



The Times of India

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Abstract

In 2010 ProQuest, LLC, released a digital version of the highest circulating English-language paper printed in India, The Times of India, covering the years from 1848-2001, to be made available in the ProQuest Historical Newspapers digital collection.

Sources

Sources for this review include information publicly posted or obtained directly from the publisher, data collected by CRL staff and members, and examination of the digital collection when possible. Other sources are noted where cited.

REVIEW

Collection Content

Title History

The Times of India was founded on November 3, 1838. It became a daily edition in 1850, and is the highest circulating English-language paper in India. *The Times of India* is published simultaneously in multiple editions (Mumbai, Delhi, Calcutta, and Ahmedabad among them), with some content differences in each.

The Times of India is published by Bennett, Coleman & Co. Ltd. as part of The Times Group. The Times Group publishes the business daily *The Economic Times*, the tabloid-style newspaper *Mirror* in several cities, and has other newspapers in Hindi & Marathi. The Times Group also owns Radio Mirchi, an FM Radio network and a business TV channel ET NOW and English-language news channel TIMES NOW. The group's Times Internet Limited offers email, social networking and a host of other services & sites. It is also significant in book publishing, music publishing, outdoor media and event management.

Source of the digitized content

ProQuest reports the digital content was entirely derived from the microfilm produced by *The Times of India* publisher Bennett Coleman & Co., Ltd. For a description of the various microfilm efforts and holdings, see Appendix I: “International Coalition on Newspapers (ICON) Title Report: *The Times of India* microfilm holdings.” Microfilm holdings are certain to be consolidated at local institutions as a result of the search and browse features provided by digitization.

Content Review

While the browse list of publications in the database describes the chief content as the New Delhi edition of the Times from 1861 onwards, the actual scanned content is from the Bombay (and later, Mumbai) edition, in addition to preceding titles beginning with the *Bombay Times and Journal of Commerce* in 1838. ProQuest reports a plan to provide a “moving wall” of contemporary content, with the most recent issues in the initial release from 2001. A new year will be added to the database every subsequent year (2002 issues will be added in 2011, etc.). An analysis of the product’s holdings as well as a comparison to available microfilm is currently being conducted by the Center for Research Libraries and will be available in the coming weeks.

Overall, the layout and content is similar to all other titles in the *ProQuest Historical Newspapers* product. In general, the image quality is adequate, allowing for detailed zooming in on images, as well as providing accurate enough portrayals of the entire page in page map images. A few problems were noted, including some fuzziness, too dark or too light gutters, sections of faded text, and tearing in what appears to be the original paper. All of these are to be expected when working with older newspaper titles and microfilm. However, on occasion one also sees skewed or cut content in ProQuest’s presentation of individual articles. How many of these issues could affect OCR or result sets is unclear.

Timetable for release of the database

A preliminary release was available in August 2010. The full collection through 2001 is expected to be accessible by the end of 2010.

Delivery

Metadata

ProQuest provides [information](#) on all possible fields which may be attached to each object in their digital collections. ProQuest also reports that they will permit crawling of the *Historical Newspaper* databases under special circumstances and at an additional charge.

Indexing

The level of OCR accuracy seems at least average for historical material. Any level of text searching will significantly improve access, since *The Times of India* has not been comprehensively indexed anywhere.

The value of having indexing for a South Asian newspaper cannot be over-emphasized as (based on some preliminary research) *no* South Asian newspaper has undergone comprehensive indexing, even in print. There are of course efforts to index newspapers (*Guide to Indian Periodical Literature*, *Index Indiana*, *Hindu Index*, etc.) and also some other emerging online newspaper products (the most notable recent contribution being the *World Newspaper Archive*) but these have been selective in their content and/or in their chronologic coverage. Furthermore, having even one newspaper indexed for a large span of years (the entirety of the *Times of India* in this case) can benefit access to a host of other papers as one can locate major news items in the online source and then use that information (date, etc.) to approach other sources (including those not in English, those archived in print and those in microform). Of special value in the *ProQuest Historical Newspapers* is that, unlike many traditional and/or print based newspaper indices, they have chosen to index each and every component of the newspaper—articles, editorials, advertisements—which allows new kinds of queries and comparisons to be efficiently conducted.

Technical platform & interface

The Times expands the international content of the *ProQuest Historical Newspapers* digital collection, which includes *The Guardian* and *The Observer*, as well as U.S. titles such as *The New York Times* and *The Wall Street Journal*. ProQuest reports that *The Times* will be migrated to ProQuest's "new unified platform, allowing content to be cross-searched and integrated within a library's entire ProQuest collection." The public release of this interface is anticipated in January 2011.

The ProQuest "classic" interface available at the time of release in 2010 is simple and allows for fast and efficient searching of the full text of the newspaper. Search results are presented in an organized and easily sorted format. As with all of the other titles within the *Historical Newspapers* product, searches can be limited by date range, document type, location within the document, and page number. Display results are presented as three options: abstract, page map, and article image.

