

Securing a future for the past

In search of a new home for the Connexions Archive

The Connexions Archive is searching for a new space to house its extensive collection and those who work on it.

We need a partner organization or consortium to provide space or material resources to make it possible. We are seeking help from individuals who are able to make the ‘connections’ to help secure space or funding, or to provide letters of support.

The Connexions Archive is a project established in 1975 to keep alive and share the rich history of grassroots movements for social justice. It is both a physical archive housing materials that span more than 50 years of grassroots activism, and an electronic archive engaged in digitizing the materials in its collection and making them widely available online.

The Connexions Archive is at a watershed moment in its own history. Its activities are thriving and growing, but it may soon find itself without a roof over its head.

For the past 15 years, Connexions has been housed in space donated by a supportive organization. That space will be closing this year, making it necessary to find a new home for the collection and for the volunteers and interns who work to digitize, abstract, index, and translate the materials in the collection.

The Connexions Archive operates with no outside sources of income – a miracle of making things happen on very little except the vision and enthusiasm of volunteers! – so its future also depends on finding either donated space, or help from partners, sponsors, funders and donors willing to support the long-term survival of the project.

Because Connexions is a working archive – a place where interns and volunteers come to scan, index, write, research, and translate – it needs a transit-accessible space able to accommodate both the physical collection and those who work on it.

Its space needs are modest. It currently occupies about 1,500 feet of space, though a larger space would allow the Connexions Archive to accept more materials and would provide space for more volunteers, interns and equipment.

Connexions is approaching potential supporters and partners – individuals and institutions – to provide space directly, or to provide suggestions, contacts, introductions, letters of support, or other assistance in establishing a new home for the Connexions Archive. Our goal is to secure a future for the Connexions Archive by enlisting the creative support of partners and sponsors who see the value of this project.

We would be happy to hear from you. (See other side for contact information.)

Connexions: A Living Archive

What is the Connexions Archive?

- A physical archive comprising tens of thousands of documents, newsletters, magazines, newspapers, posters, brochures, leaflets, books, newspaper clippings, buttons, postcards, audio recordings and other materials.
- An ever-expanding digital archive with more than 10,000 documents and images already available online, and more being added continuously.

What does the Connexions archive do?

- The Connexions Archive is an extremely active “living archive” where interns and volunteers from Canada, Europe, Africa, Latin America and Asia come together to work on digitizing, abstracting, indexing, and translating materials and making them available online.
- Connexions’ internship program provides interesting and challenging work experience for Canadian and international interns. Over the past five years, interns and volunteers have come to Connexions from more than 25 countries, as well as from various parts of Canada.
- The Connexions website makes materials available to a wide national and international public. The multi-level indexing system gives users – activists, students, scholars, and the general public – deeper and more relevant search results when they search for information, ideas, and sources. The website records more than 250,000 page views a month, and usage is steadily growing.
- The Connexions Archive provides students and researchers with access to the materials in the physical collection.

Building on the past to shape the future

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