

Digitizing Archives and Analyzing Trends in the Media

Includes:

Final Report

By

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ABSTRACT

Arthur Newspaper is Peterborough's and Trent University's independent press. Published 25 times a year, it provides employment to and media coverage for a key demographic in the city of Peterborough. The newspaper is nearly as old as Trent itself, and its history is inextricably tied to that of the university. As the older papers are approaching a half century in age, digitization technology is an increasingly attractive method of preservation. The Arthur Virtual Archive, the focus of this project, will serve as a useful tool for staff and a valuable historical record for the Peterborough and Trent communities. As a student organization with high turnover, the Archive will enhance the institutional memory of Arthur Newspaper. It will also contribute to Trent and Peterborough's researchable histories by making past issues more accessible to the student population and general public.

Keywords: Trent, Peterborough, Arthur, Newspaper, Virtual, Archive, Sadleir House, media, digital, digitise, student

COURSEWORK COMPLETED

Academic Essay 1

Sifting Through the Dump: The attribution of use-value in archiving

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CUST 3087

The aim of this paper is to consider the nature of the archive, primarily via the notion of value as it relates to particular objects and the archive itself. In particular I will consider the archive in the digital age and whether automating the process has any significant implications for the product.

Imagining the entirety of the contents of the world as nothing but a great dump may seem odd at first, but in *The Man Who Never Threw Anything Away*, Ilya Kabakov invites us to do just that. Perhaps an easier way of grasping the idea is to imagine the world without any people. Earlier in the text, Kabakov ruminates on the divide between trash & treasure:

“Our home literally stands under a paper rain: magazines, letters, addresses, receipts, notes...and so forth. These streams...we periodically sort and arrange into groups, and for every person these groups are different...every person has their own principle. The rest, of course, is thrown out on the rubbish heap. It is precisely this division of important papers from unimportant that is particularly difficult and tedious, but everyone knows it is necessary” (34).

I believe that herein is alluded to an element critical to the concept of value: the existence of a party which actively confers upon a thing the title “valuable”. To say that this is critical is an understatement; I argue that it is actually intrinsic. Things deemed valuable usually have a use-function or, at the very least, are desired in and of themselves, a picture from which the person cannot be taken out. Once again, the human-less world example is illuminating. Excluding that which we need for the maintenance of life (as it may be needed by non-humans), all of what we consider valuable seems to lose its status. Even money, the acquisition of which countless actions are guided to, would not retain its value without anyone to use it. Its utility (and thus its value) stems from its ability to help us get what is important to us. Of course, we would do well to keep in mind Kabakov’s point that each of us decides for ourselves what the criteria for importance are.

The value of an object, then, is a relational quality which is essentially synonymous with its being important to someone. Walter Benjamin touched on related themes in his essay *Unpacking my Library*, in which he says at the outset that “...what I am really concerned with is giving you some insight into the relationship of a book collector to his possessions, into collecting rather than a collection...For what else is this collection but a disorder to which habit

has accommodated itself to such an extent that it can appear as order?” (59-60) Benjamin could be read here as saying that the process of creating a collection, and not only its contents, is of great importance. I suggest that a similar perspective ought to be taken when considering the archive, for if there was no effort to gather its contents, how could one differentiate it from a pile of junk? Benjamin also writes that “a collector’s attitude toward his possessions stems from an owner’s feeling of responsibility toward his property” (66), which I believe is also applicable to an archivist, particularly in the case of a newspaper. In a sense, the community is the heir of the paper (especially a small-scale publication), and a member of that community who wished to preserve it for others to access would be a direct mirror of someone who wished to preserve an inherited personal item for themselves. Finally, whether the aim is personal or public, “The most profound enchantment for the collector is the locking of individual items within a magic circle in which they are fixed” (60).

The speaker in Benjamin’s essay makes a point of differentiating the essence of a collection from an archive. “Even though public collections may be less objectionable socially and more useful academically, the objects get their due only in the latter” (67), he states near the end of the work. Throughout the text he elaborates on both the apparent importance of a book collector having read as few of their books as possible as well as the significance of the particular copy that is happened upon. Both of these value criteria stands in contrast to the use-value of items in an archive. “For (the collector), not only books but also copies of books have their fates. And in this sense, the most important fate of a copy is its encounter with him, with his own collection.” (61) Part and parcel of the value of the items in a collection are their stories, what happened to them between when they were created and when they found their way into their collector’s hands. Again, this is not so for an archive’s contents, the primary function of which is the transmission of information. It would likely be untrue to say that there is no archive which emphasizes the physical histories of its material, but with the advent of the information age, there will likely be few in the future.

