

## **Online Newspaper clippings & News Services for Libraries: Experiences in Indian Libraries**

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### **Abstract:**

*Online newspapers and online services based on newspapers are becoming increasingly popular and useful in current digital age. These services helped libraries in reaching out users wherever they are and also save time of the users. The newspaper clippings are also known as press clippings in some libraries. This paper will share such experiences of mainly Jawaharlal Nehru University (JNU) Library. However the examples from TERI, Parliament of India Library, International Management Institute (IMI) and some other important libraries and archives have also been presented. JNU initially used to archive hardcopy files of news clipping along with bound volumes of 30 selected newspapers. With rapid change in technology and user needs, now focus has been shifted to digital / online news clippings. Over one million news clippings on subjects' mainly covering social sciences and international studies have been digitized by JNU and now accessible online. The paper shares JNU's experiences in digitization of news clippings and also of initiating online news based services for its Faculty and Students. Transition from physical news clippings to online/digital news clippings and from bound volumes of newspapers to online newspapers archives has also helped JNU Library in saving space to meet the growing needs of the library. Top news of the day is the newspaper based online service provided by IMI Library to its users. The paper will also provide some glimpses on availability of various Indian newspaper digital archives such as Times of India archive, and newspaper preservation initiatives of National Library of India, JNU and Indian Council of World Affair's Library.*

Keywords: Newspapers in Libraries; News Clippings; Online Newspapers, Press Clippings, Newspaper Archives, Digital Repository-News

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## Introduction

News, articles, editorial and reviews published in daily newspapers are the most up-to-date source of primary information. Though there are many sources of news like periodicals and books in print media; radio, television, Internet, and other electronic media, oral communication, telephone, mobile and wireless communications etc., however, no other source ever could come near the newspaper as a most important source of news and views. For years, newspapers have provided and preserved detailed records of topics, people & society, institutions, issues and events. Therefore, newspaper archives remain among the most widely used information resources in all types of libraries. It is of interest to both present researchers as well as having historical value. Newspapers also play an important role in the preservation of culture of a society or a country.

National library of India and other important libraries play an important role in the preservation of newspapers in India. Same time everything published in a newspaper may not be of interest to all users in an organisation. They may be interested in some of the items published in it. News Clippings or press Clippings are selected news items, Articles in particular subjects marked, collected, stored, organised, classified and disseminated by a library to its users. News Clippings are being collected by the libraries since a long time. Now with online newspapers or e-papers the method of collection and dissemination of news clippings have also been changed.

Apart from newspapers and news channels, a number of internet news tools are available to free access of current and archival news of India and around the world as well. Search engines like Google, Rediff, Yahoo, MSN and Sify facilitate current news services open to use anyone.

- Google News
- <https://news.google.co.in/>
- Rediff News
- <http://www.rediff.com/news>
- Yahoo News
- <http://in.news.yahoo.com/>
- News MSN
- <http://news.in.msn.com/>
- Sify News
- <http://www.sify.com/news/>

## About The JNU Library

The Central Library, Jawaharlal Nehru University (JNU) came into being in 1969. It has rich collection of over 600000 books and bound volumes of journals, theses and dissertations and bound volumes of newspapers mainly in Social Sciences, Humanities and Sciences. It also subscribes about 1000 print journals and 48 print newspapers for its readers. The focus of JNU Library is on electronic delivery of information. Its digital Library services offers online access to thousands of e-journals, e-books in the form of 55 online databases. 2300+ online newspapers from 97 countries in 52 languages are available to the users of the JNU Library. Besides, over 8 lac digital news clippings collected over 40 years by the JNU Library are also

accessible to the users. In addition to this Wi Fi connectivity in the Library along with Cyber Library consisting of 200 computer terminals have been specifically designed for students/researchers visiting JNU Library. Its Helen Keller Unit has been created to cater the information needs of the visually challenged students. Electronic theses and dissertations archive, off campus server, Braille system, server for visually challenged students are some of the programmes has been undertaken during this year. Under its outreach programme Library has started a monthly lecture series, book release programme and organization of training programme on open source software.

### **Press Clippings Service**

Press clippings service is one of the premium services being provided by the Central Library to its users since 1974. It was started to serve the special information needs of the Faculty and Scholars of the School of International Studies and School of Social Sciences, JNU. Before the advent of the online newspapers, the Press-Clippings Information Service and Newspapers Service were very much useful & in-demand by the scholars of the JNU and other institutes of higher learning. The main objective of this service was speedy disposal of references on current topics. The main topics covered under press clippings collection are – international relations, bilateral relations, economy, trade, political parties, international organisations, natural disasters, environment, poverty, women studies, elections, education, health and government policies etc.

