

# “I just want to know the truth”

Access to newspaper articles  
as a social justice issue

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# Online index to the Olympian

## Search the Newspaper Index

### About This Project

Produced by Washington State Library, this index contains citations to articles in The Olympian (Olympia, Washington) and other Washington state newspapers. **It does not contain full text articles.** Dates covered are from 1993-2009. Additional Washington newspaper articles may be indexed as time allows.

To search the index, use any combination of the fields below.

Keywords/Subject

Specific Date

Month

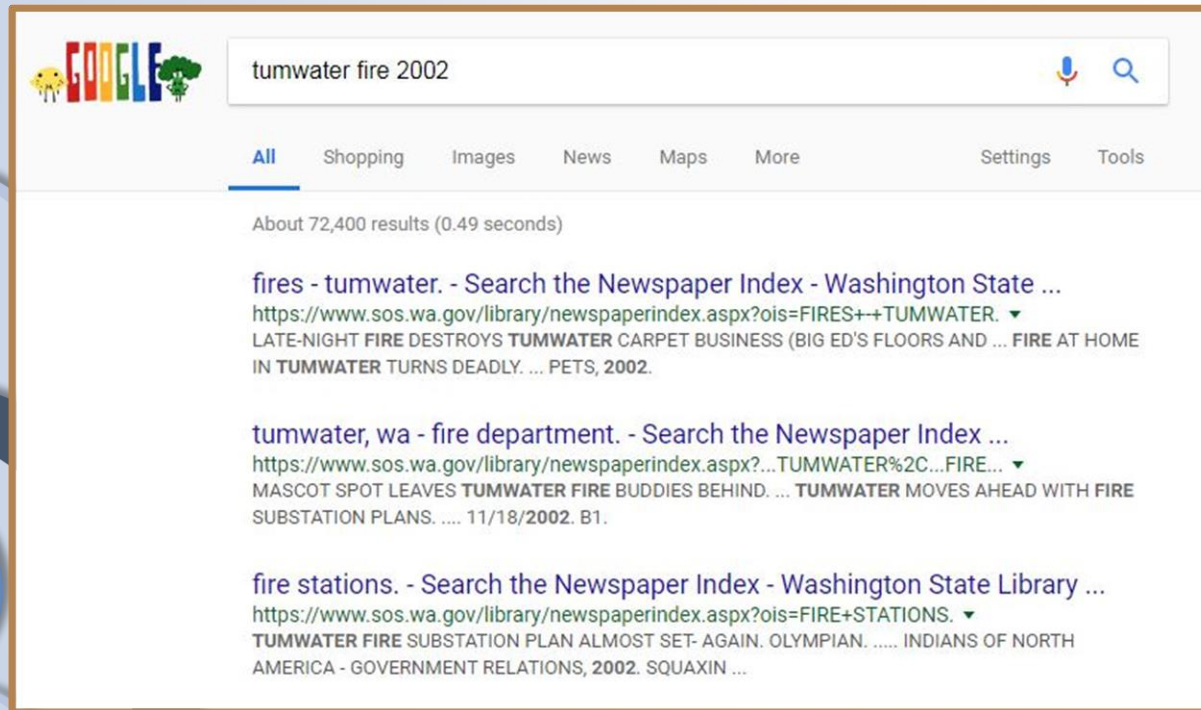
Year

Order Results By

Article Date ▼

Search

# Beginning in April 2017...



Google search results for "tumwater fire 2002". The search bar shows "tumwater fire 2002" and the Google logo. Below the search bar, there are tabs for "All", "Shopping", "Images", "News", "Maps", "More", "Settings", and "Tools". The search results show "About 72,400 results (0.49 seconds)".

