

"Keep going, despite the challenges"
Maintain our ties and continue our missions



**Joseph Wresinski Archives and Research Centre
Activity Report 2020**



Cover photo: Team at the Joseph Wresinski Archives and Research Centre. February 2020.

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Activity Report 2020

Introduction

Against the backdrop of a long and major crisis linked to the pandemic, the team at the Joseph Wresinski Archives and Research Centre (JWC) sought to implement everything possible from the outset to “**keep going, despite the challenges**”, guided by two key principles: **maintain our ties and continue our missions**. This required continuing with day-to-day tasks and the ongoing projects, in compliance with the JWC programme, while also maintaining the ties within the team and with the teams of the Movement beyond the JWC premises, as well as with all its partners involved in the various tasks associated with the archives, documentation and research projects.

From the moment of the first lockdown, the JWC team mobilised resources to ensure that everyone had the means to continue with their work, despite the distances and the absence of physical connections in the workplace, which was often keenly felt. The everyday work of the JWC was coordinated via virtual meetings. The processing of digital archives was given priority and reinforced to enable classification work to continue, while the work to describe physical archives continued on-site at a minimum, where possible, while respecting the government measures

Young people were particularly affected by the severing of societal and cultural ties resulting from the crisis. As such, the JWC sought to reinforce the inclusive and participative aspect of its legacy and research work by welcoming student interns, young volunteers undergoing training or in transition, and participants of workshops organised by the Movement, and supporting them on-site in Baillet-en-France.

The JWC also quickly mobilised resources to collect and publish testimonies on the Movement’s websites of what those living in extreme poverty were living through, how they were coping and their thoughts on the period. “*If we do not create history,*” says Bruno Tardieu, Director of the JWC, “*if we do not keep a record of how those living in extreme poverty are experiencing this period, nobody will know what happened. **History, as witnessed by certain people, will be erased by that witnessed by others.***” For a large part of the global population, confinement has not been possible: if people do not go out in the morning, they will not eat in the evening. The unusual nature of the situation for many prompted the following remarks from one activist in Belgium: “*For those of us **living in poverty, being isolated is the norm.** Perhaps now, others will realise what we live through every day... I hope – he says – that this will be a turning point, a sort of ‘reset’ button.*”

The disruptions due to the exceptional nature of the crisis brought on by the pandemic and the many measures put in place by the public authorities to safeguard health and control socialising in order to combat the pandemic have shone a light on the ‘ordinary’ elements of the JWC team’s work. It is this aspect of the everyday life and activities of the JWC, during a pandemic, that we have sought to highlight in this Activity Report.

We would like to interpret the JWC’s will to maintain its ties and continue its missions, despite all the challenges, as a contribution to a ‘reset’ towards an alternative world, a world that neither forgets nor leaves anybody behind.

I. Maintaining our ties and continuing our missions: the JWC during the upheaval of the pandemic

Below are some extracts from a collective review of the year – a polyphony of gestures and actions undertaken by the JWC, in keeping with its ambitions.

Sophie Razanakoto: *“These periods of lockdown have required a significant effort on my part every day to adapt to a new way of working by phone and by videoconference, and this has allowed me to be in contact with others.” “Confinement has actually provided an environment conducive to working on the archives.”*

Honorine Kouamé talks about conducting meetings by phone, from the beginning of the crisis: *“Everyone was at home, but every effort was made to stay connected and to discuss what each person was going through... Links between us were reinforced.”*

Vincent Chanal recalls the request from Julien, a Tapori facilitator in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC). He was one of three children of the DRC delegation in Geneva, in December 2009, during a meeting with Ms. Kyung-wha Kang, Deputy High Commissioner for Human Rights. At the time, Julien had received a CD of photos and videos of this meeting, which, unfortunately, he subsequently misplaced. He asked us if we had any photo or video records of the event and if we could send him copies. The JWC was able to facilitate this and Julien’s remark was very touching: *“They [photos and videos] are very important to me because they show that I did something significant at one point in my life.”*

Sarah Ortega in the Archiving Department, was also encouraged by the continuation of team meetings and came up with a way to continue her work digitising audio recordings by working from home.

Sébastien Thouvenin, an IT technician at the JWC, increased his operations to respond to the numerous and pressing requests from the fragmented team, all the while prioritising the security of the archives and server access for everyone.

For **Daniel Fayard**, it was the opportunity to delve back into his own archives, to make an inventory of all his correspondence with ATD Fourth World members and institutions, and of everything he had been able to write in the way of articles and contributions to working sessions with these institutions. He was able to continue responding to various requests, such as reviewing the writings of historian Axelle Brodiez on the history of the Movement.

