



Exploring the Past: A Documentary Analysis of Three Occupational Therapy Educational Archives

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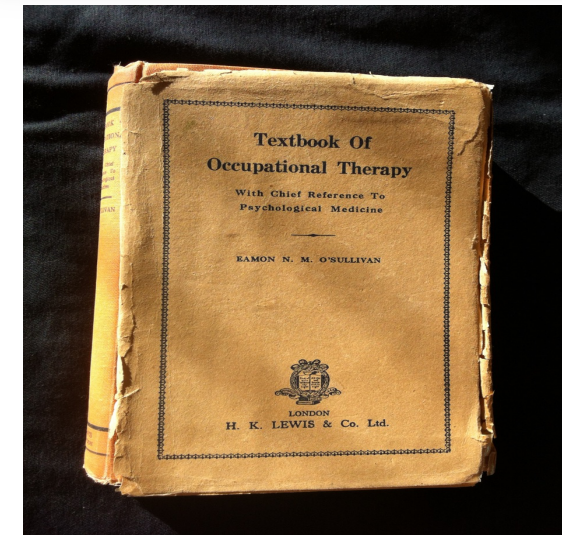
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Why Archives Matter

- Preserve the profession's history
- Strengthen professional identity
- Support education and research
- Inform contemporary practice
- Guide future development



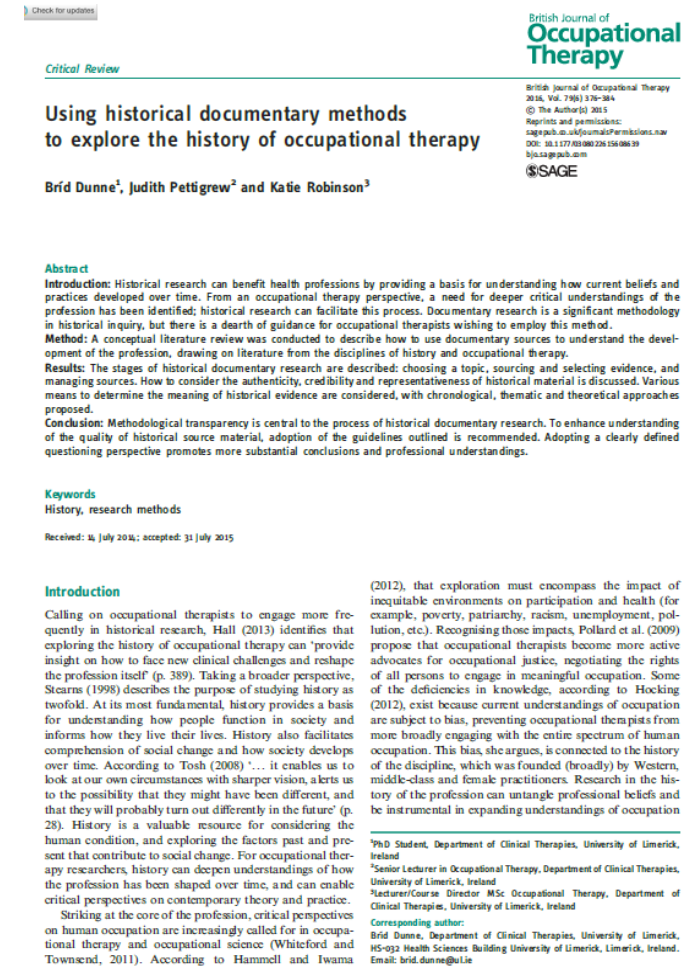


Study Objectives

- Analyse teaching-related contents from the three occupational therapy archives.
- Identify trends and themes within the historical materials and their relevance to current practice.
- Promote awareness of the importance of historical documentation and archives in occupational therapy, advocating for better preservation and access.
- Develop recommendations to enhance the documentation and visibility of occupational therapy archives.

