

## **Southwestern Ontario Digital Archive (SWODA)**

Information for the July 1<sup>st</sup>, 2018 – June 30<sup>th</sup>, 2019 Annual Report

### **SWODA Publications**

<https://scholar.uwindsor.ca/swoda>

### Statistics

Includes: the Ambassador Yearbooks (1939-1977), the Assumption College Purple and White (1924-1959), the City of Windsor Directories (1888-1968), the Lance (print: 1959-2016), University of Windsor Publications (17 items), the Weekly Assumption Collegian (1921-1922), Windsor and Region Publications (106 items)

All publications can be viewed online and downloaded from the Scholarship@UWindsor (<https://scholar.uwindsor.ca>) Bepress website. All publications can now also be viewed online and downloaded from the Internet Archive (<https://archive.org>).

During Spring 2019, we switched from using the embedded Internet Archive viewer to the native Bepress viewer. This was due to dysfunctional changes in the IA viewer. Unfortunately, the Bepress viewer is incredibly slow to load, so links to the IA records have also been placed in the Scholarship@UWindsor records.

The Scholarship@UWindsor statistics reflect the time period of July 2018 – June 2019. The Internet Archive statistics generally cover the online views and downloads from the date archived to June 30<sup>th</sup>, 2019. I have estimated the usage for July 2018-June 2019, based on last year's statistics.

### Ambassador Yearbooks

The Ambassador Yearbooks were uploaded to the Internet Archive in Spring 2019, so the IA statistics only represent a couple of months of usage.

Scholarship@UWindsor 2018-2019:	786 downloads
Scholarship@UWindsor 2018-2019:	583 additional metadata page hits
Internet Archive Total:	223 views/downloads
Internet Archive 2018-2019:	223 views/downloads

### Assumption College Purple and White

Scholarship@UWindsor 2018-2019:	391 downloads
Scholarship@UWindsor 2018-2019:	131 additional metadata page hits
Internet Archive Total:	2,025 views/downloads
Internet Archive 2018-2019:	1,100 views/downloads

### City of Windsor Directories

Scholarship@UWindsor 2018-2019:	3,971 downloads
Scholarship@UWindsor 2018-2019:	5,381 additional metadata page hits
Internet Archive Total:	40,149 views/downloads
Internet Archive 2018-2019:	23,000 views/downloads

### Lance

The Lance student newspaper is still a work in progress. As of the end of June 2019, about 50 years of the print Lance are now online. This project should be finished by the end of Summer 2019. In many cases, the statistics only represent a few months of use.

Scholarship@UWindsor 2018-2019:	332 downloads
Scholarship@UWindsor 2018-2019:	367 additional metadata page hits
Internet Archive Total:	530 views/downloads
Internet Archive 2018-2019:	530 views/downloads

### University of Windsor Publications

8 new titles were added in 2018-2019 for a total of 17 publications.

Scholarship@UWindsor 2018-2019:	162 downloads
Scholarship@UWindsor 2018-2019:	199 additional metadata page hits
Internet Archive Total:	551 views/downloads
Internet Archive 2018-2019:	250 views/downloads

### Weekly Assumption Collegian

The Weekly Assumption Collegian was uploaded to the Internet Archive in Spring 2019, so the IA statistics only represent a couple of months of usage.

Scholarship@UWindsor 2018-2019:	88 downloads
Scholarship@UWindsor 2018-2019:	62 additional metadata page hits
Internet Archive Total:	22 views/downloads
Internet Archive 2018-2019:	22 views/downloads

### Windsor and Region Publications

12 new titles were added in 2018-2019 for a total of 106 publications.

Scholarship@UWindsor 2018-2019:	3,860 downloads
Scholarship@UWindsor 2018-2019:	3,077 additional metadata page hits
Internet Archive Total:	14,677 views/downloads
Internet Archive 2018-2019:	8,000 views/downloads

## **SWODA Images**

<http://swoda.uwindsor.ca>

As of June 30<sup>th</sup>, 2019, the database contains 3,438 historical photographs, postcards, and ephemera of southwestern Ontario – primarily Windsor and Essex County. For the period of July 2018 – June 2019, SWODA had 44,071 users and 217,480 page views.

