Research Guide to St. Louis Newspapers

This brief guide describes the most accessible contemporary and historic newspapers related to the St. Louis area available at the St. Louis Mercantile Library, University of Missouri-St. Louis. Also included are newspaper resources available on-line, and at other St. Louis and Missouri research locations, some of which are available through interlibrary loan (ILL).

The city of St. Louis has seen numerous daily and weekly newspapers published, in addition to many trade journals. In the early and mid-19th century, newspaper competition was fierce, but over the years rivals were bought out. The Daily Missouri Democrat merged with the Globe and later the Republic. The Post, Star, and Dispatch also gradually merged together. By the 1960s St. Louis had two major newspapers, the Globe-Democrat as the morning paper, and the Post-Dispatch in the evening. Today, only the Post-Dispatch remains, following the closure of the Globe-Democrat in 1986.

For a historical look at St. Louis newspapers see the St. Louis Reference Record by W.A. Kelsoe and A Brief History of the Globe-Democrat by William J. Feustel. (On-line versions available through www.umsl.edu/mercantile)

Please call the Mercantile Library Reading Room, (314) 516-7247, for hours and further assistance.

Locating materials
UMS TJ MICRO microfilm is located on the 5th floor of the Thomas Jefferson Library and may be accessed any time the main library is open. Standard printing for a small fee is available; digital .pdf files may be saved to a CD or flash drive (not provided by the library).

UMS MERC MICRO microfilm must be used in the Mercantile Library Rare Book Reading Room located on the 2nd floor. Call 314-516-7247 for hours and further information. Standard printing for a small fee is available; digital .pdf files may be saved to a CD or flash drive (not provided by the library).

UMS MERC RARE or MERC ST. LOUIS IMPRINT indicates bound volumes of fragile materials which must be used in the Mercantile Library Rare Book Reading Room located on the 2nd floor. Call 314-516-7247 for hours and further information. Photocopying is not possible from these materials.

When viewing newspapers on microfilm, researchers may request to use a wide angle “Type 1” lens. This will allow the entire page to display on the screen. (Microfilm readers normally have a “Type 2” lens allowing greater enlargement).
19th Century St. Louis Newspapers on Microfilm

1819 – 1826  Edwardsville Spectator [Illinois] (UMS MERC MICRO)
1830 – 1832  St. Louis Times (UMS MERC MICRO)
1836 (June-Nov.)  Daily Evening Herald and Commercial Advertiser (UMS MERC MICRO)
1844 – 1847  St. Louis Weekly Reveille (UMS MERC MICRO AN.S2 R48)
1853 – 1875  St. Louis /Daily Missouri Democrat (UMS TJ MICRO AN. S2 G53y)
1866 (Jan.– June)  Daily Missouri Democrat (UMS MERC MICRO)
1867 – 1878  St. Louis Daily Times / St. Louis Times (UMS MERC MICRO)
1872 – 1875  St. Louis Daily Globe (UMS TJ MICRO AN .S2 G52y)
1875 – 1986  St. Louis Globe-Democrat (UMS TJ MICRO AN. S2 G54)
1874 – 1877  St. Louis Dispatch (UMS TJ MICRO AN. S2P58y)
1878  St. Louis Evening Post (UMS TJ MICRO AN. S2P59y)
1878 – (present)  St. Louis Post-Dispatch (UMS TJ MICRO AN. S2P6)

19th Century Journals and Magazines Published in St. Louis

1850 – 1862  The Valley Farmer (UMS MERC ST LOUIS IMPRINT S1 .V26) Continued by Colman’s Rural World
1868 – 1869  Colman’s Rural World (MERC RARE SM. OVR S507. C6) Devoted to the “benefit of the farmer, gardener, fruit grower and stock raiser”
1871 - 1873  Illustrated Journal of Agriculture (MERC RARE SM. OVR S507. M5166)
1872 – 1875  Central Magazine (UMS MERC MICRO and ST LOUIS IMPRINT AP2 .C39)
1882  The Criterion (MERC MICRO) Literary magazine
1880 – 1882  The Hornet (UMS MERC MICRO) Illustrated journal
1880 – 1892  The Spectator (MERC RARE SM. OVR AP2. S93)

* indicates that a partial index to this material is available
20th Century St. Louis Newspapers on Microfilm

**St. Louis Argus** (UMS TJ MICRO AN. S2 A7)  
African-American newspaper

*1875 – 1986*  
**St. Louis Globe-Democrat** (UMS TJ MICRO AN. S2 G54)

*1878 – (present)*  
**St. Louis Post-Dispatch** (UMS TJ MICRO AN. S2P6)

1982 – (present)  
**St. Louis Business Journal** (UMS TJ MICRO HF5001. S22x)

1989 – 1990  
**St. Louis Sun** (UMS TJ MICRO AN. S2 S8)

Other Newspaper and Journals available on Microfilm

American Periodicals: Series I (1741-1800) and Series II (1800-1850)  
UMS TJ MICRO PS531.A45 various reel no(s).

