Newsline

From Page A5

ly Call, both black papers.

Some cities have a number of competing black papers, basically trying to appeal to the same target population. In Chicago, Tinney says, there are a dozen; in St. Louis, six; in Washington, six, and in Kansas City, three.

Tinney notes that finding the more than 320 black papers took quite a bit of "digging" on his part and that he was assisted by student researchers. He admits that it is difficult to verify circulation of black papers since only about one-sixth are audited, adding that a "conservative estimate" of circulation is between 6 million to 7.5 million. The industry estimates more than 4.5 million.

He has found papers that aren't listed in the major industry publication, the Editor & Publisher Yearbook.

For example, the 1984 edition lists only one black paper in Buffalo -- the Buffalo Challenger. Tinney has identified two others: the Buffalo Criterion and the Buffalo Fine Print.

In Washington, Tinney also found two more -- The Washington Sun and D.C. Talk -- in addition to the four that are listed.

Often the papers not included in the yearbook are found in mom-and-pop stores in the black community, he says. And many are give-aways or controlledcirculation papers that generally depend on local advertising.

Most black papers are weeklies, and many are family owned and operated. There are only three dailies - The Chicago Daily Defender, Atlanta Daily World and the New York Daily Challenge.

There are about 12 "semiweeklies," published twice a week. And there's a monthly "magapaper," The National Leader, combining the characteristics of both a newspaper and a magazine. The paper started in 1982 as a weekly tabloid, says Tinney, who served as its religion editor.

From 1827 to today, there have been more than 3,000 black newspapers. But many black papers are short-lived, he says, noting that his project included writing the histories of more than

200 of the nation's black papers. One of the newest papers is the City Sun in New York. Tinney says the paper shows promise, which is how he describes the future of the black press overall.



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