From Papers to Pixels

HISTORICAL NEWSPAPER ARCHIVES
Knoxville News Sentinel, 1922-1990
A campaign of the Knox County Public Library Foundation
What is a historical newspaper archive?

A historical newspaper archive offers community members—from students to senior citizens, from genealogists to researchers of all topics—a unique searchable digital edition of their local newspapers.

A high-demand local newspaper like the *Knoxville News Sentinel* spans decades and include tens of thousands of issues and millions of pages. These are often available only on microfilm reels and frequently in a state of deterioration. The Knox County Public Library will partner with NewsBank to create a digital archive of the *Knoxville News Sentinel* from 1922–1990.

Now you, as key supporters of the Knox County Public Library, have a significant opportunity to make a lasting impact on the entire region. Financial support from our community can help bring the invaluable historical newspaper archive of the *Knoxville News Sentinel* into the 21st century. For the first time, library card holders of all ages will be able to browse and discover the distinctive and important history of the entire Knoxville area, as it was reported, in a way never before possible.

Photos, front cover: (1) The Burwell Building towers over the Tennessee Theatre on opening day on Oct. 1, 1928. (McClung Historical Collection); (2) Norris Dam during construction 1933–1936. (News Sentinel Archive); (3) President Franklin D. Roosevelt dedicates the Great Smoky Mountains National Park on Sept. 2, 1940 at Newfound Gap. (Photo by Jim Thompson); (4) The Sunsphere under construction 1980–1982. (Red Chair Architects)
Preserve our local history.

How would the digital archives benefit the Knox County Public Library?

This project supports the Library’s mission and vision.

Local newspapers—looked upon as the “community's scrapbook”—serve as authoritative sources of decades of wide-ranging news and information, including birth, marriage, and death notices. With this project, the Library becomes even more relevant to the community.

Once acquired, the Library owns the license to the archive in perpetuity, enabling it to serve the widest range of patrons for generations to come. In fact, an online historical archive of the Knoxville News Sentinel is likely to become one of the most utilized of all Knox County Public Library resources, forever showcasing the Library’s central role in the community’s present, past, and future. Digitization assures the permanent preservation of essential, yet at-risk, local history.
How would this acquisition benefit our community?

A digitized *Knoxville News Sentinel* archive will bring the special past of Knoxville and the state of Tennessee to life for our own and all subsequent generations. Fresh opportunities for original local history research become limitless. Educators can ask students to explore a local issue and tie it to the larger history of the region, or to localize a national topic. Users can learn how Knoxville was affected by, for example, World War II, the Civil Rights Movement, or nearly any other cultural, social, political, or environmental event. A historical newspaper archive will foster pride among Knoxvillians in their city’s past, its growth, and its accomplishments over time.

“There are literally hundreds of thousands of stories hidden away in the *Knoxville News Sentinel* files from 1922 to 1990. There is no index to these news stories, which means the only way to locate a story is with its date, or by browsing the Library’s clippings files, which are very incomplete. This digitization project would open up a wealth of local history to the community. It would change the way we understand and navigate the story of our past.”

**STEVE COTHAM**, McClung Collection Manager, East Tennessee History Center
Genealogists will uncover previously unknown aspects of their family lineage from obituaries and other news items, including society columns, casualty reports, and sports stories.

Local government officials, historic preservationists, and members of diverse community groups will use the archive to meet a variety of research needs.

Property owners, real estate agents, small business owners, and attorneys will discover timely answers to questions about property and land use, the local economy, and demographics.

History buffs will spend hours uncovering hidden details and histories about local people, places, and events. All citizens will enjoy looking back at everyday life of yesteryear.

In short, the wide appeal of the *Knoxville News Sentinel* archive, delivered as a fully searchable online resource, means the Knox County Public Library will have something permanent to offer every patron, setting the community’s past in a tangible form.

This archive will be a major asset, and will belong not to a company, but to our community.

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How much does the Knox County Public Library Foundation need to raise?

To cover the cost for NewsBank to digitize the *Knoxville News Sentinel* from 1922–1990, the Knox County Public Library Foundation is seeking to raise $600,000.

**NEWSBANK WILL DIGITIZE**

24,820 DAILY PAPERS

THAT'S

918,340 PAGES

FOR 60¢ A PAGE (APPROXIMATELY $22.20 AN ISSUE), PLUS ACCESS FEES.

WHY DIGITIZE 1922-1990?

*Knoxville News Sentinel* papers have been digitized after 1990, although they are text versions and not facsimiles.

Archive 68 years of daily papers.
How will the Knox County Public Library Foundation recognize major donations to the campaign?

Digitizing its local newspaper is a major project of enduring importance to every community. Almost as important is the generosity of the donors, whose foresight can make it possible for current and future generations to benefit from the lasting historical record represented by the digital newspaper archive. Today, from Columbia, South Carolina, to Seattle, Washington, NewsBank is working in partnership with newspaper publishers and public libraries to offer communities across the U.S. a permanent digital archive of immense educational, research, and historical value.

Every NewsBank newspaper archive can include a prominent and customized thank you to the gift giver, guaranteeing a lasting reminder of each donor’s commitment to the future of our community.

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The Knox County Public Library Foundation, a 501(C)(3) organization, began in 2006 as an adjunct to the Friends of the Library. The “Papers to Pixels” campaign is entirely in keeping with its mission: “Because a strong public library is a necessity for a healthy and vital community, we establish the Knox County Public Library Foundation. The foundation will collect, invest, and distribute funds donated for the improvement of the Knox County Library.”