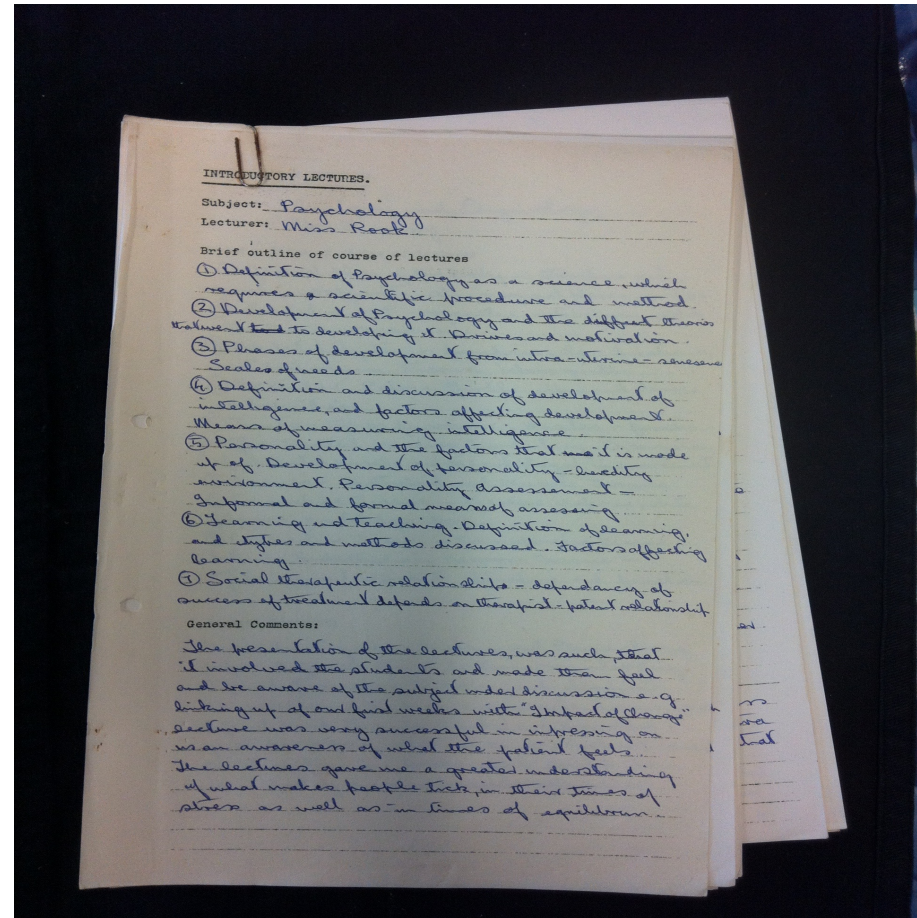
Method

- There is no standardised framework for cataloguing occupational therapy archival materials.
- Archival content was categorised using the Archives of American Art Processing Guidelines.
- This framework provides a replicable model for consistent and accessible archival management.
- Content analysis was used to identify common themes that informed the study's findings.
- Rigour: the study adhered to the principles of historical documentary research as outlined by Dunne *et al.* (2016) - authenticity, credibility, and representativeness.



Analysis revealed 4 themes:

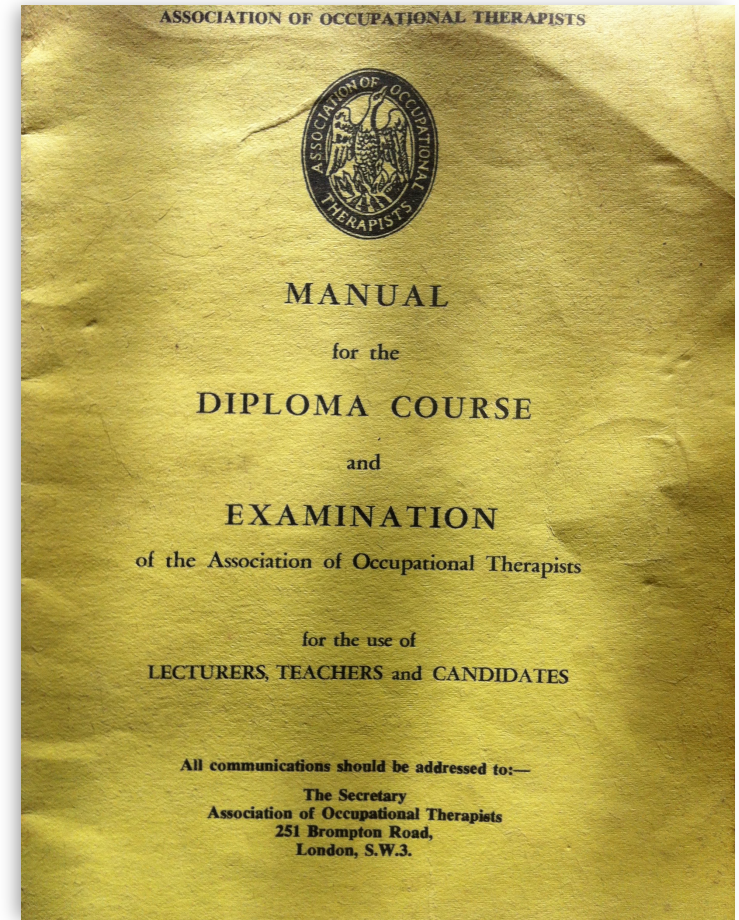
- Administrative Material
- Teaching Files
- Photographic Material
- Printed Matter



Findings

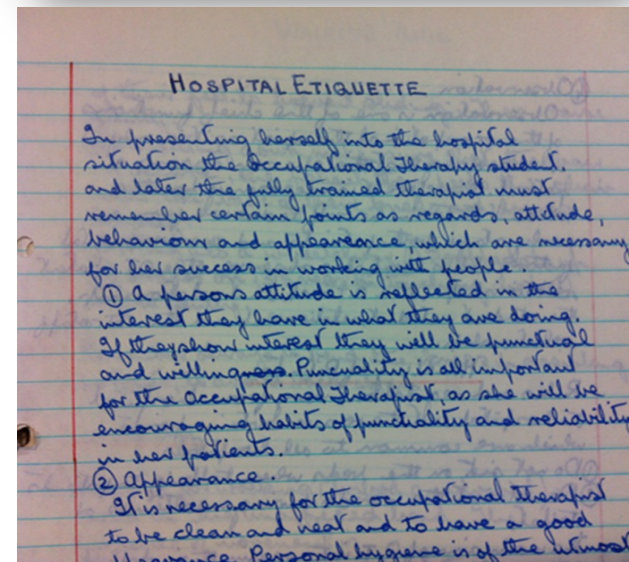
Administrative Material

- Administrative records show governance, curriculum development, faculty appointments, and standards.
- Each archive presents a different perspective on institutional governance.
- Governance connects directly to governance in occupational therapy education today.
- Clinical governance and quality assurance link past and present.



Teaching Files

- Teaching materials show the core components of early occupational therapy education.
- Each archive reflects different emphases in teaching documentation.
- Early curricula combined practical, creative, and clinical learning.
- Continuities exist between early teaching materials and contemporary occupational therapy practice. For example, anatomy and foundational sciences, Activities of Daily Living.