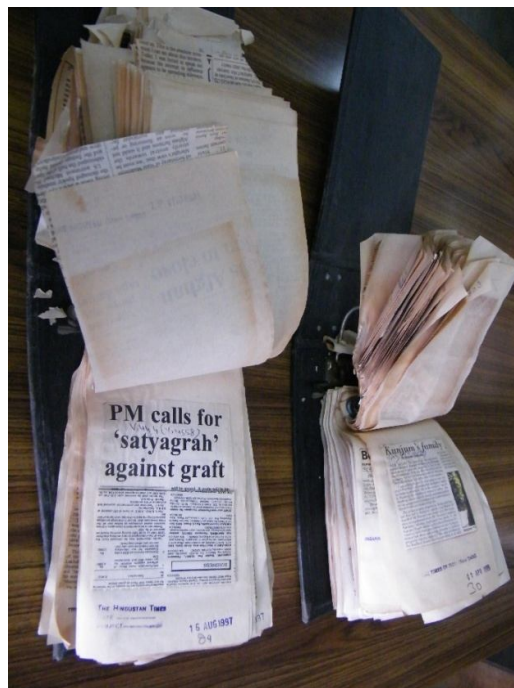
### **The Collection**

The JNU press clippings digital database consists of approximately 800000 articles out of which 750000 were digitized through outsource agency and the rest about 40000 have been done in-house. In the initial phase the press clippings were culled out from over thirty regional, national and international newspapers. Over the period the number of the newspapers came down and presently articles from following 21 newspapers are being cull-out:

1. Deccan Chronicle
2. Deccan Herald
3. Hindustan times
4. International Herald Tribune
5. New Age
6. News Time (Hyderabad)
7. Organiser
8. People's Democracy
9. The Asian Age
10. The Bangladesh Observer
11. The Financial Express
12. The Guardian Weekly
13. The Hindu
14. The Indian Express
15. The OBSERVER
16. The Pioneer
17. The Statesman
18. The Sunday Times
19. The Telegraph
20. The Times Of India
21. The Tribune

## Traditional Archive of Press Clippings at Central Library, JNU

Before digitisation the newspaper articles used to arrange in chronological order in a subject folder. The folders were arranged subject-wise using Colon Classification Scheme on the open shelves. The following image is the example of the traditional system of press clippings collection of the JNU Library:



*Press-Clipping (Image)*

*Identical Press-Clippings Folder*



*Traditional Archive Shelf of the Press-Clippings Collection*

### **Need of the Digitisation of Press-Clippings**

The JNU library realised very early in the year 2007 that the entire press-clippings collection need to be digitised for saving the collection for future and provide better access to researchers. Other important reasons for initiating the digitization project were as follows:

- Limited access in print format
- Poor quality of the paper
- Collection management problem
- Loss of articles during usage
- Shortage of physical space to house collection
- To meet the requirement of present IT and online academic environment

### **Advantage of Digitisation of Press-Clippings**

The most important advantage of digitization Press Clippings at, JNU is saving of a space equivalent to one full Floor which helped in creation of stacking space for about 200000 publications and reading space for 60 students. Other advantages of digitization of Press Clippings are as follows:

- 24X7 access
- Zero loss of articles
- Ease of management
- Better retrieval
- Availability on JNU Campus through INTRANET
- No physical space required to house the collection
- Match with the time and IT era.

### **Objectives of the Press-Clippings Digitization Project**

- Preserving the invaluable treasure of press-clippings
- Scanning of 750000 and creation of image database of press-clippings
- Promoting information and digital literacy

### **Bibliographic Fields Captured**

- Author of the article
- Name of Newspaper
- Edition of the newspaper
- Date of publication
- Title of the Article
- Subject Headings (according to UNBIS thesaurus)
- Geographical area
- Link to the press-clipping image

### **Phases of the Press-Clippings Digitization Project**

- Criteria for selection of vendor was to make sure that the agency should be equipped and competent to handle the project both technologically and infrastructure wise.
- Selection of the press-clippings
- Scanning of the press-clippings at 300 dpi, pdf
- Cleaning the scanned image
- Press-clippings metadata capturing
- Keying metadata to press-clipping database
- Uploading press-clippings to the database
- Publishing the database for use of the academic community over campus LAN.



