

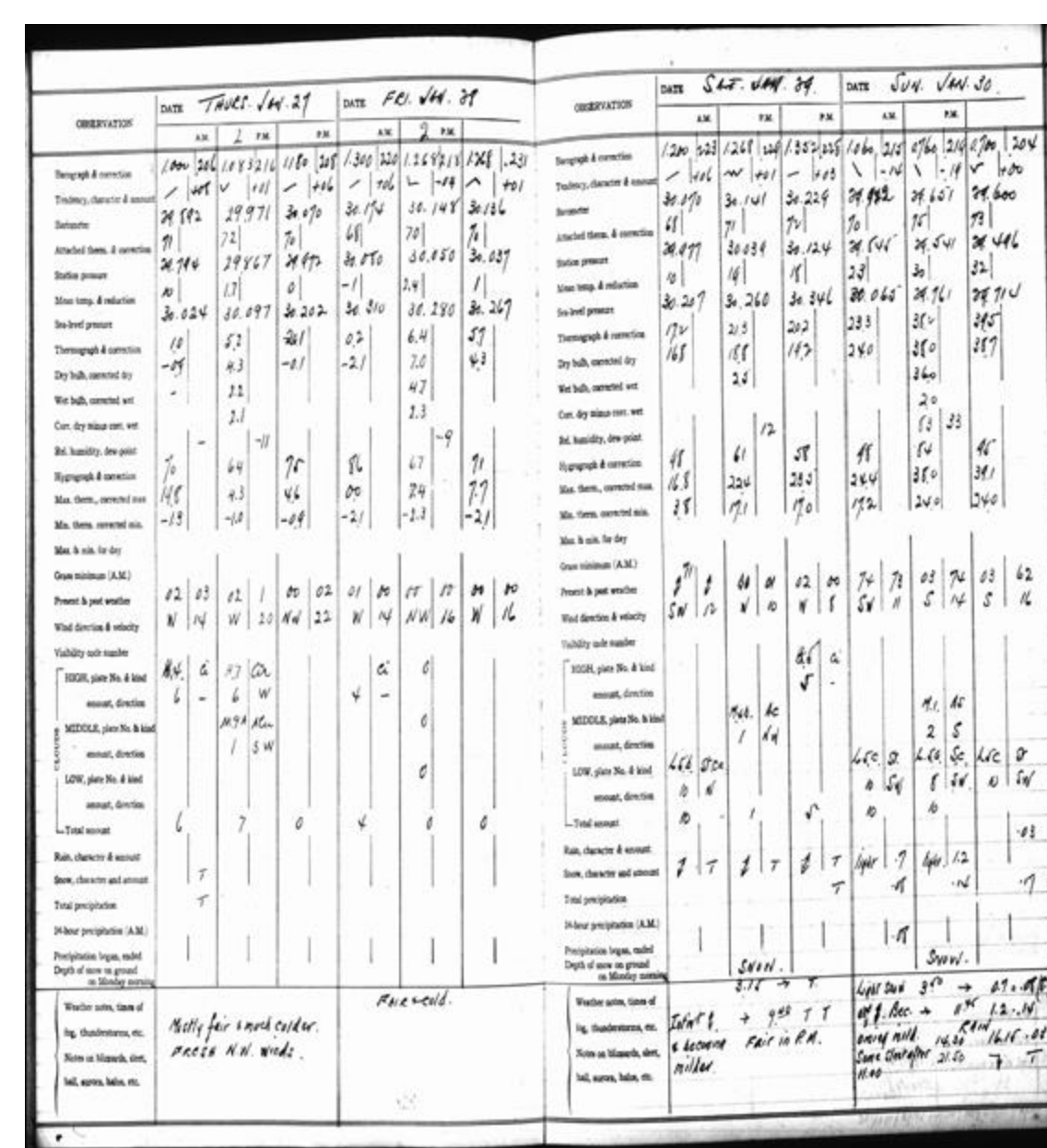
Participatory Archives: citsci.geog.mcgill.ca