Another essay of Benjamin’s, *The Work of Art in the Age of Mechanical Reproduction*, contains insights into the advent of digital archiving. He argues that a reproduction of a work (of art) can never be as substantial as its source material as it is inherently incomplete. What it is missing is precisely the sum total of all that has happened to it up to the point of its reproduction, which in turn affects its authenticity. “The authenticity of a thing is the essence of all that is transmissible from its beginning, ranging from its substantive duration to its testimony to the history which it has experienced.” (II) He follows in the same section by stating a consequence of the preceding: “the technique of reproduction detaches the reproduced object from the domain of tradition. By making many reproductions it substitutes a plurality of copies for a unique existence.” The distinction between particular forms of art and all else that is capable of being reproduced is no small one, however. As Benjamin writes in section IV, “[f]rom a photographic negative, for example, one can make any number of prints; to ask for the ‘authentic’ print makes no sense. But the instant the criterion of authenticity ceases to be applicable to artistic

production, the total function of art is reversed.” I find newspapers to fall into nearly the same category in this matter, the only difference being that their aesthetic component is secondary to the informative. While a digital copy of a page of newsprint may be a step away from its heritage, I hold that it is no less authentic than the original.

We are in a transitory age. Traditional, physical media are constantly being supplemented by digital versions. New media which rely on shared digital technology have come into existence, notably social network websites. Facebook allows users to post words, pictures, sounds and video on the internet, all neatly grouped into a series of pages that exist as a compendium of themselves. The recent addition of the “timeline” feature goes a step further in charting all public activities on a loose graph that runs backward from the present to the time they joined the site (or were born, if that information was entered). Does this bizarre phenomenon constitute an archive? Considering what has been said so far, it doesn’t seem so. Paltry privacy settings aside, the contents of a Facebook account are widely viewable, but I could just as easily keep a photo journal in a marked public location, or publish one for that matter. Neither of those would qualify as an archive, as no one has taken steps to explicitly preserve their existence. Being a website, however, Facebook is a bit different. While users create the content for their pages, the site’s hardware and employees work to maintain that content, and certain content may continue to exist after a user has “deactivated” their account. This aspect is akin to archiving, but isn’t exclusive to Facebook, so it doesn’t affect the site overall.

The massive amounts of information stored by groups such as Facebook or PRISM differs from Kabakov’s heap of garbage in that it was intentionally gathered. Whether performed manually or automatically, the information was collected because it was deemed valuable. It differs from a mere collection because its value is a use-value and not a sentimental one.

Academic Essay 2

Derrida and Freud: Destruction as Archivization

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CUST3087

In his work *Archive Fever*, Jacques Derrida examines the archive as a concept from a Freudian perspective. In this paper, I will explicate some of the ideas which Derrida puts forth, in particular those relating to the nature and origin of, as well as the reasons for the archive. Afterward, I will offer my own thoughts on the points argued.

I find it most fitting to begin by quoting a passage from the end of the work:

“The *trouble de l’archive* stems from a *mal d’archive*. We are *en mal d’archive*: in need of archives...to be *en mal d’archive* can mean something else than to suffer from a sickness, from a trouble...It is to burn with a passion. It is never to rest, interminably, from searching for the archive right where it slips away. It is to run after the archive...right where something anarchives itself. It is to have a compulsive, repetitive, and nostalgic desire for the archive, an irrepressible desire to return to the origin, a homesickness, a nostalgia for the return to the most archaic place of absolute commencement. No desire...passion...drive...compulsion, indeed no repetition compulsion, no ‘*mal-de*’ can arise from a person who is not already, in one way or another, *en mal d’archive*.” (91)

From the impassioned description to the final phrase, it is evident that Derrida believes there to be a compulsion to archive within human beings. He does not believe, however, that this compulsion exists as some kind of first principle; as he remarks in allusion to this “*mal-de*” after the above passage, “the archive is made possible by the death, aggression, and destruction drive...this properly *in-finite* movement of radical destruction without which no archive desire or fever would happen.” (94) Thus with the employment of the Freudian death drive (sometimes called Thanatos drive) are we presented with the apparently paradoxical explanation of the archive’s genesis.