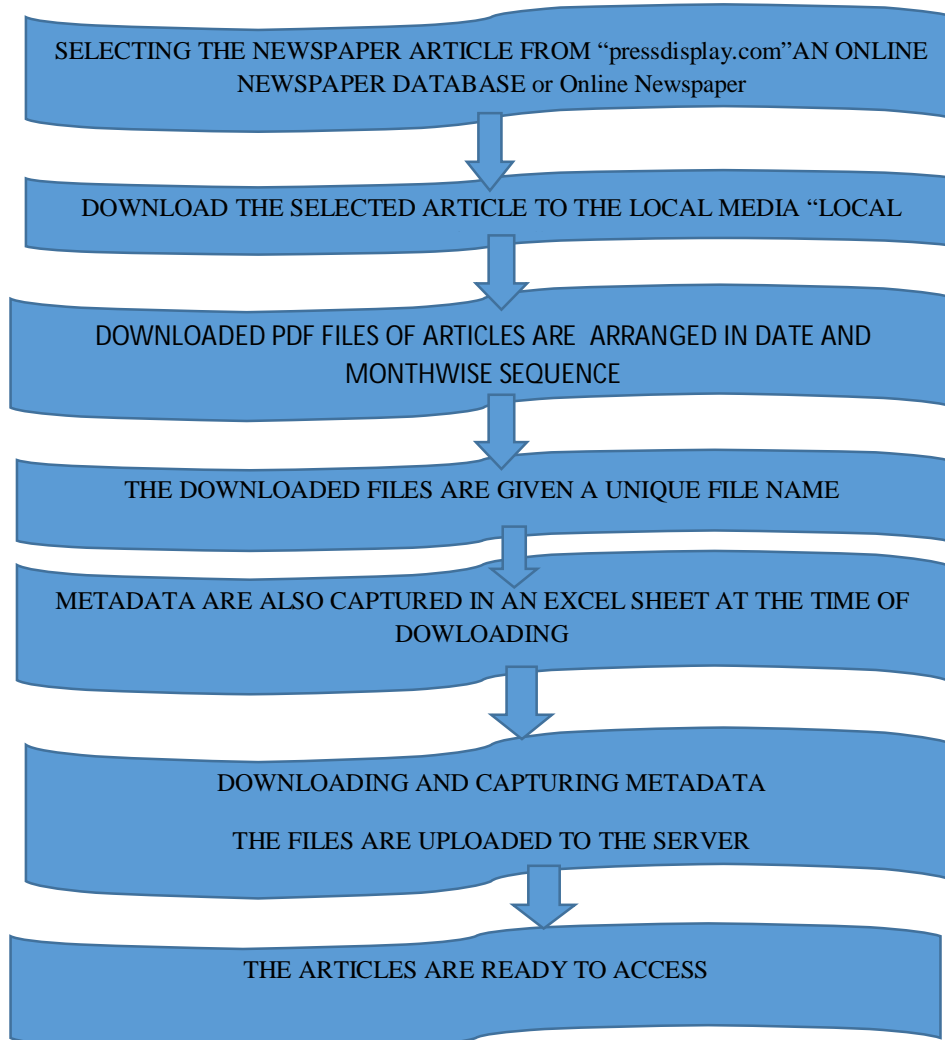
## Selection of the Digital Library Software Package

The software selection based on set parameters is a difficult task, as the technology itself is ever changing. Central Library discussed different options available for creating the press-clippings database. It was concluded to adopt a system which should be flexible enough to fit the existing hardware and software of the Library and should be compatible to accommodate future migration. Since VIRTUA software was already in use for main bibliographic database accordingly the VIRTUA software was selected for creating image database of the press-clippings.

## Online Press Clippings

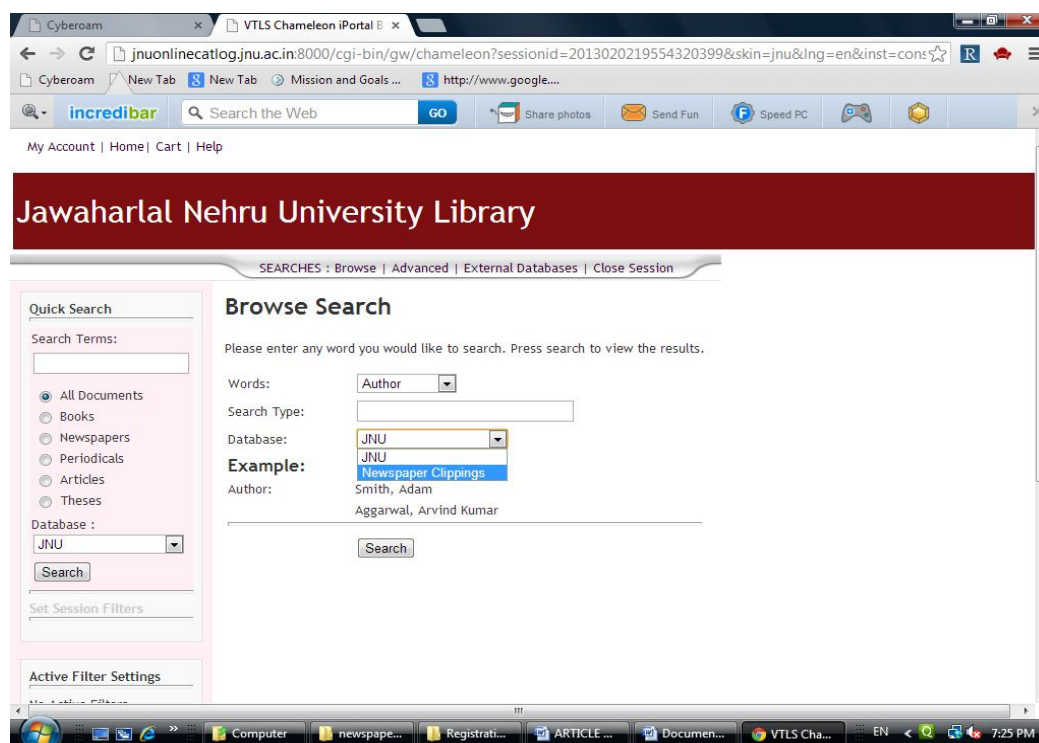
The current work of press-clippings digitization is being carried out in-house by the library staff. Since library has subscribed “pressdisplay.com” newspaper database, the newspapers available in this database are being used for online article download and rest are being done manually and relevant metadata is captured for feeding to the database.

