

# Documenting Your Community's Experience of COVID-19: A Resource List

Globally important history is rarely apparent at the time. It often develops quietly, one domino of effect hitting another in a chain until an event occurs with little awareness of what its eventual impact on the historical narrative might be. It's rare that an event will be so glaringly influential that it demands attention. We're at that rare point now with the global pandemic of the novel coronavirus, or COVID-19. As archivists, we deal with history every day, struggling with gaps and silences in our collections. But with history unfolding around us, we have a chance to contribute to minimizing those silences and creating a documentary record that is aware of itself.

This document produced by the [Society of American Archivists](#) (SAA) serves as an annotated resource list of various community archiving initiatives related to documenting experiences and responses to the COVID-19 pandemic. This list is divided into two sections: **institutional responses** and **broad guidelines**. The **institutional responses** section is further divided into:

- **academic institutions**
- **historical and cultural societies**
- **other organizations**

If you find an organization or document that is not on this list, please forward info to Elizabeth James at [jamese@marshall.edu](mailto:jamese@marshall.edu) (Archivist and Digital Preservation Librarian at Marshall University and a member of the Students and New Archives Professionals Section of SAA).

**A note about institutional review boards (IRB):** 45 CFR 46.102(l)(1) deems activities such as these as not being research and thus not applicable to IRB approval. See the specific wording here, taken from the definition of what is considered research: "For purposes of this part, the following activities are deemed not to be research: (1) Scholarly and journalistic activities (e.g., oral history, journalism, biography, literary criticism, legal research, and historical scholarship), including the collection and use of information, that focus directly on the specific individuals about whom the information is collected."

## **Institutional Responses:**

### ***Academic Institutions***

“Documenting Your Experience During the Coronavirus Outbreak” by Katie Howell at the **University of North Carolina at Charlotte** has brief collecting guidelines and instructions for documenting the student experience at UNC Charlotte. The Google doc has a link to the guidelines and purpose of the collection as well as instructions and a link to a collection form. [Copy of Documenting Your COVID-19 Experience DRAFT](#)

“Coronavirus: Archive Your Story” by Carrie Schwier and Sarah Knott at **Indiana University Bloomington** has brief instructions for documenting experiences via diary and art for Indiana. Information about the initiative and the submission form can be found on the website. <https://libraries.indiana.edu/coronavirus-archive-story?fbclid=IwAR2yhoGrLUDRu08n1X4bSaZ1-NcOk88m7VZW7S389JXWtdZpvahPn4pYxls>

“Documenting COVID-19 Experiences in West Virginia” by Elizabeth James at **Marshall University** Special Collections seeks text-based responses to the question “How have you, your family, or community been impacted by the coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak?” as well as physical items. <https://forms.gle/fJMAWm37Rboab2g99>

The **History Center in Tompkins County** and the **Cornell University** Archives are soliciting materials at the Tompkins County, New York and national level respectively related to the impact of COVID-19.

- <https://www.tompkinsweekly.com/stories/the-history-center-requests-help-in-documenting-covid-19-impacts-in-tompkins,3728>
- <https://cornellsun.com/2020/04/01/cornell-archives-history-center-to-chronicle-ithaca-covid-19-experience/>
- <https://news.cornell.edu/stories/2020/03/cornell-history-course-adds-spring-2020-archives>

“COVID-19 MKE” by the **University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee** is a digital exhibit hosted in Omeka of user-submitted materials of all formats about COVID-19 in the Milwaukee area. The exhibit, collection guidelines, and submission form can be found on the website. [COVID-19 MKE](#)

“COVID-19: The Hilltop Perspective” by the Munday Library at **St. Edward’s University** in Austin, TX. Members of the St. Edward’s community share their observations, fears,

hopes, and experiences during the 2020 coronavirus pandemic. Responses are collected via Google Form (limited to St. Edward's students) and published via Wordpress site. <http://sites.stedwards.edu/covidcrisis/>

