



Stop the Presses: Advocating for Ontario's Community Newspapers

Archives Association of Ontario Conference, May 10, 2019

Presented by:

Loren Fantin, OurDigitalWorld

Tracey Krause, Archives Association of Ontario

Mary McIntyre, Library and Archives Canada



Presentation Overview

- Introduction
- State of community newspapers in Ontario
- Response from the GLAM sector
- What can we do as a community: discussion of what's next

Losing our local newspapers

- *Barrie Examiner*
- *Belleville News*
- *Bradford Times*
- *Brant News*
- *Central Hastings News*
- *Collingwood Enterprise Bulletin*
- *Fort Erie Times*
- *Frontenac Gazette*
- *Ingersoll Times*
- *Innisfil Examiner*
- *Inport News*
- *Kanata Courier-Standard*
- *Kapuskasing Northern Times*
- *Kingston Heritage*
- *Meaford Express*
- *Metro Ottawa*
- *Metro Winnipeg*
- *Nepean/Barrhaven News*
- *Niagara Advance*
- *Norfolk News*
- *Northumberland Today*
- *Norwich Gazette*
- *Orillia Packet & Times*
- *Orleans News*
- *Ottawa East News*
- *Ottawa South News*
- *Ottawa West News*
- *Our London*
- *Pelham News*
- *Petrolia Topic*
- *Quinte West News*
- *St. Lawrence News*
- *St. Marys Journal-Argus (and the St. Marys Weekender)*
- *St. Thomas/Elgin Weekly News*
- *Stittsville News*
- *Stratford City Gazette*
- *Thorold Niagara News*
- *West Carleton Review*



Shuttering of Local Newspapers

“What happens to archives of community newspapers shut down in the Torstar-Postmedia deal?”

Reporter Kate Dubinski (Dec 6, 2017) questioned who tells communities stories when local newspapers close.



Stewardship and access of community newspapers

“A *Torstar* spokesperson said the company hasn't figured out what to do with physical archives yet, but that in the long-term, the company wants to make the archives available to the public. “

“A *Postmedia* spokesperson said the company is open to inquiries from universities, libraries and museums that might be interested in preserving those archives.”



Advocating for our community heritage

- Letter to Postmedia and Torstar (OLA December 15th, AAO December 21st), cc'ed to CBC
- Coordinating a “working group”: AAO, AO, LAC, ODW, OLA and TPL
- Survey to archives and libraries
- Meetings with Postmedia and TorStar representatives
- Framework for Collaboration



GLAMs Concerns about the Shuttering of Local Newspapers

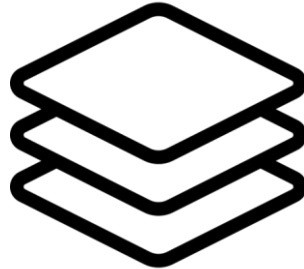
- What happens to the archives & back-files of the newspapers?
- How are local newspapers being preserved?
- How will local newspapers be made available to the public?



GLAMs Survey on Local Newspapers



38 participants



13 institutions have shuttered newspapers



34 institutions



GLAMs Survey on Local Newspapers cont'd



62% stewarding newspaper archives



75% agreed to provide accessibility to newspaper archives



65% provide storage of shuttered newspapers



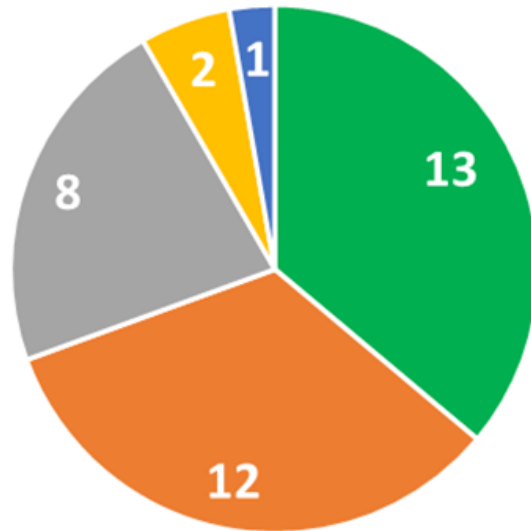
Library and Archives Canada

Our Involvement

Work to Date

National View

Shuttered Newspapers: How Many Closed Newspapers have Holdings at Multiple Institutions?



