

BRITISH LIBRARY NEWSPAPERS

One of the most comprehensive range of regional and local newspapers ever assembled in a digital programme, spanning the eighteenth to the twentieth century across Britain and Ireland.

Number of
Titles
Approx.
252

Number of
Articles
Over **6.4**
million

Dates
Covered
**1714-
1950**



BRITISH LIBRARY NEWSPAPERS

THE COLLECTION
ENHANCES A WIDE RANGE
OF RESEARCH AND
TEACHING, INCLUDING:

- History
- Genealogy
- Literature
- Sociology
- Economics
- Religion
- Political Science

‘[The] newspaper is the chronicle of civilization, the common reservoir into which every stream pours its living waters, and at which every man may come and drink: it is the newspaper which gives liberty its practical life, its constant observation, its perpetual vigilance, its unrelaxing activity.’

Sir Edward Bulwer Lytton on newspapers in the 1840s.

Sourced from the extensive holdings of the British Library, *British Library Newspapers* delivers a wide range of irreplaceable local and regional voices which reflect the social, political, and cultural events of the last 300 years. Emerging during the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries as a crucial channel of information in towns and major cities, these newspapers provide researchers with a unique, first-hand perspective on the history of the British Isles, Europe, and the wider world.

With just over 6.4 million articles across 252 newspaper titles, *British Library Newspapers* illuminates diverse and distinct regional attitudes, cultures, and vernaculars, providing an alternative viewpoint to the London-centric national press from the 18th to the 20th century.

In addition to the digital archive, customers can purchase the British Library Newspapers data and metadata for local storage. Doing so allows users to facilitate large-scale text-mining projects, enhancing the opportunities for this collection in digital humanities and social sciences scholarships.

To find out more about this ever-growing series, you can visit our product page at gale.com/uncoverbln.

‘The most significant impact has been upon my students. I used to shy away from encouraging essay and dissertation topics that involved extensive use of the press, knowing from experience that results were too hard-won and unpredictable for all but the most determined. But the situation has now changed. I can see real opportunities for a revival in reception studies and work on public reputations. One undergraduate last term, for example, tracked the early weeks of the newspaper reception of Darwin’s *Origin of Species*, the first time this had been attempted for half a century. I used to spend much of my time showing students how to find things; now there is more time for them to think.’

Prof. James A. Secord, History and Philosophy of Science, University of Cambridge

PAPERS ACROSS BRITAIN AND IRELAND

The British Library Newspapers collection includes:

- English regional newspapers
- Home-country newspapers from Scotland, Northern Ireland, and Wales
- Regional and local newspapers from the Republic of Ireland, both pre- and post-independence
- Titles in specialist areas such as Victorian radicalism, crime and policing, and Chartism, among others
- London national newspapers

Examples of local newspapers include:

CALEDONIAN MERCURY

Start Year: 1800

End Year: 1867

Number of Issues: 11,697

Number of Pages: 49,549



Monday, March 7, 1859

BELFAST MORNING NEWS

Start Year: 1857

End Year: 1867

Number of Issues: 2,693

Number of Pages: 12,386



Monday, October 24, 1859

NOTTINGHAMSHIRE GUARDIAN

Start Year: 1849

End Year: 1900

Number of Issues: 2,478

Number of Pages: 24,489



Thursday, June 27, 1850

CORK EXAMINER

Start Year: 1841

End Year: 1866

Number of Issues: 3,874

Number of Pages: 15,652



Wednesday, May 25, 1842

DAILY NEWS

Start Year: 1846

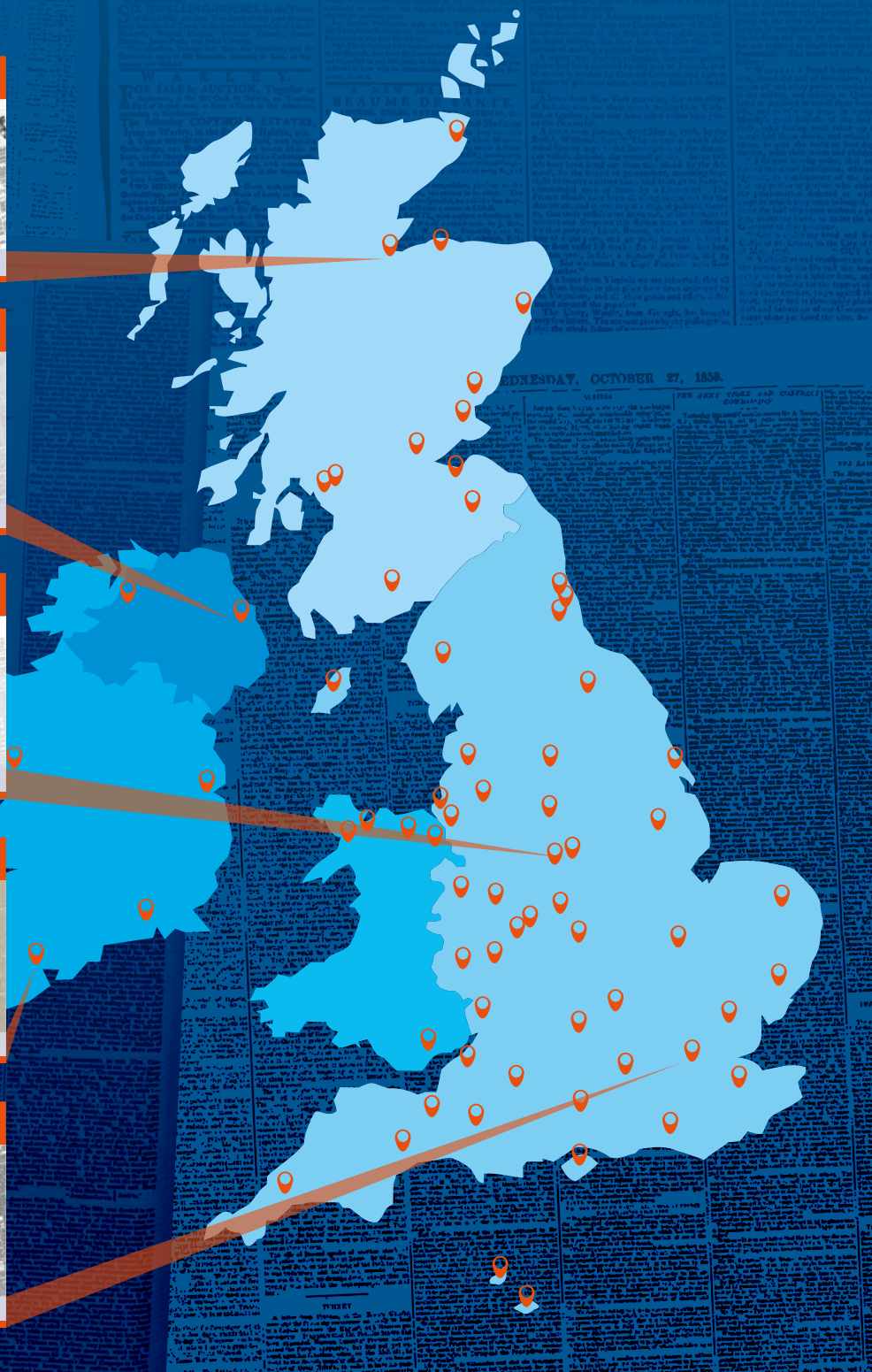
End Year: 1900

Number of Issues: 16,755

Number of Pages: 135,483



Wednesday, October 27, 1858





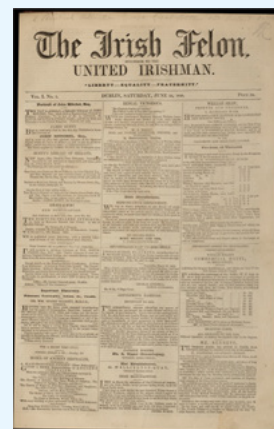
BRITISH LIBRARY NEWSPAPERS, PART VI: IRELAND, 1783-1950

82 newspapers, more than 200,000 pages

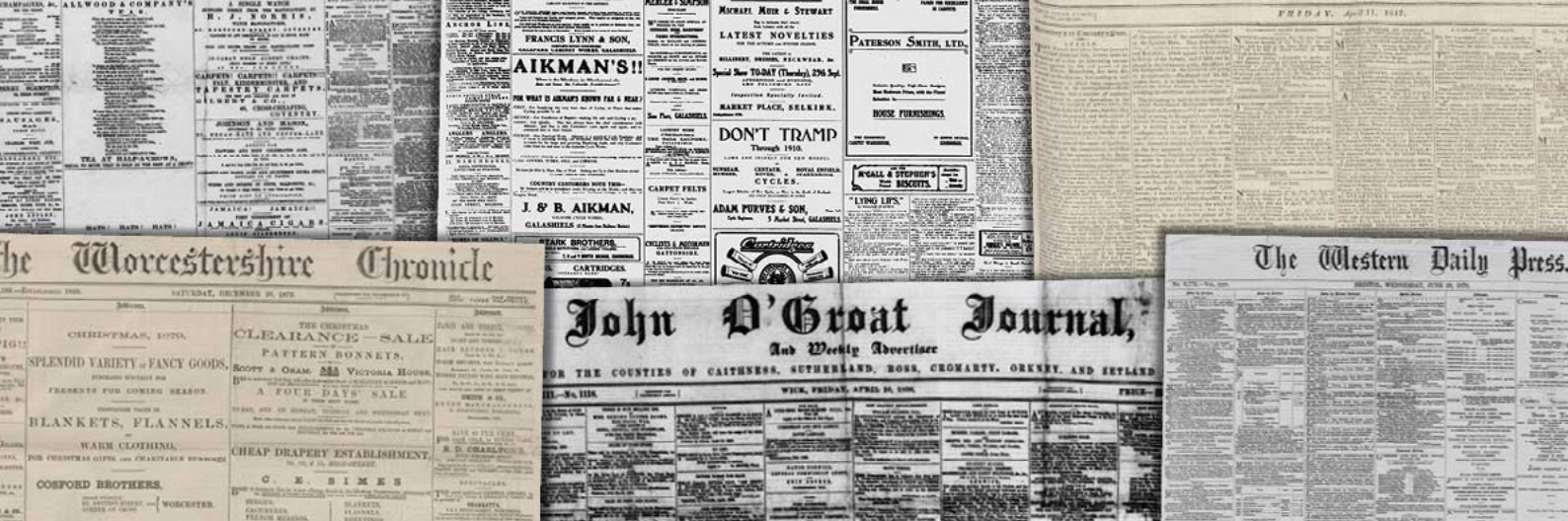
Part VI adds additional titles published in Ireland in the late eighteenth, across the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. A significant number of these are national publications but many are more regional from cities such as Dublin, Cork and Galway as well as more rural towns like Waterford, Tuam, Ballinasloe, and Birr. It will facilitate a range of scholarship across Irish Studies and British history, allowing researchers from a variety of disciplines to access several of the most formative and informed newspapers and periodicals that illuminate various aspects of Irish history, society, economy, politics and religion. Key topics include nationalism and Irish independence; Fenianism; the Roman Catholic Church; the Irish diaspora; the establishment of the Land League; the Irish literary revival; and sport and leisure.

A LOOK INSIDE: THE IRISH FELON

Originally established by John Martin before he was sent to a penal colony in Australia for the crime of "treason felony", the *Irish Felon* became one of the leading radical newspapers for a United Ireland free of British rule, one that advocated sedition on every page. Though soon suppressed, it offers an uncensored view of the Young Ireland movement, the Great Famine, and Irish nationalism in 1848.