**University of Louisville** Archives and Special Collections wants to collect and preserve the experiences and reactions of UofL students, staff, faculty, and administrators. Personal accounts can range from direct observations to artistic reflection and may touch on any number of themes such as displacement from student housing, working from home, the shift to online learning or teaching, social distancing or self quarantining, or leading the university through the crisis. Personal accounts can be in the form of a journal or blog, email, photos, videos, audio recordings, or social media posts. [https://louisville.libwizard.com/f/my\\_covid-19\\_experience](https://louisville.libwizard.com/f/my_covid-19_experience)

**William & Mary Libraries** invites all members of the William & Mary and greater Williamsburg communities to contribute their experiences of the pandemic to the Special Collections Research Center. Submissions of all physical and digital materials are welcome, including prose, poetry, artwork, scrapbooking, photography, or other accounts of day-to-day life. Libraries IT has published a digital submission form adapted from documentation created by UNC Charlotte J. Murrey Atkins Special Collections and University Archives. <https://libraries.wm.edu/libraries/departments/special-collections/documenting-life-during-covid-19>

“Covid-19 in the Wiregrass Project” by the Wiregrass Archives at **Troy University (AL) Dothan Campus** is collecting diaries, journals, memoirs, and any other records -- in any format -- that documents the experiences of the people of the Wiregrass Region (SE Alabama, SW Georgia, N Florida) living during the era of COVID-19. Please contact Wiregrass Archives director Marty Olliff at [molliff@troy.edu](mailto:molliff@troy.edu) for more information or to participate. [https://www.dothaneagle.com/lifestyles/local/wiregrass-archives-wants-to-document-life-during-covid/article\\_8d6514ea-6055-5149-bc48-52d442e8535c.html](https://www.dothaneagle.com/lifestyles/local/wiregrass-archives-wants-to-document-life-during-covid/article_8d6514ea-6055-5149-bc48-52d442e8535c.html)

**Miami University** (Oxford, OH) “[Documenting Life during COVID-19](#)” invites members of the Miami University community to document their lived experiences throughout the current pandemic. Volunteers may submit both physical and/or digital born materials.

“COVID-19 Experience Project” an effort by Angel Diaz at **Penn State University** to document how the Penn State community is carrying on with studies, research, work, and life, as well as how they're feeling throughout this period. <https://libraries.psu.edu/about/libraries/special-collections-library/covid-19-experience-project>

**University of North Texas** is documenting the institutional response through web archiving and collecting other digital materials from the university. We also took inspiration from the UNC Charlotte guidelines for students to prompt student contributions. <https://blogs.library.unt.edu/unt125/2020/03/25/archiving-the-pandemic-covid-19/>

**Union College** (Schenectady, NY) has been capturing web content created by the college in response to the COVID-19 epidemic in a collection available here. We have reached out to our community to collect the experience of students during the pandemic crisis. We have also started an Omeka site located at: <https://schafferlibrarycollections.org/s/the-social-distancing-experience/page/home>

### **University of Illinois Chicago Midwest Nursing History Research Center**

“Calling all nurses!! We want to ensure that the voice of the nurse is preserved during this historic time. Are you working on the frontlines of the coronavirus pandemic? Tell us about your experience and the daily challenges you are facing during this crisis. Keep a record—and send it to us. Forward your journals, blog posts, photos, videos, audio diaries, or any other kind of narrative, to [pandemicstories2020@gmail.com](mailto:pandemicstories2020@gmail.com).”

The “Coronavirus: Archiving Your Story” project at **Providence College** in Rhode Island offers members of the campus community the opportunity to submit artwork, journals/diaries, oral histories, videos, and other formats which provide documentation of their experiences during the pandemic. Participation is solicited through a restricted form accessible only to community members with a campus email and log-in.

Six Feet is a collaborative photography project that invites photographers from around the globe to document the COVID-19 pandemic from an intimate and personal perspective. While six feet has become the cultural metaphor for safe distancing, photographically, six feet is an intimate distance. Six Feet encourages photographers of all levels to use their cameras as a tool for connecting deeply with their daily lives and immediate communities. Together we will explore the meaning of distance and connection during this time of social distancing. We urge you to share your personal and unique experiences of living #lifeatsixfeet.ct Michelle Chiles, Head of Archives and Special Collections, Phillips Memorial Library, with questions.

