



ICON

The International Coalition on
Newspapers

Call for Participation in the International Coalition on Newspapers (ICON)

Since 1999 the International Coalition on Newspapers (ICON) has supported the efforts of U.S. and Canadian libraries to preserve newspapers from around the globe and make them accessible to scholars and researchers. ICON reformats newspapers through microfilming and digitization, creates bibliographic access, and provides information on institutional news holdings through its Database of International Newspapers. ICON serves the global library and archive community by focusing attention on the significance of news collections, identifying important at-risk titles for preservation, and providing a central point of access to information essential for library policy- and decision-makers on preservation, rights management and digitization of news resources.

Funding and support for ICON has come from the Center for Research Libraries (CRL), the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH), and the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation. Additional, in-kind support is provided by a number of individual CRL institutions, such as Harvard University, the University of California Berkeley, University of Connecticut, the University of Illinois, and the University of Texas, and by the Library of Congress.

Today, ICON faces a host of new challenges. Media organizations now produce their news content in digital environments, and deliver much of that content via the Web. As parent companies like *The New York Times* and *The Guardian* distribute their “back files” directly through the Web, libraries may not be able to rely on micropublishers like ProQuest, Cengage Gale, and Readex to make today’s news available in the future. At the same time libraries and research institutions face difficult choices. They must allocate scarce resources between purchasing costly commercial collections of digitized newspaper back files, investing in open access digitization of back files, and continuing to maintain their print and microform holdings. These challenges are particularly daunting with regard to non-English language news and news from regions of the world outside North America and Western Europe.

To meet these challenges, ICON must now expand its efforts and its scope. It must do more to help libraries find viable strategies to prevent loss of the record of world events that news has always provided. Without prudent action by today’s librarians future historians, researchers and societies will suffer. ICON is a ready-made framework for such action.

Supporting ICON

Your participation in ICON can make a difference. In 2006-07 CRL increased its support for ICON, and secured a new commitment of \$350,000 from the NEH for the project. CRL also initiated negotiations with electronic aggregators and publishers regarding systematic digitization of legacy news content in print and microform held by CRL and several ICON partners. In addition CRL began to report to the community on the digital holdings and archiving provisions of electronic

news providers such as LexisNexis and NewsBank, and Web harvesting services like the Internet Archive.

In 2007-08 CRL will bring the ICON program under the umbrella of its **Global Resources Network**. The Network, largely supported by CRL member institutions, provides legal, financial, strategic, and communications support for a range of programs that preserve and afford access to important knowledge and historical and cultural evidence.

CRL invites major research libraries outside its membership to participate in the Global Resources Network ICON program. Participants pay an initial, one-time contribution of US\$4500 and a subsequent annual subscription fee of \$1500. These funds will augment the financial support provided to this important program by CRL, its 242 U.S. and Canadian research libraries, and its other funders.

Benefits of ICON Membership:

The benefits of participation in GRN ICON are as follows:

1. *Authoritative Data on Library Newspaper Collections of Record:* The online ICON database contains a wealth of trustworthy information on research library holdings of paper and microform copies of world newspapers, information essential to local collection development and preservation decision-making. The ICON Web site is a single point of access to information about newspaper preservation and digitization projects, standards and best practices for cataloging and preservation, and more.
2. *Evaluation of Electronic News Collections:* GRN participants receive authoritative online reviews of digital news collections, such as *Access World News*, *The Times Digital Archives*, *LexisNexis*, and others through *The Charleston Advisor*. They also receive periodic CRL analyses of the archiving provisions that publishers have in place for their electronic news resources.
3. *Global Resources Network Forums:* Representatives of GRN member institutions are eligible to participate in annual GRN conferences and planning workshops, identifying and examining issues affecting preservation of news and other primary historical evidence and documentation, and crafting strategies to address those issues.
4. *Collaboration and Governance:* Representatives have online access to planning documents and data and participate in online forums on news preservation. Members are also eligible to serve on the ICON advisory committee, which charts the strategic directions of the project.
5. *Access to Digital News Content:* Researchers at member institutions have on-line access to news content digitized under the GRN ICON program. Member institutions are also eligible to participate in cataloging, digitization and other preservation activities funded by the ICON program.
6. *Discounted Price on CRL Foreign Newspapers on Microfilm:* GRN ICON members are able to purchase preservation-quality microfilm of non-U.S. newspapers produced by CRL's Foreign Newspaper Microfilm Project at a 35% discount.