June 24, 1848, The Irish Felon



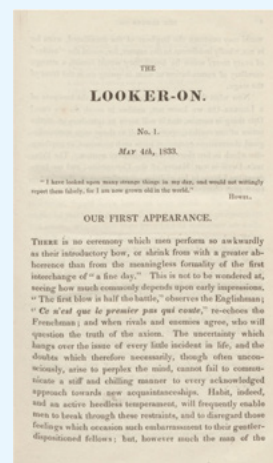
BRITISH LIBRARY NEWSPAPERS, PART V: 1746-1950

36 newspapers; more than 750,000 pages

With a concentration of titles from the northern part of the United Kingdom, *Part V* deepens Gale's northern regional content, doubling coverage in Scotland, tripling coverage in the Midlands, and adding a significant number of northern titles to the *British Library Newspapers* series. *Part V* includes newspapers from the Scottish localities of Fife, Elgin, Inverness, Paisley, and John O'Groats, as well as towns just below the border, such as Morpeth, Alnwick, and more. Researchers will also benefit from access to important titles such as the *Coventry Herald*, which features some of the earliest published writing of Mary Ann Evans (better known as George Eliot).

A LOOK INSIDE: CHELTENHAM LOOKER-ON

The *Cheltenham Looker-On* served as "a notebook on the sayings and doings of Cheltenham". It established itself as a fashionable literary newspaper, its opinions on news and social gossip becoming read as far as New Zealand. Its founder and editor, Henry Davies, established the paper after he declined a job at the *Gloucester Chronicle*. His uncompromising, conservative opinions give us a powerful overview of the political and literary landscape of Cheltenham.



May 4, 1833, *The Cheltenham Looker-On*





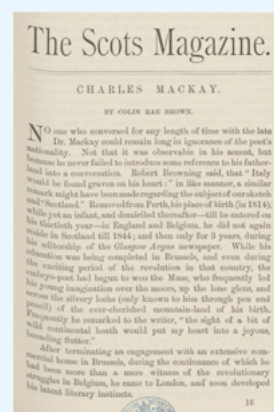
BRITISH LIBRARY NEWSPAPERS, PART IV: 1732-1950

23 newspapers; nearly 1.4 million pages

From key early newspaper titles like the *Stamford Mercury* to what is possibly the oldest magazine in the world still in publication, the *Scots Magazine*, *Part IV* offers key local and regional perspectives from cities as geographically diverse as Aberdeen, Bath, Chester, Derby, Belfast, Liverpool, and York. In addition, *Part IV* includes the 1901-1950 runs of papers such as the *Aberdeen Journal* and *Dundee Courier* whose earlier newspapers are available in *Part I* and *Part II*.

A LOOK INSIDE: THE SCOTS MAGAZINE

Considered the oldest magazine still in production, the *Scots Magazine* was envisioned as a rival to the London-based *Gentleman's Magazine*, so that “our countrymen might have the production of every month sooner, cheaper and better collected than before”. Its long, Scots-centric history gives us a fascinating first-hand look at the defeat of the Jacobites, the Napoleonic Wars, and the dawn of the 20th century.



March 1, 1890, The Scots Magazine





BRITISH LIBRARY NEWSPAPERS, PART III: 1741-1950

35 newspapers; nearly 1.2 million pages

Part III adds more regional and local depth to the series, encompassing powerful provincial news journals like the *Leeds Intelligencer* and *Hull Daily Mail*, local interest publications such as the *Northampton Mercury*, and specialist titles such as the *Poor Law Unions' Gazette*. Other noteworthy titles in Part III include the *Westmoreland Gazette*, whose early editor, Thomas De Quincey (of *Confessions of an English Opium Eater*) was forced to resign due to his unreliability.

A LOOK INSIDE: THE LEEDS INTELLIGENCER

Considered one of the first regional newspapers in Great Britain, the *Leeds Intelligencer* was founded in the west riding of Yorkshire as a conservative weekly newspaper that reported on the local news and gossip of Leeds and beyond, and often held anti-Catholic and anti-Chartist views. Being published during the tumultuous times of the 19th century, it gives us a fascinating look at the public opinions of a city amid the Industrial Revolution.