<https://pml.providence.edu/digital-special-collections/archiving-covid-19/>

The Archives and Special Collections at **Mount Holyoke College** has launched a campus-wide project to encourage students, faculty, staff, alums and other members of

our community to document their personal experiences during the coronavirus outbreak and contribute them to the College history collection. Our form is here:

<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLScXvvr7nPTE3LBmWseQf0kTTmoOewAkYyjuw1k9lEnYFtKhNg/viewform>

**Southern Maryland Studies Center, College of Southern Maryland**, Facebook link:

<https://www.facebook.com/SouthernMarylandStudiesCenter/>

“Please share your history! This is a unique moment in history. We want to document the impact of the coronavirus on Southern Maryland communities by collecting your digital photos, documents, and short videos that show how your life has changed during the outbreak . . . Some examples of what you can share with us include illustrations of the precautions you are taking, social distancing, care for the most vulnerable, working from home, providing basic services for the community, the work of first responders, inspiring events you’ve witnessed, and more.”

The **Amistad Research Center** in New Orleans has launched the Documenting COVID-19 Project. Individuals and groups can contribute original digital content, such as photos and videos, to [documentingcovid19project@gmail.com](mailto:documentingcovid19project@gmail.com). This project is adapted, with permission, from the Documenting Ferguson project created by the University Libraries at Washington University in St. Louis.

<https://www.amistadresearchcenter.org/post/center-launches-documenting-covid-19-project>

**University of Arkansas Special Collections** and **Arkansas Folk and Traditional Arts** seek to preserve the personal experiences during the COVID-19 pandemic. Special Collections will be collecting photos, journals, oral histories, and social media posts from University of Arkansas students, faculty and staff. Arkansas Folk and Traditional Arts will be collecting oral histories from individuals around the state. More information can be found here: <https://uark.libguides.com/DocumentingCOVID-19>

University Archives and Special Collections at the **University of Massachusetts Boston** is interested in collecting the personal stories, photographs, videos, recordings, and other materials that reflect our campus community’s experiences during the COVID-19 crisis. <http://blogs.umb.edu/archives/documenting-covid19/>

**Florida State University’s Heritage & University Archives** is collecting FSU community experiences: <https://www.lib.fsu.edu/covid-19-fsu-community-experience-project>

**University of Wisconsin-Madison Archives and Records Management** created a [webpage](#) that includes a [submission form](#) to collect journal and diary entries, photographs, videos, audio recordings and voice memos, digital art, answers to a brief questionnaire, and whatever else people want to submit. Learn more by reading the UW-Madison Libraries [news release](#).

**Michigan State University Libraries** is documenting the experiences of MSU students, staff, faculty, and other members of the campus community during the COVID-19 coronavirus pandemic, and contributing them to the **Michigan State University Archives & Historical Collections (UAHC)**. We invite you to share your stories, photos, videos, and other documentation about the COVID-19 coronavirus pandemic.

<https://lib.msu.edu/branches/ua/covid19/>

<https://forms.gle/Ho5RZjmFCgpn1m9k9>

**Tate Archives & Special Collections at Illinois Wesleyan University's Ames Library** is creating a digital record of IWU community members' (students, staff, faculty and alumni) experiences during the COVID-19 pandemic. Physical artifacts may be accepted at a later date. This [blog post](#) provides details.

**Kennesaw State University** has launched [Documenting COVID-19 and the KSU Community](#). This collecting initiative includes a digital collection form where members of the campus community can contribute personal narratives and other materials relating to their experience with the COVID-19 pandemic.

Archivists at **Tufts University Digital Collections and Archives** are working to preserve Tufts stories related to COVID-19 and are asking for students' help. Writing, photos, audio, and video will help create a fuller picture of the Tufts community in these historic times. Please visit [the DCA site](#) for more information.

**University of Minnesota Duluth Archives & Special Collections** is collecting materials of all formats from Northeastern Minnesotans to create a community archive that will preserve the story of this unprecedented time:

<https://libguides.d.umn.edu/covid-19>

In a collaborative effort, **Ball State University Libraries Archives and Special Collections**, the **Everyday Life in Middletown Project**, and the **Muncie Public Library** are asking community members in Indiana to document life during the COVID-19 pandemic. Please visit our webpage for additional information.