Corinne Murer, an ally who regularly assists the Archiving Department, exclaims: “*Jacques and his email!*” Corinne is talking about the message from Jacques Ogier, the coordinator of the Archiving Department, in which he shared news and talked about how everyone was getting on. Among others, Corinne accepted the responsibility of following what several teams in France were writing about the experiences of families during the pandemic, to publish this content on the website. She remembers an article about people living on the streets and how it was impossible for them to access shelters, to eat, to stay in parks... During the second lockdown, Corinne worked remotely on the videos, happy to have been able to maintain ties and continue her work.

Caught out in the middle of the social philosophy seminar (see photos page 15), **François Jomini** faced up to the situation. The second session, in January, had been a great success and united the group. This enabled work to continue remotely during the lockdown, on an individual basis. Equal contributions from all participants of the seminar were made to the August session, which was held via videoconference and for which each person could propose a text on the chosen topics. Of course, it was disappointing that the session had to be held remotely, but so it was, and everyone had a strong sense that they had participated in a real meeting and a genuine exchange of ideas. “*We witnessed the bonds that develop in a project, over time,*” says François. “*There could have been a risk of it stalling. But that did not happen.*”

II. Progress in spite of the challenges: an in-depth look at the departments' activities in times of uncertainty and upheaval

II.1. Archiving Department

Lockdowns slowed the work of processing physical archives. We therefore prioritised the remote processing of digitised archives, quality control of feedback on digitisations, and article writing, to celebrate Archives Day and the centenary of the birth of Geneviève de Gaulle Anthonioz.

The health situation encouraged the teams to classify their archives in preparation for depositing them. Some of the 29 deposits collected in 2020 came from: Le Centre de promotion familiale in Noisy-le-Grand (14 linear metres at 87 gigabytes), the 2017 global #StopPoverty campaign (887 gigabytes), the international secretariats, the ATD Fourth World premises in Lyon, archives deposited by Gabrielle Ericum (General Secretariat), Youth Activities (Djynamo) in France, etc

The youth summer workshop was an opportunity to continue with the project to digitise old ATD Fourth World exhibitions. Over the course of a week at the Centre, teams of young people were involved in editing the exhibitions photographed by Carmen Martos.

In December, the JWC was the subject of a film made by Claire Jeanteur. The film will give a behind-the-scenes look at the archives as well as the reading room in which Gabrielle Ericum is consulting the archives on the history of the Notre-Dame-de-Tout-le-Monde chapel in Noisy-le-Grand.

Despite the crisis, the department continued with its everyday activities of collecting, preserving, classifying and communicating archive documents, and undertook numerous projects:

- Selection of a new service provider, following a call for bids, to maintain the heating, ventilation and air conditioning (HVAC) units in the archives building.

- Numerous renovation works in the building (roof leaks, blinds on the glass roof, utilities circuits, lighting, lifts, etc.).
- Expansion of storage bay capacity (2x80 terabytes) for the preservation and safeguarding of digitised assets, including videos.
- Continuation of work to digitise written documents and photos, and quality checks on the digitisations of written documents and videos
- Launch of the Archival Information System (AIS) project, with a service provider, Olkoa, selected to assist with project management in phases 1 and 2 of the project, namely:

Defining the needs and requirements of the JWC and the scope of the future AIS;

Drawing up the technical specifications for the acquisition of the AIS software package in keeping with the strategic framework approved by the project steering committee.

- Despite the many constraints associated with the pandemic, and with a delay of just three months on the anticipated timeline, the project met its new deadlines – the technical specifications were validated at the end of December and preparations were made for the call for expressions of interest (CEI) from preselected software publishers and the call for bids for the publishers accepted following this CEI.

The figure **510** illustrates the efforts involved. This is the number of hours invested in this AIS project by the coordinator, Jacques Ogier, and archivist Loïc Besnard, from the Archiving Department, throughout the year, in the form of meetings, individual and group working sessions, and discussions within the Archiving Department team and with Olkoa.

II.2. Documentation Department

The implementation work for the **Documentary Information System** project continued. This is the platform used to manage the Documentation Centre. The system will facilitate catalogue management and the deployment of an online consultation module, in three languages, whereby public documents edited by ATD Fourth World may be consulted. The process of collecting existing data to be saved on the new database continued, despite taking longer than anticipated.

