

NATIONAL LIBRARY OF SOUTH AFRICA

LIBRARY GUIDE 2024 - 2025

How to Access Newspapers at the NLSA

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1. Introduction

The National Library of South Africa (NLSA) houses the most complete collection of bound original and microfilmed newspapers, the core of which are South African publications. Holdings include the first newspaper published in South Africa, *The Cape Town Gazette and African Advertiser* (1800), which subsequently became the *Government Gazette of the Cape*. The first commercial newspaper that was published in 1924 was the *South African Commercial Advertiser*. The first Xhosa language newspaper, *Umshumayeli Wendaba* (1837), was regarded as the first serial publication aimed at a black audience. The first Black owned and controlled newspaper in South Africa was *Imvo Zabantsundu* (1884).

The Newspaper Clippings Collection covers the period 1919 to 2001. The clippings collection is a record of information extracted from the *Cape Times*, *Cape Argus* and *Die Burger* newspapers. The collection includes biographies, court proceedings and sports reports. (The clipping collections are only available at the Cape Town Campus.)

Digitised newspapers are accessible via the NLSA's website on the ContentDM portal. New content is continuously being added to the collection. The range of newspapers is from the early printed newspapers such as the *Cape Argus* and *Diamond Fields Herald* as well as the titles from the Black Press such as *Ilanga lase Natal* and *Christian Express*.

1.1 Definition of a newspaper

1. A newspaper must provide general news coverage – political, social, daily events, etc.
2. It must be published at regular intervals (daily, semi-weekly, weekly, fortnightly and monthly).
3. It should not be issued by a church, political party or other interest group: these are treated as a periodical.
4. Factors which may influence (but not decide) the way the NLSA classifies newspapers are:
 - I. Format
 - II. Type of paper
 - III. Lay-out

2. Our Mandate

The National Library of South Africa Act 92 of 1998 mandates the NLSA:

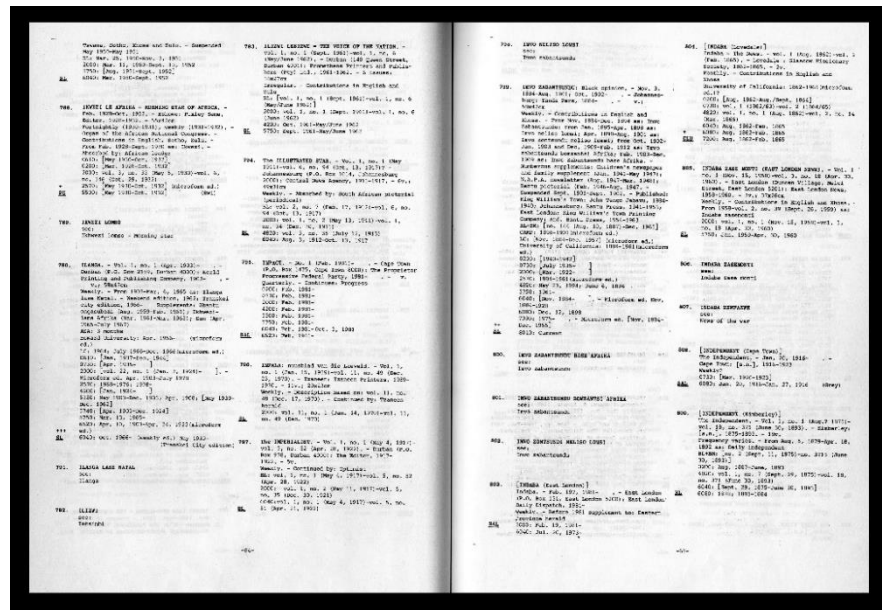
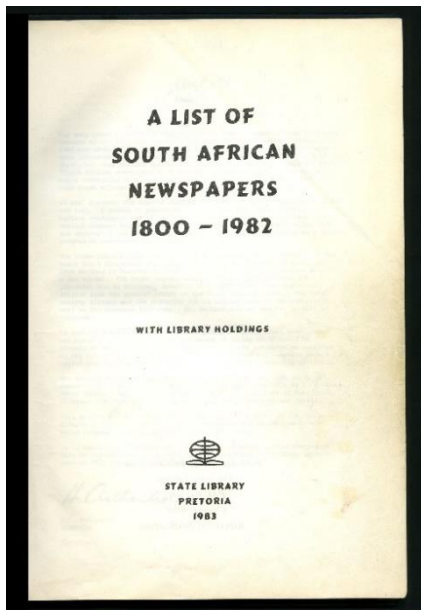
- to build up a complete collection of published documents emanating from or relating to South Africa;
- to maintain and extend any other collections of published and unpublished documents with the emphasis on documents emanating from and relating to Southern Africa;
- to promote the optimal management of collections of published documents held in South African libraries as a national resource;
- to promote optimal access to published documents, nationally and internationally;
- to provide reference and information services, nationally and internationally;

