

Digital Access to the College Newspaper of Binghamton University (and its Antecedents):
Phase I, 1946-1974
Mid-2018 Technology and Digitization Grant
South Central Regional Library Council

Final Report
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Binghamton University Libraries were awarded a grant for \$1,250 to have six reels of microfilmed college newspapers digitized and contributed to the New York State Historic Newspapers project. The years covered are 1946 through 1974 — a significant period in the development and growth of Binghamton University from a small local liberal arts college to one of the four SUNY research centers.

The Northern New York Library Network (NNYLN) digitized 7,525 pages (representing 1,036 issues of the newspaper) from silver halide master reels in the late fall of 2018. The original reels were returned to the University's Special Collections in December 2018. Since the time of the interim report, NNYLN processed the files including performing OCR on the PDF derivatives using ABBYY FineReader. The university's cataloging department provided the MARC records for the titles represented ("[Colonial News](#)" and "[Pipe Dream](#)"). While the Binghamton University project was flagged as very high priority, NNYLN experienced a great volume of digitization projects resulting in a slight delay in having the files prepared for uploading to the NYS Historic Newspapers server. This final step was completed on June 4, 2019. We anticipate that NNYLN will mail the external hard drive with all master TIFF and PDF files to Binghamton University by the end of June. These will be ingested into Rosetta, the university's digital preservation system. In the near future a sample of the newspaper issues may be made accessible via the Libraries' Omeka digital collections site and be part of the Center for the Study of the 1960s website currently under development. However, the primary point of access for the campus newspapers digitized with this grant will be via the NYS Historic Newspapers site. We have decided that our time and resources will be better invested in promoting the use of that site to access this rich source of university history.

The amount expended was \$1,208.75 (\$1,128.75 for digitization and \$80 for the external hard drive with the master files). We will spend the remaining \$41.25 this summer for a student assistant to digitize a short run of newsletters entitled "Stop-Gap" (1946-1952). The 12 issues are one to three pages long (24 pages total) and were published by the Office of Student Personnel of Triple Cities College/Harpur College. The student assistant will also prepare the files and metadata that we will submit to New York Heritage. Due to an oversight, NNYLN did not digitize the newsletter that was on the first reel of microfilm with "Colonial News." It is more expedient for us to digitize the hard copies in-house given the small number of pages involved. The first few issues were a precursor to the student newspaper and for a few years after the paper began, "Stop-Gap" continued to be published in the summer to share college news. The description of the newsletter that we will provide to New York Heritage will reference the student newspapers now available through NYS Historic Newspapers. Together, these publications are an important source of information about the student experience during the formative years of Binghamton University and about higher education in New York State, in general, at a pivotal period in U.S. history.