With clarification of the Freudian term, this strange-seeming account can be made clearer. The Thanatos drive, as explained by Derrida, encompasses all three of the less-than synonymous terms found in the previous quotation. From what I gather, despite the implication that the drive functions in a harsh overt way, it actually operates in a covert and subtle manner. Derrida writes that this nature is so extensive that the death drive will go unnoticed to the point that it destroys its own traces before they can even be seen (10). The drive “not only incites forgetfulness, amnesia, the annihilation of memory, as *mnēmē* or *anamnēsis*, but also commands the radical effacement, in truth the eradication, of that which can never be reduced to *mnēmē* or

to *anamnēsis*, that is, the archive...if this word or this figure can be stabilized so as to take on a signification, [it] will never be either memory or anamnesis as spontaneous, alive and internal experience. On the contrary: the archive takes place at the place of originary and structural breakdown of the said memory.” (11) These latter comments are primarily informed by Freud; after asserting that archiving requires one “a certain exteriority”, Derrida follows the above by saying “if there is no archive without consignment in an *external place* which assures the possibility of memorization...repetition...[or] reproduction, then we must also remember that repetition itself...indeed the repetition compulsion, remains, according to Freud, indissociable from the death drive. And thus from destruction...right on that which permits and conditions archivization, we will never find anything other than that which exposes to destruction” (11-12).

It seems, then, that on the Derridean view (via Freud) there is an intrinsically destructive element to the externalization of the internal, itself an intrinsic element of archivization. Perhaps it is the removal of the original mental product from its natural environment that is the exemplification of the death drive. Indeed, Derrida believes that “the moment *proper* to the archive, if there is such a thing...[is] not...live or spontaneous memory...but rather a certain hypomnesic and prosthetic experience of the technical substrate.” (25) As he is ruminating on this idea in tandem with the consideration of the functions of a personal computer, it is fairly evident that Derrida saw a link between archiving and technology. Seeing as he believed that “science, in its very movement, can only consist in a transformation of the techniques of archivization, of printing, of inscription, of reproduction, of formalization, of ciphering, and of translating marks” (15), it is doubtful that archiving through digitization could possibly be considered as out of the reach of the death drive. Discussing the significance of internal/external borders in relation to the prosthesis through Freud’s example of the Mystic Writing Pad, Derrida brings it back to the imperative nature of the mental divide for Thanatos:

“The model of this singular ‘*mystic pad*’ also incorporates what may seem, in the form of a destruction drive, to contradict even the conservation drive, what we would call here...*archive fever*. There would indeed be no archive desire without the radical finitude, without the possibility of a forgetfulness which does not limit itself to repression. Above all...within this simple limit called finiteness...there is no archive fever without the threat of this death drive” (19)

No matter how much I mull over the points argued in *Archive Fever*, something about them just doesn’t sit right. The notion that archivization is a process born of destruction seems less paradoxical than oxymoronic to me. If it is true that the use of a substrate is the first step in the “structural breakdown” of a memory, is the writing of a fictional story also a result of the death drive? I don’t think that Derrida is arguing that the act of archiving is itself a destructive one, however, and I expect that examining his other works involving Freudian concepts would likely help elucidate a more precise meaning from *Archive Fever*. After all, how could archiving be a total act of destruction when he says that, while without the death drive “there would not in effect be any desire or any possibility for the archive...at the same time...the conditions of

archivization implicate all the tensions, contradictions, or aporias we are trying to formalize here, notably those which make it into a movement of the promise and of the future no less than of recording the past” (29).

Arthur Newspaper – Issue 0 Piece

What I Did on my Summer Vacation: The Arthur Virtual Archive

By Jesse McRae

The summer months are a wonderful time for us Canadians to finally escape our dreary protective rectangles, get outdoors and appreciate the beauty of nature. For a decent chunk of this past summer, I was able to at least sort of do the last thing in that list from a small window. No, I wasn't daydreaming during lectures. I was assisting with the creation of the Arthur Virtual Archive.

