

**Division of Academic Affairs  
Technology Fee – Systemic Project Proposal  
2019**

*Proposal Deadline: Friday, March 1, 2019 @ 5:00 pm*

**Project Proposal Type**

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**Systemic Project**

*Projects proposed by operational units of the university (e.g., colleges, academic departments, Library, etc.) for instructional technology enhancements of unit-wide or university-wide scope.*

*All Systemic Project proposals must be acknowledged (signed) by the operational unit head (e.g. Dean, Chair, Director, etc.).*

**Project Title**

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*Southeast Historical Newspapers Digital Archive*

**Total Amount of Funding Requested**

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*\$22,813*

**Primary Project Coordinator**

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*Melissa Gonzalez*

**Unit Head Acknowledgment**

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Unit Head Signature: *Stephanie Glaw*

Date: *25 Feb 2019*

**Division of Academic Affairs**  
**Systemic Project Proposal**  
**2019**

**1. Description of initiative/investment to enhance instructional technology.**

This Systemic Project proposal is for the purchase of ProQuest's Southeast Historical Newspapers digital archive. The total one-time cost of this proposal is \$22,813.

ProQuest Historical Newspapers (PHN) is "the definitive newspaper digital archive offering full-text and full-image articles for significant newspapers dating back to the 18th Century."<sup>1</sup> The PHN Southeast regional collection includes the full-text of seventeen newspapers<sup>2</sup> from Florida, Maryland, North Carolina, Tennessee, and Virginia, with title coverage varying between 1873 and 2016. Ten of these newspapers are from Florida, including the *Pensacola News Journal* (PNJ), 1956-2011. Until the recent introduction of these new PHN regional collections, there has been no digital source for historical PNJ content available for institutions. With the purchase of the Southeast collection, UWF will gain perpetual rights and online access to the full-text of fifty-five years of the PNJ, and will be the only institution in the area to offer this resource digitally.

These primary sources are suited for research, study, and course projects across all disciplines, and the ProQuest contract will allow any fair use of the content for educational purposes. Access would be available 24/7 to all UWF students, faculty, and staff, with off-campus access enabled by EZproxy. To ensure students are aware that the collection was purchased with technology fee funds, the library will include a "Student Technology Fee at Work" note in the database description on the website.

**2. Description of how initiative has a college/unit-wide or university-wide scope.**

The Southeast Historical Newspapers collection has applications for disciplines in all five academic colleges. Beyond the obvious uses for the UWF Departments of Communication and History, this collection will be a valuable resource for departments, units, centers, and divisions across the university. Because newspapers cover all topics and issues, they serve as one of the best sources for documenting local and regional history. Examples of potential research applications include historical, political, economic, technological, environmental, legal, ethical, social, and/or cultural analyses, policy tracking, and public health studies.

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<sup>1</sup> ProQuest, "ProQuest Historical Newspapers," <https://www.proquest.com/products-services/news-newspapers/pq-hist-news.html> (accessed February 12, 2019).

<sup>2</sup> Complete title list: [PHN regional collections brochure](#), p. 4.



### **3. Description of project alignment with the UWF Strategic Plan.**

UWF's mission establishes a commitment to "provide high-quality undergraduate and graduate education; conduct teaching and research that services the body of knowledge; and contribute to the needs of professions and society." This collection would enhance the quality of the educational experiences of our students by providing them electronic access to primary sources that would allow them to conduct historical research and contribute to their fields. In regards to UWF's enduring values, this project promotes a collaborative and innovative learning environment by supporting both the students' individual development as scholars and their ability to research and create scholarship in partnership with their peers and professors. In addition, the Southeast Historical Newspapers proposal is in direct alignment with several strategic directions and priorities of the University of West Florida Strategic Plan: 2017-2022, including:

#### **Strategic Direction 1: Learner Centered and Focused**

1.1 Provide high quality learning and co-curricular experiences that inspire students to become enlightened and engaged global citizens and successful professionals.