Over 600 periodical titles available for various dates and geographic regions with a supplemental index: American periodicals, 1741-1900: an index to the microfilm collection by Jean Hoornstra (University Microfilms International, 1979) available to locate articles (UMS TJ REF PS531 .A45y)

Newspaper Archive Collections

St. Louis Globe-Democrat

1920 – 1986 (ca.) St. Louis Globe-Democrat Clipping files  
[http://www.umsl.edu/mercantile/special_collections/directory/slma-112.html](http://www.umsl.edu/mercantile/special_collections/directory/slma-112.html)  
Known as the newspaper "morgue," over 10,000,000 separate articles were cut out and filed by the Globe-Democrat newspaper. The clipping files also include much material preserved from various competing newspapers, the Post and Star. Currently the library is compiling an on-line database of clipping envelope headings by PROPER NAME and ST. LOUIS SUBJECT. Other general subjects are also included, but are not indexed.  
** Microfilm is recommended when searching for an article with a specific date**

1920 – 1986 (ca.) St. Louis Globe-Democrat Photographs  
[http://www.umsl.edu/mercantile/special_collections/directory/slma-112_Images.html](http://www.umsl.edu/mercantile/special_collections/directory/slma-112_Images.html)  
Filed in a separate series are over 225,000 photographs and approximately 700 glass plate negatives. A portion of this collection is digitized and available through Virtually Missouri. Please call to inquire about non-digitized images.

1980-1989 (ca.) St. Louis Business Journal Photograph Collection  
[http://www.umsl.edu/mercantile/special_collections/directory/slma-258.html](http://www.umsl.edu/mercantile/special_collections/directory/slma-258.html)  
This collection is comprises of photographs obtained by the newspaper for use in publication. An index is available on-line. This collection is stored off site; please call ahead to request use.

Newspaper archives are available to researchers in the Mercantile Library Reading Room. An index to a portion of the files is available on-line. Please call 314-516-7247 for hours and more information.

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Newspaper Indexes

*Although no comprehensive index to any St. Louis newspaper exists, many ongoing efforts have been made to create indexes for certain subjects or dates.*

1878, 1884, 1886, 1887  
*Le Patriote (The Patriot)* Index
French-language newspaper published in St. Louis
http://www.slcl.org/branches/hq/sc/indexes/lepatriote/lepatriote-ab.htm
Index compiled by St. Louis County Library, Special Collections. Microfilm for these issues is available at the Headquarter Branch of the St. Louis County Library. Contact scollections@slcl.org for further information.

1881 – 1882  
*St. Louis County Watchman-Advocate* Index
Widest circulating St. Louis County newspaper, published 1881 – 1985
http://www.slcl.org/branches/hq/sc/indexes/watchman/watchmanindexmain.htm
Index compiled by St. Louis County Library, Special Collections. Microfilm for these issues is available at the Headquarter Branch of the St. Louis County Library. Contact scollections@slcl.org for further information.

1880-1926; 1942-1945; 1992-2005  
*St. Louis Post-Dispatch* Obituary Index
http://www.slpl.lib.mo.us/lbinsrc/obit.htm
Index compiled by St. Louis Public Library, updated periodically. Microfilm available at UMSL Thomas Jefferson Library, 5th floor.

1989-present  
*St. Louis Post Dispatch* Index (via LexisNexis™ Academic)
(REQUIRES Gateway ID and Password for off campus use)
Full text articles are searchable on-line starting Jan. 1, 1989. A printed index to the Post-Dispatch exists for portions of the years 1975-present, and is available in a multiple volume set (UMS TJ REF INDEX AI21.S2 B4x and UMS TJ REF INDEX AI21.S22x).

1891 – 1914  
*The Waterways Journal* Index
http://www.umsl.edu/pott/journalindexes/journalindexes.html
Index compiled by the Herman T. Pott National Inland Waterways Library at the Mercantile Library, updated periodically. Microfilm available at UMSL St. Louis Mercantile Library, 2nd floor and Thomas Jefferson Library, 5th floor.

1915 – 1926; 1942 – 1945  
*St. Louis Argus* Obituary Index
http://www.slpl.lib.mo.us/lbinsrc/argusobit.htm
Index compiled by St. Louis Public Library, updated periodically. Microfilm available at UMSL Thomas Jefferson Library, 5th floor.

State Historical Society of Missouri, Newspaper Library (Columbia, MO)
http://www.umystem.edu/shs/newspaper.html | shsfofno@umystem.edu
Collection contains 1,270 bound volumes and over forty-one million pages of microfilm of Missouri newspapers. Also available are card indexes for the following locations and dates: Boonville (Cooper County), 1839-1856, 1868-1927; Columbia (Boone County), 1830-1835, 1843-late 1880s; 1908-1929, 1948-1955; Franklin and Fayette (Howard County), 1819-1830; Jackson (Cape Girardeau County), 1819-1826; Jefferson City (Cole County), 1831-1861, 1865-1926; Liberty (Clay County), 1846-1869; *St. Louis*, 1808-1828, 1835-1840.