While every part of the newspaper is indexed and as such users can quickly access articles, book reviews, editorials, advertisements, etc., it would be helpful if ProQuest provided a list of the "content types" for selection in the advanced search pull-downs as this is not completely clear. If further indexing were possible, adding granularity to some of the categories ("matrimonials" and/or "entertainment" within the "classifieds" for example) would be beneficial.

The default choices for search types, results, and browsing options assume a particular kind of researcher, generally using discrete searches to find articles on known subjects. For the researcher wanting to browse the full contents of the paper, these assumptions may be less than ideal. While it is easy to link out to see a retrieved article in context as it appears on the page (“page view”), linking from an article or a page to an entire daily issue is less intuitive. Page browsing or selection is not available from article images, but only when viewing page images. While not impossible, “reading” a paper from cover to cover is not especially easy in this presentation.

Taking an alternate approach, the user can select an issue by date browsing under the “Publications” listing tab, but once having selected an issue one needs to “page sort” in order to have the contents of an issue presented in page number order. Then the user must return to the master list to select the next issue to view.

The ProQuest classic platform is an OpenURL target and source compliant with the San Antonio profile level 1 (SAP1).

Archiving

Every institution has the option as purchasers of the Perpetual Archive License (as opposed to subscribers) to obtain at cost of transfer the full set of files for local hosting (including page image TIFF files of articles and full pages, metadata, ASCII text and edited ASCII text for headlines and captions, but not the database, search engine, or user interface). As of 2009, ProQuest no longer offers a Permanent Archive Addendum, which provided assurances on access to the archival files ProQuest maintains at Iron Mountain.

Terms

Price

For its Historical Newspapers product ProQuest offers a Perpetual Archive License (with ongoing Continuing Service Fee) and subscription models. The cost of purchase includes access to the non-public domain portion of the content. Major ARL libraries have been offered widely different prices, apparently depending on FTE numbers and on the extent of other ProQuest products held by the library or offered as a purchase bundle. Some portion of the annual fees is expected to help support updated content.

Other Terms

A single licensing agreement is used for all ProQuest databases. See http://www.proquest.com/en-US/site/terms_conditions.shtml The lengthy agreement is fairly basic in its provisions, indicating: the products to be purchased or subscribed to, subscription start and end dates, price of products/subscriptions, authorized users (e.g., staff and students or patrons), type of access (e.g., on-

site and/or remote access, simultaneous users, etc.), permitted uses (e.g., fair use, digital and print copies, e-reserves, ILL, etc.), and conditions for termination. It also contains the standard contractual provisions for limited warranty and disclaimer of warranty, limitation of liability, and privacy. Note that since copyright restrictions for original sources vary, ProQuest's policy on outside use of the database (such as e-reserves) varies with the particular database.

Outstanding issues

It will be important to obtain more information from ProQuest on their future plans for archiving the content of this collection and ensuring sustainable access.

USE CASES

In 2008 Alison Jones of Tufts University investigated the uses of large digital collections of retrospective newspapers in scholarly research, noting the challenges they can present specifically to linguistic analysis:

One major difficulty...was that the searching defaults are set up with historians in mind.

“Historical Newspapers caters mainly to historians and other social scientists who are looking to find as many references as possible to a themes or keywords...to maximize the number of hits . . . the Proquest search engine automatically includes a plural look-up feature, conflating hits for the plural form of any singular word entered. This obviously presents an obstacle to linguists looking to distinguish inflected from bare forms.” Despite these caveats, [a linguist] concluded that these databases “offer invaluable information about language usage in...newspaper writing across a period that is not yet well covered by principled linguistic corpora” and they offer great insight into understanding changing patterns of standard usage in English.

Source: Alison Jones, “The Many Uses of Newspapers,” Technical Report for IMLS Project on “The Richmond Daily Dispatch”, June 20, 2008.

<http://dlxs.richmond.edu/d/ddr/docs/papers/usesofnewspapers.pdf> (viewed 4/8/09)

DETAILS

Sources

Sources for details about this digital collection include information publicly posted by the digital publisher. Other information obtained directly from the publisher at the time of writing is highlighted in blue. Any other source is specifically noted where cited.