- to act as the national preservation library and to provide conservation services on a national basis;
- to promote awareness and appreciation of the national published documentary heritage; and
- to promote information awareness and information literacy.

3. Finding Aids to Navigate Newspaper Research

3.1 A list of South African Newspapers (1800-1982) is an essential resource for historical research.

The publication is a compilation of holdings of various newspapers held at libraries in South Africa and is available for consultation in the Pretoria and Cape Town Reference and Reading Rooms.

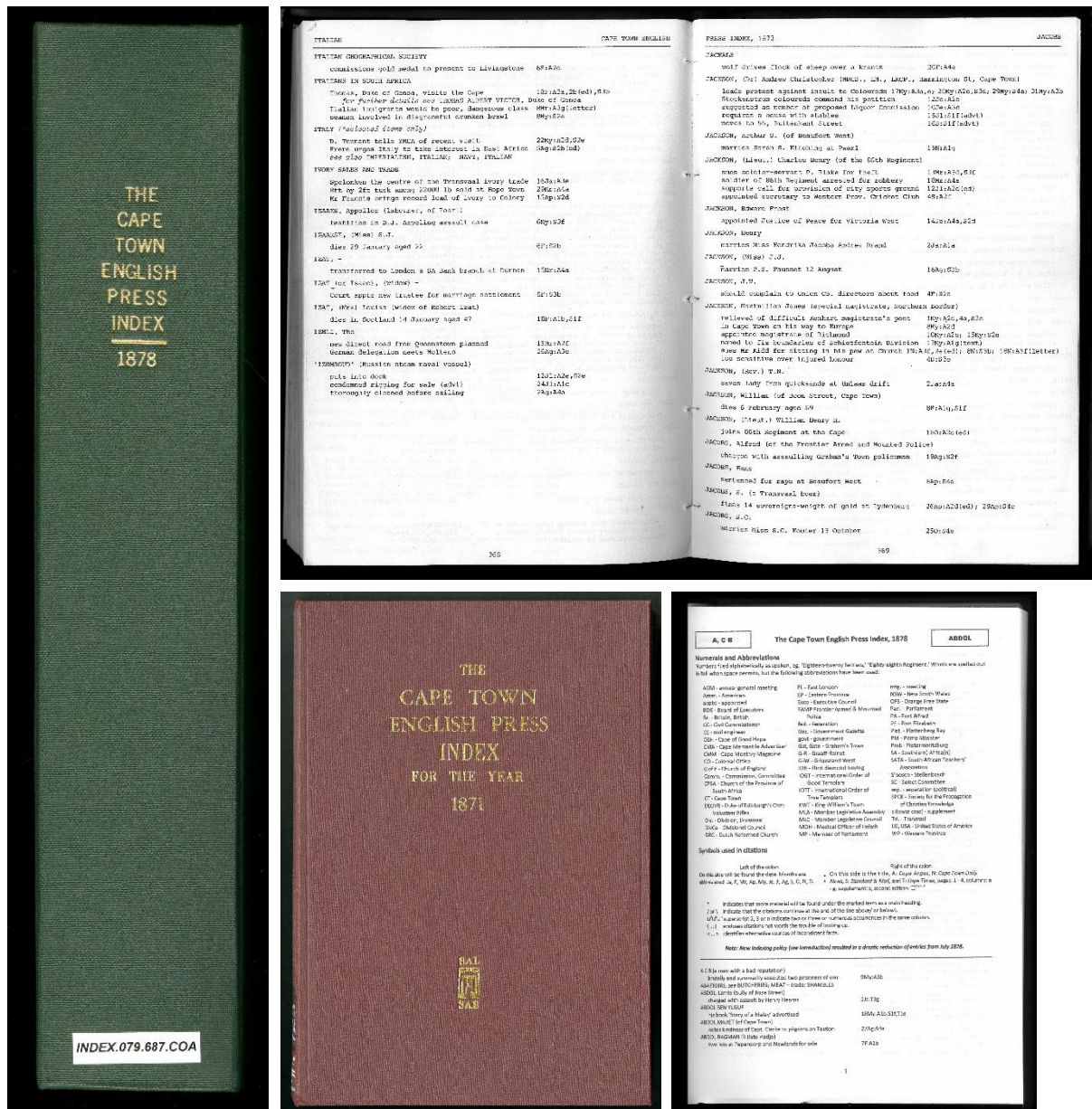


Here's how to use it:

1. **Alphabetical Listing:** The index lists all South African newspapers in alphabetical order, allowing you to easily locate specific titles.
2. **Numerical Codes:** The index uses numerical codes to link each newspaper to the institution or library that holds it. The NLSA is identified by the code 6040 and 2000.
3. **Library Holdings and Microfilm Availability:** For each newspaper, the index shows whether the NLSA holds copies and whether microfilm versions are available, along with the specific years covered.
4. **Search by Area:** At the end of the index, there's an option to search for newspapers by specific geographical areas, helping you find regional publications. In the cases when newspapers were published in the suburbs of larger cities, these suburbs were listed in alphabetical order under the main city's name.
5. **Accessing Newspapers:** Once you've identified the relevant details, you can request the physical or microfilm copies at the NLSA.

3.2 The Cape Town English Press Index

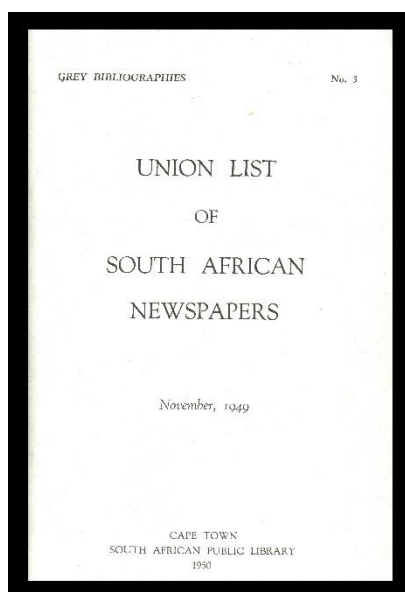
The *Cape Town English Press Index* (CTEPI) compiled and published by Dr Peter Coates is a useful tool for researching historical articles. It organises subjects with corresponding dates and indicates the newspaper where the article can be found. The CTEPI includes a comprehensive introduction on how to use it effectively. However, it only provides a reference to the newspaper; you'll need to request the actual newspaper or microfilm from the reference librarian to view the actual article. This index streamlines the process of locating relevant articles in the English press for the period 1871-1878.



The hardcopy CTEPI can be found in Special Collections at the Cape Town Campus, and the microfiche copies are available in the Reading Rooms at the Pretoria and Cape Town Campuses.

3.3 Union list of South African Newspapers

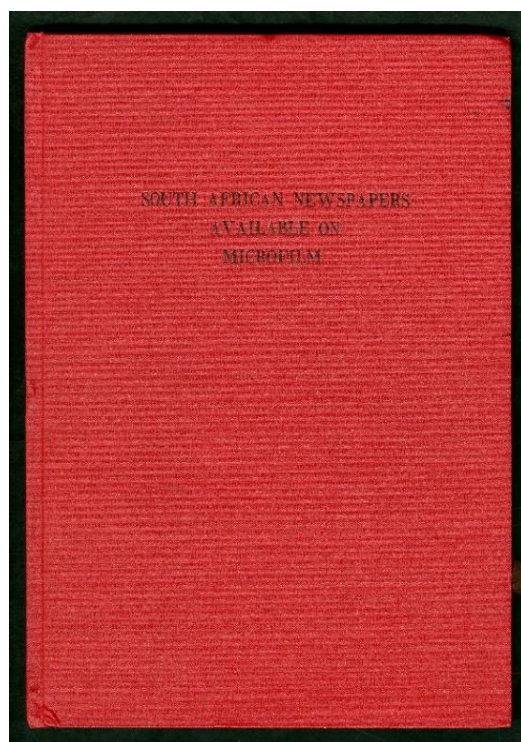
1. Titles are arranged under the name of the place where it was published.
2. Entries are under the latest title but always references the earlier titles.
3. The chronological charts show the holdings of the National Library of South Africa.



