 2 million have been enhanced with Optical Layout Recognition, allowing to search and display on article level. In addition, resources for named entity recognition have been produced for Dutch, German and French which will enable searches over person and geographic names;
- metadata records of over 20 million historic newspaper pages.

“Having access to newspapers from across Europe....allows us to look for circulation, not only for origins: to study routes rather than roots, to work on what we call transliterations.” says Amélia Sanz, researcher and professor of comparative literature and cyber culture at Universidad Complutense de Madrid.

Moreover one can explore the historic newspapers as well as millions of other cultural heritage items at *Europeana.eu*⁵, which recently embedded the historic newspaper viewer. The viewer is also available through The European Library for other cultural heritage institutions to embed in their digital environment.

“For researchers, such as historians, journalists, fact-checkers and genealogists, Europeana Newspapers will be the most important portal to consult historic newspapers in Europe. A source of great importance in construction.” says Eric Hennekam, archive specialist, member of the Association of Professional Genealogists and visiting lecturer at the faculty of journalism of the University of Groningen, VU University Amsterdam and the Flemish Mediacademy.

¹ <http://www.europeana-newspapers.eu/>

² <http://www.theeuropeanlibrary.org/tel4/>

³ <http://www.theeuropeanlibrary.org/tel4/newspapers>

⁴ <http://www.theeuropeanlibrary.org/tel4/newspapers?view=discover>

⁵ <http://europeana.eu/>

Historic newspaper content from the following libraries is available and constantly growing:

- National Library of France⁶
- National Library of the Netherlands⁷
- Dr. Friedrich Teßmann Library⁸
- National Library of Estonia⁹
- National Library of Finland¹⁰
- National Library of Latvia¹¹
- National Library of Poland¹²
- National Library of Turkey¹³
- Austrian National Library¹⁴
- Berlin State Library¹⁵
- State and University Library Hamburg¹⁶
- University Library of Belgrade¹⁷
- National Library of Wales¹⁸
- National Library of Bulgaria¹⁹
- National Library of Czech Republic²⁰
- National and University Library in Zagreb²¹
- National Library of Belgium²²
- National and University Library of Slovenia²³
- National Library of Portugal²⁴
- National Library of Romania²⁵
- National and University Library Iceland²⁶
- National Library of Spain²⁷
- National Library of Luxembourg²⁸
- National Library of Slovakia²⁹
- National Library of Serbia³⁰

⁶ <http://www.theeuropeanlibrary.org/tel4/newspapers/search?provider-id=P01190>

⁷ <http://www.theeuropeanlibrary.org/tel4/newspapers/search?provider-id=P01350>

⁸ <http://www.theeuropeanlibrary.org/tel4/newspapers/search?provider-id=P01350>

⁹ <http://www.theeuropeanlibrary.org/tel4/newspapers/search?provider-id=P01208>

¹⁰ <http://www.theeuropeanlibrary.org/tel4/newspapers/search?provider-id=P01254>

¹¹ <http://www.theeuropeanlibrary.org/tel4/newspapers/search?provider-id=P01274>

¹² <http://www.theeuropeanlibrary.org/tel4/newspapers/search?provider-id=P01214>

¹³ <http://www.theeuropeanlibrary.org/tel4/newspapers/search?provider-id=P01222>

¹⁴ <http://www.theeuropeanlibrary.org/tel4/newspapers/search?provider-id=P01252>

¹⁵ <http://www.theeuropeanlibrary.org/tel4/newspapers/search?provider-id=P01606>

¹⁶ <http://www.theeuropeanlibrary.org/tel4/newspapers/search?provider-id=P02015>

¹⁷ <http://www.theeuropeanlibrary.org/tel4/newspapers/search?provider-id=P01360>

¹⁸ <http://www.theeuropeanlibrary.org/tel4/newspapers/search?provider-id=P01384>

¹⁹ <http://www.theeuropeanlibrary.org/tel4/newspapers/search?provider-id=P01268>

²⁰ <http://www.theeuropeanlibrary.org/tel4/newspapers/search?provider-id=P01186>

²¹ <http://www.theeuropeanlibrary.org/tel4/newspapers/search?provider-id=P01258>

²² <http://www.theeuropeanlibrary.org/tel4/newspapers/search?provider-id=P01188>

²³ <http://www.theeuropeanlibrary.org/tel4/newspapers/search?provider-id=P01238>

²⁴ <http://www.theeuropeanlibrary.org/tel4/newspapers/search?provider-id=P01250>

²⁵ <http://www.theeuropeanlibrary.org/tel4/newspapers/search?provider-id=P01218>

²⁶ <http://www.theeuropeanlibrary.org/tel4/newspapers/search?provider-id=P01200>

²⁷ <http://www.theeuropeanlibrary.org/tel4/newspapers/search?provider-id=P01236>

²⁸ <http://www.theeuropeanlibrary.org/tel4/newspapers/search?provider-id=P01244>

²⁹ <http://www.theeuropeanlibrary.org/tel4/newspapers/search?provider-id=P01220>

³⁰ <http://www.theeuropeanlibrary.org/tel4/newspapers/search?provider-id=P01262>



Information:

Project website:

<http://www.europeana-newspapers.eu/>

TEL Historic Newspapers:

<http://www.theeuropeanlibrary.org/tel4/newspapers>

Europeana:

<http://europeana.eu/>

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