Collection content

Subjects covered	India: Newspapers
Geographic coverage	Mumbai, Delhi, Calcutta, Ahmedabad
Chronological coverage	1838-2001
Major languages	English
Content types	Newspaper
Source formats	Microfilm
Total titles	1
Total pages	1 million
Digital collection launch date	2010
Update frequency	Annually
Collection ongoing (y/n)	NA

Completion date	NA
Available supplements	NA

Metadata

MARC records available (y/n)	N
Creator of MARC records	NA
Structural metadata exposed anywhere?	N
Subject authorities used	NA
Name authorities used	NA

Technical Platform

Browser compatibility	Internet Explorer 7.0 or higher; Firefox 3.5 or higher; Safari 4 (Mac); Google Chrome
Authentication options	Secure access via the following authentication methods: IP Recognition Password Barcode Referring URL Embedded URL
Archiving solution – master files	NA
Archiving solution – derivative files	NA
Availability in web discovery tools	N (not at present time)
OpenURL target (y/n)	Y
Federated searching, z39.50 (y/n)	Y
Local host option (y/n)	Y
Usage statistics (y/n)	Y

Interface Tools

Page images (y/n)	Y
Color images (y/n and approx %)	N
Search full text (y/n)	Y
Advanced search (fielded) (y/n)	Y

Search within results (y/n)	N
Limit results by dates and/or document types (y/n)	Y
Display highlighted search terms (y/n)	Y
Display snippet -- search term in context (y/n)	Y
Relevance sorting (y/n)	Y
Save searches (y/n)	Y
Download PDF (y/n)	Y (PDFs are available for single pages or articles, not for entire issues)
Download HTML (y/n)	N
Print page (y/n)	Y
Print full document (y/n)	Y
Export citations (y/n)	Y
Annotation tools (y/n)	N
Cross-product searching (y/n)	Y
ILL (y/n)	N
Restrictions on use	N

Provider

Publisher	Bennett Coleman and Co, Ltd.
Address	Dr. Dadabhoy Naoroji Road The Times of India Building Fort, Mumbai, 400001 India
url ; contact email	http://www.indiatimes.com/
Related product(s)	NA
Distributor	ProQuest, LLC
Address	789 E. Eisenhower Parkway P.O. Box 1346 Ann Arbor, MI 48106-1346
url ; contact email	http://www.proquest.com
Related product(s)	<i>ProQuest Historical Newspapers</i>

Appendix I: International Coalition on Newspapers (ICON) Title Report: *The Times of India* microfilm holdings

The Times of India

Title: [The Bombay times and journal of commerce](#)
Alternate Title: Bombay times
Publication Dates: Vol. 1, no. 1 (Nov. 3, 1838)-vol. 10, no. 310 (Dec. 31, 1859).

Merged with: Bombay standard and chronicle of Western India, to form:
Bombay times and standard.

Microfilm Editions:¹

Filmer	Filming Dates	Reels	OCLC No.	CRL Holds?
InterDocumentation Co.	Vol. 1, no. 1 (Nov. 3, 1838)-vol. 10, no. 310 (Dec. 31, 1859) [gaps]	22	18548781	Partial [1856-1859]
British Library Newspaper Library	1845-Aug. 1850; 1854-1859	42 ²		None

Title: [The Bombay times and standard](#)
Imprint: Bombay : Matthias Mull, [-1861]
Publication Dates: Began with Jan. 2, 1860 issue.; -new ser., v. 24, no. 117 (May 17, 1861).
Frequency: Daily (except Sunday)

Merged with: Bombay telegraph and courier, to form: Times of India (Bombay, India).

Microfilm Editions:

Filmer	Filming Dates	Reels	OCLC No.	CRL Holds?
InterDocumentation Co.	Jan. 10, 1860-May 17, 1861 [gaps?]	3	12094634	All
British Library Newspaper Library	Jan. 1860-May 17, 1861	5 ³		None

¹ All filmers and holdings are based on bibliographic catalogue information, except where noted. Where publisher or library catalogs do not provide sufficient detail, ICON attempts to extrapolate holding information from other library holdings, print sources, or other means. ICON is not responsible for any inaccuracy of information herein.

² Not in British Library Integrated Catalogue. Holdings statement from printed sales catalogue, ca. 2003.

³ *ibid.*

Title: [The times of India \(Bombay, india\)](#) .
Imprint: Bombay : Bennett, Coleman & Co.,
Publication Dates: Began with May 18, 1861 issue.
 Published simultaneously in Mumbai [Bombay], Delhi, Bangalore,
 Ahmedabad, Lucknow, and Patna.