ABBREVIATIONS		INDEX TO TOWNS	
General		Page	Page
Ag	August	Aberdeen, C.P.	11
Ap	April	Adelaide, C.P.	11
D	December	Alberton, Tvl.	12
Dy., dy.	Daily	Alice, C.P.	12
Est.	Established, first issued.	Aliwal North, C.P.	12
F	February	Andrada, P.E.A.	13
Fort.	Fortnightly	Barberton, Tvl.	13
inc.	incorporated; incorporating	Barkly East, C.P.	13
Ja	January	Barkly West, C.P.	14
Je	June	Beaconsfield, C.P.	14
Jl	July	Beaufort West, C.P.	14
M., m.	Monthly	Bedford, C.P.	14
Mr	March	Beira, P.E.A.	15
My	May	Benoni, Tvl.	15
N	November	Bethal, Tvl.	15
O	October	Bethlehem, O.F.S.	15
Reest.	Re-established (in the case of newspapers not merely temporarily suspended).	Blantyre, Natal	15
S	September	Bloemfontein, O.F.S.	15
W., w.	Weekly	Boksburg, Tvl.	17
CA	Cape Archives, Queen Victoria St., Cape Town.	Brakpan, Tvl.	17
CAA	Central African Archives, Salisbury, S.R.	Bredasdorp, C.P.	18
DML	Durban Municipal Library.	Brits, Tvl.	18
HoA	House of Assembly, Cape Town. (N.B. not Library of Parliament.)	Bristown, C.P.	18
JPL	Johannesburg Public Library.	Bulawayo, S.R.	18
KC	Miss Kille Campbell's Africana Collection, 220 Marriott Rd., Durban.	Burgersdorp, C.P.	20
KPL	Kimberley Public Library.	Butterworth, C.P.	20
LoP	Library of Parliament (and Mendelssohn Collection), Cape Town.	Cairo, Egypt	90
NA	Natal Archives, Pietermaritzburg.	Caledon, C.P.	20
NSPL	Natal Society Public Library, Pietermaritzburg.	Calvinia, C.P.	20
OFA	Orange Free State Archives, Bloemfontein.	Cape Town, C.P.	21
PEPL	Port Elizabeth Public Library.	Carnarvon, C.P.	32
PL	Public Library.	Cathcart, C.P.	32
RUC	Rhodes University College Library, Grahamstown.	Charlestown, Natal	32
SAPL	South African Public Library, Cape Town.	Claremont, C.P.	31
SL	The Senate, Cape Town. (N.B. not Library of Parliament.)	Cleveland, Tvl.	32
TA	State Library, Pretoria.	Colesberg, C.P.	32
UP	Union Archives, Union Buildings, Pretoria.	Craddock, C.P.	33
US	University of Pretoria Library.	De Aar, C.P.	34
UW	University of Stellenbosch Library.	Dordrecht, C.P.	34
		Douglas, C.P.	34
		Dundee, Natal	35
		Durban, Natal	35
		Dutoitspan, C.P.	55
		East London, C.P.	38
		Edendale, Natal	39
		Elbe, Bechuanaland	39
		Elizabethville, Belgian Congo.	39
		Elliot, C.P.	39
		Embsabane, Swaziland	62
		Ermelo, Tvl.	39
		Eshowe, Zululand, Natal	40
		Estcourt, Natal	40
		Ficksburg, O.F.S.	40
		Fordsburg, Johannesburg	53
		Fort Beaufort, C.P.	40
		Fort Victoria, S.R.	40
		Frankfort, O.F.S.	41
		Gatooma, S.R.	41
		George, C.P.	41
		Germiston, Tvl.	41
		Graaff-Reinet, C.P.	42
		Grahamstown, C.P.	43
		Graskop, Tvl.	44
		Greytown, Natal	44
		Griquatown, C.P.	44
		Grootville, Zululand	85
		Gwelo, S.R.	45
		Harrismith, O.F.S.	45
		Heidelberg, Tvl.	45
		Heilbron, O.F.S.	45
		Hopetown, C.P.	45
		Humansdorp, C.P.	46
		Indwe, C.P.	46
		Jagersfontein, O.F.S.	46
		Jansenville, C.P.	46
		Johannesburg, Tvl.	46
		Kempton Park, Tvl.	54
		Kimberley, C.P.	54
		Kingwilliamstown, C.P.	56
		Klerksdorp, Tvl.	57
		Knysna, C.P.	57
		Kokstad, C.P.	57
		Kroonstad, O.F.S.	58
		Krugersdorp, Tvl.	58
		Ladismith, C.P.	58
		Ladybrand, O.F.S.	59
		Ladysmith, Natal	59
		Leopoldville, Belgian Congo	90
		Livingstone, N.R.	59
		Lomagundi, S.R.	59
		Lourenço Marques	59
		Lovedale, C.P.	60
		Luderitz, S.W.A.	60
		Lusaka, N.R.	60
		Lydenburg, Tvl.	60
		Mafeking, C.P.	61
		Malmesbury, C.P.	61
		Mariannhill, Natal	61
		Maseru, Bechuanaland	61
		Matatiele, C.P.	62
		Mbabane, Swaziland	62
		Middelburg, C.P.	62
		Middelburg, Tvl.	63
		Molteno, C.P.	63
		Morija, Basutoland	63
		Morogoro, Tanganyika	64
		Mossel Bay, C.P.	64
		Muizenberg, C.P.	31