The Twitter account: SWODA@SWODAUWindsor started in September 2017. Generally, images with text are tweeted once a week to hashtags ThrowbackThursdays and YQG. The account currently has 161 followers and made 51,900 impressions (no. of times users saw the tweet on Twitter) between July 2018 and June 2019.

## **SWODA Newspapers (INK)**

<http://ink.ourdigitalworld.org>

Art Rhyno will submit statistics separately.

## SWODA Activities For The Year July 2018 – July 2019

### The Gruesome Details

#### **The Lance**

The Lance student newspaper (1959 onwards) is still a work in progress. As of the end of June 2019, about 50 years of the print Lance are now online. It has been cobbled together from a number of different sources and formats. It has been worked on by quite a few staff over the years. Currently, Greg Guy, Dino Spagnuolo, Angela Sullivan, and I are the main contributors.

Recently, the bound volumes and unique individual issues housed at the Lance Office were officially transferred to the Archives. Rick Santarossa, the current editor, has also provided us with pdfs and xml files for 2017-2019. There were no print editions for these years. The Lance was not published in any format during the school year 2016-2017. The original pdf versions from about 2006 to 2016 were never recovered. These, along with copies of many of the print issues, disappeared with the previous editor. They are, however, still on the website: <https://issuu.com/uwindsorlance>, but cannot be downloaded. Unfortunately, the print volumes in our own Archives are incomplete for the last couple of years. I have contacted a number of people to try to fill in the gaps both in the last years and the early years of the Lance, but so far I have not been successful.

This project should be finished by the end of Summer 2019.

#### **Other University of Windsor Student Newspapers/Publications**

As Sue Fader has been working her way through the Assumption College archives, we have been able to add new holdings to previous online newspaper titles, e.g. the Purple and White and also to add brand new titles: Assumption Review 1933-1934, the Assumption Quarterly Review 1941-1942, and the Assumption High School Reporter 1944-1950. They can be found on Scholarship@UWindsor under [SWODA: University of Windsor Publications](#)

## **Bartlet Diaries**

This collection is comprised of Alexander Bartlet's diaries and letters from 1864-1868 and his brother James' journal of 1893. These were donated to the Archives several decades ago by the Bartlet family. There was some sort of "understanding" with the previous archivist, Brian Owens, that they would be digitized and made available online. A graduate student did actually start this project but it was never completed. Some of the diaries were scanned and saved to cd-roms but they can now no longer be read. The diaries were also microfilmed, but the quality is poor. In the end, David Hutchinson and other members of the Ontario Genealogical Society rescanned the collection and it is now available on Scholarship@UWindsor and the Internet Archive. Members of the Bartlet Family are currently transcribing the volumes. At the moment, only the transcription for James Bartlet's journal of 1893 is online.

## **Odsiecz / Fighting Poland**

This is a 2 volume newspaper published by the Polish Free Army in Windsor in 1941-1942. Our copy in the Archives has been quite heavily used and is rapidly deteriorating. We have digitized it and it is now available on Scholarship@UWindsor.

## **Windsor City Directories**

This is the most heavily used SWODA collection on Scholarship@UWindsor. A few new volumes were added this past year. There are now 80 years of the Windsor city directories online both at Scholarship@UWindsor and the Internet Archive. They cover the years 1888-1968. There are still a few gaps to fill and some years really need to be redone. Time and circumstances permitting, we will continue to work with the Windsor Public Library and Windsor Museum to improve this collection.

## **Mike Skreptak Ephemera And Postcard Collection**

We have finished digitizing the entire collection. There are approximately 2,800 items: 2,700 postcards and 100 other items. Of these, 1,250 can be found on [SWODA Images](#) with full records and metadata. The final status of the collection is still to be determined. The collection is currently downstairs in the Archives, on long term loan. Mike has recently indicated that he wants to permanently donate the collection to us but would like a tax receipt. I am currently trying to work with the Library Administration and Alumni Affairs and Donor Communications to make this happen.

