

# Southwestern Ontario Digital Archive (SWODA) Annual Report

For the period of July 1<sup>st</sup>, 2023 – June 30<sup>th</sup>, 2024



**LE REMPART**

Le Rempart (Windsor, Ontario): the archives of an important regional French-language newspaper; now available on SWODA Publications at:

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

## Southwestern Ontario Digital Archive

The home page for SWODA is: <https://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: <https://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 (<https://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>). With the potential demise of Scholarship@UWindsor and the underlying BePress software, we are bringing together individual records in the Internet Archive and forming collections, where possible. Internet Archive collections must have at least 50 items. To-date, we have 3 Internet Archive collections: Le Rempart (Windsor, Ontario), The Lance: University of Windsor Student Newspaper, and Windsor (Ontario) City Directories.

The original .tiff and pdf files are stored on the SWODA s: drive, on a server in Information Technology Services. They are also mirrored on the Ontario Library Research Cloud. Finally, there is a backup on the SWODA external hard drives.

### 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>, 2024) for both platforms.

All 21 collections saw moderate increases in usage during 2023-2024. The Essex County (Ontario) High School Yearbooks, the City of Windsor Directories, the Windsor and Region Publications, the University of Windsor Calendars and the Lance collections were particularly well used.

## **New Collections**

5 new collections were added to SWODA Publications in 2023-2024:

### Alumni Times (Assumption University/University of Windsor)

The Alumni Times was a quarterly (later 3x/year) newsletter published by the Alumni Association of Assumption University, later the University of Windsor. It continued the Assumption College Alumni Chatter and appeared for over 20 years, from April 1956 until Winter 1977? There are 21 volumes in this collection. This collection was digitized in support of the Alumni Association and its work to celebrate the University's 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebrations.

Scholarship@UWindsor: 105 downloads and 61 additional page hits  
Internet Archive: 432 views/downloads

### Assumption College Alumni Chatter

The Alumni Chatter was a monthly newsletter published by the Alumni Association of Assumption College. It appeared for over 15 years, from November 1940 until December 1955. There are 16 volumes in this collection. This collection was digitized in support of the Alumni Association and its work to celebrate the University's 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebrations.

Scholarship@UWindsor: 199 downloads and 27 metadata hits  
Internet Archive: 242 views/downloads

### Le Rempart (Windsor, Ontario)

Le Rempart is an important French language newspaper of Windsor and the surrounding region. For the French-speaking minority, it acts as a showcase for the community and demonstrates its ongoing vitality. The newspaper was founded in 1966 by the Saint-Jean-Baptiste Society of Western Ontario and is currently published by Denis Poirier and Altomédia. This collection will cover the newspaper archive from 1966 to the early 2000s, when completed. To-date, the collection comprises 408 records. We are currently working in the early 1990s. This title is being digitized at the request of the owner, as well as several faculty members and outside researchers.

As well as being a collection on SWODA Publications, Le Rempart (Windsor, Ontario) also has collection status on the Internet Archive:

<https://archive.org/details/lerempartwindsorontario?sort=-date>

Scholarship@UWindsor: 1,900 downloads and 473 metadata hits

Internet Archive: 2,329 views/downloads

### The Essex Scottish Regiment War Diaries

The War Diaries document the actions and experiences of the Essex Scottish Regiment (Windsor) during World War II. There are 6 volumes in the collection. The war diaries were digitized primarily because of the poor, and deteriorating, condition of the volumes.

Scholarship@UWindsor: 250 downloads and 280 metadata hits

Internet Archive: 136 views/downloads

### Windsor Teachers College Yearbook

The Windsor Teachers' College was founded in 1962 and located in South Windsor. With the publication and governmental acceptance of the MacLeod Report, teacher education was moved to the universities. The Windsor Teachers' College became the Faculty of Education, University of Windsor, on July 1, 1970. A yearbook was published every year from 1963-1970. It was called the Magister. There are 8 volumes in the collection.

Scholarship@UWindsor: 125 downloads and 121 metadata hits

Internet Archive: 446 views/downloads

## **Existing Collections**

### **City of Windsor Directories**

Coverage from 1888-1988; 96 volumes

With copyright permission, 13 new volumes were added in 2023-2024. Unfortunately, there is no one currently scanning later years, but we do hope to eventually get the entire run, up to 2013, online. As well as being a collection on SWODA Publications, Windsor (Ontario) City Directories now also has collection status on the Internet Archive:

<https://archive.org/details/WindsorOntarioCityDirectories?sort=-date>

Scholarship@UWindsor: 68,433 downloads and 59,626 additional page hits

Internet Archive: 155,720 views/downloads

### **Essex County (Ontario) High School Yearbooks**

A selection (235) of pre-1972 yearbooks. Because of copyright changes, we will not be adding years after 1971; however, we will continue to fill in gaps, as we can. In 2023-2024, 4 new yearbooks were made available. There is coverage for 22 different schools and the yearbooks date from the 1920s to 1971.

Scholarship@UWindsor: 213,578 downloads and 79,074 additional page hits

Internet Archive: 31,990 views/downloads

### **Essex County (Ontario) Newspapers**

A selection (28) of newspapers to complement the titles in Our Ontario Community Newspapers database, which, due to funding issues, is sadly not available online at the moment. Note that Le Progres and Odsiecz are also listed/cross-referenced here, but not counted in the statistics.

