

PRODUCT NEWS

Gale *Digging Deeper Into History*



FEATURED PRODUCT

When it comes to research, Gale, part of Cengage Learning, continues to open doors to new content from age-old sources.

To date, Gale has processed more than 100 million pages of digitized archival material. More than 10 million of those pages are from newspapers that are cross-searchable in Gale Digital Collections, and there is more on the way.

Work first began on The Times Digital Archive in 2002, says Seth Cayley, publisher of Media History at Cengage Learning EMEA. Ten years later, the Cengage team continues to piece together the past through the pages of the world-famous *Times*. The first phase of the collection spanned the years from 1785 to 1986. "The most recent addition brings the collection nearly up-to-date, adding 20 more years of content to the previous archive," he says. By spring 2012, the complete Sunday Times Digital

Archive, 1822–2006, will also be rolled out for researchers, teachers, and students in the humanities. The Sunday archives, with all the Sunday supplements, will also be cross-searchable within The Times Digital Archive, according to Cayley.

"Amazingly enough, the digitized content from 1986 to 2006—a span of 20 years—comprises the same number of pages as the archives did from 1786 to 1985, a period of almost 200 years," says Ray Abruzzi, publisher of Gale's Nineteenth Century Collections Online (NCCO). The updated collection now has nearly 600,000 pages covering about 3.4 million articles from more than 6,500 issues.

More tools and features are embedded in the newest collection, including an online table of contents, citation tools, and five printing options for researchers, says Cayley, features that are designed to help researchers find and process research content

more easily. Abruzzi says the design team devoted time and energy to creating a user experience that was at once easy to use while offering state-of-the-art features. "We pay special attention to specific patterns that users are used to using when they work," he says, "but we make sure that we're still introducing new tools to enhance the research experience. We're always walking a fine line."

A decade ago, Abruzzi says the collections were focused solely on researchers and their needs. Today, these archives are being used more in the classroom, so a new, intuitive user interface was created, he says. "We find the commonalities first and then develop the tools," he says. "We then have to figure out if the content will be used more by undergraduates who want to get to the information quickly, or more by research faculty who are looking for more sophisticated search functionality."

Much of NCCO's collection of monographs, newspapers,

pamphlets, manuscripts, photographs, ephemera, maps, and statistics is being digitized for the first time. To provide the best and most comprehensive resources possible for NCCO, Cengage Learning is creating an international advisory board to "steer the ship," says Abruzzi. NCCO's 12-member advisory board will feature scholars, bibliographers, deans of libraries, and directors of 19th-century studies to ensure that the collection has a breadth and depth of content and a clear insight into the era—enough to make any reference librarian smile.

Abruzzi says the goal is to compile and curate unique material for each collection and keep adding value for students and researchers. "The idea is to spend more time with the material rather than looking for it," he says.

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