What is this archive, you ask? According to its creator and steward of Sadleir House, Dwayne Collins, "the Arthur Virtual Archive is a digitised collection of issues of the Arthur. It is designed as a tool to allow users to browse through the paper's history and to aid in archival research by limiting the need to access physical copies of the paper."

I came to this project when trying to decide how to get my final credit of my undergraduate degree. While combing through the less than impressive list of summer courses, I happened upon the Trent Centre for Community-Based Education (TCCBE), an organization that allows students to take a step outside of traditional academia.

The TCCBE assists in matching upper-year students in good academic standing with other local organizations that are looking to complete some kind of community-focused task. If both parties feel the other is the right fit, the student then finds a professor who will oversee the academic portion of the project.

It may be a good idea to ask for more information about a project on the list of those available. The general sounding "Analyzing Trends in Media" turned out to be the archive project, recommended to me due in part to my past involvement with the Arthur.

As opposed to starting something from scratch, I would be jumping into a work in progress. Mr. Collins started the archive in 2009 as a practicum placement while undertaking his Master's degree in Information Studies at the University of Toronto. "I worked for about a year on the project as part of my coursework, and then volunteered my time over the following year to continue working on it."

Meetings involving all stakeholders typically yield the specific parameters of a project, which eventually evolve into a syllabus. For example, my archival work was assessed by Collins, essays inspired by it were handled by professor Liam Mitchell, and newspaper pieces (including this one!) by the paper's editors.

I wondered curiously about what kind of high-tech equipment I'd be using to create a newspaper archive. A giant scanner, perhaps? Wrong. There would be no scanner for me at all, and the tech level would be anything but high. I would really be jumping into the project just as it had been left.

“When the project first started,” says Collins, “there wasn't the access at the University to scanning hardware that we have available now. There also wasn't any money for this project. For the first twenty five volumes that were digitised, an old photo duplicator stand was found and used alongside a digital camera. Essentially, every page of every issue was digitally photographed.”

As earlier alluded to, there does exist a physical Arthur archive at Bata Library, as part of the university archive. However, there are a few volumes from that set which could not be easily digitised using the university's equipment, and that set of papers was the gap in the Digital Archive which I had to fill.

These conditions led me to instead conduct my work at Sadleir House, current home of Arthur. There is a less meticulously maintained collection of past papers in the mythical Business Manager's office, which served as my principal workstation.

The photo duplicator stand was a delicate machine which consisted of a corkboard base to which a downward-facing camera mount and four incandescent light bulbs were affixed. I was warned that I would eventually burn my arms on the light bulbs, which were quick to become incredibly hot. I took no solace in this knowledge of the inevitable when the prediction became true.

At this point, my job was taking each paper, placing it under the lights and camera, and sequentially capturing each page digitally while carefully turning the time-worn pages (and minding my arms). Constantly leaning over to check whether the paper was always showing up in the camera's frame quickly took a toll on my back, so I devised an innovation of my own.

With the magic of video output, I connected the camera to an old tube TV which displayed the viewfinder in real time. I even got the screen almost to eye level by sticking a few stacks of sticky notes under it. The drawback was that the screen didn't exactly display the frame borders properly, but after a few hundred pages, it didn't matter. I was one with the machine.

The next step was to make the necessary changes to the files so that they could be put online. Once they were uploaded, I had to manually rotate each and every page, after which I had the luxury of renaming them in batches. Once this was done, a lovely automated process straightened, cropped, and brightened each of the files for me, re-saving them elsewhere as the .tiff file type in order to prevent degradation.

The process was lovely in theory. Sometimes (often) it would get confused during the cropping stage, so instead of turning out an image that was a near duplicate of a page of newspaper, it

would yield only a fragment of a page. Usually a part with particularly strong borders, but anything from the middle of a block of text to a white line could show up.

In these cases I would have to flag the failures, take them back to the folder with the originals, and manually perform each of the steps comprising the automated process. Once all the images were finished and in the right place, a final script was run on them to give them the borders and uniform dimensions used on the website.

If my knowledge base covered site design, I may have also been involved in the actual updating of the archive site, but for now the files I worked to create will lie in wait for my successor. The work I did will transform into a student job this academic year thanks to a donation from Stephen Stohn, one of the early editors of Arthur.