In order to digitise the data and make them accessible on the Documentation Centre's online platform, the department made a selection of public reports produced over the years whose circulation had previously been limited.

II.3. Research Department

The Research Department also maintained its daily rhythm, holding monthly meetings, welcoming young student interns and volunteers, and enriching its documentary material. It made progress on all its projects, particularly the following:

- End June to beginning July: publication of the book *Rethinking our World from the Perspective of Poverty, with Joseph Wresinski* (Hermann publishers), the English version of the 2017 Cerisy Seminar Proceedings, with a foreword by Baroness Ruth Lister, member of the House of Lords¹ and Emeritus Professor of Social Policy at Loughborough University in the United Kingdom. The Spanish version of these proceedings is currently being drafted. It will be prefaced by Federico Mayor, a politician, scientist and poet who was Director General of UNESCO² from 1987 to 1999.

- Publication of 4 issues of *Revue Quart Monde*: 253 - Vers l'autonomie des jeunes [Towards youth independence]; 254 - Temps libre, temps de liberté ? [Free time, time for freedom?]; 255 - Prendre soin [Taking care]; 256 - Ce qu'on apprend au milieu des fléaux [What we learn in the midst of scourges].

¹ The English House of Lords or Chamber of Lords is equivalent to the Senate in France.

² United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, headquartered in Paris.

- Entreaty to the French national delegation for the second phase of the TZCLD project (*Territoires Zéro Chômeur de Longue Durée* – an experiment to achieve zero long-term unemployment in 10 areas of France).
- English dubbing of films made by Caroline Glorion: *Joseph l'Insoumis* [Joseph, the rebellious] and 50 ans de combat contre la misère [50 years of fighting against poverty]. This dubbing project received funding from the Joseph Wresinski Foundation of the *Institut de France*.
- At the end of 2019, the decision was made to launch a collection of documents for reflection to train members of ATD Fourth World, known as the “Baillet Working Papers”. Nine editions were produced and circulated in 2020, including the reports on the In-depth Study Days with sociologist Alain Caillé around the thinking of Marcel Mauss³, and with philosopher Jean-Marc Ferry on the theme “Between love and law: is a politics of charity possible?”; but also the work of rereading the archives from the first ten years of ATD Fourth World, carried out by historians, individuals with experience of poverty and volunteers.

Over the course of the year, the JWC team was in contact with one hundred or so researchers from universities and the academic world and institutions, both in France and beyond its borders (Great Britain, USA, Bolivia, Tanzania, Bangladesh, Belgium), including: 7 from the Sorbonne/ATD group; 7 participants from the social philosophy seminar, and 7 who agreed to be on the scientific committee of this seminar; 9 young researchers at the final stage of their PhD thesis; 3 professors from the Collège de France, preparing for a seminar on knowledge in the face of injustice; 11 involved in evaluating the methodology used for researching the dimensions of poverty; 24 involved in the ATD Fourth World/CNAM⁴/CNRS⁵ collaborative partnership to validate the Merging of Knowledge® methodology and to support the research into implementing this methodology; 2 involved in the working group to create a researcher network in English-speaking Africa; and 17 involved in various other subjects.

³ Marcel Mauss is a French anthropologist, ethnologist and sociologist, author of *l'Essai sur le don* [The Gift], and known for his theory on gift exchange.

⁴ CNAM: Conservatoire national des arts et métiers – National Conservatory of Arts and Trades

⁵ CNRS: Centre national de la recherche scientifique – National Centre for Scientific Research

III. Continuing to welcome young people: their perspective on the Joseph Wresinski Centre

Many young people have struggled over this period in which training and studies were challenging and their social lives were significantly altered. We have been particularly mindful to continue welcoming young people, at any cost, and in different ways – student internships, summer workshops, training for young Volunteer Corps members of ATD Fourth World, and the Jeunes chercheurs [Young researchers] group.

Jeunes chercheurs. On 8 February, the Jeunes chercheurs group was able to meet at the JWC. A group of 15 or so young people studying for their PhDs and associated with the Movement were contacted, and several registered an interest in participating. The group reconvened on 26 June via videoconference, during which the decision was made to form two sub-working groups. These arranged different virtual meeting times, before a further videoconference with the whole group on 16 December.

Summer workshops. Two summer workshops for young people were held in June and July: three days to begin the inventory of the library books and three days to support the exhibition archiving (see photos page 18).