Scholarship@UWindsor: 4,321 downloads and 2,652 additional page hits

Internet Archive: 2,687 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: 216 downloads and 108 additional page hits

Internet Archive: 456 views/downloads

### SWODA: University of Windsor Publications

A selection of 26 publications relating to Assumption College and the University of Windsor. 5 of these publications were added in 2023-2024.

Scholarship@UWindsor: 3,771 downloads and 1,705 additional page hits

Internet Archive: 3,288 views/downloads

### SWODA: Windsor and Region Publications

A selection of 112 publications about Windsor and the surrounding region.

Scholarship@UWindsor: 61,369 downloads and 23,610 additional page hits

Internet Archive: 47,099 views/downloads

### The Ambassador Yearbook

Covers the years 1939-1977; 35 volumes

Scholarship@UWindsor: 10,855 downloads and 7,022 additional page hits

Internet Archive: 5,165 views/downloads

### The Assumption College Calendar

Covers the years 1901-1956; 42 volumes

Scholarship@UWindsor: 4,126 download and 329 additional page hits

Internet Archive: 2,790 views/downloads

### The Assumption College Purple and White

Covers the years 1924-1959; 26 volumes with content

Scholarship@UWindsor: 5,495 downloads and 1,255 additional page views

Internet Archive: 6,797 views/downloads

### The Assumption College Review

Covers the years 1908-1910; 23 volumes

Scholarship@UWindsor: 1,355 downloads and 88 additional page views

Internet Archive: 1,086 views/downloads

### The Assumption High School Yearbook

Covers the years 1940-1971; 21 volumes

Scholarship@UWindsor: 10,565 downloads and 5,642 additional page views

Internet Archive: 2,888 views/downloads

### The Lance

Covers the years 1959-2019; 68 volumes with content; as well as being a collection on SWODA Publications, The Lance: University of Windsor Student Newspaper now also has collection status on the Internet Archive:

<https://archive.org/details/lanceuniversityofwindsorstudentnewspaper?sort=-date>

Scholarship@UWindsor: 6,857 downloads and 3,812 additional page hits

Internet Archive: 22,952 views/downloads

### The Weekly Assumption Collegian

Covers the years 1921-1922; 24 volumes

Scholarship@UWindsor: 1,329 downloads and 151 additional page views  
Internet Archive: 1,227 views/downloads

### University of Windsor Calendars

229 volumes; 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). We worked with the Registrar's Office, the Senate, and IT Services to convert the born digital volumes from Lotus Notes to pdf format. As a result, 107 new volumes were uploaded in 2023-2024.

Scholarship@UWindsor: 2,364 downloads and 703 additional page views  
Internet Archive: 3,079 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: 362 downloads and 175 additional page views  
Internet Archive: 560 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: 1,434 downloads and 539 additional page views  
Internet Archive: 572 views/downloads



## **SWODA Images**

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

As of June 30<sup>th</sup>, 2024, the database contains 3,589 historical photographs, postcards, and ephemera of southwestern Ontario – primarily of Windsor and Essex County. For a variety of technical reasons, there are no reliable usage statistics for SWODA Images this year. However, the cumulative number of page views since July 1<sup>st</sup>, 2011 is well over 2 million.

During Summer 2023, Twitter was rebranded as X, and Tweetdeck ceased to exist, making it difficult to schedule regular tweets. As a result, there are now only occasional postings to the account: SWODA@SWODAUWindsor.

The original .tiff and jpg files are stored on the SWODA s: drive, on a server in IT Services. They are also mirrored on the Ontario Library Research Cloud. Finally, there is a backup on the SWODA external hard drives. The SWODA Images records (images connected with relevant metadata) were permafrosted during the Summer of 2019. Only a few hundred new images have been added since then. During 2023-2024, the database and web pages were moved to a secure server (SSL certification) in IT Services. Because of the uncertainty surrounding the Drupal platform, we have begun to copy SWODA Images over to the Internet Archive. Up to now, about a third of the postcards have been copied. They are part of the University of Windsor collection and can be identified by the Topic: Southwestern Ontario Digital Archive Postcards

## **SWODA Annual Report 2023-2024 Additional Activities and Notes**

We are continuing to work on the French-language newspaper, Le Rempart. We have already completed the years 1966-1992. We will digitize the volumes up to about 2003. There are also some earlier bulletins of the same name that we intend to include in the collection. We should likely be finished by the end of October.

We are also working on the LaSalle News, a local newspaper that was published from 1947-1963. Only scattered issues remain and they are in very poor condition. The newspaper is currently on loan to our Archives and Special Collections.

During 2023-2024, a number of articles about SWODA collections have appeared in both the Leddy Library blog and the University of Windsor Daily News. For example: [Historic francophone newspaper to be archived and digitized at Leddy Library](#)

I am also still working on expanding and updating “A brief history of the Libraries at Assumption College and the University of Windsor”. It may eventually become an online Omeka exhibit.

Last, but definitely not least, many thanks to all the staff who contributed to SWODA in the past year: Greg Guy, Sue Fader, Jeri Baldwin, Angela Sullivan, Edyta Saklak, Dino Spagnuolo, Annie Kavanagh, Mary Popovich, Myrna Scobarria-Chan, Scott Wisdom, Dalya Emin, Joseph Gago, Angel Veliz Castro, and others.

Submitted by Katharine Ball, July 8<sup>th</sup>, 2024