

Research Guide 212
Newspaper Holdings at the Archives of Ontario

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Man reading the Iroquois Post newspaper, Iroquois, Ont., [194-]
C 109, 18-5-145 H, I0008838
Herbert Nott fonds

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In this guide

This guide will help you access newspapers in the Archives of Ontario collection. It also contains information on other local collections of historical newspapers.

The Archives of Ontario's newspaper holdings include:

- newspapers, in both original and microfilm formats, from many Ontario cities and towns dated from 1793 to the 1950s
- a unique collection of multilingual newspapers from Ontario's multicultural communities, dating from 1930 to 1987
- a number of non-Ontario and speciality newspapers, such as labour movement newspapers

Most newspapers in the Archives' holdings can only be consulted in the Archives Reading Room. Our multicultural newspaper collections are available through our [Microfilm Interloan Service](#).

[Click here to access finding aid L 23: Original and Microfilmed Newspaper Collections](#) for a complete list of our original and microfilmed newspaper holdings. You can also access this finding aid from the Research Guides and Tools section of our website.

The Archives of Ontario's holdings of the major current Toronto newspapers are limited to copies of the *Globe and Mail* from 1844 to 1917 and 1928 to 1931. You can find more information about accessing historical copies of the *Globe and Mail* and the *Toronto Star* in the "Other Sources for Historical Newspapers" section below.

Accessing Microfilmed Newspapers at the Archives of Ontario

Our microfilmed newspapers are part of our self-service microfilm collection and can be accessed in our Reading Room. To access microfilmed newspapers, follow these steps:

1. [Click here to access finding aid L 23: Original and Microfilmed Newspaper Collections](#) to determine which newspapers and which issues can be found in our collection. You can also access this finding aid from the Research Guides and Tools section of our website.
 - You can find a list of microfilmed newspapers organized by place name starting on page 145 of the finding aid.

2. When you find a newspaper that you're interested in, make a note of the N number in the left column. This serves as the microfilm reel number for the newspaper.
3. Retrieve the appropriate microfilm reel from our self-serve microfilm cabinets. Sometimes there will be multiple reels under a single N number. The individual microfilm boxes are labelled with date ranges that will help you find the specific reel you need.
4. Use our self-service microfilm readers (ScanPro machines) to access the microfilm. Reference staff are available to assist you with the microfilm equipment, if needed.
5. Microfilmed newspapers in our Multicultural Newspaper Collections are also available through our [Microfilm Interloan Service](#).

Accessing Original Newspapers at the Archives of Ontario

Our original newspapers are physical records held in offsite storage and must be requested at least 1-2 business days advance of your visit. To access original newspapers, follow these steps:

1. [Click here to access finding aid L 23: Original and Microfilmed Newspaper Collections](#) to determine which newspapers and which issues can be found in our collection. You can also access this finding aid from the Research Guides and Tools section of our website.
 - You can find a list of original newspapers organized by place name starting on page 22 of the finding aid.
2. When you find a newspaper you would like to access, make a note of the Container information in the far right column.
3. **If you're in the Archives of Ontario Reading Room**, fill out a Retrieval Request slip at one of the reference desks. Make sure to include "Original Newspaper", the name of the paper, and the container reference in your request.
4. **If you're not at the Archives of Ontario**, contact a reference archivist by emailing reference@ontario.ca or by calling 416 327 1600 and request retrieval of the original newspaper. Make sure to note that you are requesting an original newspaper and provide us with the name of the paper and the container reference.

Researching Newspaper Publication and Ownership History

You can find information on the ownership, publication, and historical context of some of our microfilmed newspapers by using the Newspaper Collections: Microfilm Introductions binder (available in the Reading Room). These binders also contain lists of contents that indicate which editions are missing.

The entries in the binder are organized by microfilm reel number (such as N 11). To find newspaper N numbers, [click here to access finding aid L 23: Original and Microfilmed Newspaper Collections](#).

The history and content lists are also available as part of the newspaper microfilm itself. You can find them at the beginning of the first microfilm reel containing the newspaper.

Other Sources for Historical Newspapers

Library and Archives Canada has an extensive collection of microfilmed and original newspapers, some of which are accessible online. [Click here to visit Library and Archives Canada's Newspaper Collection page.](#)

The Toronto Public Library gives cardholders online access to the Toronto Star Historical Archive (1894-2016), the Globe and Mail Historical Archive (1844-2015), and many current Canadian and International newspapers through its [Digital Newspapers page](#). You can use their online catalogue to search for other newspapers that you can access in-person. Other public libraries, local history centres and archives may also have collections of newspapers.

You may be able to find references to other newspaper collections in Brian Gilchrist's *Inventory of Ontario Newspapers* or in the *Union List of Canadian Newspapers*, both of which are available in the Reading Room.

Contact us

Although unable to do your research for you, our reference archivists are waiting to assist you. You may telephone or write to them by mail or email or — best of all — visit the Archives of Ontario.

Telephone: 416-327-1600 Toll free (Ontario): 1-800-668-9933

Fax: 416-327-1999

Email: [Click here to email the Archives of Ontario](#). The e-mail address is reference@ontario.ca

Address: Archives of Ontario, 134 Ian Macdonald Blvd., Toronto, ON M7A 2C5

Website

Visit our website for information about our collections and our services, our online exhibits and education programs, and links to our social media accounts. [Click here to visit our website](#). The website is www.archives.gov.on.ca/.

Customer Service and Research Guides

Our guides contain information about our services, freelance researchers available to do research for you, and some of our most popular records. [Click here to view our guides](#). To find the “Research Guides and Tools” on our website, click on “Access our Collections”.