Researchers: Dr. Renee Sieber, Dr. Victoria Slonosky, Lori Podolsky, Gordon Burr, Dr. Eun Park, Dr. Frédéric Fabry, Drew Bush, Robert Smith, Rachel Black, Jazmine Aldrich, Christopher Blouin, Elisa Chaudet, Catriona Mulholland, Brittany Nolan, Sananne Wartabetian and Yumeng Zhang

The Archive: McGill Observatory Logbooks, 1874 -1963

The Goal: Participatory Archives



Objective: Transform the most important source of historical weather in Canada, which existed only in analogue archival records, through Citizen Science (crowdsourcing) as a **participatory archives project** so that climate scientists and others can search for and analyze individual cells.

- Create readable digital images of logbooks and metadata for these images.
- Link images and **each data element traceable to the archival source through metadata** and usable by the transcription app to assign the correct GUI to pages reflecting numerous changes in logbook formats over 100 years



Objective: To engage non-archivists through outreach, including social media, to contribute to data rescue on website.

- Engage multiple audiences (researchers, students, general public citizen scientists)
- Think outside traditional archival transcriptions to meet particular challenges of collaboration with scientists with a data testing and transformation for use orientation

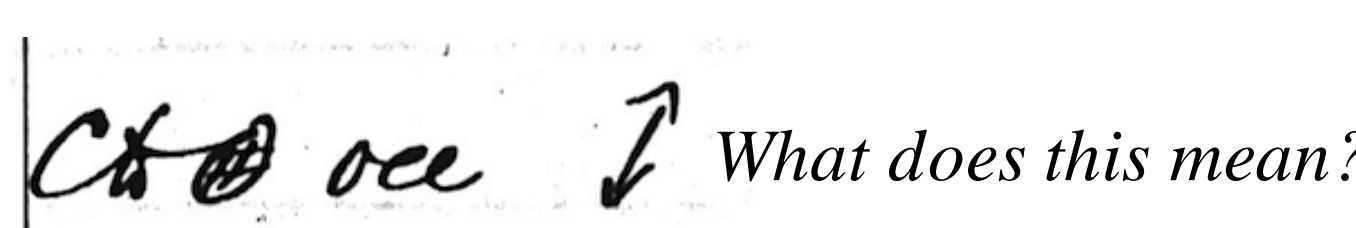
Database and GUI Development

LOCAL TIME	Barometric				Temp. of the Air		Wind		Dir
	Observed	AMD	Corrected for sea level	Reduced to	Observed	Corrected	Observed	Corrected	
14	14.8	30.075	70	30.011	29.900	30.099	55.2	55.3	10
14	14	30.142	69	30.058	30.006	30.146	55.1	55.0	10
19	19	30.076	71	30.105	30.091	30.187	67.4	67.8	67
14	14	30.000	71	30.073	29.947	30.153	68.2	68.0	10
7	7	30.088	71	30.071	29.957	30.152	68.4	67.8	7
10	10	30.075	70	30.055	29.976	30.171	60.8	54.8	60

Objective: Creation of usable bi-lingual web site, web-based tools and applications.

- Enable transcription of weather log data written in **cursive script or symbols** and recorded in **non-standardized ways**.
- Design appropriate **unique data collection templates** and related database schema to **capture all data** beyond just the numerical to include comments and weather symbols
- Use **innovative floating data capture tool** and web site design to encourage participation in the project.

