

# Southwestern Ontario Digital Archive (SWODA) Annual Report

For the period of July 1<sup>st</sup>, 2022 – June 30<sup>th</sup>, 2023



Emancipation Celebration Parade on Ouellette Avenue, Windsor, 1952;  
photograph donated by E. Andrea Moore

## Southwestern Ontario Digital Archive

The home page for SWODA is: <http://swoda.uwindsor.ca>

It brings together access to SWODA Publications and SWODA Images, as well as background and supplemental materials.

### SWODA Publications

The main access point is: <http://swoda.uwindsor.ca/swoda-publications>

However, the collections can also be searched directly on: <https://scholar.uwindsor.ca/swoda>

All publications can be downloaded, or viewed online with the Bepress Viewer, from either the main SWODA website (<http://swoda.uwindsor.ca/swoda-publications>) or from Scholarship@UWindsor (<https://scholar.uwindsor.ca/swoda>).

All publications can also be viewed online or downloaded from the Internet Archive (<https://archive.org>).

### Statistical Overview

Because of the difficulties in obtaining annual statistics from the Internet Archive, the usage statistics presented are cumulative (to June 30<sup>th</sup>, 2023) for both platforms.

All 16 collections saw at least moderate increases in usage during 2022-2023. The Essex County (Ontario) High School Yearbooks, the City of Windsor Directories, and the Windsor and Region Publications collections were particularly well used.

#### City of Windsor Directories

Coverage from 1888-1974, 1976; 83 volumes

Scholarship@UWindsor: 51,472 downloads and 48,922 additional page hits

Internet Archive: 128,751 views/downloads

### Essex County (Ontario) High School Yearbooks

A selection (231) of pre-1972 yearbooks

Scholarship@UWindsor: 158,597 downloads and 61,598 additional page hits

Internet Archive: 21,978 views/downloads

### Essex County (Ontario) Newspapers

A selection (28) to complement the [Our Ontario Community Newspapers](#) database

Note that Le Progres and Odsiecz are also listed/cross-referenced here, but not counted in the statistics.

Scholarship@UWindsor: 3,039 downloads and 2,102 additional page hits

Internet Archive: 1,922 views/downloads

### Le Progres (Windsor)

A French language newspaper published in Windsor from 1881-1919? Online holdings: 1881-1901; 13 volumes, but many issues are missing

Scholarship@UWindsor: 96 downloads and 74 additional page hits

Internet Archive: 189 views/downloads

### SWODA: University of Windsor Publications

A selection of 21 publications relating to Assumption College and the University of Windsor

Scholarship@UWindsor: 2,746 downloads and 1,470 additional page hits

Internet Archive: 2,844 views/downloads

### SWODA: Windsor and Region Publications

A selection of 108 publications about Windsor and the surrounding region

Scholarship@UWindsor: 49,012 downloads and 20,309 additional page hits

Internet Archive: 42,830 views/downloads

### The Ambassador Yearbook

Covers the years 1939-1977; 35 volumes

Scholarship@UWindsor: 9,096 downloads and 6,094 additional page hits  
Internet Archive: 3,879 views/downloads

### The Assumption College Calendar

Covers the years 1901-1956; 42 volumes

Scholarship@UWindsor: 2,794 download and 299 additional page hits  
Internet Archive: 2,148 views/downloads

### The Assumption College Purple and White

Covers the years 1924-1959; 26 volumes

Scholarship@UWindsor: 4,589 downloads and 1,197 additional page views  
Internet Archive: 6,134 views/downloads

### The Assumption College Review

Covers the years 1908-1910; 23 volumes

Scholarship@UWindsor: 890 downloads and 78 additional page views  
Internet Archive: 746 views/downloads

### The Assumption High School Yearbook

Covers the years 1940-1971; 21 volumes

Scholarship@UWindsor: 7,861 downloads and 4,380 additional page views  
Internet Archive: 1,941 views/downloads

### The Lance

Covers the years 1959-2019; 68 volumes

Scholarship@UWindsor: 4,725 downloads and 2,951 additional page hits  
Internet Archive: 16,777 views/downloads

### The Weekly Assumption Collegian

Covers the years 1921-1922; 24 volumes

Scholarship@UWindsor: 976 downloads and 147 additional page views  
Internet Archive: 832 views/downloads

### University of Windsor Calendars

Cover the years from 1956 to the present. They include the undergraduate calendars: 1986 onwards, the graduate calendars: 1959 onwards, the general calendars: 1956-1986, and other calendars (1959-1977) put out by individual faculties and the Division of Extension (Continuing Education); 122 volumes

Scholarship@UWindsor: 428 downloads and 229 additional page views  
Internet Archive: 503 views/downloads

### University of Windsor Faculty of Engineering Yearbooks

A selection of yearbooks: 1973-1981, 1990/1991, 1992/1993-1996/1997, 1998-1999, 2001; 18 volumes

Scholarship@UWindsor: 37 downloads and 45 additional page views  
Internet Archive: 37 views/downloads

