



UNIVERSITY OF OREGON

October 10, 2014

TO: Oregon Newspaper Microfilm Subscribers

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 January 2015, microfilm production will cease for current newspapers. We will complete the filming of backlogged issues and fulfill all subscriptions for content published through December 2014.

(continued)

MAIN LIBRARY
Knight Library
(541) 346-3056
F (541) 346-3485

BRANCH LIBRARIES
Architecture and
Allied Arts Library,
Lawrence Hall
(541) 346-3637
F (541) 346-2205

John E. Jaqua Law Library,
Knight Law Center
(541) 346-3088
F (541) 346-1669

Mathematics Library,
Fenton Hall
F (541) 346-3023

Science Library,
Onyx Bridge
(541) 346-3075
F (541) 346-3012

Loyd and Dorothy
Rippey Library,
Campus Center

UNIVERSITY OF OREGON LIBRARIES

1299 University of Oregon, Eugene OR 97403-1229 T (541) 346-3056 F (541) 346-3485 libweb.uoregon.edu

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We are currently working with newspaper publishers on a business model and workflows to replace microfilm production with a digital platform for preservation of and access to current newspaper content. However, discussions with publishers, funding for digital storage, and workflow logistics are factors that will influence our ability to move forward with newspaper preservation and access.

Possible options for access to future content include the creation of an online archive, which would be free and open to the public, or a subscription based online archive, which would use library IP addresses to provide free access to users. We will keep stakeholders informed of our progress as our workflow and business model develop.

Negotiating publisher agreements and developing a digital platform for online access will create delays or gaps in accessing newspaper content published after December 2014. However, we hope to fill these gaps once our digital platform is in place.

If you are interested in participating in the digital transition for Oregon newspapers, please contact Amanda Schmautz at schmautz@uoregon.edu.

Thank you for your continued support of the Oregon Newspaper Project and for your understanding and patience as we transition to digital preservation and online access.