The group of ATD Fourth World volunteers in their first ‘discovery’ year came to the JWC on 25 June. Each volunteer read different documents depending on the questions formulated during their first day of training. Some of the remarks that emerged during the end-of-day evaluation express their sentiments: “*Important to relate to a story*”; “*Father Joseph wanted everybody to participate to build a better future together.*” “*To know is to give life to the language.*” Two new volunteers Thomas Piveteau and Baptiste Bouju, were successively assigned the mission to work with the Research Department, bringing their intelligence and energy to its projects.

Student internships and how the students view the JWC

This year, despite the unfavourable circumstances, the JWC welcomed more students than usual (9) with a combination of remote and in-person sessions, adapted to each individual. All of them were appreciative of our efforts and the welcome

they received from the team. The JWC also supported two other student interns at ATD France and ATD Lyon, as well as three PhD students who are working in the JWC archives on Merging of Knowledge® and on the history of the Noisy-le-Grand homeless camp and the La Campa slums.

At the end of the internship, each student was invited to write a report and present it to the team to share their learnings. Below are some extracts:

Internship report from Fatouma

My internship entailed creating a detailed bibliography of Geneviève de Gaulle Anthonioz, based on her books and books written about her in the lead-up to her centenary on 25 October 2020. For the first part of the internship, from 16 March to 2 June, I worked remotely due to the pandemic. But my progress was always monitored thanks to phone calls every Wednesday and Friday with Béatrice Noyer and Bruno Tardieu. I continued my internship in person from 2 June to 31 July (...)

Two key points caught my attention:

Volunteer work and the sense of engagement. *Father Joseph had the art of convincing people to offer their help to those living in extreme poverty in order to fight against it. Despite difficult living conditions, people like Francine de la Gorce agreed to live with families, to live like them, in order to demonstrate this equality among human beings that is advocated in the international laws on human rights. It is a profound and personal engagement. From my reading, I used to consider volunteer work as a constraint or rather a sacrifice, but thanks to my time here over these two months, I could see that this wasn't the case. The volunteers who I talked with found this engagement rewarding and found a sense of fulfilment in the work, because for them, fighting for this cause gives their life meaning.*

Human dignity. *I learnt during my studies that human dignity is an inalienable right of being human. Yet how can we talk about respecting this right when accessing rights is almost impossible for a sector of the population? From my reading, I've ascertained that all humans are equal, in their dignity and their rights; however, due to social status or economic or financial situation, certain people find themselves in a dominant and superior position compared with others who do not have the same opportunities, which makes the latter doubt their abilities and has a very negative impact on their own self-esteem. They therefore find themselves in a position of weakness and must prove to themselves and to the whole world that they*

exist and that they are every bit as worthy. Society tries to make them believe otherwise by putting them in a position of dependence. The question “Are we therefore (under)dogs?” sheds light on how they feel within society. It is an abuse of language to say “we will grant dignity to those living in extreme poverty”. Dignity is not a material asset that we grant or take away. It is a sense of well-being, of existence, of pride, of self-esteem. Those living in extreme poverty are just as worthy as everyone else. What is needed is a change in perceptions and in attitudes. Those living in extreme poverty do not need help, but rather opportunities to prove their abilities and affirm their dignity.

Excerpts from the talk with the team – Mariam, Samy and Anna share their learnings

My name is Marlam. I am in the second year of my master’s in Human Rights and Humanitarian Action at Sciences Po in Paris. Students had talked to me about their internship with you. I took the course on poverty given by Julien Damon, who already came to Baillet and talks a great deal about ATD. At the end of the semester, he invites representatives of ATD and two other associations, and every year he invites Bruno Tardieu. Having heard him speak, I decided to apply for an internship and Beatrice came back to me very promptly.

I carried out research on the “Hidden dimensions of poverty”, a research project that took place over three years, in three countries of the North and three countries of the South. I explored the process of the six research teams comprising people living in poverty, professionals and academics. I gained an understanding of the methodology itself, Merging of Knowledge®, which I had never heard of before.

Often at university, when someone comes to lecture us on a subject, it’s a professor of X or a specialist in Y. I’m not suggesting that the person isn’t knowledgeable, but they never say where they obtained their knowledge from. **Now, I’m becoming more discerning, and I’m asking myself:** “Do they realise when they are speaking **that there are perspectives on the subject that they aren’t aware of, or perspectives that are ignored?**” In the research that I covered, getting the perspective of the people concerned is not only asking them what it is to be poor, but really including them in the process of collective thinking – studying, producing, writing, communicating a new way of thinking. This methodology was a huge discovery for me.