Collins is optimistic about Stohn's contribution, stating that "his donation is fantastic in that it allows the project to rely on more than just volunteer labour. If all goes well, in addition to digitising the remaining issues, we'll also update the look and functionality of the website, and index the paper. With better scanners now at the project's disposal the process should go a lot faster and be far less labour intensive. By the 50th Anniversary of the University, we'll have a complete digital version of Arthur available."

Despite the fairly rigorous work the project entailed (mostly owing to the antiquated equipment that will no longer be used), I feel as though I have a deeper connection to Trent after having this experience. Even a small university like this one can often be hard to connect with, given that it is, after all, a corporate institution. Looking at thousands of past events from decades gone by as recorded by students gave me a unique perspective of Trent's history.

I believe that Collins has a similar hope for the archive, once it has been completed. "I specifically wanted to digitise Arthur because I felt as though Trent had a habit of forgetting or mythologizing its history – I wanted there to be a way to access the university's history beyond having to physically go through reams of print materials. Having Arthur digitally available was a way to make at least one version of that history more broadly available. I'd love to see more aspects and versions of that history become available in the future, beyond just the version presented in Arthur."

Arthur Newspaper – Weekly Inserts

Issue 1, Vol. 15 (1980)

Trent enrolment jumps 6-8% – At a time when enrolment in post-secondary institutions was in a decline in Ontario, Trent’s enrollment was projected to see a 6% increase. According to then-registrar Alf Cole, while the number of undergraduates remained the same as the previous year, the number of returning students jumped from 1145 to 1235. Upper year transfers also rose from 926 to 975, and the number of international students increased from 55 to 64. Cole felt that Trent’s practice of writing personal letters to prospective students and the “disillusionment” felt by upper years at larger universities contributed to the increases.

Issue 2, Vol. 4 (1969)

Evolution of a Pub – Referring to the growing popularity of the word “commoner”, this piece spoke of “an old farmhouse across the river” which would soon be transformed into a place where good times could be had by all. Predicting that one day the Trent campus would be home to its own society, a contemporary lack of facilities was doing little to alleviate a permeating apathy felt by the under populated colleges. Lucky enough to receive a building donated by Canadian General Electric, a student group working for a remedy found their home to be.

Issue 3, Vol. 19 (1984)

Trent disposes of harassment issue – When a female Trent student reported that she had been sexually harassed by one of her professors in late 1983, there was no procedure for handling such claims. Nearly a year later, a committee formed by the Senate in response to the incident had completed a report detailing a procedure. The report described sexual and gender harassment, referring to unwelcome sexual advances and pejorative stereotyping respectively. The committee, however, would only refer complaints “to the appropriate university official” with a signature, and would then show them to the accused, a practice which deviated from the Ontario Human Rights Commission.

Issue 4, Vol. 20 (1985)

Hangman faces financial crisis – The Jolly Hangman, former pub of former college Peter Robinson, was facing a threat of closure due to a \$5,500 debt. Losses from break-ins and the university’s 21 percent interest rate were the main sources of the financial trouble. The PR Cabinet decided to pledge \$3000 of the cabinet budget to try and save the pub, as well as a donation box and a plan to feature a diverse array of entertainment. Then-master of PR claimed the Hangman was “a central and vital cultural amenity” and hoped to one day expand it to include musicians’ studios.

Issue 5, Vol. 4 (1969)

No classes on Wednesday? – An impending anti-war moratorium was gaining strength throughout North America and had started to stir at Trent. Challenging Nixon's decisions, the moratorium would be a mass demonstration of public opinion, increasing by one day per month. Both Champlain Cabinet and the Trent University Coordinating Committee passed motions supporting the moratorium. Interviewed Trent professors felt the cause to be just but were unsure of the method's effectiveness. They felt initiative must come from the students and were willing to reschedule missed classes for knowledgeable protesters. As one professor said, "whatever the students want to do – it's their university. I won't lead you, I'll follow you."

Issue 6, Vol. 1 (1966)

Congress meetings established – The cabinets of the three colleges – Catherine Parr Traill, Peter Robinson and Champlain – met at Traill to establish a congress to deal with university matters such as college relations. The initial meeting was not considered a congress but a mutual session of the cabinets. Mr. W. McEwen of PR was elected as chairperson and led the discussion in an informal but organized manner. Majority was set at two thirds for the passing of motions, and future meetings were determined to be held at Traill on Sunday afternoons when necessary.

