

Franco American Portal Project

Annual Report January 2020 - December 2020

Susan Pinette, Director, Franco American Programs
Jacob Albert, Manager, Franco American Portal Project

Annual Report

January 2020 - December 2020

- I. Notable Achievements
- II. Institutional Context & Project Overview
- III. Advisory Board Benchmarks
- IV. Project Manager Benchmarks
- V. Budget
- VI. Project Year 3

I. Notable Achievements

In 2020, the Franco American Portal Project increased project funds by 25% with a grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities. We were also invited to submit a final proposal for funding from the Mellon Foundation through a Council on Library and Information Resources grant, with the opportunity to more than double our current three-year project budget. Despite our physical distances, we logged hundreds of volunteer hours from students, scholars, community members, and advisory board members; integrated the Portal into UM curriculum; and introduced our project to regional, national, and international networks of scholarship and digitization.

- NEH Humanities Collections and Reference Resources Grant Recipient (Project Budget \$75,447; Award \$59,994)
- CLIR (Mellon) Digitizing Hidden Collections Grant Competition - Final proposal by invitation (Project budget \$668,814; Award \$495,442; Submitted 11/2020 for results 4/2021)
- NEH Humanities Collections and Reference Resources Implementations Grant Competition (due 7/2021; \$350,000)
- Integrated project within international network of scholars of francophone diaspora press
 - Québec (Médias19); France (Numapresse); Brazil (Transfopress)
- Pinette/Albert developed internship model for five-university consortium, portal development, and cross-campus digitization; hosted 8-person summer intern cohort
- Pinette/Albert co-taught UMaine FAS 200 - Spring '20 and FAS 400 - Summer 2020 (12 students total)
- Invited conference presentation at Maine Archives & Museums Annual Meeting - Franco Portal as subject-based archival collaboration model for Maine - 10/2020

II. Institutional Context & Project Overview

In November 2019, the University of Maine established a new framework to guide our strategic decision making for the next five years. We are delighted to say that our project furthers all three of the shared values of the “Strategic Vision and Values” agenda. The project fosters learning success by providing authentic research experience to graduate and undergraduate students. It will spur fresh discoveries and innovations through a new wave of research on the borderland French-Canadian and Acadian communities who today represent Maine’s largest language minority. It is growing and advancing our partnerships through its collaborative structure, enabling us to leverage our unique strengths in the study of the Northeast region, doctoral education, interdisciplinary research, and the history of media.

- **UMaine Strategic Vision & Values**

- We provide experiential learning through coursework and paid internships (1.1)
- We are creating innovative ways, through new technologies, to access historic materials (1.2)
- We are spurring Cultural heritage & future; cross-campus partners (2.1)
- Diversity, inclusivity, and interactivity (3)

II. Institutional Context & Project Overview

Advisory Board Members

| | |
|------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| Keith Chevalier | St. Anselm College |
| Leslie Choquette, PhD | Assumption University |
| Libby Lipin | Assumption University |
| David Nutty | University of Southern Maine* |
| Lise Pelletier | University of Maine at Fort Kent* |
| Susan Pinette, PhD | UMaine* |
| Mary Rice-Defosse, PhD | Bates College |

II. Institutional Context & Project Overview

Contributors, Consultants, Supporters, and Volunteers

| | |
|-----------------------|---|
| Jamie Ritter | Maine State Library |
| Adam Fisher | Maine State Library |
| Greg Curtis | UMaine |
| Lisa Miniaci | Bibliothèque et Archives nationales du Québec |
| Phoebe Bean | Rhode Island Historical Society |
| Diane Parks | Boston Public Library |
| Gail Fithian | Boston Public Library |
| Anna Faherty | University of Southern Maine |
| James Jackson Sanborn | Maine InfoNet |
| Cecily Marcus, PhD | University of Minnesota |
| Mark Richard, PhD | SUNY Plattsburgh |
| Thomas Dublin, PhD | SUNY Binghamton |
| Donna Webber | Simmons University |
| Christine Madsen, PhD | Athenaeum21 |
| Megan Hurst | Athenaeum21 |