Search results:

- fires - tumwater. - Search the Newspaper Index - Washington State ...**  
<https://www.sos.wa.gov/library/newspaperindex.aspx?ois=FIRES++TUMWATER>.  
 LATE-NIGHT FIRE DESTROYS TUMWATER CARPET BUSINESS (BIG ED'S FLOORS AND ... FIRE AT HOME IN TUMWATER TURNS DEADLY. ... PETS, 2002.
- tumwater, wa - fire department. - Search the Newspaper Index ...**  
<https://www.sos.wa.gov/library/newspaperindex.aspx?...TUMWATER%2C...FIRE...>.  
 MASCOT SPOT LEAVES TUMWATER FIRE BUDDIES BEHIND. ... TUMWATER MOVES AHEAD WITH FIRE SUBSTATION PLANS. .... 11/18/2002. B1.
- fire stations. - Search the Newspaper Index - Washington State Library ...**  
<https://www.sos.wa.gov/library/newspaperindex.aspx?ois=FIRE+STATIONS>.  
 TUMWATER FIRE SUBSTATION PLAN ALMOST SET- AGAIN. OLYMPIAN. .... INDIANS OF NORTH AMERICA - GOVERNMENT RELATIONS, 2002. SQUAXIN ...

GIRL SCOUT FACILITY DAMAGED BY FIRE. OLYMPIAN. 06/06/2002. B1. <a href="#">Request this article</a>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>PACIFIC PEAKS GIRL SCOUT COUNCIL (TUMWATER)</li> <li>FIRES - TUMWATER.</li> </ul>	LITTLEROCK RD.
FIRE REMINDS GIRL SCOUTS OF HOME-TO-BE. OLYMPIAN. 06/08/2002. C1. <a href="#">Request this article</a>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>FIRES - TUMWATER.</li> <li>GIRL SCOUTS OF AMERICA.</li> <li>PACIFIC PEAKS GIRL SCOUT COUNCIL (TUMWATER)</li> </ul>	LONGORIA, RUTH.
TUMWATER BUILDING DESTROYED BY BLAZE. OLYMPIAN. 07/12/2002. B1. <a href="#">Request this article</a>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>FIRES - TUMWATER.</li> <li>CHURCHES - THURSTON COUNTY.</li> </ul>	BURNHAM, MICHAEL.KINGDOM HALL OF JEHOVAH'S WITNESSES (NORTH NINTH AVE SW)
POLICE INVESTIGATING TUMWATER FIRE. OLYMPIAN. 07/13/2002. A1. <a href="#">Request this article</a>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>FIRES - TUMWATER.</li> <li>CHURCHES - THURSTON COUNTY.</li> </ul>	LONGORIA, RUTH.JEHOVAH'S WITNESSES KINGDOM HALL.'SUSPICIOUS'
CONGREGATIONS TO REBUILD HALL RUINED BY FIRE. OLYMPIAN. 09/02/2002. B1. <a href="#">Request this article</a>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>FIRES - TUMWATER.</li> <li>TUMWATER, WA - BUILDINGS.</li> </ul>	TARR, LINDA,JEHOVAH'S WITNESSES KINGDOM HALL.

# Some generalizations about...

the articles requested

- Crimes (arrests, court cases, sentencing)
- Traffic accidents
- Community events
- Moments in the spotlight (athlete of the week)

the customers  
requesting articles

- Crime victims
- Family members
- Police officers, attorneys
- Journalists
- Themselves

## Strengths and opportunities

- Unfindable content is now findable
- Information is not hidden behind firewalls or authentication
- Lost memories are found
- Library's audience is widened
- Opportunities for providing contextual information (accident reports, court records, DSHS files)
- Library is seen as providing a valuable service



## Weaknesses and Threats

- Basic lack of information literacy skills
- Frequently viewed as transactional by the customer
- Over-reliance on Google to find “everything”
- Necessity of developing policies/procedures around the index
- No “right to be forgotten”
- Significant drain on employee time and resources

# Social justice as seen through access to recently historic newspaper articles means...

- Criminals are held accountable
- Family secrets are made public
- Stories are remembered
- You can obtain printed evidence to show others
- No financial barriers to obtaining information about yourself
- Libraries are impartial warehouses full of information that can directly impact your life
- Librarians are empathetic teammates who can help you find the truth, without judgement

# The impact

- “Thanks for the information I received; it was very helpful to my understanding better the history of this tragic event”
- “Searching for news articles shouldn’t cost a person a subscription to several companies”
- “I want to thank you with all of my heart for sending this article that brought me to tears.”
- “I want[ed] to be more familiar with the circumstances of his crime so I may know to what capacity I should keep careful about him.”
- “I am so excited to have this article and recipe again after 19 years!”
- “I can’t describe how important [this] is to me. She answered a lot of my questions I had about my past.”



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