One particular project I worked on was a week-long meeting between all the research teams at the end of the process, with the goal of finding common ground. I listened and transcribed the conversations from the entire week.



On the 3rd of March, historian Jean-Luc Marais, from the Angers region, came to present research work started on the occasion of the 100th anniversary of the birth of Joseph Wresinski, covering his childhood, the life of his family and their troubles with the authorities. He gives us a copy of a letter from Lucrece Wresinski to the local prefect, dated 12 July 1918, where she asks *“that he grant a refugee allowance to her little boy Joseph Wresinski, born in Angers on the 12 February 1917 (...) we are not in the habit of begging, behind our appearance of neatness, much misery is hidden”*.



27 February, visit by Mrs Thi-Phong Nguyen, preservation officer at the French Interministerial Archive Service, for an expert review of our geothermal facilities and our archive storage units. She acknowledges the quality of our temperature and humidity maintaining system, and makes some recommendations regarding its maintenance. In September, the JWC appointed a new service provider for the HVAC unit maintenance.

The JWC team discusses the future Archive Information System technical specifications, as presented by Loïc Besnard, Jacques Ogier and Philippe Huet. Final technical specifications are validated at the end of 2020, with the assistance of the OLKOA service provider, and preparations are made for a call for bids from the selected software publishers.



The group of philosophers, practitioners and Fourth World activists met twice this year: once in person, in January, with the decision to look deeper into three issues : the law, the resistance and the epistemic injustice, and then remotely, in August, to share the pandemic experience, highly different from one to another, and present the texts chosen by each and everyone.



15 June, Visit by Xavier Darcos, chancellor of the Institut de France and directors of the board of the Joseph Wresinski Foundation.

Isabelle Pypaert-Peyrin, General Director of the Movement International Leadership Team, presents the tapestry by Nelly Schenker on the life of Joseph Wresinski.

Daniel Fayard tells the story of the beginnings of the Research Institute. Honorine Kouame presents handwritten documents from Joseph Wresinski to Xavier Darcos and Andre Vauchez.



At the end of their internship, students share their learnings with the team. (see extracts from their reports on page 12).



Two workshops allowed young people to learn about the movement, to assist in the progress of the new documentation center project, and to take pictures of old exhibits to preserve them in digital format.





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14 September 2020, seminar with Axelle Brodiez, a CNRS historian, who has undertaken to write the history of ATD Fourth World, and who has decided to review her work as it progresses, with the JWC team and people involved at the time. Here with Eugen Brand, Claude Ferrand, Huguette Redegeld, Bruno Dabout, Sophie Razanakoto, Daniel Fayard and Bruno Tardieu.



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July, two volunteers from Youth activities in France deposit 1988 to 2018 archive documents (see page 26)



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Transcription is an arduous but amazing task...Once you are immersed in it, you feel things, even the atmosphere, the disagreements... there's a lot that goes on.

*I organised my time as it suited me; they weren't checking up on my progress all the time...This gave me time to immerse myself in what was being said and to learn things for myself. **The advantage of being here in the archives is that our work will be carefully preserved, so that it may benefit ATD and others will be able to consult it.** But the experience has also enabled me to look into things that I didn't know about before, wonderful things that have deeply moved me.*

*You weren't on our backs, and the dynamic between us is quite unified, almost without hierarchy. There are roles with responsibilities, but **our experiences are equal.** I never felt that people were thinking, "you're 20, you're studying for your master's and so you don't understand". No. It was a pleasure to speak with you, Carmen, for example. We are all very different here. Where else might I have met you? And Lamine, you told me about super interesting things from your assignment in Madagascar. It's normal in a job to talk with your colleagues, but here it's closely linked with why we are here, and that is very rewarding.*

My name is Sammy.** I heard about ATD on a course given by Guillaume Leblanc, who sometimes comes here for the social philosophy seminar. A debate among the students on two notions captured my interest: the notion of necessity and the notion of aspiration. The students had said, "why do we not give the necessary to the poor?" And this turned into a debate on what 'the necessary' means, the strictly necessary. Are we reducing the poor to animals with this sort of notion? Another debate with several very dogmatic students revolved around poor people's place in the fight. It was at this moment that Guillaume Leblanc spoke about ATD. **He described ATD not just as a place for acquiring skills, or for offering his expertise, but as an experience.