### Flow chart for creating ON-LINE press-clippings database

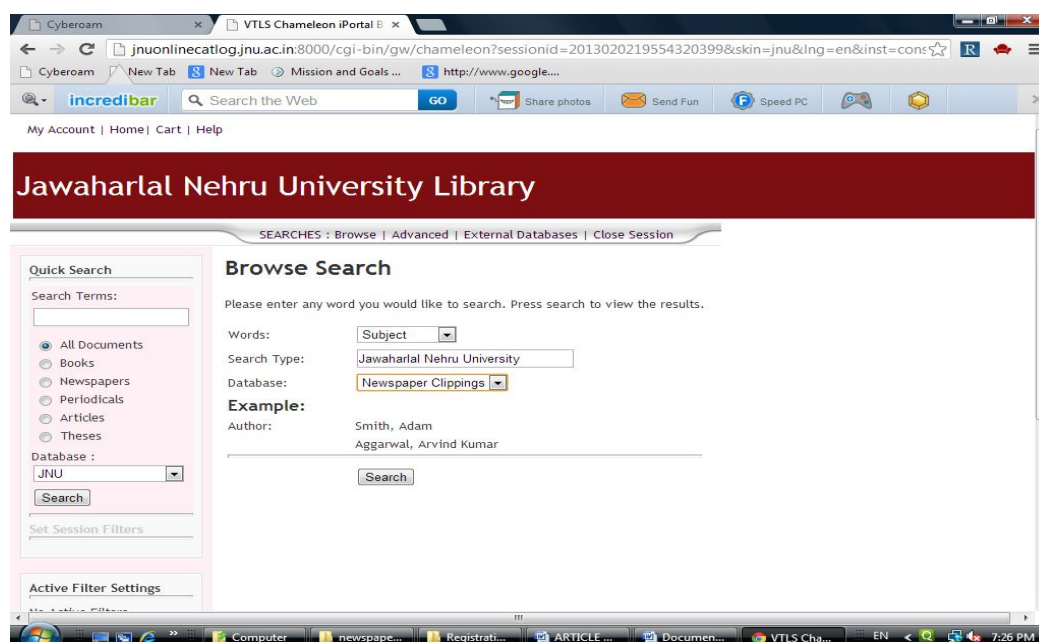


## The Press-Clippings Database

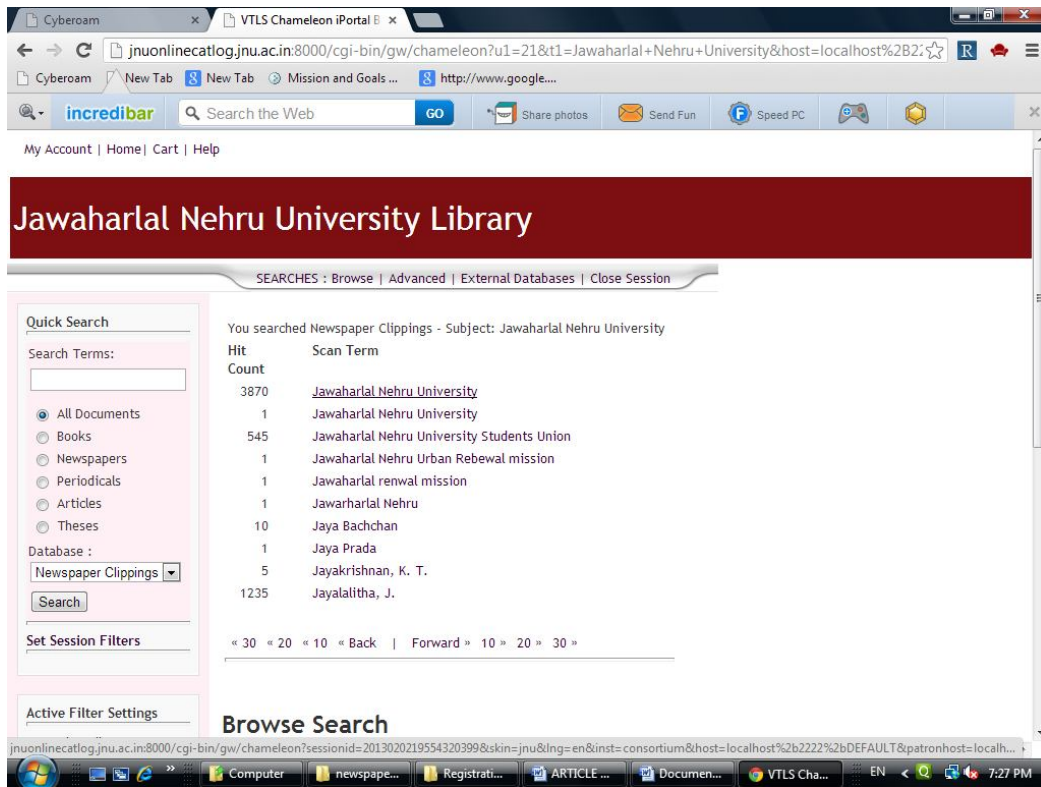
The Press-clippings database presently having over 800000 full text Press Clipping records and are readily available to access over the campus network. The bibliographic details can be accessed over the Internet.



