HARPER'S WEEKLY
A JOURNAL OF CIVILIZATION
1857 - 1877

HARPER'S WEEKLY: 1857-1912

Harper's Weekly 1857 - 1912

Harper's Weekly was the newspaper of record for the latter part of the 19th century and early 20th. It had a circulation that peaked at 300,000 and an effective readership of at least half a million. Alexander Street's *Harper's Weekly 1857-1912* is the definitive version of the newspaper in electronic form.

The database is compelling for its visual impact, with 75,000 images that defined the period, including illustrations, cartoons, maps, and portraits—drawn by Winslow Homer, Frederic Remington, Thomas Nast, and others; its shaping of public opinion, playing an influential role in five presidential elections, with the paper's political editor, George William Curtis, providing national leadership through 8,000 editorials over three decades; its international coverage, with cultural reviews and major news stories by more foreign correspondents than any of its contemporaries; and its coverage of literature, with a third of the material consisting of American and English prose and verse, providing entertainment in its time and significant insight for today's readers.

Harper's Weekly 1857-1912 sets the gold standard for electronic newspaper publishing. No other digitization project has the same image quality, re-keying accuracy, indexing, or extent of contextual material:

Quality of images: Each image has been scanned at 300 dpi in grayscale, resulting in crystal clear prints that are far superior to those derived from the bi-tonal 100 dpi scans of old microfilm that are typical of other newspaper databases.

Depth of indexing:
- Articles, editorials, and illustrations are indexed with subject terms that are not part of the original text—thesaurus terms such as Women's Rights, Diplomats, and Chinese-Americans—letting scholars locate material that cannot be found with a keyword search;
- More than 100,000 advertisements are indexed topically and by manufacturer and retailer—for example, political merchandise, cough remedies, farm-equipment, or clothing can be located immediately;
- Cartoons are categorized by subject, topic, and character;
- Literature is searchable by author, title, subject, and genre, making it possible to find all political verse, humorous tales, or female narratives, as examples.

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Contextual essays, Web sites, and related materials: *Harper's Weekly 1857-1912* has more than 10,000 pages of annotations, essays, and notes, such as *The Presidential Elections, 1860-1884, as Depicted in Political Cartoons and Prints*. The essays include rare and difficult-to-find original materials.

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