II. Institutional Context & Project Overview

Contributors, Consultants, Supporters, and Volunteers (continued...)

| | |
|---------------------------|--|
| Rhea Côté Robbins | UMaine |
| Julie Smith | American-Canadian Genealogical Society |
| Laurent Autotte | American-Canadian Genealogical Society |
| Elizabeth Blood, PhD | Salem State University |
| Guillaume Pinson, PhD | Université Laval |
| Valéria Guimarães, PhD | Universidade de São Paulo |
| Marie-Ève Thérénty, PhD | Montpellier 3 University, France |
| Jonathan Gosnell, PhD | Smith College |
| Katherine Harrington, PhD | Plymouth State University |
| LeeEllen Friedland | Ethnologica |
| David Taylor | Library of Congress |
| Karen Richard | UMaine Student |
| Adam Weyeneth | UMaine Student |
| Erin Best | UMaine Student |
| Jennifer Munson | UMaine Student |

II. Institutional Context & Project Overview

Our project seeks to build a sustainable online portal for recovering the 'lost voices' of Franco Americans of the Northeast, voices often excluded from the standard narratives of U.S. migration history, American literature and French language North America. Many historic materials about Franco-American people and communities exist but there is no central location for researchers to discover what materials exist and where they are held. We believe that relevant materials should remain in their home communities. Our portal intends to make materials more immediately accessible by leveraging digital forms. As a concurrent goal, we aim to create pathways and support for local communities to digitize and preserve their Franco-American materials. These digital resources will become part of our portal while the actual documents will remain with the community that produced them.

Franco American Portal Project

Building an online discovery tool for
Franco American Collections

Our Mission
The histories of French-Canadian and Acadian communities in the US Northeast are an important part of the American story. We aim to help preserve these histories and use new information technology to make them more accessible to the public.

Who We Are
Our team includes the Franco American Programs at UMaine, the Franco-American Collection at USM, the Acadian Archives at UMFK, the French Institute at Assumption College, and the Paradis Archives & Special Collections at St Anselm College. Our project is also supported by the Maine State Library.

What We Do
We search the US and Canada to locate photographs, letters, scrapbooks, diaries, business records, family archives, and other materials that concern French-Canadian and Acadian communities in the Northeastern US, and we bring these collections together into a digital space — a "portal" — for the public to search and discover.

What We Need
We need your support to digitize these historic materials, to maintain the portal that organizes them, and to pay for student interns to work on this portal with us.

For more information about the Franco American Portal Project, contact Jacob Albert, Program Manager, at jacob.albert@maine.edu or Susan Pinette, Director of Franco American Programs at spinette@maine.edu.

francoamericanportal.org




How the portal works:

1. Historic records tell our stories. The problem: these records are difficult to preserve.
2. Franco records are kept all over the US and Canada: in boxes, in digital form, or both. The problem: they are scattered, with no single source to help find them.
3. Access to these records improve how we understand the past. Our solution: Franco American Portal Project will help preserve Franco materials from the US and Canada. We will make them discoverable in one place online in order to make them easier to access and use.



To find out more about making a gift to benefit this project, contact



umainefoundation@maine.edu | umainefoundation.org
umaine.edu/visionfortomorrow

Orono Office:
Two Alumni Place
Orono, ME 04469-5792
207.581.5100 or 800.982.8503

Southern Maine Office:
75 Clearwater Drive, Suite 202
Falmouth, ME 04105-1455
207.253.5172 or 800.449.2629

Learn more about UMaine Franco American Programs:
umaine.edu/francoamerican

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How long in United States (41)

Forty one years

Born in St George P.R. Date of Birth June 4 1883

Franco American Portal Project

Building a discovery tool for Franco American collections

Our Project

The Franco American Portal Project is a five-university collaboration to build an online portal to Franco American archival collections. Our project addresses the need for online access to Franco American cultural history by: *locating and identifying* archival materials that concern French-Canadian, Québécois(e), and Acadian diaspora communities in the US Northeast—wherever these materials have been collected around the world; *bringing together* information about these collections and their contents in an organized, searchable, and culturally conscientious way; and *making accessible* these collections and their contents by directing the public toward their digital presence and the institutions that collect and preserve them.