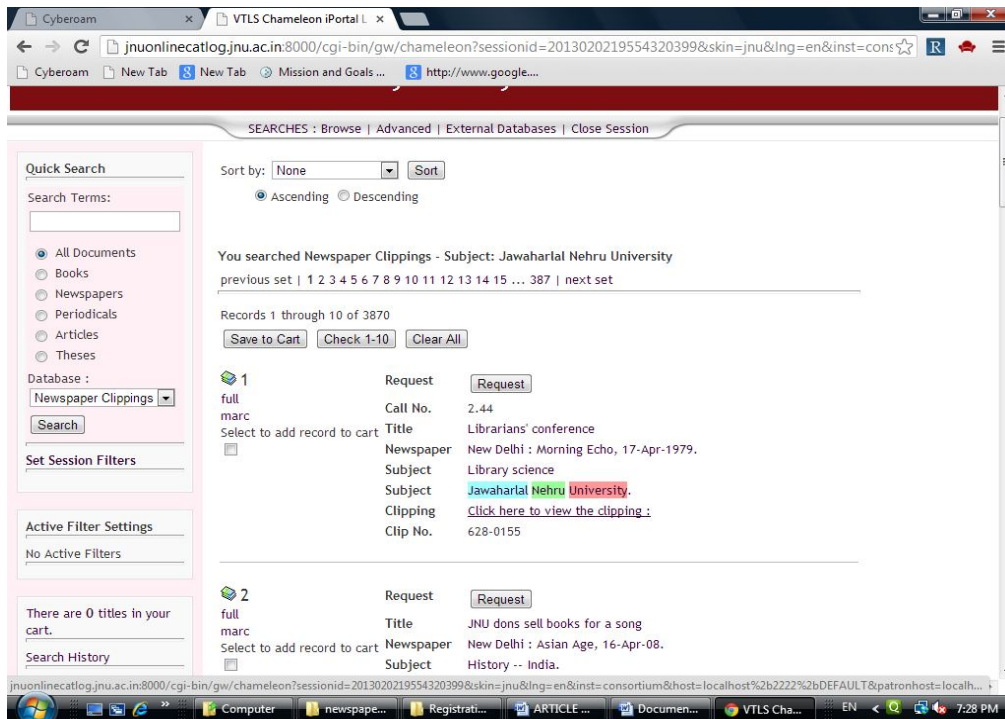
The Above screen shot shows the basic search interface of the press-clippings database.



The above screen shot shows the search interface “subject” of the press-clippings database.



The above screen shot shows the search results.



The above screen shot shows the typical record.





The above screen shot shows the news article.

### **Bound volumes of Newspapers**

The bound-volume collection of the newspapers at Central Library, JNU had comprehensive coverage on the basis of geographical, language and subjects. The newspaper titles are from different languages - English, Japanese, Chinese, Russian, etc. covering a major part of the world. A list of the newspapers titles which are currently being bound is as given below:

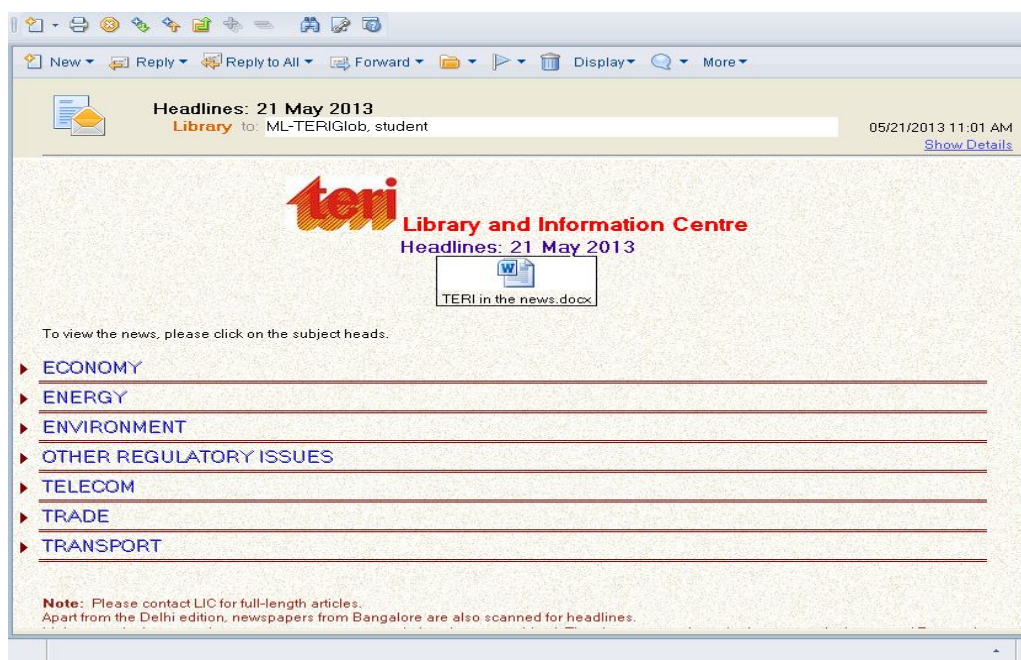
1. China Daily
2. Economic Times
3. Financial Times
4. Hindu (Chennai)
5. Island Daily
6. Japan Times
7. Jerusalem Post
8. Le Monde
9. Renmin Ribao
10. Times of India

The newspaper collection was used massively prior to the online newspaper era. After the advent of the online newspapers available over the internet the use of this collection have gone down also the physical condition of this collection is not very tidy for ideal usage. As of now the scholars refer to this collection very rarely. One another prime reason for low usage is the breaking sequence of the newspapers. As the bound volumes of the newspapers got damaged, most of the newspapers titles are not available in a complete sequence like January to December for any given year. These factors resulted in declined of the usage.

Recently the Library has subscribed to the online access to a wide ranging full-content newspapers and magazines Database "PressDisplay.com". This database covers over 2300 newspaper and serial publication from 97 countries in 52 languages. From India about 65 unique newspaper titles are listed and available for study and research over internet. Certain newspaper titles such as Times of India Archie has been purchased online, which enables scholars to have complete access to that title from volume one issue one and likewise.

<b>Example : 1</b>
<b>TERI Library : Newspaper Clipping Database</b>

The Energy Resource Institute (TERI) Library scan 14 national and 5 International newspapers daily for the news on energy, environment, sustainable development and other articles related to research interests of the Institute. After scanning, all the marked news items are entered in customised LibSys database with its weblink. If weblink to the particular item is not there, the newspaper clippings are scanned and saved in the server. Once all the entries are done, html file is generated, and linked in digital library. The headlines are circulated through e-mail across TERI Globe. Archive of news item is also available both in searchable and calendar form.



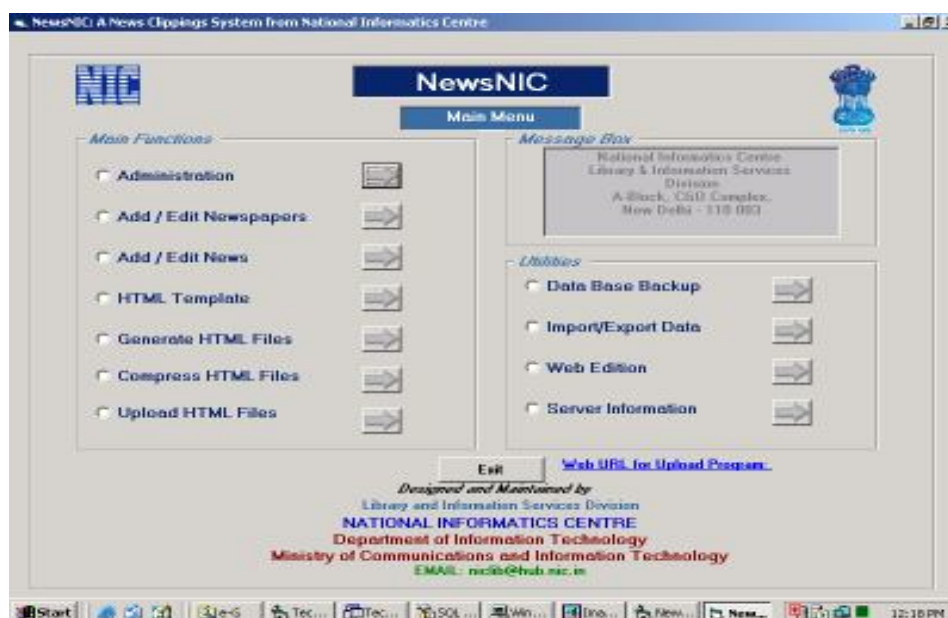
**Source:**

1. <http://publications.drdo.gov.in/ojs/index.php/djlit/article/download/3731/2139>
2. [http://www.rcirib.ir/articles/pdfs/cd1/Ingenta\\_Sage\\_Articles\\_on\\_194\\_225\\_11\\_89/IT%20in%20India3.pdf](http://www.rcirib.ir/articles/pdfs/cd1/Ingenta_Sage_Articles_on_194_225_11_89/IT%20in%20India3.pdf)

