



UNIVERSITY OF OREGON

October 10, 2014

TO: The Oregon Newspaper Publishing Community

FROM: Andrew Bonamici, Associate Dean, Media and Instructional Services

SUBJECT: Changes in Oregon Newspaper Microfilming Project

The University of Oregon (UO) Libraries has been microfilming and preserving Oregon's newspapers as a public service since the 1950s. By providing access to Oregon's history, these microfilms have been an invaluable resource for libraries, individuals, and organizations throughout the state and have been the foundation of the Oregon Digital Newspaper Program.

Unfortunately, microfilming equipment, supplies, and expertise to repair and maintain the microfilming process are nearing extinction. Parts are no longer available, film and chemicals are hard to find, and there are fewer and fewer technicians who know how to repair the equipment, which is in constant need of maintenance. In addition, public libraries have been lobbying staff members at the UO Libraries not only to *digitize* more historic newspaper content but also to *provide digital access* to current newspapers as opposed to preserving newspaper content on microfilm. As noted in the recent report "Oregon's Digital Collections: Recommendations" (2013) by DC Plumer Associates, the statewide and national demand for access to digital content continues to grow, contributing to the demise in the need for microfilming services.

In light of this situation, the UO Libraries will continue to microfilm newspapers published through December 2014. Starting in January 2015, microfilm production will cease for current newspapers. However, to ensure as smooth a transition as possible to a digital, online-accessible platform, we would like to continue receiving print copies of all newspapers through December 2015.

(continued)

UNIVERSITY OF OREGON LIBRARIES

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We understand that many current newspapers are now born digital and are printed from PDF files. Looking ahead, the UO Libraries would like to create a business model and workflow that will allow publishers to send their PDFs directly to us so that we may integrate them into an online-accessible platform. Our colleagues in other states have successfully implemented this kind of program, often with publisher agreements for an embargo period before current content becomes available to the public.

If you are interested in participating in the digital transition for Oregon newspapers, please contact Amanda Schmautz at [schmautz@uoregon.edu](mailto:schmautz@uoregon.edu).

Thank you for helping make this initiative a success.