Our Team

The Franco American Portal Project is funded by the University of Maine. It is a collaboration between UMaine, University of Southern Maine, University of Maine at Fort Kent, Assumption College, and Saint Anselm College: five institutions in Maine, New Hampshire, and Massachusetts that coordinate Franco American research and steward

<https://francoamericanportal.org>

EN | FR

Franco American Portal Project: Beta

» Browse Items & Collections

» Browse by Family Name

» Browse by Subject

» Browse by Place


» Browse by Home Institution

Browse Items & Collections (29 total)

of 3

Sort by: [Title](#) [Creator](#) [Date](#) [Language](#)

Les Défenseurs du Saint Nom de Jésus, Lewiston, 1917



Item Type: Photograph

Creator: Unknown


Date: 1917

Language: fr

Description: Les Défenseurs du Saint Nom de Jésus, Lewiston, 1917. Possibly outside St Paul's...

Home Institution: University of Southern Maine – Franco-American Collection

[Welcome to Rumford]



Item Type: Drawing

Creator: Archambault, Peter A., 1939–2015

Date: 1987

<https://beta.francoamericanportal.org>

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Franco American Portal Project: Beta

» Browse Items & Collections

» Browse by Family Name

» Browse by Subject

» Browse by Place

» Browse by Home Institution

Les Défenseurs du Saint Nom de Jésus, Lewiston, 1917



Title

Les Défenseurs du Saint Nom de Jésus, Lewiston, 1917

Creator

Unknown

Date

1917

Description

Les Défenseurs du Saint Nom de Jésus, Lewiston, 1917. Possibly outside St Paul's Collège.

The banner reads "BENI SOIT LE NOM DE JESUS / VIVENT SES DEFENSEURS" ("blessed be the name of Jesus, long live its defenders").

Home Institution

University of Southern Maine – Franco-American Collection

View Item at Home Institution

<https://franco.pastperfectonline.com/photo/275F999F-E586-4DCD-A44C-753086631586>

Franco American Portal Project: Beta

» Browse Items & Collections

» Browse by Family Name

» Browse by Subject

» Browse by Place

» Browse by Home Institution

 ... 

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UNIVERSITY OF
SOUTHERN MAINE

Preserving and Promoting the Franco-American Heritage of Maine, New England, and Beyond

FRANCO-AMERICAN
COLLECTION
FRANCO-AMÉRICAIN


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Catalog Number

2014.0.175

Object Name

Print, Photographic

Description

Les Défenseurs du Saint Nom de Jésus, Lewiston, 1917. Possibly outside St Paul's Collège. The banner reads "BENI SOIT LE NOM DE JESUS / VIVENT SES DEFENSEURS" ("blessed be the name of Jesus, long live its defenders").

Organization founded by Fr. Antonin Dallaire, o.p. in 1907 - specifically for boys. Activities were theatrical, religious, music, and sports.

Left to right, front row: Jean-Charles Boucher (President); Fr Ange-Marie Côté; Ernest Desjardins (Vice President)

2nd row: A Lavoie; A Desjardins; Lucien Marcotte; A Pelletier; Clovis Lapierre; Léonard Gagné; H Forgue; Arthur Croteau; Delphis Proulx; Amédée Hémond; Edmond Bégin; Philias Perrier; Léo Gernier; R Guilmette

3rd row: D Turcotte; H Labbé; H Pelletier; A Michaud; Willié Cailler; Ronaldo Laliberté; C Jalbert; R Forgues; S Sirois; O Fournier; P Fortier; A Comeau; A Levesque; A Deslauriers; H Turcotte

4th row: H Marcotte; R Blais; D Gauthier; A Paradis; E Gagné; E Houle; A Pelletier; L Jutras; P Croteau; N Beaudry; R Cailler; E Lebreque; H Jalbert; A Beliveau; A Bedard; M Lambert

5th row: S Rancourt; A Guay; A Morin; T Jalbert; A Marcotte; A Therrien; E Martin; A René; N Fournier; A Daigle; A Fortier

Date

1917



[View Image](#)
[Metadata](#)

Defenseurs du Siant Nom de Jusus (1917)

[Request Image](#)

III. Advisory Board Benchmarks

Franco American Portal Project advisory board members represent three states and six institutions. Each advisor volunteers their time and efforts to the success of this project. 2020 included 23 advisory board meetings--almost two per month, or 45 hours of total meeting time cost-share per member--with additional advisory board hours dedicated to research, correspondence, vendor consultation, and other project labor. The advisory board met each of its established Project Year Two benchmarks and logged several additional achievements.