I contacted ATD about this internship during lockdown. I wasn't really sure what they were going to ask me. Soon I realised that they were also going to ask me what I wanted to do. We talked about the social philosophy seminar, and this interested me quite a bit. And I worked with François. You realise that there are very different people at ATD. I spoke with François about the notion of diversity in spaces for action and dialogue, because there are huge barriers, invisible barriers, in these spaces, which people call 'cultural capital' – this type of highly intellectual word that ultimately means that it is always the same people who come together to say the same things.

And in fact, at ATD, you meet people from very different backgrounds, but who are evidently united by the same goal. We talk about 'healthy spaces for discussion' and it's that: even if we disagree on certain things, since we have a shared goal – to put the poor at the centre of the discussion on poverty – it remains a space for debate. For me, that is the ATD experience. It was many discussions with François, with Baptiste, that were really rewarding. As Mariam said, I never felt as though I was an intern. I did a lot of internships and jobs during my studies. When you start, you are a beginner, a novice, and you are often put in your place. **I never had this impression at ATD that my input was going to be questioned.** you're the novice, you've only just arrived. It was quite the opposite, in fact. I felt very encouraged to speak up, to give my opinion, that we were there for that.

For the social philosophy seminar, I found the transcription difficult to begin with. It is a complicated task, but I'm glad that I managed it. You feel involved when you are transcribing something, because **you have some remarks from everyone and it is our task to ensure that these remarks that are made are preserved in the archive, that they may be used.** You feel involved in the research process, and for me, being on a research master's, I valued this experience. I would like to thank everyone for giving me a place and for being who you are.

My name is Anna. I am in the final year of my bachelor's degree in Peace and Conflict studies in Malmö, Sweden. I was keen to do an internship to discover my field of study. However, it was complicated given the period of lockdown and the fact that I am an undergraduate student. My mother mentioned ATD to me. I wrote to them and they replied with an offer of an internship. It was fantastic! What's more, I learnt afterwards that my great-grandmother had been very involved in her lifetime and had donated her time and money to ATD for many years. I was very moved by this.

It was my first professional experience, and my first internship in the field I am studying. I had heard many things about internships, of people who had spent their time making coffee and photocopies... all three of us agree on this point. Here, we aren't thought of as students, but valued for our opinions, what we say and what we know. That was also difficult for me in the beginning because **it was the first time I was really being asked, "what do you think? What do you have to say about this?"** And that it mattered. It was important for me to speak up and it wasn't just to make myself happy. That was a challenge, it pushed me to ask myself what I really thought of what I had read. I researched the topic "Poverty is violence", a research project that was carried out between 2008 and 2012 in 15 countries. There were 5 regional seminars to explore

this topic, involving people who had shared similar life experiences – in Mauritius, Peru, England, France and Senegal. I read the transcripts of all these seminars. It was interesting to see how people spoke and how the events evolved. I also read a lot of literature on Joseph Wresinski's thinking. The objective was to investigate the methodology that had been used to conduct this research. I then had the opportunity to talk with members of the "Poverty is violence" research team, which was very enlightening, and I transcribed these interviews.

*I discovered the whole approach of Merging of Knowledge®. From my studies on conflict resolution, I learnt that **the only way to achieve lasting peace is to start from the bottom**, and not by politicians and heads of state imposing something on the population. It has to start with the people, so that they can say what their wishes are, in order for peace to prevail. But I had never seen or heard of how to do this in practice. It was a wonderful discovery to see that this can be done effectively.*

Excerpts from subsequent discussions with the team

Has your perspective on poverty changed?

Mariam: *I would say that what I used to have in mind about poverty did not actually mean anything... and here, aspects such as mistreatment by institutions, the digital divide, not being able to pay rent... I was starting to understand. We cannot realise how diverse and complex it is. Never in my life had I thought about poor peoples' relationships with institutions, and it was so wonderful to hear that, to hear what people think about it. The other day I watched a one-and-a-half-hour documentary about people living on the streets, and it didn't enlighten me... So once again, what we perceive is very superficial. I didn't know anything before.*

Sammy: *Something that I'd never heard discussed was the matter of children. Here, I met fathers, mothers, grandparents, but I also read things that were touching. In writings about the handover, this tearing apart of families, children taken away from their parents: I had no idea about that aspect of poverty. In Wresinski's writings, poverty is described as **people who are reduced in every aspect, in who they are and, above all, in what they have**. All that they have are used belongings, and the act of taking away their children, the one thing that they have – that really upset me. Their flesh and blood.*

Anna: *On my course, I have studied different forms of violence – not just direct violence, when you hit someone, but also indirect violence inflicted by institutions or in the way in which you express yourself towards someone. It is highlighted in*

*the “Poverty is violence” research I studied: people who have spoken from all over the world, poverty and violence impacts them the same way. As such, they realised that they are not alone in this, and that what they are living through is real. They may be told that what they are saying is untrue, but it is true. **Alone, they have doubts about their personal experiences,** and with this research, they realise that they are living shared experiences without knowing it.*

These three students continued to work on projects for the JWC, such as organising an online conference, joining the Jeunes chercheurs group and collaborating on the research project on the Merging of Knowledge® methodology..