July 9, 1776, the Leeds Intelligencer



BRITISH LIBRARY NEWSPAPERS, PART II: 1800-1900

22 newspapers; nearly 1 million pages

Part II further expands the range of English regional newspapers and the political views represented in the programme. Researchers can find the newspapers of several significant towns and regions included in this collection: Nottingham, Bradford, Leicester, Sheffield, and York, as well as North Wales. The addition of two major London newspapers, *The Standard* and the *Morning Post*, helps capture conservative opinion in the nineteenth century, balancing the progressive, more liberal views of the newspapers that appear in *Part I*.

A LOOK INSIDE: THE WREXHAM WEEKLY ADVERTISER

Published as a weekly English-language newspaper in Wales, the *Wrexham Weekly Advertiser* was a four-page broadsheet that offered local news and information from the northeast of Wales and the border area, often with a more liberal viewpoint. Its articles on the local history of the region are an invaluable resource for any scholar studying local or regional histories of Wrexham and the surrounding country.



March 11, 1854, Wrexham Weekly Advertiser



BRITISH LIBRARY NEWSPAPERS, PART I: 1800-1900

47 newspapers; more than 2 million pages

Ranging from early tabloids like the *Illustrated Police News* to radical papers like the *Chartist Northern Star*, publications in *Part I* span a vast range of national, regional, and local interests. Other notable papers of *Part I* include the *Morning Chronicle*, with famous contributors such as Henry Mayhew and John Stewart Mill; the *Graphic*, publishing both illustrations and news as well as illustrated fiction; and the *Examiner*, the radical reformist and leading intellectual journal.

A LOOK INSIDE: POOR MAN'S GUARDIAN

Established in 1831 by noted suffragist and social activist Henry Hetherington, the *Poor Man's Guardian* served to "excite hatred and contempt of Government and Constitution of the tyranny of this country". It was specifically set up to combat the Six Acts passed in 1819 following the Peterloo Massacre. Sold for the small sum of one penny, it gave many the chance to read a paper that spoke for them. The *Poor Man's Guardian* gives us a deep insight into the political movements of the time, especially from the opposition who often struggled to get their voices heard.



January 3, 1835, Poor Man's Guardian



AN ENHANCED PLATFORM

Gale's commitment to the accessibility of digitised historical documents is second to none. New core enhancements to the *Gale Primary Sources* platform streamline the discovery of meaningful search results across tens of millions of pages.

Researchers expect the powerful core features of *Gale Primary Sources*. They include analysis tools, embedded image viewer, deep content tagging, and optical character recognition (OCR) output. Its tools and features include:

Term Frequency: The term frequency tool aids researchers in tracking central themes and ideas. Researchers can now see the frequency of their search terms within a content set to begin assessing how individuals, events, and ideas interacted and developed over time.

Topic Finder: The topic finder assists students in thoroughly developing their research topic. By identifying and organising frequently occurring themes, this tool reveals hidden relationships between search terms—helping users shape their research and integrate diverse content with relevant information.

Cross-Search Among an Unprecedented Number of *Gale Primary Sources* Collections:

Gale is undertaking a mammoth effort to migrate each of its archives to a unified environment that supports dynamic search, among other powerful benefits. The result? Your institution can offer new research possibilities with unsurpassed relevance, all on one cohesive interface.

View OCR Side by Side: With downloadable plain-text OCR now viewable alongside each scanned image—with a built-in confidence score—users can search their library's *Gale Primary Sources* holdings, read through its associated OCR quickly, then export the plain text for further analysis, such as within *Gale Digital Scholar Lab*.

Additional enhancements show Gale's pledge to continuous improvement:

Browse Collection: On select archives, users can browse the collections instead of using search. This gives users additional entry points to the content they need.

New Learning Centers: More Learning Centers on *Gale Primary Sources* archives means improved research outcomes and increased digital literacy for students—at no additional cost.