- PY2 Outputs
- PY2 Outcomes
- PY2 Indicators
- Additional achievements

III. Advisory Board Benchmarks

- **PY2 Outputs**

Ongoing - Oversee creation of a prioritized list of collections to be digitized;

Ongoing - Contribute to the creation of consistent, open framework for metadata creation

Ongoing - Continue to supervise the portal development;

Ongoing - Monitor the feedback to the portal and oversee needed changes to the portal;

Ongoing - Assist with continued grant writing;

Formed - Initial curriculum committee to oversee courses based on/in the archives;

In committee - Explore (and if possible implement) a system-wide minor or certificate

III. Advisory Board Benchmarks

- PY2 Outputs
- **PY2 Outcomes**

Ongoing - Prioritized list of collections to be digitized

Ongoing - Consistent, open framework for the creation of metadata

Ongoing - Creation of a feedback loop for continued improvement of the portal

Established - A standing advisory board for UMS FA archives

In development - NEH-funded Portal (launch spring 2021)

III. Advisory Board Benchmarks

- PY2 Outputs
 - PY2 Outcomes
 - **PY2 Indicators**
- | | |
|-------|--|
| >800 | - Number of items digitized (UM, USM, SAC, AU, UMFk) |
| 7,510 | - Number of users of the portal (unique visitors as of 12/1) |
| 13 | - Number of media citations |
| 35 | - Number of collaborators both direct and indirect with this project |
| 1 | - Number of grant applications |
| 163 | - Number of outputs (white papers, designs, blueprints, etc.) |
| >1000 | - Number of contacts between advisory board members |

III. Advisory Board Benchmarks

- PY2 Outputs
- PY2 Outcomes
- PY2 Indicators
- **Additional achievements**

Completed regional, multi-institutional inventory of 165 French-language newspapers for cataloging, collation, improved access, digitization, and preservation

~45 hours/person of advisory board meeting time

~200 cumulative hours of additional labor (research, cataloging, grant review, correspondence)

IV. Project Manager Benchmarks

The Franco American Portal Manager leads and manages the Franco American Portal Project. Jacob Albert is the lead Principal Investigator on all grants and has managed the grant writing process from start to finish. He has overseen the inventory of all French language newspapers in New England -- a complicated, multi-institution, international process because these holdings are uncataloged and hidden. He has grown the number of contributors to the portal project from the original five, including the Maine State Library, Boston Public Library and the Provincial Library of Quebec (BANQ). He has successfully cultivated the five-university partnership at the base of this work, developing the trust and commitment of all partners. This year he also developed an internship course and lead the first cohort of summer interns who were trained in working with archival materials.

- PY2 Outputs
- PY2 Outcomes
- PY2 Indicators
- Additional outputs, outcomes, and indicators

IV. Project Manager Benchmarks

- **PY2 Outputs**

Upcoming - Launch portal

Ongoing - Create feedback mechanism to ensure ongoing improvements

Ongoing - Keep track of site traffic

Ongoing - Establish partnerships with repositories not in consortium, to grow holdings

Ongoing - Create centralized search index of aggregated metadata

Ongoing - Populate portal with materials from Program Manager, intern, & student work

Complete/Ongoing - Grant writing, dependent upon outcomes

In committee - List relevant faculty at UMS; list students to develop K-12 curriculum

IV. Project Manager Benchmarks

- PY2 Outputs
- **PY2 Outcomes**

Upcoming - Portal (launch spring 2021)