Microfilm Editions:

Filmer	Filming Dates	Reels	OCLC No.	CRL Holds?
Bennett, Coleman & Co., Ltd	18 May 1861-present (?)	? ⁴	29515148	Partial [Sept-Oct. 1897; July-Aug. 15, 1908; Jan. 1915-Dec 1916; Feb 16-May 15, 1922; 1941; Sept-Dec 1945; Jan-Apr 1947; Nov-Dec 1947; Jan-Feb 15, 1949; 1966-]
InterDocumentation Co.	May 18-June 29, 1861	1	23465758	All
Microform Academic Publishers	July 1861-Dec 1889	92 ⁵	29515130	Partial [Jul 1861- 1873; 1878-Feb. 1879; 1883- Feb. 27, 1886]
British Library Newspaper Library	18 May 1861-31 Dec. 1889; 20 March 1911-30 April 1940; 27 Jan. 1941-31 Dec. 1942; 1 Jan.-3 April, 17 Nov.-31 Dec. 1943; 1 Jan. 1944-9 Sept. 1950; 1 Jan 1951-28 June 1957; 12 Dec. 1961-31 March 1962; 1-31 May 1962; 2 Feb.-30 Dec. 1963; 2 Jan.-26 Sept. 1964; 2 Feb.-30 April 1965; 6 Aug.-31 Dec. 1967; 1 Jan.-30 May, 3 Oct.-30 Dec. 1968; 1 Jan. 1969-28 Oct. 1970; 2 Jan. 1971-30 April 1974; 2 July 1974-31 Dec. 1982.	? ⁶	29515142	Partial [1874-1882; 1886-1888; Mar. 20, 1911- Apr. 1915; 1936; 1938-Apr. 1940
Nehru Memorial	January 1926-February 1949;	? ⁷		None

⁴ See <http://www.timescontent.com/tss/showcase/Microfilm/Times-of-India/>

⁵ Reel guide available at: <http://www.microform.co.uk/guides/R96360.pdf>

⁶ From BL Catalogue – unclear if all holdings are filmed by BL.

Museum and Library	May-August 1949; November 1949-1954; July 1968-1987			
Center for Research Libraries (FNMP)	Aug. 1949-1966	103	29515110	All
Library of Congress	1996-2001 ⁸	?	605914210	None

Other Editions

Title: [Times of India \(New Delhi, India\)](#)
Imprint: Delhi : [Times of India]
Notes: "Printed and published from Delhi and Bombay."

Microfilm Editions:

Filmer	Filming Dates	Reels	OCLC No.	CRL Holds?
Bennett, Coleman & Co.	1950- present	? ⁹		
Library of Congress	1962:Jan.1-1989:Dec.31	170 ¹⁰	4895174	All [1962-1989]
American Libraries Book Procurement Center, for the Library of Congress	1963-2000	? ¹¹	506228182	None
Micrographics India ;/ [distributed by D.K. Agencies].	1990- (?)	?	31418878	All? [1990-1996]
University of Wisconsin-Madison	June 1, 2001-Apr. 30, 2005		64281964	None

Title: [The Times of India \(Ahmadabad, India\)](#)
Imprint: Ahmedabad : Published for the proprietors B. Coleman & Co., by A. Arora
Notes: Published simultaneously in Bombay and New Delhi./ Description based on: Vol. 144, no. 1 (Jan. 1, 1981)

Microfilm Editions:

Filmer	Filming Dates	Reels	OCLC No.	CRL Holds?
Library of Congress	Feb.6 1968- Dec.31 1994: ¹²	?	18036893	None
University of Wisconsin-	2001-2005	8	64281964	None

⁷ From Union List of South Asian Newspapers (see: <http://dsal.uchicago.edu/bibliographic/unionlist/unionlist.php>)

⁸ Holdings based on beginning and end dates from catalog record description. (<http://lccn.loc.gov/2010218118>)

⁹ From: <http://www.timescontent.com/tss/showcase/microfilm/microfilms.html>

¹⁰ Holdings from LC catalog (<http://lccn.loc.gov/sn94049671>). Reel count from CRL holdings. Record from New York Public Library catalog indicates "Jan. 1951-Dec. 1989 (109 reels)."

¹¹ Holdings based on Columbia University catalog

¹² Holdings from LC catalog. The Union List of South Asian Newspapers records holdings as: Feb 6-Dec 1968; January 1981-1994.

Madison				
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Title: The times of India (Bombay India : Overland weekly ed.)
Imprint: Bombay : Printed and published for the proprietors, Bennett, Coleman, by F. M. Coleman, Managing Proprietor
Notes: Description based on: Vol. 64, no. 1 (Jan. 7, 1899)./ Latest issue consulted: Vol. 67, no. 26 (Dec. 29, 1900).

Microfilm Editions:

Filmer	Filming Dates	Reels	OCLC No.	CRL Holds?
Harvard College Library	Jan. 7, 1899-Dec. 29, 1900	4	237795374	None

Title: Times of India (Bombay, India: Weekly mail ed.)
Imprint: Bombay : printed and published for the proprietors, Bennett Coleman & Co., Ltd. by H.W. Smith
Notes: Description based on: Vol. 43, no. 1 (Jan. 4, 1930).

Microfilm Editions:

Filmer	Filming Dates	Reels	OCLC No.	CRL Holds?
British Library	8 Nov. 1905-27 Jan. 1929	?	53916045	None
University of Washington	Jan. 4, 1930-Dec. 24, 1932	3	48367352	None