IV. The JWC calendar

9 - 12 January: Second session of the social philosophy seminar “Penser ensemble l’être social avec Joseph Wresinski” [Collective thinking on the social being, with Joseph Wresinski]: 30 co-researchers (Fourth World activists, practitioners and philosophers) come together to discuss ideas about society and poverty(See photos page 15).

Throughout January: **Emma Poma**, a Fourth World activist from Bolivia, spends time working at Baillet-en-France before a change of mission.

28 January: Bruno Tardieu presents at a training session on the power of action at the Centre Sèvres, in front of an audience of 150 people.

1 February: Training of ATD Fourth World France members working with children – why write, how to write, what ethics?

7 February: Visit of ambassador, **Michel Tarran**, delegate for relations with civil society and partnerships from the MEAE⁶. This visit is part of the examination of the funding dossier by the French Development Agency (AFD), which includes a significant portion for the archives and ATD Fourth World research.

12-13 February: Ethics committee (see Activity Report 2019) meets with two new members, volunteer Amélie Kamoni and legal expert Pierre Yves Verkindt. The committee continued to meet every two months.

3 March: Conference given by historian **Jean-Luc Marais** on the childhood and youth of Joseph Wresinski (see photo page 13).

31 March: Meeting via videoconference with **Yves Saint-Geours**, President of the French National Commission for UNESCO, to present to him the project to incorporate the ATD Fourth World archives into the UNESCO Memory of the World Register. This action receives his full support.

⁶ MEAE = Ministry for Europe and Foreign Affairs.

28 April: The Sorbonne/ATD group organises the online conference, *Invisibilisation des femmes pauvres, hier, aujourd'hui, demain* [Women living in poverty, made invisible – yesterday, today and tomorrow], supported by the network of ATD and SONU (United Nations Sorbonne) students. With the participation of **Diane Roman**⁷, **Michelle Perrot**⁸ and **Naomi Anderson**⁹. Attended by 200 participants

8 juin : We co-organised and held an online international seminar on the links and tensions between environmental justice and social justice, in collaboration with the international advocacy team, with contributions from all continents and the participation of Professor **Mireille Delmas-Marty**¹⁰ and **Professor Emilie Gaillard**¹¹.

8-12 June: Global Archives Week – presentation of written archives, videos and audio recordings of Geneviève de Gaulle Anthonioz, in preparation for the centenary of her birth.

15 June: Visit by **Xavier Darcos**, chancellor of the Institut de France, **André Vauchez**, historian and member of the Institute and **Catherine Dalarun** (see photos page 16)

July: Deposit of archives from Youth Activities in France (see photo page 20).

17 July: Meeting via videoconference with the Asia regional team to take stock of the archives and research in the region. The idea of holding an annual meeting for each global region is approved. A similar meeting took place with the African region on 9 November, during which it was decided to widely circulate a leaflet on copyright in Africa, and with the Latin American region on 9 December, where the notion of archiving training was decided upon.

13-15 September: Interviews and working seminars with **Axelle Brodiez** and 15 key figures on chapters of the Movement's history during the 1970s and 1980s, her area of research (see photo page 19).

⁷ Diane Roman is a professor at the Faculty of Law of the Paris I Panthéon Sorbonne university.

⁸ Michelle Perrot is a historian and Emeritus Professor of Contemporary History at the Paris-Diderot university.

⁹ Naomi Anderson is a volunteer of the Movement in the United Kingdom.

¹⁰ Mireille Delmas-Marty is a French legal expert, Emeritus Professor at the Collège de France and member of the Académie des sciences morales et politiques [Academy of Moral and Political Sciences].

¹¹ Emilie Gaillard Emilie Gaillard is a lecturer in private law at the Rennes Institute of Political Sciences, and general coordinator of the Normandy Chair for Peace.

1 October: First conference of the series on extreme poverty at *Le Dorothy* in Paris, on the topic of *extreme poverty and business*, with the participation of **Bruno Dabout**, member of the ATD Fourth World International Movement Leadership Team, and **Armand Hatchuel** from the economics lab of Mines ParisTech.