ICON

The International Coalition on
Newspapers

About the International Coalition on Newspapers (ICON)

<http://icon.crl.edu>

ICON was initially established by 13 U.S. libraries and the British Library and Library and Archives Canada. With support of the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation and the National Endowment for the Humanities, ICON has created a freely accessible online bibliographic database of 25,000 international newspapers, preserved dozens of valuable and underrepresented newspapers from developing regions, and created an online clearinghouse of information on news preservation and digitization. ICON is a multi-institutional effort that is international in scope and far-reaching in its efforts.

The screenshot shows the website <http://icon.crl.edu/>. The page title is "ICON: International Coalition on Newspapers". The navigation menu includes: About ICON, Database, Preservation, Clearinghouse, Film queue, and Resources. The main content area is divided into two columns. The left column contains a description of the coalition and a "What's New:" section with three bullet points: 12/07 - Latin American newspapers currently being preserved by ICON; 10/07 - IFLA International Newspaper Conference 2008, April 1-3, 2008 at the National Library of Singapore; and 08/07 - ICON digitizes *The Black Press in South Africa and Lesotho* by Les and Donna Switzer (1979). A "More..." link is below the list. The right column features a search box titled "Search the database of international newspapers" with fields for Newspaper Title, Country, Year, and Language (set to All), and a Search button. Below the search box, it states "The database contains over 25,000 records pertaining to global newspapers and holding libraries. [Advanced search](#)". A large image of newspaper pages is visible on the right side of the page. At the bottom, it says "ICON is administered by the [Center for Research Libraries](#). Partially funded by a grant from the [National Endowment for the Humanities](#). Last updated December 27, 2007. [Return to ICON home](#)".

ICON Charter Members

The British Library
Center for Research Libraries
Harvard University
Library and Archives Canada
Library of Congress
New York Public Library
New York State Library

OCLC Online Computer Library Center
University of Florida
University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign
University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill
University of Southern California
University of Washington

A sample list of titles preserved through ICON

Dunya (Istanbul, Turkey)	Mar. 1952- Jan. 5, 1962
East Bengal Times (Dhaka, Bangladesh)	Mar.11,1933-July 22,1939
El Universal (Caracas, Venezuela)	1911 - 1944
Kaiser-i-Hind (Bombay, India)	1882-83,1887, 1891-92,1895-1899,1920-1930
La Razon (Buenos Aires, Argentina)	Sept. 1, 1920-Apr. 17, 1946; Jan. 1, 1957-Dec. 31, 1960
Narodni Listy (Prague, Czech Republic)	Oct. 28, 1918-1932
Omega (Mexico City, Mexico)	July 18,1919-Mar.13,1944
Shanghai Times (Shanghai, China)	Dec.2,1927-Sept.17,1945
Uj szo (Bratislava, Slovakia)	Mar.19,1949-Feb.22,1955;July 13,1956-Mar.1959
Vanguardia (Lima, Peru)	1945 -1949, 1957 - 1963

About the CRL Global Resources Network

<http://www.crl.edu/grn/index.asp>

The Global Resources Network (GRN) is a collaborative initiative of research libraries and institutions to expand and enhance access to international scholarly resources through collaborative projects and coordinated acquisition strategies. To achieve its aims GRN promotes information-sharing, technological capability and fair dealing. The GRN was founded in 1996 by the Association of American Universities and Association of Research Libraries and is now based at the Center for Research Libraries.



**International Coalition on Newspapers
Participant Response Form**

_____ YES, my institution will participate in the International Coalition on Newspapers.
I understand that CRL will invoice my institution \$4,500 for an initial fee in 2008, and an annual subscription of \$1,500 beginning in 2009.

_____ NO, my institution will not participate at this time, but we are interested in contributing other resources to the project.

Signed by:

Signature: _____ Date: _____

Name: _____

Institution _____

Please invoice my institution at the contact and address below:

Name: _____

Department: _____

Address: _____

Please sign and return to the Center for Research Libraries at the following address:

James Simon
Director, Global Resources Network
Center for Research Libraries
6050 South Kenwood Avenue
Chicago, IL 60637-2804
fax) 773-955-4339
email) simon@crl.edu