3.4 South African newspaper available on microfilm:

This catalogue of South African newspapers, lists titles known to have been microfilmed. In addition to the bibliographic information of the newspapers, there are also historical summaries of most titles.



ALPHABETICAL LIST OF NEWSPAPER TITLES	
ADVANCE (Nov. 1952 - Oct. 1954) - see New Age	
ADVERTENTIEBLAD (Jan. 1901 - Jul. 1902) - see De Zuid-Afrikaan	
AFRIKAANSE PATRIOT, Di. Paarl	1
AFRIKAANSE YEDICHE TIEFTUNG, Johannesburg	2
+ ALGEMEEN ZETTING, Windhoek, S.W.A.	4
ANGLO GERMANIA, King Williamstown	4
ARGUS, Cape Town	5
BANTU FORUM - see Ikandla ya Bantu	
BANTU WORLD - see World	
BARBETON HERALD, Barberton	6
BORDER NEWS, Aliwal North	7
BURGER, De Bloemfontein	8
BURGER, Die Cape Town	9
BURLESQUE - see The Grylls	
CAPE ARGUS - see The Argus	
CAPE GUARDIAN (Feb. - Jun. 1937) - see New Age	
CAPE MERCANTILE ADVERTISER, Cape Town	10
CAPE OF GOOD HOPE GOVERNMENT GAZETTE, Cape Town	11
CAPE OF GOOD HOPE OFFICIAL GAZETTE, Cape Town	12
CAPE STANDARD, Cape Town	13
CAPE TIMES, Cape Town	14
CAPE TOWN GAZETTE (Aug. 1900 - Mar. 1903 & Jan. 1906 - Jun. 1926) - see also Cape of Good Hope Government Gazette	15
CHALLENGER, Johannesburg	16
CHRISTIAN EXPRESS - see Isigidi SamaXosa	
CLAREN (May - Aug. 1952) - see New Age	
CONTACT, Cape Town	17
CRITIC, Johannesburg	18
DAGBREEK en LANDSTEM (en SONDIAGNUB), Cape Town	19
DAILY EXPRESS and Orange Free State Advertiser, Bloemfontein	20
DAILY NEWS, Bloemfontein - See Daily Express, Bloemfontein	
DAILY NEWS, Durban	21
DIAMOND FIELDS ADVERTISER, Kimberley	22
EASTERN PROVINCE HERALD, Port Elizabeth	23
EXPRESS, De (en Oranjevrijstaatsch Advertentieblad), Bloemfontein	24
FORWARD, Johannesburg	25
FRIEND, Bloemfontein	26
FRIEND OF THE FREE STATE, Bloemfontein	27
GOLDEN CITY POST - see Post	
GOLD FIELDS FRIEND, Bloemfontein	28
- see The Friend also	
GOLD FIELDS NEWS, Barberton	29
GOLD FIELDS TIMES, Barberton	30
GOVERNMENTS COURANT DER ZAR - see Staatscourant der ZAR	
GOVERNMENT GAZETTE - see Staatscourant	
GRABAMETOWN JOURNAL, Grahamstown	31
GUARDIAN (Jan. 1927 - May 1952; banned in May 1952) - see New Age	
HOOFSTAD, Pretoria	32
HOWEEL, Ramel	33
KWITZ, Potchefstroom	34
KLARDA LASE NATAL, Durban	35

