WHAT IS THE NATIONAL DIGITAL NEWSPAPER PROGRAM (NDNP)?
The NDNP project is a partnership between the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) and the Library of Congress (LC) to provide free online access to historic newspapers from across the United States and U.S. territories. Grants are awarded to one "cultural heritage institution" from each state or territory. Each state or territory typically completes three grant cycles with the option to continue on a more competitive basis for further cycles. For more information about the NDNP project and participating states, visit www.loc.gov/ndnp/about.

ARKANSAS'S CONTRIBUTION TO NDNP
The Arkansas State Archives began work on the NDNP project in 2017 when it was awarded a two-year (2017-2019) grant to digitize historic Arkansas newspapers, which they defined as up to 1963. At that time, the Arkansas Digital Newspaper Project (ADNP) was created. In order to select newspaper titles to be digitized as part of the project, an advisory committee of experts from across the state advised staff and recommended titles varied by the time period they covered, their geographic spread throughout the state and their political or specialized focus. For each cycle, new and returning advisory board members guide ADNP staff in the selection of newspapers titles in order to get the most varied coverage that tells the history of Arkansas.

CHRONICLING AMERICA
All content digitized as part of this project is housed on the Chronicling America website chroniclingamerica.loc.gov where you can keyword search for content by state, date, newspaper name, city or county. Additionally, images and text files can be downloaded directly to your computer. Unlike other newspaper repositories, Chronicling America is free and requires no signup or memberships.

WHAT ARKANSAS NEWSPAPERS ARE DIGITIZED?
Counties in green (map to left) have digitized titles from the first two grant cycles. More counties will be added as content from grant cycle three is added. The full list of up-to-date digitized titles can be found on the Chronicling America website by searching for Arkansas on the drop down list under the “All Digitized Newspapers” tab (see back of this guide for more information on using the Chronicling America search features).

After two grant cycles, ASA has digitized 209,854 pages of content and is currently working on adding an additional 100,000 pages for a third grant cycle (2021-2023).
HOW CAN I USE THE NDNP PROJECT FOR RESEARCH?
Newspaper titles and pages digitized as part of this project can be found on the Chronicling America website at chroniclingamerica.loc.gov. With a robust search function and high resolution photographs, OCR technology and cropping abilities, it is easy to sort and search for specific information from Arkansas newspapers (or any other participating state’s newspapers).

For example, to search for Juneteenth celebrations in Arkansas newspapers, select Arkansas from the drop down menu and in the keyword box, using quotes or “” around exact search terms. For example, “Emancipation Day,” “Jubilee Day,” “Freedom Day” or “Liberation Day.” When searching for a subject, you may need to look for alternative names. Juneteenth is a more recent term for the now federal holiday. If you are looking for a specific time period, you can also use the date drop down boxes to narrow your search.

If you are interested in seeing all of the Arkansas newspapers digitized on Chronicling America, select the “All Digitized Newspapers 1977-1963” tab above the search function and filter by state. This will give you a complete list Arkansas newspapers.

By clicking on the title of each newspaper, you will be taken to specific information about that title including location of the paper, publishing details such as how often the paper was published, different names the paper was published under and an essay with a written history of the paper, its publishers and the relevance to the history of Arkansas newspapers.

Another search feature offered on Chronicling America is the “U.S. Newspaper Directory, 1960-Present.” This directory includes all U.S. papers that have been registered with the Library of Congress. This can be a helpful tool if you are looking for information about specific newspapers from across the state. Please note: all newspapers digitized on Chronicling America can be found in the U.S. Newspaper Directory but not all listed in the Directory will be found on Chronicling America.

For a presentation about the National Digital Newspaper Program, Chronicling America or how to research using the Chronicling America website, please contact us at state.archives@arkansas.gov.