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Community-Based Education Program



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Promotional Copy

#4187 – Digitizing Archives and Analyzing Trends in the Media

Organization Information

The host organization is a local newspaper published weekly, 25 times during the school year. It has a circulation of 3000 copies and is distributed free of charge in numerous locations in the city of Peterborough and on the Trent campus.

The host's goal is to produce a weekly newspaper that gives informative, interesting and accurate accounts of events and issues relevant to Trent students. It exists as an essential component of the student community, and should be accessible to and representative of the communities it serves. They believe it should be valuable and constructive by providing information and analysis, and by giving a forum to individuals and groups that have little or no access to other forms of media. The host acknowledges its privileged position in being free from commercial and administrative controls. It strives to protect that position by defending its editorial autonomy. The mandate is to cover issues that affect students. However, it believes that no subject need fall outside the grasp of the student press, and that it best serves its purpose when they help widen the boundaries of debate on educational, social, economic, environmental and political issues.

The host organization provides student jobs and volunteer positions to both students and Peterborough community members. It provides a forum for community building through reporting on, and publicity for, local events and issues.

Project Information

The central purpose of the project would be to update the host organization's digital archives, and analyze trends in coverage. Its eventual goal is to have a searchable, digital archive of all past issues available online. This archive will be a useful writing tool for staff and a valuable historical record for the Peterborough and Trent communities.

Benefit to the Host Organization and Community

This project will enhance the institutional memory of host organization (especially valuable in a student organization with high turnover). It will contribute to the history of Trent and Peterborough by making past issues more accessible to the student population and general public. Analyzing past trends in coverage will greatly aid current writers, and those who are interested in the history and development of Trent.

What students might learn

The student will learn organizational and archival skills, an increased understanding of newspaper publishing and journalism, computer/design skills, and the experience of archival analysis.

Skills or Experience that would be an asset

Working independently, experience with Creative Suite, web design skills, journalism/ publishing experience, organizational skills, experience working with archival material, writing skills

Resources Required for Project Provided by Host

The organization can provide access to computers and a workspace