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The surprising origins of Britain's newspaper industry

The modern newspaper industry can be traced to a site in London that once stood on the eastern bank of the River Fleet in 1702, over the site of the sewage, drainage, and suicide vicarage that clogged up the river. England's first daily newspaper, the Daily News, thumped, clanked, and squelched out of the city to eager citizens. The city of London was not just one product of the media revolution of the dawn of the 18th century. For reasons that have become clear, the strict censorship that melted away in the city within months of the press had burst forth. By mid-1730, there were 100 newspapers: six

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