

Between Digitization and Promotion: Mining the McGill Student Publications Collection for Compelling Outreach Narratives

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Storytelling as Praxis

- Post-digitization, collections are technically more accessible than ever before.
- Despite the influx of accessible resources, many digitized collections are not being used.
- Through discovering thematic narratives for outreach, **storytelling** methodology provides examples of what users can find in the collection to spark interest for future use and research.

Why Storytelling?



Promotes visibility

- Storytelling-based outreach can include wide-range of narrative platforms, including articles, exhibitions, and social media.



Connects individuals to resources

- Provides diverse entry points to access collection for interdisciplinary use.



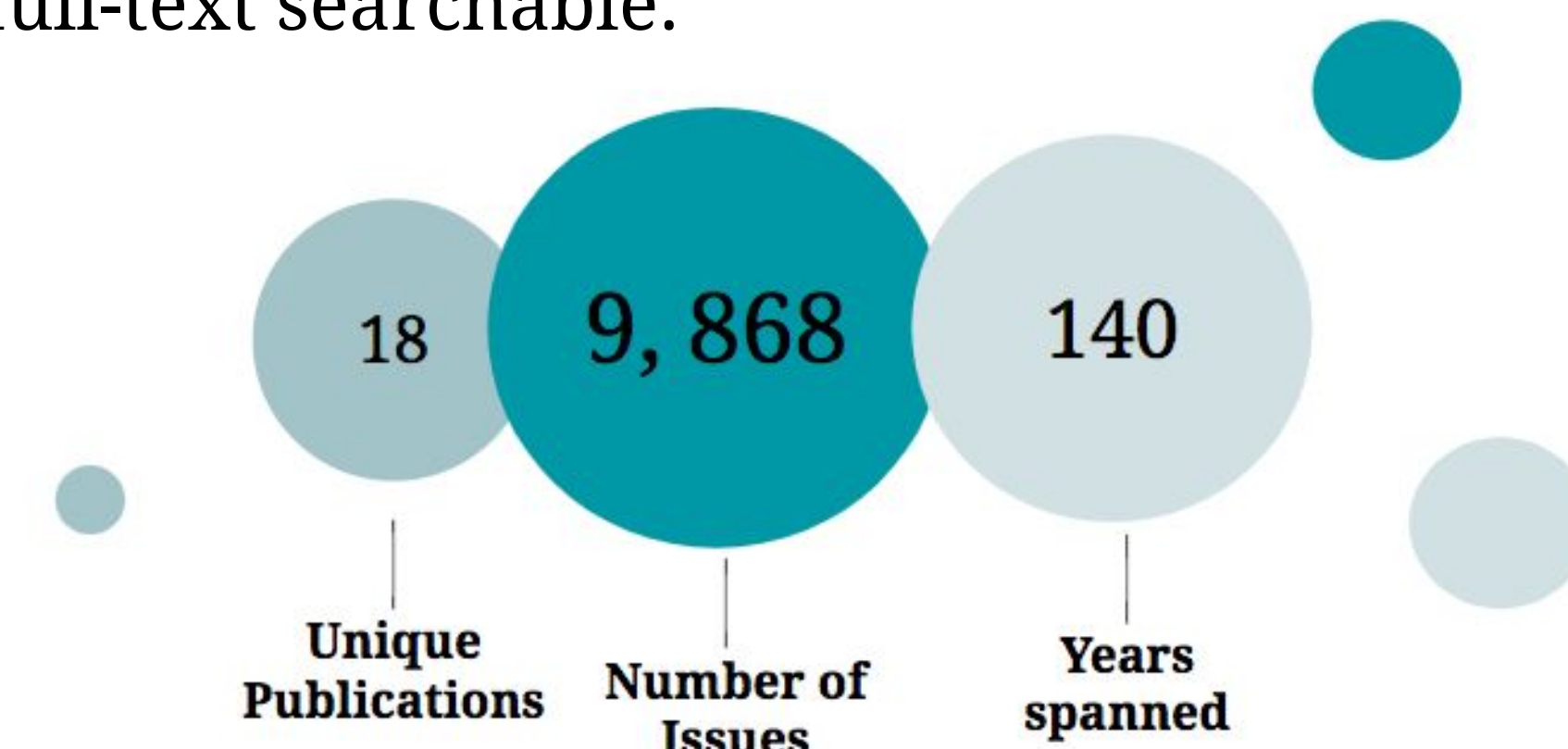
Demonstrates value

- Interesting narratives exemplify the value of the collection for further inquiry.

The Collection

McGill Student Publications Collection

- Collection of McGill student newspapers, currently housed on the Internet Archive.
- OCR (Optical Character Recognition) and is full-text searchable.



Mining the Collection



Found Narratives



Medical School "Bodysnatchers"

- Nineteenth century medical students stealing corpses for anatomy class work.



Lucy E. Potter

- First woman editor-in-chief of a McGill student publication.



Otto Klineberg

- McGill alum with role in American desegregation cases.

Outreach Initiatives



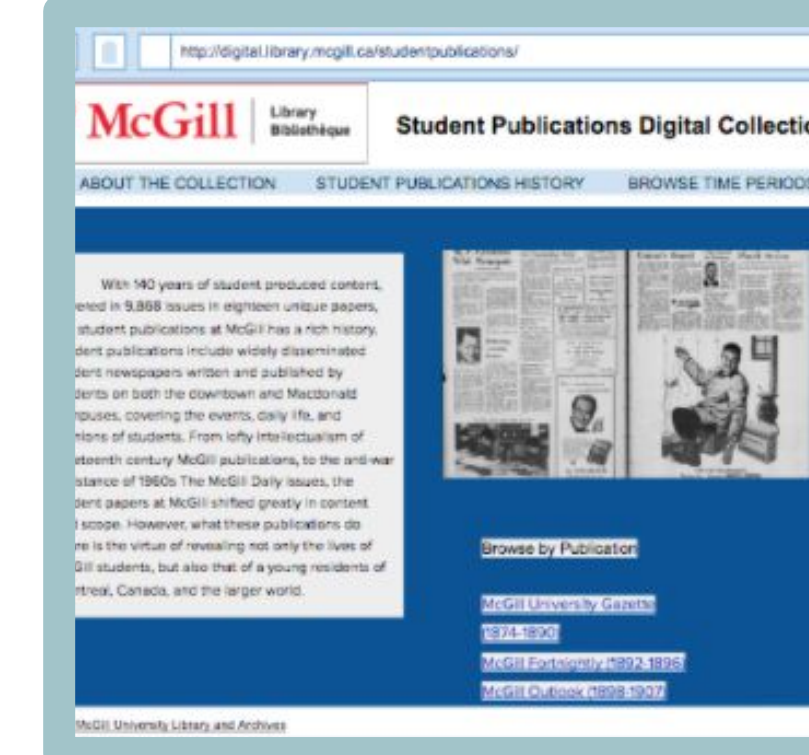
McGill Osler Library Blog Collaboration

- Wrote article detailing the history of body snatching for the Osler Medical Library blog.



Online Interactive Timeline

- Created timeline of all publications, noting the papers at the helm of Lucy E. Potter.



Narrative-Focused Collection Website

- Designed and wrote content for collection website using narrative links to aid navigation of collection.

Future Considerations

- Utilize digital humanities tools, such as semantic mapping and topic modelling to make bibliographic research more robust.
- Outreach does not need to be virtual. In-person initiatives could include critical information literacy workshops using narrative methodology.

