

Using German Newspapers

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German for Newspapers: Zeitung, Zeitschrift, Anzeiger, Intelligenzblatt, Tagblatt, Tageblatt, Tagesblatt, Tag-Blatt, Wochenblatt, Amtsblatt, Regierungsblatt

I. Contents of Newspapers are Similar in the U.S. and Germany:

- A. Death Notices and Obituaries, Baptisms and Marriages
- B. Advertisements
- C. Auctions, land sales, and other legal actions
- D. Police reports of criminals and victims
- E. School reports or pupil lists. Retirements, promotions, transfers for local business or government.
- F. Visitors.
- G. Intentions to emigrate (from Germany only).

II. Fraktur Type

- A. Used in printing pre-WWII: Dictionaries, Printed forms, Gazetteers and Books, Newspapers.
- B. Fortunately, printed type doesn't vary; therefore is easier to learn than handwriting.
- C. As in handwriting, some letters need to be distinguished or are unusual; learn them!
 - 1. Capitals: AA-UU, D D-O O, K K-R R; B P V B P V; C E G S C E G S
 - 2. Small: unusual X X, y y; small f f or s s crossed or not; Eszett ß ß vs tz tz

III. Reading Tips

- A. Download a free Fraktur font (others are online):
<https://fonts.google.com/specimen/UnifrakturMaguntia>
- B. Obtain a pre-WWII German dictionary from a used book store or yard sale. Why? Dictionaries are always in alphabetical order, making letter learning easy!
- C. Learn letter recognition by writing first in English—sentences, names, words—using as many UNusual capital and small letters as possible; learn to recognize them.
- D. Make a list common German words likely to encounter in newspapers; keep adding to it.
- E. ANTICIPATE THE CONTENTS that should be in each type of article sought.
- F. Keep it simple, start with: Death notices, advertisements, lists
- G. Enlarge the text to read the German words/letters
- H. Online newspaper sites use OCR (Optical Character Recognition). OCR often has problems reading blurred or faded type. Enlarge specific words further if uncertain of the letters.
- I. Type the German into DeepL Translator <https://www.deepl.com/translator>; better than Google.
- J. Progress to longer articles once familiar with the letters.
- K. PRACTICE, PRACTICE, PRACTICE! The more you read, the more accurate you become.

IV. Finding German Newspapers in the U.S. and Germany

- A. Need: Name of newspaper and location! Most sites sort one or both ways.
 - 1. U.S. State's Newspaper Project repository at <https://www.neh.gov/us-newspaper-program>
 - 2. Many papers are ONLY held locally and may NOT yet be online. Google the town or county seat or the newspaper name for both U.S. and Germany.
 - 3. German Zeitung mostly from the 19th Century, covering national, international, and local news. But German Intelligenzblätter existed earlier, to 1700s, with more local information.
 - 4. Try the new German site: <https://www.deutsche-digitale-bibliothek.de/newspaper>

- B. Learn what is usually where in the paper. Browse whole issue. Determine type of contents, coverage, and layout. Look at more than one issue as contents may vary some.
- C. For German newspapers, especially online, you may need a larger town. Use:
 1. Meyers Gaz—what are the county, prefecture, military towns?
 2. Compgen—do other large towns appear over time in the German administrative hierarchy?

IV. You can Find and Read a German Newspaper!

- A. Download a free Fraktur font and obtain a pre-WWII German Dictionary. And practice reading!
- B. Anticipate contents of each record before reading!
- C. Find papers with Google, U.S. State repositories list, new German repository site or list below.
- D. First seek death notices, advertisements, lists of marriages or burials, then emigrants, house sales, longer obituaries, articles.
- E. Enlarge and type German into DeepL translator.
- F. PRACTICE, PRACTICE, PRACTICE! The more practice, the more accurate your reading.

SELECTED BIBLIOGRAPHY

OFF-LINE collections for German Newspapers in the U.S and Germany:

1. General resources: [https://www.familysearch.org/wiki/en/Germany Newspapers](https://www.familysearch.org/wiki/en/Germany_Newspapers)
2. Arndt, Karl J. & May E. Olson, *German-American Newspapers and Periodicals, 1732-1955*, 2nd revised edition, (New York: Johnson reprint corp, 1965) online at:
<https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:3Q57-99DX-Y47L?mode=g&cat=866650262>
3. Thode, Ernest, *Historic German Newspapers Online* (Baltimore: Genealogical Publishing, 2014)
4. Miller, Daniel, *Early German-American Newspapers* (Lancaster, PA: Pennsylvania German Society, 1911) [online at Google books](#); reprinted by Don Heinrich Tolzman (ed), same title, (Westminster, MD: Heritage Books, 2012)
5. Wynar, Lubomyr R., and Anna T. Wynar, *Encyclopedic Directory of Ethnic Newspapers and Periodicals in the United States, 2nd ed* (Littleton, Colo.: Libraries Unlimited, 1976)
6. Large off-line collection at the German Newspaper Museum in Dortmund.
7. Hagelweide, Gert, ed, *Deutsche Zeitungsbestände in Bibliotheken und Archiven = German newspapers in libraries and archives* (Düsseldorf: Droste, [1974]) Covers 1700 to 1969.