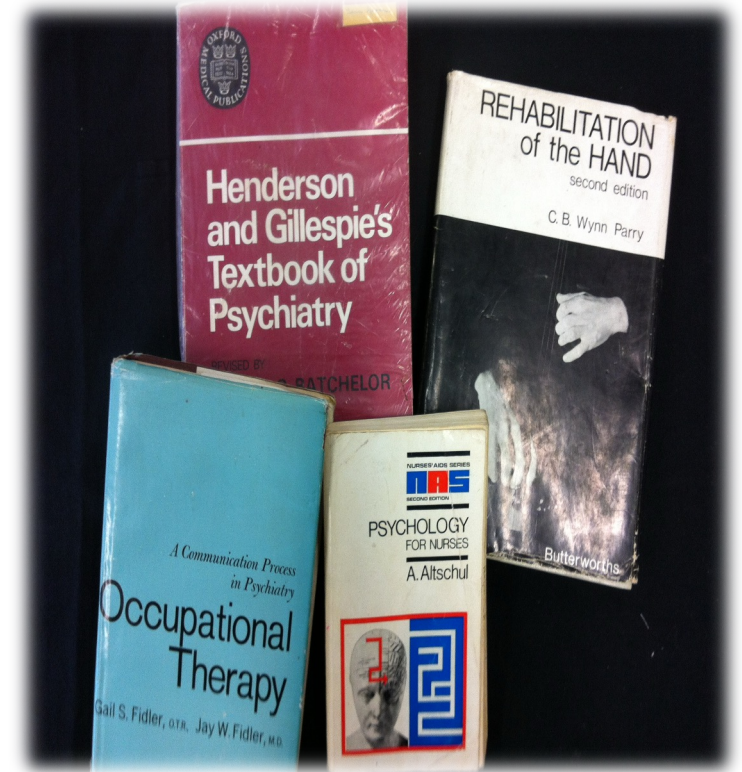
Photographic Material

- Photographic materials provide a visual record of early occupational therapy education.
- Archives differ significantly in the extent of photographic documentation.
- Dorset House's extensive photographs reflect its pioneering role.
- Education now relies on digital media, shifting preservation from physical to digital records.



Printed Matter

- Printed materials provide historical and institutional context of early occupational therapy education.
- Reflect academic and policy influences on occupational therapy education.
- Each archive shows different priorities in its printed collections. UL has textbooks, St. Andrew's has informational brochures, and Dorset House has a vast, varied collection.
- Foundational elements in occupational therapy education persist despite curricular evolution.
- Printed materials remain essential, now complemented by digital resources.



Recommendations

1. Establish archival policies and secure sustained maintenance resources.
2. Promote archival training within occupational therapy.
3. Foster collaborations with historians and archivists.
4. Review and analyse additional and unexamined archives using AAA Processing Guidelines.



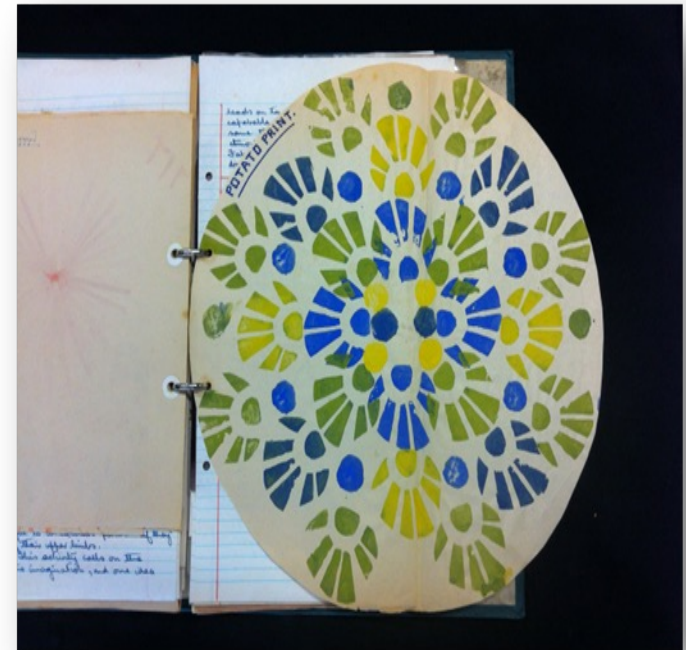
Recommendations

5. Expand holdings by encouraging donations from former students, including material culture, artefacts and oral-history interviews.

6. Increase public and professional awareness of archival collections through exhibitions, teaching integration, and online platforms.

7. Develop digital solutions for long-term access and preservation.

8. Conduct cross-profession comparisons to identify best practices.



Thank you
Questions



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