Issue 7, Vol. 23 (1988)

What's Up With Trent University Native Association (TUNA) – As reported by Arthur's native news correspondent, TUNA held their first general meeting at the tail end of October '88. Featuring an executive of both Native and non-Native persons, the group was excited about the year to come with hopes of strengthening itself as well as the bond between Native and non-Native students. With a series of guest speakers lined up, the group's Cultural Co-ordinator spoke about various activities in which the university community was encouraged to participate, such as Sunrise Ceremonies and drum and dancing workshops.

Issue 8, Vol. 30 (1998)

Trent offers PhD program in Native Studies – The first in Canada and second in North America, Trent's program takes the historical, cultural and contemporary situation of Aboriginal people to an advanced level of study. Not based purely in theoretical academics, the Trent University Aboriginal Education Council comprises representatives of both the university and First Nations communities and organizations. "The program will provide advanced educational opportunities for Aboriginal people in order to meet an important need in Aboriginal communities", said the program director. The program allowed graduates of the discipline to continue their studies without having to specialize through a related field.

Issue 9, Vol. 11 (1976)

Jock Palace: Screwed Again – The cost of operating the PSB Wilson Athletic Complex, then under construction, was likely to be forced upon Trent U students. Costs of operation, expected to run from \$40,000 to \$50,000 a year, were beyond the amount allotted to the project by a Wintario Grant and the Second Decade Fund. This would see a rise by \$15-25 in ancillary fees, which, unlike activity fees, are determined wholly by administration and without student input. The Chair of the TSU unofficially acquired this information, but when the Finance Commissioner spoke with Trent's VP finance, little clarification was given.

Issue 10, Vol. 29 (1994)

TSU Chair Impeached – The Trent Student Union voted in favour of impeaching of Chair Andrea Harrington and against impeaching of Internal Commissioner Damian Rogers. The case against Rogers was that he had used his job with the Telephone Directory Hiring Committee to hire himself. This was eventually seen as an isolated incident, however, while Harrington's repeated disruptive outburst outside the TSU office were seen as too problematic to allow. Despite admitting to problematic behaviour, Harrington felt that the grounds of her impeachment were unfair and trivial, and also expressed frustration with the lack of warning about the impending case.

Issue 11, Vol. 4 (1969)

Trent Loses Expropriation Appeal – This story began with Trent's development five years prior. Eager to found a new university during a time when the Ontario Government was less than eager to support such endeavours, Trent's forerunners started with a 110 acre gift from Canadian General Electric. They then purchased land where the first buildings of Symons Campus would be built, but foreseeing they would need more, the Board approved expropriation of land on the east side of the Otonabee. Frederick Campbell, one of the landowners, appealed the price-per-acre (less than a third paid for the first plot) and Trent was declared to owe \$102,690.

Issue 12, Vol. 15 (1980)

Faculty reject evaluations – A report recommending the reconstruction of course faculty evaluation (CFE) from the Faculty Council's executive was approved by the majority of the professors attending its meeting. The report also called for the discontinuation of university-wide course-faculty evaluation of proficiency, instead recommending evaluations be separate responsibilities of students, faculty and administration. The report's criticisms of the CFE system were that its statistical reliability does not correlate to quality of teaching, the results are not much used by the groups it aimed to serve, and its purpose of providing feedback to students, faculty, and administration interfere with one other.

Issue 13, Vol. 9 (1974)

Newspaper funds blocked – Due to a demand of a Publications Board from Otonabee Cabinet Council, Arthur faced a possible cessation of operations. The position of the council was that the wording of a referendum for a \$5 increase in student fees, passed the previous year, did not exclude a Publications Board to control Arthur. The council also did not believe the existing structure of the newspaper fit to avoid financial mismanagement. While admitting the relation of financial and editorial control, a council member said that “it’s all part of the checks and balances system”. Otonabee was prepared to secede from the TSU if their demands were not met.

Issue 14, Vol. 5 (1971)

Direction colleges should take discussed at PR seminar – A meeting of professors took place earlier this week to discuss the format of then-forthcoming College Five, the direction of the existing colleges, and the idea of a non-resident college. In Trent’s first four years, it was felt more students were involved with their colleges, but no rigid plan would be used for the next. “The major problem is that far too many think the colleges are irrelevant”, said Professor Ian Chapman. Expressing concern about the lack of college-specific academic direction, he pointed to the \$80,000 as the major hindrance in efficiency, fearing obsolescence of college affiliation.