### Windsor Emancipation Celebration Programs

Online coverage for 1937-1941, 1944-1950, 1952-1955, 1957-1959, 1961-1963, 1965-1967; 25 volumes

Scholarship@UWindsor: 556 downloads and 303 additional page views  
Internet Archive: 113 views/downloads

## **SWODA Images**

<http://swoda.uwindsor.ca/swoda-images>

As of June 30<sup>th</sup>, 2023, the database contains 3,572 historical photographs, postcards, and ephemera of southwestern Ontario – primarily of Windsor and Essex County. For the period of July 1<sup>st</sup>, 2022 – June 30<sup>th</sup>, 2023, SWODA Images had 94,356 users and 137,860 page views. This marks a significant increase (>40%) in the number of users for 2022-2023 over the previous year. However, there was an overall decrease in page views. SWODA Images was one of the databases affected by the University cyberattack. The cumulative number of page views since July 1<sup>st</sup>, 2011 is 1,943,720.

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 384 followers.

## **SWODA Annual Report 2022-2023 Descriptive Notes**

### **General**

The cyberattack on the University began on June 20<sup>th</sup>, 2022 and continued to affect operations and services for most of the Summer. This delayed many SWODA activities and caused reductions in the usage of many of the SWODA databases. During this time, and working around the challenges, the new Ristech Book2net III scanner was installed downstairs in Leddy West, room WG-02. Our old Book2net II scanner was placed in Acquisitions/Bibliographic Services.

Changes to the Canadian copyright act, in particular the increase of the general protection term from 50 to 70 years, has meant that we can no longer add new volumes to certain collections.

Many thanks to all the staff who contributed to SWODA: Greg Guy, Jeri Baldwin, Selma Eren Conklin, Angela Sullivan, Edyta Saklak, Sue Fader, Annie Kavanagh, Dino Spagnuolo, David Hutchinson, Malcolm Campbell, Bunmi Akinyede, and others.

## Activities Completed and Underway

Three new collections were added to **SWODA Publications** this year:

1. The University of Windsor Calendars is the largest at 122 volumes. It is comprised of the sub-collections: undergraduate calendars, graduate calendars, general calendars and other calendars. All of the born print volumes are now online. We are working with the Registrar's Office, the Senate, and IT Services, to get all of the born digital volumes converted to pdf format and posted online. This should be completed in the 2023-2024 academic year.
2. The Emancipation Celebration Programs form part of the E. Andrea Moore Collection which was donated to the University Archives and Special Collections. There are 25 volumes which span the years from 1937 to 1967. This collection documents the efforts of the British-American Association of Coloured Brothers, and especially Walter L. Perry who was known as "Mr. Emancipation", to organize multi-day, international festivities in Jackson Park, Windsor.
3. The University of Windsor Faculty of Engineering Yearbooks were digitized and put online at the request of the Faculty of Engineering. There are 18 volumes which cover 1973-2001.

We have also added 19 volumes to the Essex County (Ontario) High School Yearbooks collection. Because of the copyright changes, we will not be adding years after 1971; however, we will continue to fill in gaps, as we can. There is coverage for 22 different schools and the yearbooks date from the 1920s to 1971.

Four new volumes, 1972, 1973, 1974, and 1976, were added to the City of Windsor Directories collection. We were able to conclude a copyright agreement with the Ontario Genealogical Society and the final Vernon Publishing copyright holders. This will allow us to move ahead with digitizing all volumes of this title, which ceased in 2014. Because of the size of the volumes and the work involved, it may take a number of years before they are all online.

A small number of items were added to the SWODA Images database. These were mainly photographs from the E. Andrea Moore Collection.

We are currently working on 2 related collections: the Assumption College Alumni Chatter and the Assumption University/University of Windsor Alumni Times. This is in part to support the work of the Alumni Association and the University's 60th anniversary celebrations.

On February 14th, the CBC published an article and aired an interview with me on the Omeka exhibit: Windsor: Ontario's Gretna Green: <https://cdigs.uwindsor.ca/omeka-s/s/Windsor-ontario-gretna-green/page/home> This exhibit examines the incredible marriage phenomenon in this region from about 1885-1913. Windsor and Sandwich became a haven for couples from the United States looking for quick and discrete weddings.

On June 23rd, International Women in Engineering Day, there were a number of articles published on the Library's Twitter and Facebook accounts based on my exhibit about Dr. Queenie Halford Shirley: A Female Pioneer in Electrical Engineering: <https://cdigs.uwindsor.ca/omeka-s/s/QueenieHalfordShirley/page/QueenieHalfordShirley>

Both of these Omeka exhibits were moved onto a secure server (SSL certification) during 2022/2023.

I am currently working on expanding and updating "A brief history of Libraries at Assumption College and the University of Windsor". It will also eventually become an online Omeka exhibit.

Finally, materials scanned and saved on the s: network drive of the in-house Leddy server are now being regularly backed up to the OCUL Ontario Library Research Cloud.

Submitted: Katharine Ball, July 12, 2023