

Southwestern Ontario Digital Archive (SWODA) Annual Report

For the period of July 1st, 2020 – June 30th, 2021



Scudder Dock, Pelee Island in Winter 1944; Postcard donated by Cecilia Hladky

Southwestern Ontario Digital Archive

The new 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 now: <http://swoda.uwindsor.ca/swoda-publications>

However, the collections can still 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 now cumulative for both platforms.

City of Windsor Directories

Coverage from 1888-1969; 77 volumes

Scholarship@UWindsor: 31,007 downloads and 31,802 additional page hits

Internet Archive: 86,652 views/downloads

Essex County (Ontario) High School Yearbooks

A selection (193) of pre-1971 yearbooks

Scholarship@UWindsor: 44,844 downloads and 22,098 additional page hits
Internet Archive: 5,629 views/downloads

Essex County (Ontario) Newspapers

A selection (20) to complement the [Our Ontario Community Newspapers](#) database

Scholarship@UWindsor: 1,370 downloads and 872 additional page hits
Internet Archive: 617 views/downloads

SWODA: University of Windsor Publications

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

Scholarship@UWindsor: 1,473 downloads and 951 additional page hits
Internet Archive: 1,812 views/downloads

SWODA: Windsor and Region Publications

A selection of 110 publications concerning Windsor and the surrounding region

Scholarship@UWindsor: 28,818 downloads and 12,685 additional page hits
Internet Archive: 30,687 views/downloads

The Ambassador Yearbook

Covers the years 1939-1977; 35 volumes

Scholarship@UWindsor: 5,912 downloads and 3842 additional page hits
Internet Archive: 2,237 views/downloads

The Assumption College Calendar

Covers the years 1902-1956; 41 volumes

Scholarship@UWindsor: 1,043 download and 102 additional page hits
Internet Archive: 1,039 views/downloads

The Assumption College Purple and White

Covers the years 1924-1959; 36 volumes

Scholarship@UWindsor: 3,201 downloads and 979 additional page views
Internet Archive: 4,632 views/downloads

The Assumption College Review

Covers the years 1908-1910; 23 volumes

Scholarship@UWindsor: 499 downloads and 38 additional page views
Internet Archive: 371 views/downloads

The Assumption High School Yearbook

Covers the years 1940-1970; 20 volumes

Scholarship@UWindsor: 3,004 downloads and 1,877 additional page views
Internet Archive: 669 views/downloads

The Lance

Covers the years 1959-2019; 70 volumes

Scholarship@UWindsor: 3,321 downloads and 1,785 additional page hits
Internet Archive: 8,536 views/downloads

The Weekly Assumption Collegian

Covers the years 1921-1922; 24 volumes

Scholarship@UWindsor: 695 downloads and 128 additional page views
Internet Archive: 416 views/downloads

SWODA Images

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

As of June 30th, 2020, the database contains 3,483 historical photographs, postcards, and ephemera of southwestern Ontario – primarily of Windsor and Essex County. For the period of July 1st, 2020 – June 30th, 2021, SWODA Images had 82,095 users and 289,757 page views. The cumulative number of page views since July 1st, 2011 is 1,613,499.

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 263 followers and made 68,200 impressions (no. of times users saw the tweets on Twitter) between July 2020 and June 2021.

SWODA Annual Report 2020-2021 Descriptive Notes

New Web Site

As mentioned above, we designed and implemented a new “umbrella” home page for SWODA. This home page brings together access to SWODA Publications and SWODA Images, as well as background and supplemental materials. The new home page for SWODA is:

<http://swoda.uwindsor.ca>

Collections Work Underway

The COVID-19 pandemic continues to mean that many SWODA activities are on hold, or at least delayed.

We have added a small number of items to many online collections. The following are a few examples:

Essex County (Ontario) High School Yearbooks: we have added 120 volumes this past year for a total of 193 in the collection. There is coverage for 22 different schools and the yearbooks date from the 1920s to 1970.

Assumption College High School Yearbook: 5 volumes have been added in 2020-2021 for a total of 20 volumes. The yearbooks date from 1940-1970.

Essex County (Ontario) Newspapers: this past year, we have added coverage for 6 new Essex County newspapers. We now have 20 newspaper titles in this collection.

The following collections have been partially digitized and processed, but are not yet online:

St. John's Church (Sandwich, Ontario). Registers:

The registers of births, christenings, marriages, and burials cover the years 1802-1915. They are regularly used and are 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 were doing most of the work. To-date, books 1-19 (1802-1900) have been completed.

University of Windsor Calendars:

These include print undergraduate, graduate, general, and other calendars from 1956-2008. For the most part, we are working backwards in time. Only about 10% of the work has been completed so far.

Collections Usage

All collections saw healthy increases in usage during 2020-2021. In particular, the City of Windsor Directories, the Essex County (Ontario) High School Yearbooks, and the SWODA: Windsor and Region Publications were very popular.

Other Activities

An Omeka web presentation site called Windsor: Ontario's Gretna Green is being compiled. It will cover marriages in this region around the turn of the twentieth century.

Submitted: Katharine Ball July 9th, 2021