Issue 15, Vol. 9 (1974)

Newspaper paralyzed again – The scope of a battle over student funds between Arthur and Otonabee Council was increasing. The money was expected to be released after talks between the university’s president and lawyer, but was ultimately still withheld. The source of the problem was due to different interpretations of ambiguities by the two parties. Arthur intended for the money to go directly to its operations, while Otonabee Council believed it would go towards student government jobs in the form of a Publications Board. The presidents of Champlain and Peter Robinson cabinets stated there was never any doubt the funds would go anywhere besides Arthur.

Issue 16, Vol. 17 (1983)

Foreign students do create extra money for Trent: VP Earnshaw – A year after Trent started charging differential fees to international students, it was believed that it would be making an additional \$200,000 in revenue. This was due in large part to a complex government system whereby fees from international students across the province are collected and redistributed. Trent’s then-VP John Earnshaw said this “ludicrous” system was a disincentive to accept foreign students into universities. The Ontario Federation of Students had reported that Trent was making money from international students even before implementing the differential fees, contradicting earlier comments from then-President Theall.

Issue 17, Vol. 38 (2004)

Future of student centre discussed at open meeting – Purchased earlier that year by the Downtown Student Facility Trust (DFST), Sadleir House saw a meeting of students and community members frustrated with Trent’s commitment to providing student space. Attended by representatives of six different student groups, the DFST was determining criteria for space allocation. Disappointed with the low number, a member of the Trent Queer Collective emphasised the significance of diversity. “It is important that the groups involved span from arts to academics to athletics to advocacy.” The plan for Sadleir House was to offer common, study, office and performance space to the Trent/Peterborough community.

Issue 18, Vol. 09 (1975)

New Front Ltd. – A new political group extolling laissez-faire capitalism and “divine decadence” had sprung up at Trent. More specifically, they advocated “free enterprise, free speech and free abortions”. Their opponents? Those who “deny the essentially bourgeois nature of this place”. An initial campaign was aiming at the elimination of sociology credits’ worth toward a degree, while other plans included founding a Department of Wasp Studies and refusing working class high schoolers with less than an 85% average. Despite coming up at a time of right-wing activity on campus, the group distanced itself from others in a similar vein.

Issue 19, Vol. 34 (2000)

Animal experimentation at Trent – Animals like frogs, fish, rodents, reptiles, and cats were used for a variety of experiments, in science courses. Some were raised in the Environmental Science building, while others were acquired already deceased. The experiments done on the animals were various, but according to one professor, “fifteen years ago, we stopped doing a lot of things that we had once done...after students refused to do certain labs.” One point of the debate over whether universities should be experimenting on animals was whether harm would befall them. An up and coming alternative was computer-simulated experimentation.

Issue 20, Vol. 36 (2002)

PRC buildings sold to rental developers – On February 15, Trent University sold the Peter Robinson College buildings Sadleir, Reade and North Houses, as well as the townhouses and the Jolly Hangman, for nearly \$2 million. Buyers Glenn and Frank Moloney of Moloney Project Development Corp. hoped to create a “close working relationship with the university” during Trent’s plan to lease said properties for two years. Another move in Trent’s plan to centralize Symons Campus, it was expected that a new college would open there at the end of the lease period. The closure of both PR and Traill Colleges entailed criticism and Judicial Review.

Issue 21, Vol. 2 (1968)

College 5 NOT Called Bourassa – As revealed in a statement from master of Peter Robinson Ian Chapman during a meeting of the committee on Trent’s fifth college, the new college name

would not honour French-Canadian politician Henri Bourassa. Reasons for this decision did not include anti-French sentiment or a common inability to pronounce the name. Other possible names that were denied included Ralph Crown College, William Denison College, Joseph P. Stalin College, Nelson D. Rockefeller College, and Captain Crunch College. Chapman commented on possible names before the meeting was adjourned.

Issue 22, Vol. 19 (1985)

Arthur challenged – The undertaking of organizing a committee to make structural changes to Arthur Newspaper was being headed by second-year Champlain student Johanna Corkery. Her two main points were that the editors be elected in a university-wide manner, and that Arthur be incorporated to better represent the general student populous. Her recommended board of directors would include one member of each college, the TSU, and the faculty. The editors rebutted the former by stating that experience with the newspaper is a useful requirement for voting, and while they were receptive of incorporating, representatives may well hinder the freedom of the press.

