



Newspapers: Directories, Indexes and Union Lists

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AS THE educational structure of the nation develops, particularly at the advanced levels, librarians and faculty members alike are becoming more acutely aware of the inadequacies of available literary resources, particularly from foreign countries. Witness the program for the acquisition of library material published in the United Arab Republic, India, Pakistan, etc., authorized by *Public Law 83-480* (the Agricultural Trade Development and Assistance Act of 1954), and the program for a substantially increased cataloging and acquisition effort as provided by Title II of *Public Law 89-329* (Higher Education Act of 1965). Witness too, the establishment of such action groups as the Joint Committee on Slavic Studies, the Conference on Latin American History, and the Joint Committee on Contemporary China.

Both the programs and committees mentioned have evidenced an interest in developing the nation's literary resources, having as their ultimate goal the broadening of the research potential. To this end all of these have acted either to enhance the holdings of foreign newspapers or to improve their bibliographic control.

Finally, in this same context consider the most successful effort in the area of foreign newspaper acquisition, namely the Foreign Newspaper Microfilm Project, sponsored by the Association of Research Libraries. This cooperative venture, begun in 1956, includes almost two hundred leading foreign newspaper titles. Most titles are microfilmed by the Project, with positive microfilm available to subscribing institutional members on a loan basis. Subscribing libraries wishing to do so may purchase at a special rate their own positives.

There is, perhaps, no need to justify the research value of news-

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papers; however, should anyone have doubts regarding the utility of newspapers, he would do well to examine the statistics of reader use of newspapers at the Library of Congress, which totals in its Newspaper Reading Room an average of 3,000 readers per month, who use 8,000 unbound issues, 1,500 bound volumes, and 6,000 reels of microfilm. If more proof is required, one can consult Bernard Wax's article in *Library Trends*¹ for a well-expressed statement on the subject.

With these factors in mind, it is the intent here to review briefly the status of current bibliographical coverage for newspapers, to point out the weaknesses in coverage, and, where feasible, to suggest recommendations for improved bibliographic control. The topic is divided into three sections, each devoted to a category of bibliographical information about newspapers, namely, *Directories*, *Indexes*, and *Union Lists*.

Of these three categories of material related to newspaper bibliography, the *Directories* offer the most comprehensive coverage and are the most frequently revised. There is a valid reason for this since newspaper directories (which generally include directory data on periodicals too) are published either to satisfy the needs of advertisers, or the desire of a government to control the output of the press. Rather than complain about this state of affairs, librarians should welcome the motivation which proves to be an asset—assuring both broad coverage and currency of directory information.

Since the listings in *Winchell*² and its supplements already adequately reflect the coverage mentioned above, the listing of directories here is restricted to the two leading publications covering the press of the United States, and several new foreign ones, plus one contemplated, which have appeared subsequent to the publication of *Winchell's* fourth supplement.

For domestic newspaper directory coverage, mention must be made of the *N.W. Ayer & Son's Directory of Newspapers and Periodicals*,³ and *The Working Press of the Nation*, Volume I: *Newspapers and Allied Services Directory*.⁴ *Ayer's*, as the older of the two publications, has been accepted as the standard; however, both directories are useful, with each containing unique information about newspaper publishing. Every general library will find a need for both titles.

For a reasonably current overview of foreign newspapers, *The Foreign Press*,⁵ while not primarily intended as a directory but rather as "a textbook or reference book for persons interested in the broad aspects of international communication,"⁶ is very useful. By utilizing

with *The Foreign Press*, the *Political Handbook and Atlas of the World*,⁷ which lists many foreign newspapers, it is frequently possible to make evaluative judgments for selection purposes on the relative importance, political leanings, and circulation of leading newspapers throughout the world. However, these two publications, while fairly comprehensive in world coverage, do not provide sufficiently detailed information for acquisition purposes, or for certain types of reference inquiries. For this data, one must resort to a comprehensive directory covering perhaps a single country and its politically related regions as a geographical group of countries.

The directories listed below are presented primarily as supplementary to *Winchell*, which provides a fundamentally satisfactory coverage. They serve as illustrations of the same type of publication, and are samples only of a wider range of available directories.

AFRICA

The *Advertising & Press Annual of Africa* (excluding North Africa) published in Africa by the National Publishing Company Ltd., P.O. Box 335, Cape Town, South Africa (1951-). Like *Ayer's*, this publication is published primarily for use in advertising; however, its usefulness to the librarian interested in acquiring newspapers from Africa south of the Sahara cannot be overestimated. Each newspaper entry includes title, frequency of publication, publisher's name and address, and subscription rates.

EUROPE (General)

There is promise of a *Willing's* "European" press directory. Publication of the first edition was scheduled for 1966, but at this writing had not been seen by the author (*Willing's European Press Guide*. London, Hutchinson Willing).

The new *Willing's* directory was promised to include details of the press of twelve countries—Austria, Belgium, Denmark, France, Germany, Italy, Luxembourg, Netherlands, Norway, Portugal, Sweden, and Switzerland. Its publication on a regular basis and in English should make it a useful addition to the bibliographic tools for newspapers.