Ongoing - Feedback mechanism

Ongoing - Partnerships with other collaborators and repositories

Ongoing - Centralized search index

Ongoing - Population of portal with materials

Ongoing - Grants

In committee - List of existing UMS curricula and courses that relate to Franco America

In committee - List of relevant faculty and students at UMS to use the portal

IV. Project Manager Benchmarks

- PY2 Outputs
 - PY2 Outcomes
 - **PY2 Indicators**
- | | |
|---------------------|---|
| 187 | - Number of outcomes (163 newspaper inventories; 1 preliminary grant; 1 final grant proposal; 20 agendas; 2 syllabi) |
| >800 | - Number of items digitized and put into the portal |
| Ongoing | - Feedback from the Advisory board on the support the Program Manager is giving to the collaboration |
| 38 | - Number of collaborators both direct and indirect with this project |
| 2 | - Number of grant applications |
| >7,500 | - Number of people involved (students, users, consortium partners, etc.) (includes individual uses as of 12/1) |
| In committee | - List of existing resources to build a Franco Studies course of study, including existing K-12 curriculum modules aligned with common core |

IV. Project Manager Benchmarks

- PY2 Outputs
- PY2 Outcomes
- PY2 Indicators
- **Additional outputs, outcomes and indicators**

Complete - Integrate newspaper discovery and digitization into portal research

Complete - Develop marketing strategy, including social media, prof. networks, and print

Complete - Develop digital preservation and storage plan

In progress - Develop Contributor MOU

V. Budget

The Franco American Portal Project maintained one FTE staff with benefits and continued its below-budget spending in 2020. We used staff and volunteer time to meet all project benchmarks, and to secure additional funding for digitization equipment and web development. We were encouraged by public attention, successful grant competition, and the overall growth of the Project to begin exploring sustainable funding structures with our collaborators and the UM Foundation for web hosting, project maintenance and upkeep, and the continued development of the Project beyond the end of Project Year 3. This year we increased our three-year project budget by 25% with an award from the NEH. If our current pending grant is successful, the Project is on track to increase its three-year, \$225,000 UM project budget by 200%; a forthcoming NEH grant competition would add an additional \$350,000 for project development.

- PY2: FY2020
- PY2: FY2021

V. Budget

- PY2: FY2020

| Investment in Franco Programs Budget - Year 2 Proposal | | | | | |
|--|------------------|----------------|-------------|-----------------|-------------|
| | | | | | |
| Personnel | Salary Requested | Matching Funds | Fringe Rate | Fringe Benefits | Total |
| Project Manager | \$42,000.00 | | 53.40% | 22428 | \$64,428.00 |
| | | | 53.40% | 0 | \$0.00 |
| | | | 53.40% | 0 | \$0 |
| | | | 53.40% | 0 | \$0 |
| | | | | | \$0.00 |
| Subtotal Personnel: | \$42,000.00 | \$0.00 | | 22428 | \$64,428.00 |
| | | | | | |
| Other Direct Costs | Amount Requested | Matching Funds | | | Total |
| Student Internships | \$6,000.00 | | | | \$6,000.00 |
| Technical support | \$3,000.00 | \$500.00 | | | \$3,500.00 |
| Travel for advisory board | \$1,500.00 | | | | \$1,500.00 |
| Travel for Project Manager | \$3,000.00 | | | | \$3,000.00 |
| Subtotal Other Direct Costs: | \$13,500.00 | \$500.00 | | | \$14,000.00 |
| | | | | | |
| Project Total | | | | | \$78,428.00 |

V. Budget

- PY2: FY2020: Actual**

| Other Direct Costs | Amount Requested | Matching Funds | | Total |
|-------------------------------------|--------------------|-----------------|--|--------------------|
| Student Internships | \$6,000.00 | | | \$6,000.00 |
| Technical support | \$3,000.00 | \$500.00 | | \$3,500.00 |
| Travel for advisory board | \$1,500.00 | | | \$1,500.00 |
| Travel for Project Manager | \$3,000.00 | | | \$3,000.00 |
| Subtotal Other Direct Costs: | \$13,500.00 | \$500.00 | | \$14,000.00 |

Direct costs

Debit/Credit

Line Balance

Student Internships

(734.04)