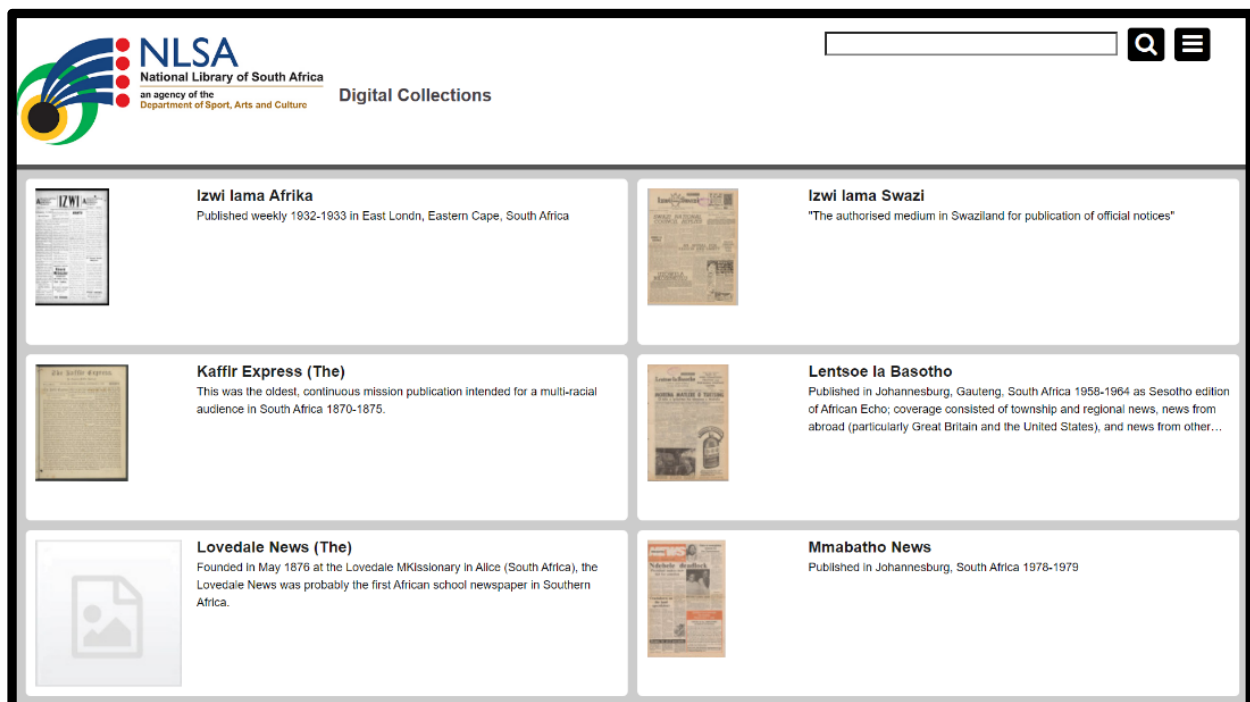
IMVO ZABANTSUNDU		* INDABA NEWS	
(Bantu Opinion)			
Place of Publication:	KINGWILLIAMSTOWN; JOHANNESBURG; KINGWILLIAMSTOWN	Place of Publication:	LOVEDALE
Dates available:	(i) 1962 - 1963 (ii) 1984 - 1991	Dates available:	Feb. - Aug. 1965
Still to be filmed:	1964 - currently	Still to be filmed:	
Negatives held by:	(i) Library of Congress (ii) University of California	Negatives held by:	University of California
Number of reels:	(i) 2	Number of reels:	
Price:	(i) \$16	Price:	
Historical summary:	The first issue of the Xhosa newspaper <i>Imvo Zabantsundu</i> appeared on November 3, 1884 at King Williamstown. Financial support was provided by a group of Europeans. The editor, John Tengo Jabavu, "father of Bantu journalism", later became the official owner of the paper. It campaigned for African political and educational advance. From 1891-1894 he edited <i>Isigidi SamaXosa</i> until he was dismissed for using the paper to attack members of the Cape Parliament. <i>Imvo</i> was the first regularly published newspaper in a non-European language. The paper was closed down by the British Military authorities in August 1901, due to Jabavu's criticism of the war. It resumed publication in 1902. His support of Mr Sauer's Land Act, brought about Jabavu's political downfall. He died in 1921 and his sons carried on <i>Imvo</i> and the tradition. In 1940 publication was transferred to Johannesburg. Today <i>Imvo Zabantsundu</i> is again being printed and published in King Williamstown.		