RELATED CROSS-SEARCHABLE RESOURCES FROM GALE

Enhance your research with *Gale Primary Sources* through the cross-search of *British Library Newspapers* with other primary source collections including:

- The Times Digital Archive
- Nineteenth Century Collections Online
- 17th and 18th Century Burney Collection Newspapers
- 17th and 18th Century Nichols Collection Newspapers
- 19th Century UK Periodicals
- The Telegraph Historical Archive, 1855-2000

GALE DIGITAL SCHOLAR LAB

In combination with powerful search technologies, *Gale Primary Sources* brings the thoughts, words, and actions of past centuries into the present. For nearly two decades, we have been preserving and extending access to scholarly research materials and content from prestigious source libraries through our ground-breaking digitisation program.

To advance research even further, the data from these archives including *British Library Newspapers* can be explored in new ways using *Gale Digital Scholar Lab*, a cloud-based research environment that allows students and researchers to apply natural language processing tools to raw text data (OCR) from *Gale Primary Sources* in a single research platform.

BUILD YOUR CONTENT SETS

- Use *Gale Primary Sources* archives
- Upload and use your text files
- Download content sets for use elsewhere

CLEAN TEXTS FOR COMPUTATIONAL ANALYSIS

- Apply stop words to your analysis
- Use flexible options to target specific character removal
- Reuse configurations across Content Sets

ANALYSE CONTENT IN POWERFUL NEW WAYS

- Visualise data from up to 10,000 documents at a time
- Explore individual documents overlaid with analysis data
- Download the raw data and your visualisations

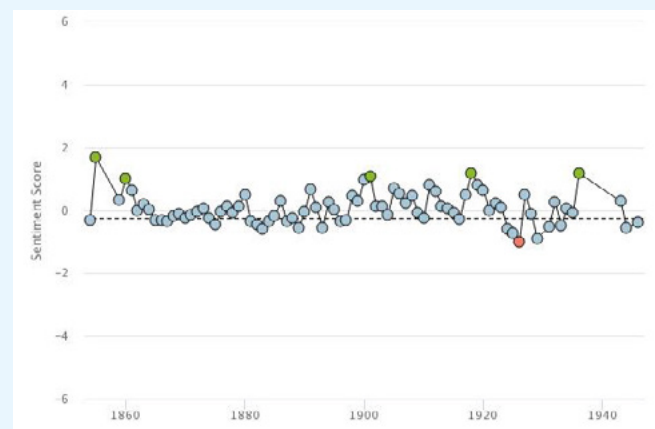
The *British Library Newspapers* archives are available within *Gale Digital Scholar Lab*, providing a new lens to explore these unique documents, and empowering researchers to generate innovative conclusions and outcomes. Using the *Lab*, users can analyse large sets of newspapers quickly; they can identify and analyse poetry or other literature published in newspapers in the 19th century, analyse 19th century adverts for gender bias, and critically evaluate the development of language in newspapers by analysing documents across the century.

CASE STUDY: FENIANS AND THE IRISH PRESS

Using *Gale Digital Scholar Lab*, students and researchers can explore the *British Library Newspapers* with ease. In this example, we searched for every paper published in Ireland that mentions “Fenianism” or other similar terms. Our search resulted in more than 7,000 articles to add to our content set.

After cleaning the data, we ran it through a sentiment analysis tool to see how the Irish media talked about the movement throughout its history. The result is the graph you see to the left.

In the hands of an academic of Irish history, this data can be further segmented, refined, and analysed. Doing this allows us to discover new stories that help illuminate how the Irish people saw the Fenians during the struggle for independence.



British Library Newspapers presents a unique local and regional perspective on more than two centuries of well-known historic events, cultural icons, sporting occasions, the arts, culture, and other national pastimes.

Find out how *British Library Newspapers* can enhance research and teaching at your institution.

For a free trial, pricing or further information, contact us at:

▶ emea.galereply@cengage.com

Or visit:

▶ gale.com/uncoverbln

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