## Example : 2

### NewsNIC: a Web-based, full-text news clipping service from the National Informatics Centre

**NewsNIC project:** NewsNIC is an Eb-based full text news clipping service of National Informatics Centre (NIC), New Delhi. The NIC has office / Centres all across the India. The project is meant to develop a Web-based, full-text news clipping system in the library for better and quicker delivery of useful news to all users over the NIC network – i.e NICNET.



Source:

- 1) <http://egranthalaya.nic.in/07.pdf>
- 2.) [http://mcitconsortium.nic.in/NEWSNIC\\_brochure.pdf](http://mcitconsortium.nic.in/NEWSNIC_brochure.pdf)

## Example :3

### National Institute of Health & Family Planning's National Documentation Centre (NDC) : Newspaper Clipping Database

National Documentation Centre of National Institute of Health and Family Welfare, New Delhi is indexing 16 English daily and 7 Hindi daily newspapers. News items of the interest to the users group in the field of Health & Family Welfare and other allied subjects are clipped and pasted on an A4 size paper sheet. The clippings are assigned one or more subject headings and multiple copies are prepared and got bounded in a book form for dissemination to the users. News items are arranged using broad subject headings such as Health Care, Diseases, Child Health, Biomedical Research, Human Genetics, Human Reproduction & Contraception, Medicine/vaccines, social problems, education, population, etc. This is an extremely useful source of current events. It is published in English (monthly) and in Hindi (Qtlly). This news service is also available on-line on the institute website.



**Source:** <http://www.nihfw.org/NDC/Health%20News%20Repository%20English.html>

<b>Example : 4</b>
<b>National Defence Library : Newspaper Clipping Database</b>

The National Defence Library subscribes to about 23 newspapers. Selected news items, analytical articles and editorials of relevance to the studies, appearing in these newspapers, are identified and arranged under various subjects in approximately 305 different press-clipping folders. These folders are useful for all studies and thesis work. Important articles from newspapers are also scanned and indexed for viewing on the computers.

**Source:** <http://ndc.nic.in/contents/index/54>

<b>Example : 5</b>
<b>Parliament Library : Newspaper Clipping Database</b>

The Press Clipping Service of Parliament library started in 1956 caters to the information needs of the Members of Parliament of India. It collects all important, relevant and up-to-date news items, editorial comments and articles on developments in the legislative, political, economic, socio-cultural, scientific and technological fields from 18 English and 9 Hindi newspapers published from India. The Press clippings are arranged in chronologically order with in a subject folder according to the Dewey decimal classification scheme. It is for reference and consultation services. These Press clippings are retained for two years. However, some important clippings of lasting value and interest and those having a bearing

on constitutional, parliamentary and legal subjects are, retained permanently after scrutiny. Now, some important selected English Press Clippings has been digitally archived. The digitized Press clippings can be accessed using subject class number and keywords with in Press Clipping Section.

Source: <http://www.parliamentofindia.nic.in/ls/intro/p14.htm>

<b>Example : 6</b>
<b>The United Service Institution of India : Newspaper Clipping Database</b>

United Service Institution of India Library maintains a database of important new articles published in the newspapers subscribed by the library. The Copies of some selected report/articles/monographs are also downloaded from the Internet. Access to this database is available through Library OPAC.

Source: <http://www.usiofindia.org/Library/Services/#>

<b>Example : 7</b>
<b>The Indian Council of World Affairs' Library: Newspaper Clipping Database</b>

The Indian Council of World Affairs' Library is having database of about 700000 clippings covering various subjects such as international relations, international law and international economy. The library also has Newspaper files of the Hindu (Madras) from 1933 to 1979, the Times of India (Bombay) from 1945 to 1975 and the Times of India (New Delhi) from 1969 to 2004. Some stray volumes of The Asian Age, The Economic Times, The Financial Times (London), The International Herald Tribune, The Nation (Lahore), The Pakistan Times and The Japan Times (Tokyo) News are also preserved.

Source: <http://www.icwa.in/library.html>

<b>Example :8</b>
<b>National Library of India: Newspaper Archive</b>

All the newspapers in Indian languages received in **National Library of India** are received in their respective language divisions. But English newspapers and periodicals, both the Indian and foreign, are acquired and processed separately. The National library has a rich collection of late 19th and early 20th century newspapers and periodicals, but almost all of them are incomplete sets. There are catalogues for newspapers and gazettes available in the library up to 1953. Most of the 19th century newspapers, Arabic, Persian and Sanskrit manuscripts have already been microfilmed.

