

**THE UNIVERSITY OF WESTERN ONTARIO**

**WESTERN ARCHIVES**



**THE CENTRE FOR COGNITIVE SCIENCE FONDS**

**AFC 57**

Inventory prepared by Alison Reid, based on student finding aid project(s) undertaken in partial fulfillment of archives course requirements - September 2009

**WESTERN ARCHIVES  
AFC 57  
THE CENTRE FOR COGNITIVE SCIENCE FONDS**

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# THE CENTRE FOR COGNITIVE SCIENCE FONDS

## FONDS DESCRIPTION

### Dates

1974-1987, predominant 1981-1987

### Extent and Material

60 cm of textual records

### Administrative History

The Centre for Cognitive Science was established to encourage and coordinate cognitive science research as a recognized area of interdisciplinary study within the University's existing departmental structure. It brought together, at Western, researchers with backgrounds in the fields of cognitive psychology, cognitive neuroscience, electrical engineering and robotics, artificial intelligence, information science, linguistics and philosophy.

The Centre was started in 1981 under a grant from the Alfred P. Sloan Foundation and Western's Academic Development Fund. Its activities included sponsorship of postdoctoral fellows, a visiting speaker series, a series of technical monographs and reports, and occasional conferences and workshops on topics of interest to the Centre's various research groups. While the Centre for Cognitive Science has been dissolved, the exact date of dissolution is unknown; its existence appears to have ended between 2000 and 2005.

Zenon Pylyshyn, professor of Psychology and Computer Science, was the director of the Centre from its inception until 1994, when he left the University of Western Ontario to join the faculty at Rutgers University

### Scope and Content

The fonds consists of materials related to the activities of the Centre for Cognitive Science during the time that it was headed by Zenon Pylyshyn (1981-1987). The records include correspondence, memoranda, agenda, minutes, brochures, email copies, research papers, and other materials.

### Arrangement

The fonds is arranged into the following series:

- Series 1 General Correspondence
- Series 2 Unfiled Correspondence
- Series 3 Memoranda
- Series 4 Canadian Institute for Advanced Research records
- Series 5 Cognitive Science Society records

**Finding Aids**

File lists are available.

**Custodial History**

These records were found, in 2004, by the staff of the University of Western Ontario Archives at 1383 Western Road. They had presumably been stored there by the Centre's director or staff. In 2007, the Department of Psychology formally transferred the records to the University of Western Ontario Archives.

**Conditions Governing Access**

These records are restricted in accordance with the Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act. Researchers must submit a "Research Access Request" to the University Archivist to view these records.

**Notes**

Title is based on provenance of the fonds.

**THE CENTRE FOR COGNITIVE SCIENCE FONDS**  
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**SERIES DESCRIPTIONS and FILE LISTS**

**Series 1      General Correspondence**

**Dates**            1981-1987

**Extent**            28 cm of textual records

**Scope and Content**

The series documents both incoming and outgoing correspondence of The Centre for Cognitive Science, interfiled and arranged chronologically. Most of the correspondence was either addressed to, or written by, Zenon Pylyshyn in his capacity as director.

**Notes**

1. The April - June 1987 file was missing when the University Archives acquired the fonds.
2. Series title is directly taken from the original file labels.

**File List**

Title	Date	Box/File
General correspondence 1981	1981	A07-034-001-1
General correspondence 1982	1982	A07-034-001-2
General correspondence 1983	1983	A07-034-001-3
General correspondence 1984	1984	A07-034-001-4
General correspondence 1985	1985	A07-034-001-5
General correspondence Nov/Dec 1985	1985	A07-034-001-6
General correspondence 1986 Jan – Mar	1986	A07-034-001-7
General correspondence April - June 86	1986	A07-034-001-8
General correspondence July - Sept. 86	1986	A07-034-001-9
General correspondence Oct – Dec. 1986	1986	A07-034-001-10
General correspondence Jan. – Mar 1987	1987	A07-034-001-11
General correspondence July – Sept. 87	1987	A07-034-001-12
General correspondence Oct – Dec. 1987	1987	A07-034-001-13

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**Series 2**      **Unfiled correspondence**

**Dates**            1974-1987

**Extent**            21 cm of textual records

**Scope and Content**

The series consists of incoming and outgoing correspondence of Zenon Pylyshyn, arranged separately. A large portion of these records predate the existence of the Centre for Cognitive Science. Another portion of these records appear to be the unfiled correspondence approximately in the same period as the general correspondence series.

**Notes**

Series title is based on the assumption that the files were originally meant to be temporary.

**File List**

<b>Title</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Box/File</b>
Pylyshyn – In correspondence	1974-1979	A07-034-001-14
Correspondence out	1974-1979	A07-034-002-1
Mail in	1979-1984	A07-034-002-2
Mail in up to 87	1984-1987	A07-034-002-3
Mail out up to 87	1984-1987	A07-034-002-4

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**Series 3**      **Memoranda**

**Dates**        1985-1987

**Extent**       1.5 cm of textual records

**Scope and Content**

The series consists of internal memoranda between the Centre and other departments of the University. They are arranged chronologically.

**Notes**

Series title is directly taken from the original file labels.

**File List**

<b>Title</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Box/File</b>
Memoranda 1985	1985	A07-034-002-5
Memoranda 1986 – 87	1986-1987	A07-034-002-6



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**Series 4**      **Canadian Institute for Advanced Research records**

**Dates**            1982-1987, predominant 1985-1987

**Extent**            7.5 cm of textual records

**Scope and Content**

The series consists of correspondence, email copies, memos, research papers, agenda, minutes, etc. They are the records of Zenon Pylyshyn's involvement in the Canadian Institute for Advanced Research (CIAR) activities, particularly the Artificial Intelligence and Robotics (AIR) Program. It is not clear whether his involvement reflected his role as the director of the Centre or his own personal academic activities.

**Notes**

Series title is based on the name of the organization to which these records are related.

**File List**

<b>Title</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Box/File</b>
CIAR correspondence – misc.	1982-1987	A07-034-002-7
CIAR recent developments Apr. 86	1986	A07-034-002-8
AIR ADV. Committee meeting, Sept 14/86 Quebec City	14 Sep. 1986	A07-034-002-9

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**SERIES DESCRIPTIONS and FILE LISTS**

**Series 5**      **Cognitive Science Society records**

**Dates**            1979-1985

**Extent**            2 cm of textual records

**Scope and Content**

The series consists of minutes, memos, brochures, correspondence, forms, etc. They are the records of Zenon Pylyshyn's involvement in the activities of the Cognitive Science Society. It is not clear whether his involvement reflected his role as the director of the Centre or his own personal academic activities.

**Notes**

Series title is based on the name of the organization to which these records are related.

**File List**

<b>Title</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Box/File</b>
Cognitive Science Society	1979-1985	A07-034-002-10