Online U.S. German Newspapers:

- Find a U.S. State's official newspaper **project** repository at <https://www.neh.gov/us-newspaper-program>. Scroll down for list by State.
- U.S. Newspaper Directory 1690-present <https://chroniclingamerica.loc.gov/search/titles/>
- Chronicling America (search=German language, NOT Germany) <https://chroniclingamerica.loc.gov/>
- Wikipedia's list of online archives worldwide, scroll down for U.S. by State:
[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wikipedia:List of online newspaper archives](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wikipedia:List_of_online_newspaper_archives)
- Association of College and Research Libraries <https://acrl.libguides.com/germannewspapers>. Links to the library with the paper.
- <https://www.hathitrust.org/>. Connects to various Library and University collections.
- Google Books <https://books.google.com/> or try <http://books.google.de>. Search by town and newspaper. Includes bound volumes from libraries. If previously in Google News, that ended in 2011, now archived there <http://news.google.com/newspapers>.
- Ancestor Hunt <https://theancestorhunt.com/blog/historic-german-american-newspapers-online/>.
- Paper boy: <https://www.thepaperboy.com/>
- <https://www.newspapers.com/> (\$) or may be a database at your local library.)
- <https://www.genealogybank.com/> (\$)

Some Sites for Missouri:

- State Historical Society of Missouri (both English and German newspapers)
<https://shsmo.org/collections/newspapers/mdnp#list>
- Missouri Digital Heritage—Newspapers https://www.sos.mo.gov/mdh/browse?id=12_6
- St. Louis County Library <https://iii.slcl.org/>. German Newspapers are on Newspapers.com, in their databases online for library card holders.

Germany's Online Newspapers, Intelligenzblätter, and Journals:

- New Deutsches ZeitungsPortal <https://www.deutsche-digitale-bibliothek.de/newspaper>
- Wikipedia list of German newspapers online:
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wikipedia:List_of_online_newspaper_archives#Germany
- Wiki Source list of newspapers online:
https://de.wikisource.org/wiki/Zeitung#Listen_digitalisierter_Zeitungen_.28WS.29

- Compgen online http://wiki-de.genealogy.net/Digitale_historische_Tageszeitungen
- BYU Library https://eudocs.lib.byu.edu/index.php/Historic_German_Newspapers_Online
- Zeitschriften Daten Bank list online: <https://zdb-katalog.de/list.xhtml?dok=Zeitung&asc=false>.
- Staatsbibliothek zu Berlin <http://zefys.staatsbibliothek-berlin.de/list>
- Roland zu Dortmund links (a long PDF of various links; newspapers on pgs 53-59!)
<https://tng.rolandgen.de/documents/RzD%20%282021%29%2C%20Linksammlung%20des%20RzD.pdf>
- Deutscher Reichsanzeiger and Preußischer Staatsanzeiger Official organ of German Reich and Prussia, 1819-1945 <https://digi.bib.uni-mannheim.de/periodika/reichsanzeiger>
- Nordrhein-Westfalen 1801-1945 <https://zeitpunkt.nrw>
- Bavarian State Library includes Palatine <https://digipress.digital-sammlungen.de/>
- Sächsische Landesbibliothek <https://digital.slub-dresden.de/en/listview>
- Sächsische Heimatblätter Journals <https://www.compgen.de/2021/05/open-access-fuer-die-regional-und-landesgeschichte-saechsische-heimatblaetter-online> or
<https://journals.qucosa.de/shb>.
- Rheinland-Pfalz: <https://www.dilibri.de/dilibri/nav/classification/45594>
- University of Bonn: <https://digitale-sammlungen.ulb.uni-bonn.de/ulbbn>
- Universität Bielefeld: <http://ds.ub.uni-bielefeld.de/viewer/browse/-/1/-/DC:zeitschriftenderaufklrung/>
- Universitäts- und Landesbibliothek Düsseldorf <http://digital.ub.uni-duesseldorf.de/8844126>
- Universitäts- und Landesbibliothek Darmstadt https://tudigit.ulb.tu-darmstadt.de/show/md_search?md_query_cat=sammlung&md_query_var=sammlung41&md_query_sort=sort_shelfLocator_sdocval+asc
- Universitäts Bibliothek Freiburg <https://www.ub.uni-freiburg.de/index.php?id=4015>

Neighboring Countries with German Newspapers:

- Austrian National Library: <http://anno.onb.ac.at/>. Covers Austro-Hungarian Empire 1700-1875.
- Digital Forum for East Europe <https://www.difmoe.eu/d/search/?doctype=periodical>
- France National Library: <https://www.bnf.fr/>. Some for Alsace-Lorraine. (in French too.)
- Poland: <https://fbc.pionier.net.pl> (in Polish too.)
- Netherlands: <http://www.delpher.nl/nl/kranten> (in Dutch too.)
- Great Britain: <https://www.thegazette.co.uk/>

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Uncapther, Wendy K., How to Read &
Understand Meyers Orts- und
Verkehrs-Lexikon des Deutschen Reichs.
(Origins, Janesville, WI:2003)