■ Newspapers not found anywhere

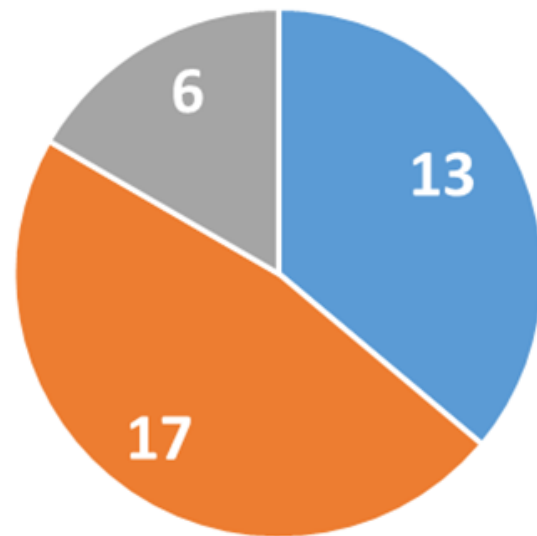
■ Newspapers held in 1 location

■ Newspapers held in 2 locations

■ Newspapers held in 3 locations

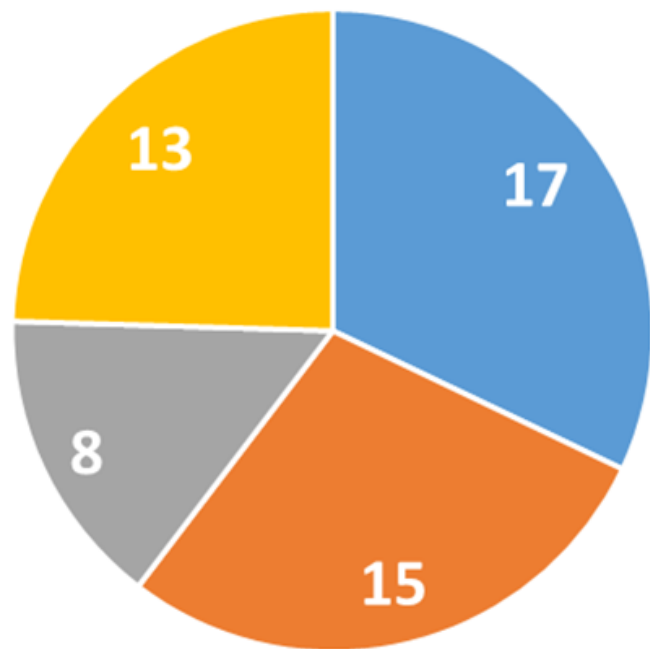
■ Newspapers held in 4 or more locations

Shuttered Newspapers: Dates Available



- Newspapers with no Dates Available
- Newspapers with Missing Dates (Gaps in Holdings)
- Newspapers with All Dates

Shuttered Newspapers: Formats of Newspaper Holdings



■ Print ■ Microform ■ Digital ■ No Found Holdings



Closure Checklist

For news publishers

- Has been drafted - for discussion at next Steering Committee meeting in June



Newspapers, eh? LAC's Newspaper Strategy

Environmental scan underpinning the Strategy found:

- Client demand is high
- NHDS internal survey - newspapers most highly prioritized material
- LAC has growing gaps in collection
- TorStar/PostMedia shuttered papers highlight the issue of risk of loss



Newspaper Strategy - Plans

Establish a collaborative collection - solicit ideas, commitment to participate and a national view of collections

Newspaper Summit, Collaboration Framework

National Inventory - see europeana.eu



Framework Document for Collaboration

- Access and preservation of closed newspapers
 - Published copies - no gaps in historical record
 - Archives (photos and reporter files)
- Standard agreements and templates for digitization and access (and transfer of custody)
- Workflow and protocols for newspapers that are currently being shuttered, and those that will be in the future
- Collective, long-term solution for online access to digitized newspapers



Real-time collaboration and challenges



By Breathe Icon Team: Sebastian Porta, Cory Kontros, Andrew Starr-Bochicchio - <https://launchpad.net/ubuntu/+source/breathe-icon-theme>, CC BY-SA 3.0, <https://commons.wikimedia.org/w/index.php?curid=68838620>



We Want to Hear from You

- Shared inventory? Public/collaborative document?
- Resources - identification of volunteers, time, funding
- Identify orgs who would be willing to accept closed newspaper content?
- Register - leverage work of Provincial Acquisition Strategy?
- Secure grant funding



Thank you! Contact Us

Loren Fantin, Our Digital World lfantin@ourdigitalworld.org

Mary McIntyre, Library and Archives Canada mary.mcintyre@canada.ca

Juanita Rossiter, AAO Special Advisor special.advisor@aao-archivists.ca