

UPDATE ON THE *DNE* WORD-FILE DIGITIZATION PROJECT

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Word-file Digitization Project

Directed by Suzanne Power with assistance from the ELRC Management Committee

2015 has been a landmark year for the *Dictionary of Newfoundland English (DNE)* Word-file Digitization Project. The project started in 2005 with the goal of digitizing the entire collection. Since those early days when students worked without scanners and without a sufficiently detailed data entry protocol, we have come a long way. In March, 2015, the last card was digitized. This, however, is not the end of the project. The eventual goal is to make the word-file collection available to interested researchers as it contains a wealth of data on local lexicon, pronunciation and grammar, in addition to many notes between editors that shed light on the process and methods of writing a dictionary. Though the collection is now digitized, a database remains to be built and made available. We are in consultations with Memorial's Digital Archives Initiative, Information Technology Services and Heritage NL to determine the best platform on which to launch this valuable culturally-rich corpus.

A total of 68 students have worked on the project since its 2005 inception. While we are happy to have offered research and archival experience to so many undergraduate and graduate students, this has inevitably introduced a good deal of variation and error into the treatment of the cards and the information they contain. As with any methodologically sound social sciences or humanities research project, a second verification phase is required in order to ensure uniform data entry and to make the resulting database as functional, searchable and error-free as possible. This second phase was started in mid-2014. At the date of writing, 10 drawers have been verified and 5 drawers have been partially verified, out of a total of 72. It is anticipated that database creation and mounting of the word-files will occur in tandem with the verification stage.

Student Assistants

Names of Memorial University students who have helped in projects of the English Language Research Centre were presented in *Regional Language Studies... Newfoundland (RLS)* 24, p. 54. Since 2005, 68 students have been employed on the *Word-file Digitization Project*.

Student assistants who have worked with the ELRC on the *Word-file Digitization Project* since December 2013: Kanachi Angadi, Terra Barrett, Lydia Bringerud, David Browne, Sarah Budgell, Jordyn Hughes, George Kubanstev, Dean Lundrigan, Yanxiao Ma, Rebecca Nolan, Raja Rajeshwari Sreenivasan, Lamyah Taher, Cathy Wiseman, Adrian Young.

Students who have worked on *Voices of Newfoundland and Labrador* in 2014-15: Daniel Barbour, Jordyn Hughes, Ismar Muhic, Rosanna Pierson, Suzanne Power, Josh Roberts.

We would like to extend special thanks to Janet Kelly, a volunteer at the ELRC in 2014-15 who helped decipher some of the handwriting queries in the word-file collection. We also extend sincere thanks to Mark Curlew, new graduate of the College of the North Atlantic's Records and Information Management program, who completed his work term here at the ELRC; Mark catalogued several collections and updated the ELRC library catalogue. Thanks also go to Memorial's Music Media and Place (MMaP) gallery and Spencer Crewe for their assistance with audio restoration of a number of *Voices of NL* files.