These index cards are available on microfilm through interlibrary loan. A copy of the index roll list is located in the Mercantile Library Reading Room to determine which rolls to request from the State Historical Society via interlibrary loan (ILL).

* indicates that a partial index to this material is available
On-line historical newspapers and journals

Historic Missouri Newspaper Project (pilot)
http://newspapers.umsystem.edu
Full text searchable of select Missouri newspaper issues; date coverage may be incomplete:
- Daily Evening Herald 1835 (June-Nov.)
- The Far West 1836 (Aug. – Oct.)
- The Liberty Banner 1844 (March 3)
- Liberty Weekly Tribune 1846 – 1883
- St. Louis Christian Advocate 1857-1878
- The Rolla Express 1860 – 1873
- Missouri Republican 1865 (July 6)
- St. Louis Globe-Democrat 1875 (March-Dec.)
- The Phelps County New Era 1875 – 1880
- The Rolla New Era 1880-1897
- The Independent 1894 – 1905
- Palladium 1907 (April 30) [African-American]
- Columbia Missourian 1929, 1966-1985
- Hannibal Courier 1935, 1988

St. Louis Views – Virtually Missouri
http://www.virtuallymissouri.org/
From the collections of the St. Louis Mercantile Library, digitized images from illustrated newspapers, such as Frank Leslie’s Illustrated Newspaper and Harper’s Weekly, and a small number of other published images of St. Louis. The illustrated newspapers date from 1853-1891. The published engravings date from as early as 1840. Views of St. Louis in the early and mid twentieth century are included from other published sources.

New York Times Articles (1851-1995)
Indexes text, headline, author, many advertisements, and displays the lead paragraph of articles. Microfilm also available at UMSL Thomas Jefferson Library, 5th floor (UMS TJ MICRO AN .N4 T5).

The LexisNexis™ Academic database has New York Times full text for articles from June 1, 1980 to present, without graphics or advertisements. Access to freelance articles and other features within this publication may not be available. (REQUIRES Gateway ID and Password for off campus use).

JSTOR
(REQUIRES Gateway ID and Password for off campus use)
Full text access to over 600 journals and magazines from the 19th and 20th centuries. Disciplines include history, literature, business, and science.

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Making of America, Michigan
http://www.hti.umich.edu/m/moajrnl/
Full text searchable of:
- American Jewess 1895-1899
- Appleton's 1869-1881 (2 series)
- Catholic World 1865-1901
- DeBow's 1846-1869 + 1952 index (3 series)
- Garden and Forest 1888-1897
- Ladies Repository 1841-1876 (3 series)
- The Old Guard 1864
- Overland Monthly 1868-1900 (2 series)
- Princeton Review 1831-1882 (2 series)
- Southern Literary Messenger 1835-1864 + 1936
  Contributor index
- Southern Quarterly Review 1842-1857 (3 series)
- Vanity Fair 1860-1862

Making of America, Cornell
http://cdl.library.cornell.edu/koa/
Full text searchable of:
- The American Missionary 1878 - 1901
- The American Whig Review 1845 - 1852
- The Atlantic Monthly 1857 - 1901
- The Bay State Monthly 1884 - 1886
- The Century 1881 - 1899
- The Continental Monthly 1862 - 1864
- The Galaxy 1866 - 1878
- Harper's New Monthly Magazine 1850 - 1899
- The International Monthly Magazine 1850 - 1852
- The Living Age 1844 - 1900
- Manufacturer and Builder 1869 - 1894
- The New England Magazine 1886 - 1900
- The New-England Magazine 1831 - 1835
- New Englander 1843 - 1892
- The North American Review 1815 - 1900
- The Old Guard 1863 - 1867
- Punchinello 1870
- Putnam's Monthly 1853 - 1870
- Scientific American 1846 - 1869
- Scribner's Magazine 1887 - 1896
- Scribner's Monthly 1870 - 1881
- The United States Democratic Review 1837-1859

Internet Library of Early Journals (United Kingdom)
http://www.bodley.ox.ac.uk/ilej/
Annual Register (1758); Blackwood's Edinburgh Magazine (1817); The Builder (1843); Gentleman's Magazine (1731); Notes and Queries (1849); Philosophical Transactions of the Royal Society (1660).

**Newspaper holdings at other libraries**
Search the MOBIUS Catalog of academic libraries http://mobius.missouri.edu/search
Subject search for Saint Louis (Mo.) -- Newspapers, or Saint Louis (Mo.) -- Periodicals.

Newspapers in Missouri: a union list, 1994 (UMS MERC REF or TJ REF Z6952.M8 N49)

Missouri Newspapers on Microfilm at the State Historical Society of Missouri, 2004
(UMS MERC REF)

St. Louis Public Library’s Historic Newspapers on Microfilm
http://www.sipl.lib.mo.us/libsrc/newscoll.htm

St. Louis County Library’s Historic Newspapers on Microfilm
http://www.sicl.org/branches/hq/sc/sc-news.htm

St. Charles City-County Library Historic Newspapers on Microfilm
http://www.win.org/library/services/llgen/news&per.htm#NEWS

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