## **Windsor Police Department Negatives**

We have finished digitizing the entire collection of about 4,000 negatives. Mike Skreptak has formally transferred the collection to our Archives. A selection of the pre-1962 negatives can be found on SWODA images with full records and metadata. This selection is roughly 725 photographs.

## **St. John's Anglican Church, Sandwich, Ontario. Registers**

The registers of births, christenings, confirmations, marriages, and burials cover the years 1802-1915. They are regularly used and becoming very fragile. To reduce the physical deterioration and to improve access, we have begun digitizing them. David Hutchinson and other members of the OGS are doing most of the work. Books 1-2, covering 1802-1827, have been completed, although they are not yet online. There are also a number of partial transcriptions which we will digitize.

## **Essex County Newspapers**

There has not been too much progress in getting any more newspapers up online, although work continues behind the scenes. Please talk to Art Rhyno for details. Of recent interest, we have taken possession of the (likely) last print copies of the Comber Herald. They were donated by the Comber Museum and have now been inventoried and re-housed, and are down in Archives. The years 1892-1917 are already available online at SWODA Newspapers and we are planning to add 1918-1967. However, because of the poor condition of the print, Art has digitized these years from the microfilm at the Essex County Public Library.

## **Other Activities**

In August 2018, we visited the Windsor Star Offices to assess their archives. We have begun looking at Library spaces that might eventually accommodate this collection. One possible option would be the Media Centre where the map collection is currently located. This collection would need to be weeded in order to free up enough space. To start this process, I did an evaluation of the print USGS topographic maps and recommended that they could be withdrawn. This Spring, under the supervision of Dave Johnston and Shuzhen Zhao, this has been taking place.

The SWODA Images database was switched from Drupal 6 to Drupal 7 in Autumn 2018. The new version has an updated look and some enhanced functionality. Many thanks to Edyta Saklak.

Over the Summer 2018, we were partners on a Student Summer Program grant with the Ontario Genealogical Society. We hired a University of Windsor history graduate student, Shaymaa Zantout, who spent a couple of months downstairs in the Digital Archiving Centre. She worked on several projects including the digitization of high school yearbooks and the processing of the Comber Herald.

During the Summer 2018, David Hutchinson, a business professor and OGS executive member, donated \$1,500 from one of his grants to help offset the maintenance costs of the scanning equipment in the Digital Archiving Centre.

The Archives and SWODA participated in Windsor's Doors Open event on Saturday, September 22<sup>nd</sup>. It was a great success with over 90 visitors.

In January 2019, we hosted the Southwestern Ontario Heritage Council (SWOHC) meeting at the Library. I did a presentation entitled: SWODA: Capturing A Region Through Digital Archiving. We continue to attend the SWOHC meetings, as well as those of similar organizations.

In January 2019, I participated in a University of Windsor WEDigHistory event in Sandwich, with the aim of promoting SWODA.

In Spring/Summer 2019, Kaitlin Haggert, a University of Windsor history student, digitized the newsletter and manuals of the Ontario Recreational Canoeing and Kayaking Association (ORCKA). This was part of a government grant received by ORCKA. We provided our expertise and some training. The publications will be freely available on their website and on the Internet Archive. We will also retain copies.



## Potential Upcoming Projects

Windsor Star Collection

Robinet Diaries

Assumption College/University of Windsor Calendars: perhaps just the first few decades. At this time, they were an interesting combination of promotional brochures, yearbooks, and course offerings.

High School Yearbooks: the OGS has scanned over 500 local yearbooks. Many will not go online because of copyright and privacy issues. We originally thought that they would be of minimal interest to University researchers. However, they are being currently used by the history department. For this reason, we are considering putting up some of the older ones, perhaps pre-1945, on Scholarship@UWindsor. There is also a collection of Assumption College high school yearbooks that might be useful.

Essex County Newspapers: I am considering putting a few of the lesser known historical newspapers on Scholarship@UWindsor. These are papers for which we only have a small number of issues. Eventually, they might also make it into Art Rhyno's INK Newspaper Database.

With the help of Devon Mordell, we are looking at creating an Omeka website to bring all the Assumption College/University of Windsor student journalism together.

Again, with Devon and Edyta's assistance, we will try to use Archivematica and Permafrost to more securely archive the SWODA Images database.