

# PROQUEST HISTORICAL NEWSPAPERS™ ARTICLE TYPES: DESCRIPTIONS AND RESEARCH APPLICATION EXAMPLES



Advisors from academic institutions, public libraries, and higher education libraries identified types of historical newspaper articles most helpful to researchers. Based on that input, ProQuest assigns article types to help users more quickly find the information they want. Researchers will find the option to add an article type to a search under “More Search Options.”

A screenshot of the ProQuest search interface showing the 'More Search Options' dropdown menu. The menu is open, displaying a list of document types. The 'Any document type' option is currently selected and highlighted in blue. Other options include Article, Birth notice, Classified ad, Comic, Display ad, Editorial article, Editorial cartoon, Fire loss, Front page, and Legal notice. The menu is titled 'More Search Options' with a 'Hide options' link next to it. The background shows other search filters like 'Look for terms in:', 'Document type:', 'Author:', and 'Sort results by:'.

Here is a list of those article types, with application examples that demonstrate how the content can help researchers.

Article Type	Application Examples
<b>Article</b>	All news elements not categorized in other subsets identified below are included in this category. A wide variety of researchers will benefit from these materials. Linguistics researchers, for example, can search article text to trace the first appearance of words.
<b>Birth notice</b>	In addition to birth announcements, genealogists can search for their relatives' names in other pages of historical newspapers to learn more about their ancestors and what was happening in the world during their lifetimes.
<b>Classified ad</b>	Historical classified ads offer greater insight into the day-to-day life of people as well as companies. Researchers can look at what is being bought and sold, the cost of goods and services, the types of jobs and pay rates available, etc. Researchers of slavery will find early 19 <sup>th</sup> -century newspapers of particular interest, with their ads regarding slave sales and ransoms for the return of runaway slaves.
<b>Comic</b>	While "the funnies" are meant to elicit chuckles, they often also reveal the social and political climate in which they are created. Researchers can use comics to study censorship, the development of graphic arts, world tensions, and more.
<b>Display ad</b>	Social historians, fashion students, advertising and journalism scholars, and business and marketing students will be interested in prices, goods for sale, promotional messages (e.g., "smoking is good for you"), and the persuasive open letters to the public that appeared in the advertising pages of historical newspapers.
<b>Editorial article</b>	Editorials represent the views of the newspaper's editorial board, rather than unbiased reporting. Moreover, heads of state, influential politicians, and other international figures often contributed editorial articles on important topics of the day. Searching editorial articles will often uncover important political commentary and opinion on major events.
<b>Editorial cartoon</b>	In an instant, these illustrations reveal thought-provoking insights into events and convey controversial opinions.
<b>Fire loss</b>	Details about individuals impacted by fire, response times, and the value of lost property are useful for multiple areas of studies, including urban planning, economics, and genealogy.
<b>Front page</b>	The front page originally was prime space for classified advertisements, but quickly evolved to highlight the most important news of the day. Today's researchers can see what the publishers considered to be—or not to be—the most important news on a particular day.
<b>Legal notice</b>	Legal notices varied from announcements of land ordinance changes to bankruptcy notices and divorce proceedings. This material is valuable for public policy, law, genealogy, and business research, as well as urban studies.

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<b>Letter to editor</b>	Researchers can discover which events aroused public reaction and debate.
<b>Lottery numbers</b>	Use this popular search field to find missing millions or plan a winning strategy (e.g., use numbers that do not show up often and are due to hit, or use numbers that seem to be constants). Good luck!
<b>Marriage</b>	In addition to marriage announcements, genealogists can search for their relatives' names in other pages of historical newspapers—such as the social columns and meeting announcements—to uncover fascinating stories about their ancestors.
<b>Obituary</b>	In addition to death announcements, genealogists can search for their relatives' names in other pages of historical newspapers to learn more about their ancestors and what was happening in the world during their lifetimes.
<b>Photo standalone</b>	A picture is worth a thousand words. Newspapers have delivered some of the most iconic pictures of the day, from the first man on the moon to the fall of the Berlin Wall. This article type can be used by teaching staff to illustrate their lectures. Researchers can use the photos as visual representations for their work.
<b>Real estate transaction</b>	A valuable genealogical tool, this article type also is useful to economics and business students who want to compile house pricing data, a major economic indicator.
<b>Review</b>	Ideal for the study of art, literature, film, and media, reviews enable researchers to trace reactions to works in different cities and eras, as well as follow the careers of notable artists, writers, and performers.
<b>Stock quote</b>	Business and other researchers can trace economic trends, the impact of specific events on the economy, and even the performance of specific companies over time.
<b>Table of contents</b>	This is a valuable tool for browsing the day's newspaper.
<b>Weather</b>	This statistical meteorological data can be used to track weather patterns for specific locations over time. Researchers can discover, for example, how precipitation impacted food production.