Source: [http://www.nationallibrary.gov.in/nat\\_lib\\_stat/collection\\_rare\\_others.htm](http://www.nationallibrary.gov.in/nat_lib_stat/collection_rare_others.htm) 1

<b>Example :9</b>
<b>Indian Social Institute's Documentation Center : Newspaper Clipping Database</b>

The Indian Social Institute's library subscribes nine English and four Hindi Newspapers. Its Human Rights Documentation section compiles news and information on major subjects such as social, economic and political realms and also disseminates the current information to



human rights activists, social action groups and individuals. Articles, editorials, and news items are collected from a wide range of sources, including newspapers and electronic media. On an average of 30 to 40 news clippings, articles and editorials are collected every day from 9 major English dailies and various websites on about 33 major topics. The newspaper clippings and information on these topics are readily available with the department by way of soft and hard copies from the year 2000 onwards. The Human Rights Electronic News Bulletin is also prepared and electronically transmitted to its subscribers throughout world since 1999.

**Source:**

[http://www.isidelhi.org.in/index.php?option=com\\_content&view=article&id=19&Itemid=7](http://www.isidelhi.org.in/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=19&Itemid=7)

<b>Example :10</b>
<b>NUEPA Library and Documentation Centre: New Headlines/ Newspaper Clipping Database</b>

National University of Education Planning Documentation Centre maintains the press clippings for the use of faculty and other users by collecting news items from 20 national and regional newspapers subscribes by its Library. The Centre is a repository of the International Institute of Educational Planning (IIEP) publications. Moreover, the Library and Documentation Centre have developed an online library that provides access to full-text newspapers both national and international.

**Source:** <http://www.nuepa.org/libdoc/>

<b>Example :11</b>
<b>National Law University, Delhi: Newspaper Clipping Database</b>

National Law University, Delhi established in 2008 by Act No 1 of 2008 of National Capital Territory. Justice T.P.S Chawla library provides information services based on 14 newspapers called “Newspaper clipping Services” on 54 subject area covering law and legal issues on current news, evaluated articles, analytical statistical information, social events and recent happenings on the political, social and economic front of nation. The news of interest is clipped, cut and paste on a sheet and scanned for electronic circulation to the users on daily or weekly basis and the clipping is then assigned subject headings or group/class codes. Presently there are more than 50 thousand clipping available in library and maintained and disseminated in physical as well as digital formats. The library is planning to implement NewsNIC a web-based full text news clipping service for the National Informatics Centre.

<b>Example :12</b>
<b>Times Archives and Knowledge Centre (TAKC): Newspaper Archive</b>

The TAKC of Times of India newspaper, (earlier known as *Reference Department*), as a Value Addition Centre was set up over a century ago in Mumbai, and has gradually expanded to Delhi, Ahmedabad, Bangalore and Pune. The TAKC in Mumbai, maintains the Central Archival Treasure Trove of the Company with over 100 current and erstwhile publications, the earliest being our flagship publication, *The Times of India*, covering from the very first issue - Nov 3, 1838 till date. Being one of the largest mass media information resource centres in Asia, TAKC is the complete information and knowledge support for the business operations of the Times Group.

<b>Example :13</b>
<b>International Management Institute, New Delhi: News Headlines</b>

International Management Institute (IMI), New Delhi is providing an online news services **Top News of the Day. Under the services web links to all relevant news are compiled and being sent through e-mail to all Faculty, staff and students of the institute.** *The top news of the day from selected financial newspapers has been well appreciated by the both management faculty and students.* **Same is also being archived. Some of the news items covered under the service on May 31, 2013 are as follows:**

**Business Standard**

[RBI makes debt recast norms more stringent](#)

**The Economic Times**

[Bharti Airtel set to sell stake in landline, enterprise business to cut debt](#)

**Corporate Dossier [ET]**

[Yes Bank version 2.0: Will team Rana Kapoor meet the big hairy audacious goal?](#)

**Business Line**

[India buys in one quarter half the gold imported for whole of 2012](#)

**Mint [The Wall Street Journal]**

[RBI makes loan recasts difficult for firms, banks](#)

**Conclusion**

The Press-Clippings online Database of JNU is being extensively used by the scholars and the faculty members as the old manual records of the Press-Clippings were used. After digitization of the collection the usage has been enhanced. The online press clippings provide a comprehensive and easy anytime anywhere access to the users. Moreover the limitations of the manual system like- single use at a time of particular file, Xeroxing facility, retrieval limits, old & dirty face of the clippings etc. have changed to the easy and comprehensive retrieval, better access with 24X7 facility over intranet, scholars can save the desired article image to their portable media, etc and may use the Database from their own centre and schools.

Keeping in view the importance and heavy usage of the database, there is need to further expand the scope of the press-clippings database.

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