#### **Strategic Direction 3: Academic Programming, Scholarship, and Research**

3.2. Develop and retain a culture that supports research and creativity.

#### **Strategic Direction 4: Community and Economic Engagement**

4.2 Enhance the region's education, economy, culture, health and well-being through endeavors beyond campus borders.

Access to a collection of significant, regional primary sources relates directly to providing high quality learning experiences and encourages a culture of research and creativity. These electronic texts will allow faculty to create innovative research assignments that strengthen the quality of student scholarship and challenge students to think critically and contextualize the past. Through the examination and interpretation of primary sources, students will learn the kind of skills that cannot be obtained through research of secondary sources. Finally, the regional focus of these newspapers will enhance UWF's strategic directions related to the community and may provide opportunities for students to showcase their findings to a broader audience.

### **4. Description of benefits provided.**

Access to the Southeast Historical Newspapers collection has many benefits for the university. As stated previously, the regional scope and time coverage of the collection would be useful across all academic disciplines and university divisions. The content will directly support student learning by providing material for course papers, projects, and study, and will facilitate research at the undergraduate, graduate, and faculty levels. Furthermore, members of the community would have access to the content if they visit the UWF Libraries, which would directly support the university's Carnegie Classification for Community Engagement.



The library currently owns the microfilm of the *Pensacola News Journal*, but with no indexing, it is incredibly difficult to use without a known date. Because most students and scholars conduct research using subject keywords, the digital collection will vastly improve access to the newspaper content. The collection is extensively indexed and full-text searchable by keyword, subject, author, title, date, and/or document type. Every issue includes the complete paper from cover-to-cover, giving users access to articles, front-page headlines, photographs, reviews, advertisements, editorials, editorial cartoons, classified ads, birth notices, and marriage and death announcements. The resource would be accessible 24/7 to all UWF users, including online students and distance learners. The documents can be incorporated into online courses, and there is no limit to the number of users who can access the content at one time. Students may print, e-mail, and easily download PDF pages to read offline on most mobile devices, laptops, or any computer.

Users will be able to discover these texts through the library's discovery service (OneSearch) and by searching the Southeast Historical Newspapers database on the library web site. The newspapers are fully cross-searchable with all other databases on the ProQuest platform, which improves breadth, depth, and context. The library's current ProQuest newspaper resources, including U.S. Newsstream and the *New York Times* Historical digital archive (1851-2015), are well-used as documented by sustained usage statistics.

Evaluation of primary sources helps teach students to interpret documents and draw conclusions themselves, rather than relying on someone else's interpretation. These kinds of critical thinking skills can only be learned through research of primary sources rather than the more passive learning gained by reading secondary commentary on a topic. Furthermore, this kind of analysis not only helps students understand the news itself, but more importantly, the context in which it was made.

Current UWF Faculty have the following to say about the Southeast Historical Newspapers collection:

"Acquiring access to the Southeast Historical Newspapers collection will directly benefit students and faculty from wide range of departments in all of the UWF Colleges. The collection provides access to a broad sweep of regional historic newspaper, including the difficult to access later runs of the *Pensacola News Journal* from the 1950s through the 1980s. Access to fundamental digital historic resources such as historic newspapers and public documents is crucial for the contemporary practice of history. The Southeast Historical Newspapers collection directly supports the work of the new Digital Humanities Lab, the UWF Historic Trust, and the expanding undergraduate and graduate curriculum in applied, public, and local history. The content will also support research in many other departments and provide an important resource for a wide range of community partners. This is wise investment in long-term institutional capacity building at the University of West Florida."

- Dr. John Jensen, Assistant Professor of History

"Adding any additional historical newspaper archives would be an immense benefit for my own scholarship, that of my students, and, I am confident, my colleagues in the history department as well as their students. Recently, four of my undergraduates wrote media history papers that were presented, and well received, at the American Journalism Historians Association's Southeast Symposium. This was the first time that any UWF students participated at this symposium, and these students got there by using the library's *New York Times* historical database as well as their own wherewithal online. The quality of their work was good, but I believe future students would be able to create more robust, and certainly more unique, history papers with access to more regionally specific publications. In terms of my own research, as a media historian, I am always on the lookout for under-studied, though still important, publications. Several of the papers listed among the Southeast offerings would classify as that, and I would be excited to get to explore each."

