

Sydney Morning Herald Progress

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Overview

The digitisation process for the Sydney Morning Herald is slightly different to that of the other papers being included in the ANDP. Differences for the Sydney Morning Herald are that:

- A complete good quality microfilm of the paper is not in existence.
- The Vincent Fairfax Family Foundation has given \$1 million to the National Library of Australia to sponsor the title. The Library has matched this with \$750,000 to ensure that it is fully digitised. This title is costing more to digitise than other titles because there is not a complete good quality set of microfilm in existence.
- Extensive quality assurance of every page digitised is being undertaken in order to identify and replace 'poor quality' pages.
- A complete list of all missing pages and issues is being compiled and these will be sourced in hard copy from around Australia and digitised so that the Sydney Morning Herald is 'complete'.
- The missing and poor pages are being sourced from hard copy papers and digitisation will take place from hard copy (all other newspapers in the ANDP are being digitised from microfilm).

Progress

1. There are 4 titles in the group 'Sydney Morning Herald'. The titles have been identified and existing microfilm sourced and quality reviewed.
2. Scanning of identified microfilm reels commenced on 3 April 2008 and was completed on 4 August 2008. Quality assurance of images first pass (missing pages and issues) was complete on 28 September 2008 and quality assurance of images second pass (identification of 'poor pages') was complete on 28 February 2009. 526,453 digital image pages are now stored on the Library server awaiting the next stage of processing (OCR of articles).
3. 7500 missing and poor quality pages in 3,500 issues were sourced in hard copy in October 2009 from the National Library's collection and are awaiting digitisation. This is expected to commence in December 2009.
4. OCR of pages began in October 2009 and on 10 November 2009 the first 30 years of the Sydney Morning Herald (1831 – 1860) were publicly available. Issues will now be made available to the public each week working from 1860 to 1954. 1954 is expected to be reached in early 2010. Identified and sourced missing pages for the entire period will be the last pages to be made available (the 7500).

Title	Date	No of pages scanned from microfilm	No of issues
Sydney Herald	1831-1841	7,209	1,639
Sydney Morning Herald	1842-1954	500,798	35,260
Sunday Herald	1949 -1953	11,821	242
Sun Herald	1953 - 1954	6,625	64
Total		526,453	37,205