NETHERLANDS

Handboek van de Nederlandse Pers, The Hague, Vitgeversbedrijf, Publiciteit. Began publication 1964. Published twice annually.

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This handbook presents a brief, separate listing of newspapers by city. More detailed information about newspapers is available in a comprehensive alphabetical listing of non-government serial publications.

PORTUGAL

Repertorio das Publicações Periódicas Portuguesas, Biblioteca Nacional, Lisbon, 1961 + supplements.

This landmark publication of the National Library of Portugal includes a section on newspaper directory information, nowhere else available for Portugal. The newspaper section also includes titles published in Angola and Mozambique. The supplement for 1962 is included in the 1961 publication, while the 1963 and 1964 supplements have been published as separates.

TURKEY

Turkizede Gazeteler-Dergiler Ve Basimevleri, Tirizm Ve Tanitma Bakanligi Arsiv Mudurlugu. Ankara, 1964. (Newspapers-Periodicals and Printing Presses in Turkey. Published by the Ministry of Tourism and Information, Department of Archives.) Printed in Turkish and English.

The newspapers of Turkey are listed by province. Each entry, in addition to title, includes date of establishment, political character, name of owner and address. Regrettably, the subscription information is not included.

INDIA

Annual Report of the Registrar of Newspapers for India, New Delhi, Ministry of Information and Broadcasting, 1956 + .

This official publication contains statistics and data relating to the circulation and ownership of newspapers, and a catalog of all newspapers published in the country. In addition, it presents a review of the daily press, detailing the establishment of new dailies, casualties, and other changes.

LATIN AMERICA

Inter-Continental Press Guide, Havana, Angelica P. Rayneri, 1944 + .

This directory of the leading newspapers published in "Latin America, the Islands and possessions throughout the Caribbean

area," has served as the only useful guide to the press for this area of the world. It was published monthly with two complete semi-annual volumes. Unfortunately, it appears to have ceased publication some time in 1963.

In reviewing the coverage of newspaper directory information, it would appear that most major areas of the world are fairly well covered, and on a reasonably current basis. The significant exception is Latin America, where, because of the apparent demise of the *Inter-Continental Press Guide*, there is no longer available a newspaper directory. It is recommended that the scholarly community take note of this gap and that efforts be made to publish a useful newspaper directory for this important area of the world.

The *indexing* of newspapers presents a totally different situation, for, in surveying a field where only a few current newspaper indexes are being published, there would appear paradoxically to be little, if any, demand for additional indexes. It is recognized, perhaps on a realistic basis, that no amount of indexing can completely serve the needs of scholarly research. Indeed, there are topics and areas of study for which indexes cannot and perhaps should not be provided, either because of the inherent limitations of indexing techniques, or because of the unique character of many research projects.

For most spot newspaper reference inquiries, the *New York Times Index*,⁸ the *London Times Official Index*,⁹ the *Christian Science Monitor Index*,¹⁰ or for financial news, the *Wall Street Journal Index*¹¹ comprise the extent of currently published English language index material available. However, there is in existence some index coverage for one or more newspapers published in Denmark,¹² India,¹³ Pakistan,¹⁴ Scotland,¹⁵ Sweden,¹⁶ and Russia.¹⁷ Of these, only the last mentioned, which is published in the United States under the auspices of the Joint Committee on Slavic Studies, is available soon enough to be of any assistance to the reference librarian working on current problems.

Perhaps the assumption that little or no demand exists for broader index coverage of current newspapers is incorrect. It has been argued in the past that a general index to newspapers would be a practical impossibility, particularly an index similar to the *Reader's Guide to Periodical Literature*. The question is not now one of possibility since, with the successful application of electronic data processing and high speed printout techniques, preparation of more comprehensive newspaper indexes is certainly feasible. Perhaps, the question of a current

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newspaper index embracing the leading newspapers in each geographic region of the country should be studied. Or as an alternative, perhaps the publishers of several leading newspapers in addition to the *New York Times* might be persuaded to proceed with their own index publication. Should a combined index not prove feasible, possibly a standard subject thesaurus could be developed as a first step toward a combined index. These questions are intriguing enough to warrant study.

Before moving to the next type of bibliographical literature it seems appropriate to mention a type of publication related to newspaper indexes, perhaps more of a research than a reference tool, difficult to acquire, and yet highly useful to those interested in maintaining a current awareness of news events in remote areas, particularly for coverage of news events which might not appear at all in the U.S. press or might appear with little detail. The type of publication to which I refer is the *Press Summary* or *Press Digest*. Such publications are generally printed in limited editions and are often born out of a particular government agency's official need to know what information is available in the press of a specific political or geographic area. The *Press Summaries* are most useful, perhaps, to the area specialists, who find it nearly impossible to have access to a cross-section of the newspapers published in their areas of interest.

As a bibliographic entity the summaries can be at best elusive and, while many are known to exist, available printed information is practically non-existent. From a bibliographic viewpoint, the entire field deserves special treatment. There is need at least for an article offering a list of titles and a minimum of bibliographic data on this mass of resource material.