Issue 23, Vol. 5 (1971)

Eaton co-ed: discarding the virgin island – Debate concerning whether residence at Lady Eaton College would switch from an all-female model to co-ed was streamlined into a meeting at the college. Opponents of the change advanced that the addition of male students would create more problems for the college, that spending time with one's own sex is beneficial for development, and that Lady Eaton is some kind of feminine oasis in a co-ed desert. Advocates of the switch point out that female students have no place to legally live on campus besides Lady Eaton, that prospective female students typically showed disinterest in an all-female residence, and that normal socialization requires interaction of the sexes.

Issue 24, Vol. 24 (1990)

Trent Fees Break \$2000 Mark – The cost of attending Trent University full-time in 1991 was expected to be at least \$2,126.88. Trent's Board of Governors voted to raise tuition fees by 8%, the maximum increase allowed by the government of Ontario, taking them from \$1,517 to \$1,639. Ancillary fees were also increased by an average 9%, bringing them up to \$384. The price of residence with a meal plan also increased by 8%, taking the total to nearly \$5,500. The board's two student members were the only ones to oppose the motion to increase the fees.

Arthur Virtual Archive: Progress Report

CUST3087

Jesse Louro

1. PROJECT

The Arthur Virtual Archive is an online collection of past volumes of *Arthur Newspaper*. Its purpose is to allow more widespread access to the Arthur archives, which exist presently in physical form, while simultaneously reducing wear to the original papers. The aim of this CBE course specifically was to fill a gap in the online archive, which comprised Volumes 7 through 12.

2. WORK COMPLETED

Using the archives at Sadleir House, Volumes 7-12 were successfully digitized over the course of 60 working hours. Each available issue was photographed and edited to fit the parameters necessary for placement on the website. The parameters of digitization had already been set prior to the commencement of the project. In addition, the physical copies of these volumes were placed in proper order among *Arthur Newspaper's* copy of the archives.

3. COMPLICATIONS

The primary problem experienced over the course of the project was the incomplete nature of the source material. Many issues of older volumes of the paper are missing from the archives at Sadleir House, and consequently there are holes in the digital versions of the paper. The list of papers which are certainly absent is as follows:

- Volume 8 – Issues 5, 10, 12, 13, 18, & 19.
- Volume 9 – Issues 1, 9, 14, & 16
- Volume 10 – Issues 5, 10, 14, 15, & 17
- Volume 11 – Issues 1, 3-8, 12, & 15-20
- Volume 12 – Issues 2, 16, & 17

Using content and production dates as reference, it is reasonable to assume that the final issues of Volumes 8, 10 and 11 have been digitized. It is possible that Volumes 9 and 12 are missing issues numerically beyond the final ones digitized.

Secondarily, because of the nature of the production of the original copies of Volume 7, further processing of the digital versions has been put on hold due to inability to determine accurate publication dates. The existing 17 issues, published between September 1972 and March 1973, were digitized.

An intermittent problem was that sections of various papers had been clipped out in the past. This was addressed for the time being by blacking out the damaged sections.

4. FUTURE WORK

Although the aforementioned volumes of the paper were all made web-ready, the CBE project did not include the actual uploading of new material onto the Virtual Archive site. This should be the next step in the project as it would most quickly give the public access to additional online material. The incomplete and damaged volumes should then be complimented, if possible, by the Arthur archives at Bata Library, or perhaps with the assistance of community members who may have copies of past issues intact. My recommendation for Volume 7 is that it be placed online alongside a disclaimer explaining the discrepancy between publication information that appears on the papers themselves and the inferred actual publication information.

5. COMMENTS

With the next stage of digitization taking place on Trent campus with more up-to-date technology, it is likely that this process will be able to be completed much more quickly and efficiently than before. The cropping of images, possibly the most time-consuming aspect of the project up until now, may no longer be necessary depending on the scanning technology available. Post-production time may decrease greatly. Whether or not this is the case, the ability for the archivist to work from their own station would be an asset to the hastening of the project's completion, as during the CBE work times were dependent on the schedules of Sadleir House staff.