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Assignment 1: Genre: Newspapers

1. As defined by *Merriam-Webster Dictionary*, a newspaper is a paper that is printed and distributed usually daily or weekly and that contains news, articles of opinion, features, and advertising. Newspapers are published through various sources, whether it is a professional publishing agency or a high school.
2. Some well-known examples of newspapers include *The New York Times, The Washington Post, USA Today,* and *The Wall Street Journal*. These papers are of the most influential and respected business-oriented dailies in the world.
3. Newspapers provide current information on world and local events-political, social, etc. (dependent on the specific paper). They can also include sports updates, opinion columns, marketing/business sections, classifieds, life and culture, careers, and real estate sections, among others.
4. Newspapers are a social “go-to” in terms of updating oneself on current events. People read newspapers to follow and track political figures, large court cases, and international happenings. They are also used to check sports scores, find movie showing times, or checking the stock market. Newspapers are an extremely diverse means of media.
5. There are some limitations to this source. Newspapers generally only cover the basic details of a story or issue-simply because there isn’t much time in between when the event takes place and when the newspaper is printed. Reliability can also be a limitation to this genre. The reliability of the newspaper depends on which paper it is, and the specific author of the article. Some papers or articles may be biased, giving you information that may be leaning more towards one opinion or perspective. There can also be a monetary limitation to this genre. Unlike many online sources which can be accessed for free, a hard copy of a newspaper may cost a few dollars. You also run the risk of not being able to get a copy of a certain paper because it may be sold out, or simply not stocked in that location.
6. You could search multiple databases for information in this genre. If you’re reading a business oriented paper, you could search business oriented databases like Lexis-Nexis Academic, Regional Business News, or Wall Street Journal (all listed on the Langsdale Library website). One website that isn’t available through Langsdale that could be referenced for information on this genre is Editor& Publisher (http://www.editorandpublisher.com/), which is “America’s oldest journal covering the newspaper industry.” ( Editor & Publisher website)
7. For the databases that are available through Langsdale, there are many different ways to search for information. You can be as broad as a newspaper [article] subject, or get as specific as country, title/author, people discussed in the newspaper [article], etc. For the Lexis-Nexis Academic, you’re even able to do a combined search with date specifications. For the website not listed, there is a site index with specific categories to search through, but the search process itself doesn’t lend as much as the other outlets in terms of conducting a precise search.
8. Information from this source can be very reliable, depending on which newspaper you are referencing, and how credible the authors/subjects quoted are. Some papers tend to be written with a bias, and unless you’re aware of that paper’s bias, you may be collecting information from only one perspective of a situation. Again, you can tell whether or not the information is reliable by getting background information on the newspaper itself, and more importantly, the author of whatever article or section it is you are referencing.