Union Lists serve a twofold purpose and for this reason may be the most useful of the reference tools discussed in this article. The union list is first thought of as a finding aid in helping to locate a specific newspaper title and issue for the use of a researcher. However, a second, and perhaps more important value, is its inventory function, i.e., the summing up of the holdings of a group of libraries, whether they be contained in one city, a state, a region or perhaps in the entire nation, and the implications of such an inventory. Just as the first edition of the *Union List of Serials*¹⁸ pointed up the weaknesses in library holdings of periodicals, so, too, does Gregory's *American Newspapers* point out the lacks in titles and the gaps in files. Indeed, in this period of an expanded effort to enhance literary resources, the

role of the union list is without parallel. Librarians, doubtless, appreciate this usefulness. Possibly for this reason, no less than 183 separate union lists¹⁹ of newspapers have been compiled, some including only a few libraries in a city or region and others covering more extensive areas. Impressive as is this number, a close examination of the list of titles reveals that the existing comprehensive union lists of U.S. library holdings are out-dated. The list also indicates that for foreign newspapers published in certain areas of the world, no coverage exists.

Among available publications, Brigham's *Bibliography of American Newspapers, 1690-1820*²⁰ remains the most useful of the comprehensive union lists. The nature of the material included in Brigham lends to this great work an enduring quality. The historical and intrinsic value of the newspapers recorded and the durable qualities of the paper on which the newspapers are printed, all combine to create a relatively stable body of library material, and as a consequence, continued validity for the holding reports.

For the period up to approximately 1875, the same claim can be made for Gregory's *American Newspapers*.²¹ However, after 1875, the deterioration factor of the wood-pulp newspaper files, and to a degree, the increasing bulk of these same files, have conspired to erode the validity of the reports of holdings. The impact of deterioration has been felt by every library owning newspaper files, and to some extent it has affected the holdings of these libraries.

It is suggested here that the updating of Gregory's *American Newspapers* should be considered. In planning a new union list, some thought might be given to the publication of two new reference tools replacing Gregory, one to cover the period 1821-1874, and a second to include 1875 to date. Such a dual-period approach is suggested for pragmatic reasons: first, because it might be useful to consider the adoption of more detailed reports of holdings for the period 1821-1874; and second, because of the better quality of the newsprint employed during the pre-1875 period, the need for future revisions would not appear warranted.

Furthermore, the list of holdings of U.S. newspapers published after 1874, as a separate publication, would diminish in coverage as newspaper files were replaced by microfilm. The need for inter-relating data with *Newspapers on Microfilm*²² would continue to be necessary (as it now is), gradually, however, the post-1874 *Union List* would become less and less meaningful by itself. Perhaps, at some point the

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holding reports of microfilm and such bound holdings as exist could be combined.

At the time Gregory was compiling data for *American Newspapers*, preliminary reports were submitted by some libraries in the U.S. for holdings of foreign newspapers. Recent efforts at locating files based on the information reported to Miss Gregory (still held in the Serial Division of the Library of Congress) indicate that only one half of the libraries contacted still own the files reported some thirty years ago. The seriousness of the situation becomes apparent when one learns that the requests were for the library holdings of *leading* newspapers of several European countries. The deterioration of resources is bad news in itself but, without an up-to-date inventory of foreign newspaper holdings, it will be impossible to determine even the feasibility of proceeding with cooperative microfilm projects for foreign newspapers.

Fortunately there is some encouraging progress in this area. For the African continent, for example, there is now, in its third edition, *African Newspapers in Selected American Libraries, a Union List*.²³ Although compiled on a selective basis, this publication provides a reasonably current picture of newspaper resources from Africa. Alas, it also reveals that U.S. library holdings for that vast continent are ragged, if not poor. The cost of filling this void will be great. There is also available a fairly current union list of Slavic newspapers.²⁴

A new edition of the *Union List of Latin American Newspapers*²⁵ is now being compiled by the Library of Congress' Serial Division with the cooperation of the Hispanic Foundation. Support for this project came from the Ford Foundation through the Conference on Latin American History. The new edition will be utilized in a logical effort to bring together on microfilm available files of the most significant newspapers published in Latin America beginning about 1810.

Except for the preliminary Gregory reports, there remains then, as almost a totally unknown factor, the U.S. libraries' holdings of newspapers published in Europe (except Russia), Great Britain and the Commonwealth countries, and the Orient. As a next step then, the library community should proceed with a survey of the holdings of newspapers published in Europe, Great Britain and the Commonwealth countries, and the Orient. Two union lists should be published as separate entities. The resulting publications, when added to those existing and in preparation, would result in a five-volume reference

tool of significant value, and, while it might appear unwieldy to have contained in five volumes a bulk of information which might well fit into one, it seems desirable to continue with the area approach not only because of the multitude of linguistic talents and expertise needed for each volume, but also because such a structure might more readily lend itself to publication of revised editions on one or the other area.

The development of union lists would form an essential ingredient in the formulation and execution of a national acquisition and preservation program for newspapers, domestic and foreign. Such a program should rank high among the worthwhile bibliographic projects having nationwide impact.

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