October: The project to catalogue the Joseph Wresinski material comes to an end, after three years of work.

27 October: Talk by Philippe Garrouste and Goretti Razafimahatratra to present their learnings, having spent one day per week for a year reading the writings of Joseph Wresinski.

26 November: Presentation of the Merging of Knowledge® collaborative space with everyone at the doctoral days of the national research group Démocratie et participation [Democracy and participation] (Marion Carrel, Elisabetta Bucolo and Bruno Tardieu). Other presentations given at CNAM and at the Paris-Dauphine University by **Marion Carrel**, **Bruno Tardieu** and **Clémence Puel**.

V. Human resources

Marc Pottier officially joined us on 4 January 2021, as part of a corporate patronage programme. He takes over the stewardship from **Christian Lioult**. Marc will also help us to increase awareness of the JWC, to find new funding and to update an information leaflet on the JWC.

Silvia Ugarte left us to take up a new mission in Marseille. **Nathalie Barrois** succeeded her.

Jonathan Roche joined the photo archives team, with a view to taking over from **Dominic Bernas** at the end of 2021.

Lamine Sarr spent 6 months on the team, for a review of his mission in Madagascar, and also spruced up the JWC by painting the exterior.

Jacqueline Reguard Lacout, joined us on 4 January 2021, as part of a corporate patronage programme.

¹² *Le Dorothy* is a volunteer-based cafe-workshop run by Christians and open to anyone, in the spirit of community.

¹³ This presentation was subsequently published in the Revue Quart Monde n° 257 | 2021/1.

VI. JWC expenses and financial resources in 2020: final accounts.

In total over the year, and for all its activities, including not externally funded staff costs, the JWC total expenses amounted to some 412 000 €, a 21% decrease vs 2019.

Utility costs (water, gas and electricity) totalled 56 000€ approximately, a 9% drop vs 2019.

Running costs, excluding amortization (IT, Operations & Maintenance, travel, membership fees...), increased by 14%, in the region of 82 000 €, owing to a significant increase in repair and maintenance costs of the JWC archiving facilities' HVAC systems and in IT costs (purchase of new equipment).

Spending related to projects (new archiving IS project, published document MIS, digitisation, dubbing, translations...) were below budget, at 101 000€ approx. This is lower than in 2019, due to digitization expenses being far lower than budget and prior year level.

In 2020, external revenues were in the order of 115 000€, vs 48 000€ in 2019. To these revenues must be added AFD funds, covering part of the JWC leading project costs (Archiving IS, Document MIS, CNAM – CNRS collaborative work space, social philosophy seminar), as part of AFD's support of the ATD Fourth World International Movement Think, Act and Advocate project, that runs over a 3-year period, having started on the 1st of July 2019.

Leaving aside the AFD funding, the JWC main source of external funds was the JW dedicated fund, being 95 000€ approx. Other sources of funds were of a lesser magnitude, albeit not insignificant (CNRS contribution, sale of books, copyrights, grants, sundry credit...).

Table of JWC activity indicators

Activity	2019	2020
Total archive holdings		
Archives	2.8 linear km ¹⁴ and 62 Tbytes	2.3 linear km and 70.56 Tb
Library	13 992 descriptive records	14 126 descriptive records
Acquisitions		
Archive Volume	265.2 linear m and 0.42 Tb	64.7 linear m and 1.5 Tb
Archival accessions	50 deposits of which 5 hybrids and 9 digital	29 deposits of which 8 hybrids and 7 digital
Library	/	133 publications ¹⁵
Photo reportages	86	51
Digitised documents		
Writings	310 Gb representing 5 861 documents, i.e. 94 568 viewings	4.2 Gb representing 176 documents, i.e. 12 836 viewings
Audio	340 Gb representing 701 digitised recordings	419 Gb representing 885 digitised recordings
Video	15.3 Tb that is 4 682 digitised recordings	/
Photos	548.6 Gb that is 116 861 pictures	340 Gb that is 92 378 pictures
Archival processing		
Number of research instruments	/	430 ¹⁶

¹⁴ In 2019, the total archive holding measurement was an estimate. In 2020, the stated number is based on actual measurement.

¹⁵ 133 publications of which 33 were given by the family of Pierre Brochet after his death.

¹⁶ 430 archival accessions are described out of a total of 640 entries.

	2019	2020
Total number of requests	227	256
Total number of visits	987	315
Number of interns	4	9
Partnerships with academic researchers	32	91

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