Community Engagement: Challenges

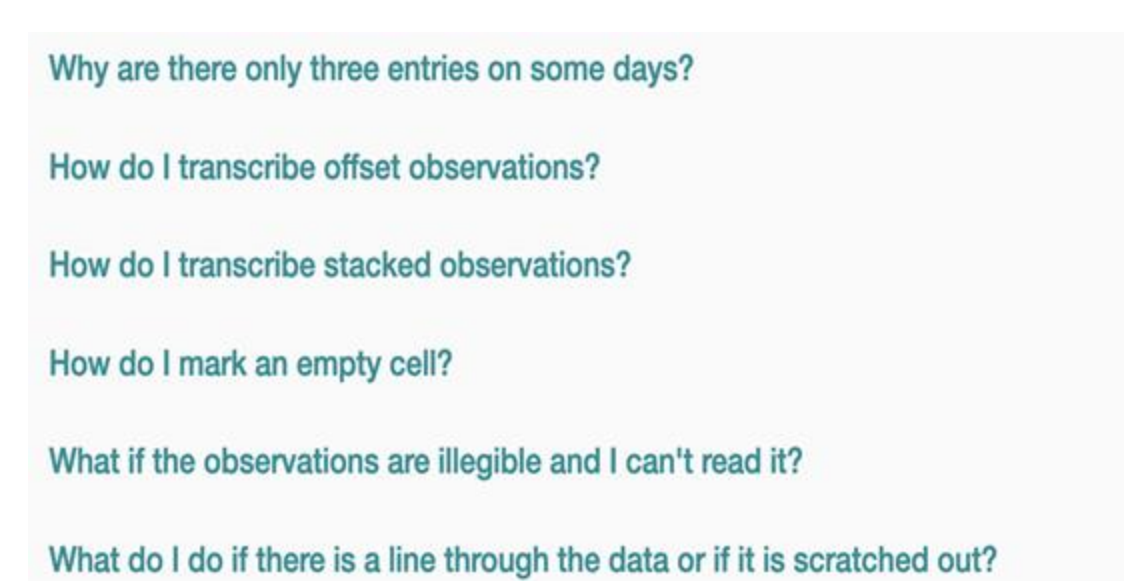
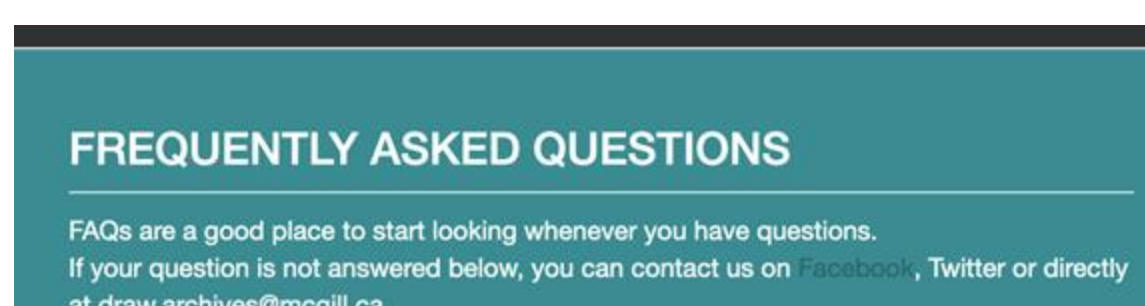


Objective: Motivate members of the public to **transcribe visually dense, technical scientific information** containing

- Obsolete scientific terms
- Symbology
- Abbreviations

Iterative testing of GUI as part of a research project using **focus groups and the Think Out Loud methodology** to gather information on the usability of the site led to improvements using:

- Videos
- Tutorials
- Blogs
- FAQs
- Community outreach and workshops



Next Steps for a Participatory Archives



New Users. **Educator's Corner** section links to weather-related digital resources to help support lesson plans in CEGEPS and High Schools

New archival resources, such as Winter Carnival Souvenirs (left) supplement **community engagement** by augmenting user experience. Serves to **retain current users and create new knowledge** by:

- using **DRAW data** from their personalized data accounts
- linking to these other resources to **create their own research projects** agendas and create blog entries if interested

Individual recognition for work & gamification

- Engage with **volunteer recognition programs** such as CCR at McGill.
- Build on Instagram, Facebook, Twitter and blog programming to **attract & retain users**.