3.5 Digitised newspapers

Selected issues of various newspapers have been digitised and available to view for free. Titles such as the *Cape Indian* and many from the Black Press have been digitised and are available to read. The digitised newspapers can be viewed on the CONTENTdm platform which can be accessed on the NLSA's website at www.nlsa.ac.za.

Some examples of newspaper titles which have been digitised or are in the process of being digitised:

- *Izwi Lama Swazi, Naledi Ya Batswana*
- *Inkundla Ya Bantu*
- *Imvo Zabantsundu*
- *Iphepha Lesizwe Indaba*
- *Umhlobo Wa Bantwana*
- *Motswalle Wa Bana*
- *Amanzimtoti Observer*
- *Basotho Land News*
- *Lentsoe la basotho*
- *The View and News*
- *Bula Ditaba*
- *The Mirror*
- *Motswalle wa Bana*
- *Mochochonono*
- *Mmmabatho News*
- *Moeletsi Wa Basotho*
- *African Leader*
- *Inkokeli Ya Bantu*
- *Spark*
- *Torch*



4. Where to Access Newspapers, Microfilms and Clippings

- Library users can access newspapers in all formats in the Reading Room at the Cape Town Campus and in the Reference Section at the Pretoria Campus.
- Reader Services is responsible for the retrieval of all materials kept within the NLSA's Cape Town Campus and in off-site storage facilities.
- Text Retrieval is responsible for the retrieval of all materials kept within the NLSA's Pretoria's Campus.
- Where materials are stored off-site, the retrieval time is 24 hours. The material is retrieved and delivered only in the morning.
- The newspaper clipping files are only available at the Cape Town Campus. There are clipping files for the *Cape Times*, *Cape Argus* and *Die Burger* newspapers only.

5. How to Access the Newspapers, Microfilms and Clippings

- Library users visit the NLSA's Campuses and request the newspaper titles they require. They will be advised by the Librarians whether the hardcopy of the newspaper can be retrieved or whether there is a microfilm of the newspaper. As the NLSA is a national preservation library, if the newspaper is available on microfilm, this will be retrieved before the hardcopy.
- Library users can also send an email to info@nlsa.ac.za (Cape Town) or infodesk@nlsa.ac.za (Pretoria) and request the newspaper before they come to the Library.
- Off-site storage procedure: In Cape Town the newspapers are reserved for library users in the Reading Room once it has been retrieved from the off-site storage facility. There is a 24-hour turnaround period for the retrieval and delivery of hardcopy newspapers.
- The files from the Clippings Collection (Cape Town only) are also stored off-site and there is a 24-hour turnaround time for these. The Librarians will advise or inform library users about the clipping files. There are indexes that will guide library users on the content in this collection.
- Microfilms can be requested on the same day and library users can view them in the Reader Services section in Cape Town and the Reference Room in Pretoria.
- The Microfilm Room in Pretoria provides microfiche and microfilm reader printers for researchers to access and convert text materials into an easily readable format. Staff are available to train users on how to use the equipment.



6. Photocopies, Printouts and Scans

- Three reproduction options are available, with different tariffs applied accordingly.
- Reproduction is done strictly according to Copyright restrictions.
- Photocopies can be requested from Reader Services, particularly for recent daily newspapers, and for the clipping files.
- For newspapers that are bound in one volume, only digital scans can be offered as the bound volume is too large to be placed on a photocopier. This is in line with preservation standards.
- Digital scans from microfilms can be provided.
- Users can also request microfilm printouts.

If you have any questions or require additional information, please contact Information Access Services at e-mail info@nlsa.ac.za (Cape Town campus) and infodesk@nlsa.ac.za (Pretoria Campus).

7. References

1. Aschenborn, H.J. (1983) *A List of South African Newspapers 1800-1983*. Pretoria: The State Library.
2. Aschenborn, H.J. (1975) *South African Newspapers available on Microfilm*. 1st edn. Pretoria: The State Library
4. Coates, P. (1983) *The Cape Town English press index for the year ...* Cape Town, South African Public Library
5. Kilpin, R. (1949) *Union list of South African newspapers*. Cape Town, South African Public Library
6. Switszer, L. (1979) *The Black press in South Africa and Lesotho: a descriptive bibliographic guide to African, Coloured, and Indian newspapers, newsletters, and magazines, 1836-1976*. Boston: G.K.Hall & Co.