

Mel Starkman, Geoffrey Reaume - Mad Documents in the Psychiatric Survivor Archives of Toronto

The Psychiatric Survivor Archives, Toronto (PSAT), was established in 2001 to represent all perspectives in the community of people who have had contact with the mental health system, voluntarily or involuntarily. During the past decade the archives has collected a large collection of material which includes historical documents on organized resistance to, and cooperation with, mainstream psychiatry. Given the nature of the Psych Out conference, this panel presented documents illustrating some of this history of organized activist groups among psychiatric survivors, ex-patients and inmates who identified as resisting psychiatry and what these primary sources tell us about our recent mad people's past. The purpose of this panel was therefore to bring to light some of the primary source material that is available to researchers who may wish to study this topic in the Psychiatric Survivor Archives, Toronto.