

Connexions Archive & Library

Securing a future for the past

The Connexions Archive is Toronto-based project dedicated to keeping alive the rich history of grassroots movements for social justice.

Connexions is searching for a space for the Connexions Archive and Library – both for the collection itself and for the volunteers who do the work of digitizing, cataloguing and describing the materials in the collection.

Connexions preserves ‘alternative’ histories that rarely appear in the mainstream record, and makes them available online to a wide public, as well as in physical form to researchers and scholars. It is both a physical archive housing materials that span more than 50 years of grassroots activism, and an electronic library maintained by a working group engaged in digitizing materials and making them widely available online.

We are seeking a long-term partnership with an organization able to provide us with the space we need for our work. We are able to pay for costs such as hydro and heat, but we are not able to afford commercial rent at current Toronto prices.

About Connexions

Connexions was founded in 1975. The founding members were active in number of inner-city and church-based social justice projects who wanted to connect working for justice with each other and with resources and information.

Connexions was initially housed in a United Church building in downtown Toronto. Funding was provided by the World Council of Churches – Urban Rural Mission, by the Anglican, United, Presbyterian and Lutheran Churches, and by a number of Roman Catholic dioceses and religious orders. We are now primarily funded by individual donors, as well as occasional grants from bodies like Libraries & Archives Canada - Documentary Heritage Communities Program.

Connexions was founded with the goal of sharing information about grassroots social justice. Over time, as materials sent to Connexions accumulated, an important archive of documents developed, and preserving and sharing the archive became part of the goal.

An active group of volunteers now work on scanning, cataloguing, describing, and translating materials and making them available online, as well as to researchers who visit the Connexions library.

Connexions is incorporated as an Ontario non-profit corporation (# 1845394).

Space Needs

We need space both for the archive itself and for the people working on it. We need space that is comfortable for people to work in and safe and dry for the archive.

The minimum space we need is 800 sq ft. 1200 sq ft would be ideal.

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