5265.96

Technical Support

(700.00)

2800.00

Travel for advisory board

(47.76)

1452.24

Travel for Project Manager

(1706.13)

1293.87

FY2019 Carryover

3600.23

ALL LINES

(3187.93)

Total carryover balance - 14,412.30

V. Budget

- PY2: FY2020
- **PY2: FY2021**

| <i>Investment in Franco Programs Budget - Year 3 Proposal</i> | | | | | |
|---|------------------|----------------|-------------|-----------------|-------------|
| Personnel | Salary Requested | Matching Funds | Fringe Rate | Fringe Benefits | Total |
| Project Manager | \$42,000.00 | | 53.40% | 22428 | \$64,428.00 |
| | | | 53.40% | 0 | \$0.00 |
| | | | 53.40% | 0 | \$0 |
| | | | 53.40% | 0 | \$0 |
| | | | | | \$0.00 |
| Subtotal Personnel: | \$42,000.00 | \$0.00 | | 22428 | \$64,428.00 |
| Other Direct Costs | Amount Requested | Matching Funds | | | Total |
| Internships | \$3,000.00 | | | | \$3,000.00 |
| Faculty transformation grants | \$3,000.00 | | | | \$3,000.00 |
| Technical support | \$1,000.00 | \$500.00 | | | \$1,500.00 |
| Travel for advisory board | \$1,500.00 | | | | \$1,500.00 |
| Travel for Project Manager | \$3,000.00 | | | | \$3,000.00 |
| Subtotal Other Direct Costs: | \$11,500.00 | \$500.00 | | | \$12,000.00 |
| Project Total | | | | | \$76,428.00 |

V. Budget

- PY2: FY2020
- **PY2: FY2021: Actual**

| Other Direct Costs | Amount Requested | Matching Funds | | Total |
|-------------------------------|------------------|----------------|--|-------------|
| Internships | \$3,000.00 | | | \$3,000.00 |
| Faculty transformation grants | \$3,000.00 | | | \$3,000.00 |
| Technical support | \$1,000.00 | \$500.00 | | \$1,500.00 |
| Travel for advisory board | \$1,500.00 | | | \$1,500.00 |
| Travel for Project Manager | \$3,000.00 | | | \$3,000.00 |
| Subtotal Other Direct Costs: | \$11,500.00 | \$500.00 | | \$12,000.00 |

| | |
|--|------------------|
| FY2020 Carryover | 14,412.30 |
| FY2021 Balance | 12,000.00 |
| FY2021 Grant funds (NEH) | 59,994.00 |
| FY2021 Expenses as of 1/2021 (Interns; NEH cost-share) | (12,333.99) |
| ----- | |
| FY2021 Total Balance (as of 1/2021) | 74,072.31 |

VI. Project Year 3

The Franco American Portal Project Manager and advisory board have successfully met or exceeded each of their Project Year 1 (CY2019) and Project Year 2 (CY2020) benchmarks by the end of each respective project year. We are on track to begin, meet, and complete our Project Year 3 benchmarks without delay. The commitment of all staff, contributors, and volunteers to this project bodes well for the Portal's future. Project Year 3 will be dedicated in part to developing long-term goals for the project's sustainability at 1, 3, 5, and 10-year intervals; cultivating multi-institutional support for the project; and implementing new steps and benchmarks to meet project goals.

- PY3 Outputs

VI. Project Year 3

- **PY3 Outputs**
- Work with Advisory board to pull already existing resources into an identified Franco curriculum with the goal of curriculum integration toward a system-wide minor in Franco Studies
- Develop, implement and manage incentive grants for faculty to integrate resources from the Portal and from the Collections at UMO, USM/LAC and UMFH into their student projects
- Establish partnerships with those repositories not in our current consortium in order to grow holdings in the portal
- Populate the Portal with materials from the Program Managers', interns, and work-study students' work;
- Write grants to grow the Portal
- Increase community use of the portal and UMS archives; increase student learning of Franco content, use of the archives
- Increase visibility of archives across the state
- Increase private funding

<https://francoamericanportal.org>