- Dr. Willie Tubbs, Assistant Professor of Communication, Adviser of *The Voyager*

**5. Description of how success/impact will be measured.**

The library will measure the success of the Southeast Historical Newspapers collection through usage statistics and feedback from users. ProQuest provides monthly usage statistics, and link usage can also be tracked through OneSearch.

The UWF Libraries are committed to publicizing this collection by featuring information about it on the library web site, in relevant online subject and course research guides, and through social media. Librarians will also instruct students about the collection during information literacy and instruction sessions.

**6. Detailed description of resources required including hardware and software requirements and personnel costs (faculty compensation is not an allowed cost).**

The proposal covers the one-time purchase cost of the Southeast Historical Newspapers collection and annual access fees for two years. There are no additional hardware, software, or personnel costs associated with this proposal.

Item Description	Cost
Southeast Historical Newspapers collection	\$21,813
Annual access fee – \$500 per year for 2 years	\$1,000
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$22,813</b>

**7. All Tech Fee Proposals must be reviewed by ITS prior to submission. Please provide your JIRA Ticket # here.**

TF-80



**8. Proposed timeline.**

Purchase of the Southeast Historical Newspapers collection would be initiated immediately upon award notification and availability of funding. Once the order is placed, access to the collection should be available within a week.

**9. Plan for sustainability beyond conclusion of funding from technology fee, if applicable.**

The requested funds will cover the one-time purchase cost of the product as well as annual access fees for two years. The library will assume payment of the annual fee after two years.

**10. Resource matching commitments from other organizations/sources (identify organization and amounts), if applicable.**


Not applicable

**11. Individual responsible for reporting and accountability, along with contact information.**

Melissa Gonzalez  
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[TF-80] <a href="#">Southeast Historical Newspapers</a> Created: 02/21/2019 Updated: 02/21/2019 Resolved: 02/21/2019	
<b>Status:</b>	No Concerns
<b>Project:</b>	<a href="#">Technology Fee</a>
<b>Component/s:</b>	None
<b>Affects Version/s:</b>	None
<b>Fix Version/s:</b>	None

<b>Type:</b>	Request	<b>Priority:</b>	Medium
<b>Reporter:</b>	<a href="#">Melissa Gonzalez</a>	<b>Assignee:</b>	<a href="#">Sandra Thompson</a>
<b>Resolution:</b>	Done	<b>Votes:</b>	0
<b>Labels:</b>	tf-2019-2020		
<b>Remaining Estimate:</b>	Not Specified		
<b>Time Spent:</b>	Not Specified		
<b>Original Estimate:</b>	Not Specified		

<b>Attachments:</b>	 Southeast Historical Newspapers systemic proposal.docx
<b>Request participants:</b>	
<b>Location:</b>	UWF Libraries
<b>Agreement:</b>	I agree
<b>Terms and Conditions Agreement:</b>	I agree
<b>Organizations:</b>	None

### Description

This Systemic Project proposal is for the purchase of ProQuest's Southeast Historical Newspapers digital archive. There are no additional technology needs associated with this project as the library currently has other ProQuest products in place.

### Comments

Comment by <a href="#">Melissa Gonzalez</a> [ 02/21/2019 ]
Expedited review of this proposal is requested because the Interim Dean of Libraries will be out of town Feb 26 - March 1 and must sign it by Monday, February 25. Thank you.
Comment by <a href="#">Sandra Thompson</a> [ 02/21/2019 ]
Hi Melissa, Please attach the proposal and I will review it today 😊
Comment by <a href="#">Melissa Gonzalez</a> [ 02/21/2019 ]

Sorry - I thought I uploaded it originally, but I guess my "drag and drop" didn't work. Thanks so much for doing the quick review!

[Southeast Historical Newspapers systemic proposal.docx](#) (32 kB)

Comment by [Sandra Thompson](#) [ 02/21/2019 ]

ITS has no concerns with this proposal.

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