<https://bsu.libguides.com/covid19/>

The **City University of New York** has created the CUNY Distance Learning Archive (<https://cdla.commons.gc.cuny.edu>) to document the University's move to online learning spaces in the wake of the coronavirus (COVID-19) crisis. The CUNY Distance Learning Archive allows students, faculty, and staff from across the CUNY system's 25 campuses to submit personal narratives about the experience of moving online, emails and communications related to the decisions to move online, documentation of online learning experiences (e.g., photos, narratives, screenshots), and links to social media threads, hashtags, and accounts that capture the event in real time.

**Loyola University Archives** has created a website where members of the Loyola community can upload their experiences of the pandemic. We are encouraging all students, alumni, faculty, staff, and administrators to keep a journal and to upload any stories, videos, photographs, art, or reflections.

<http://www.lib.luc.edu/specialcollections/exhibits/show/covid-19>

The **University of Wisconsin-Madison** Archives has launched the Documenting COVID-19 Project, and we want to hear from the UW-Madison community about your experiences during this pandemic. We want to collect content that documents their day to day life and anything else worth sharing.

<https://www.library.wisc.edu/news/2020/04/07/documenting-covid-19-the-university-of-wisconsin-madison-archives-launches-project-to-capture-experiences-of-the-covid-19-pandemic/>

**Tufts University's Digital Collections and Archives** has a Documenting COVID-19 project for members of the Tufts community. Details can be found here:

<https://dca.tufts.edu/donate/COVID-19-Documentation-Project>

Submission guidelines are here: <https://dca.tufts.edu/donate/COVID-19-Documentation-Project/Documenting-Your-COVID-19-Experience>

The **Harvard University Archives** has launched the Harvard University [COVID-19 Community Archiving Project](#) as part of a broader initiative to document the Harvard community's experience of this event. We have included a [submission form](#) to collect digital media--photographs, text files, PDFs, spreadsheets, presentations, audio files, video files, etc.--however we are also soliciting information on websites and social media accounts to follow as well. The focus is to capture what our faculty, staff, students, administrators, alumni and others in our local community are witnessing and experiencing, as well as how they are responding to this crisis on campus, in the lab, in the field, at home, or elsewhere. The site also includes instructions on how to donate physical/analog materials related to the pandemic--which we will accept when we return to the office--and participate in a DIY oral history initiative in the near future.

“WVU Community COVID-19 Stories” by the **West Virginia and Regional History Center** is inviting the students, faculty, and staff of West Virginia University to submit open and honest personal accounts of their lives during the coronavirus outbreak of 2019/2020. These accounts, be they diaries, audio recordings, photographs, or scrapbooks, will help future generations understand the effect the pandemic had on our community. <https://wvrhc.lib.wvu.edu/news-events/wvu-community-covid-19-stories>

**University of Mary Washington’s** [Call to Contribute](https://libguides.umw.edu/online/scua/contribute) initiative. The UMW Special Collections and University Archives staff are actively engaged in capturing and preserving the institution’s response to the current public health crisis, but we would like to hear from you, too! We invite our UMW community to share their individual stories and creative works inspired by this moment.

<https://libguides.umw.edu/online/scua/contribute>

The **University of Nebraska at Omaha** knows that voices during the pandemic are at risk of being lost without a concerted collecting effort. What began as a project aimed at student workers soon expanded and developed a new goal of gathering a wide variety of materials from the Omaha community. <https://covid19omaha.omeka.net/>

The **Chatham University Archives & Special Collections** is launching an institution-wide project to encourage Chatham students, staff, and faculty to document their personal experiences during the coronavirus outbreak and contribute them to the University Archives. Information and submission guidelines are accessible at: <https://library.chatham.edu/archives/covid19> Additionally, staff have created a collection documenting the university’s response, including web-based records and photographs of campus.

“Chronicling COVID-19: The UT Student & Campus Response to the Coronavirus” is a project by the **University of Tennessee (Knoxville)** for the UT campus community to document their personal experience living during this unprecedented time in history. Participants can complete their online questionnaire or by donating their own creative works. Individual creative works can include submissions of videos, typed or handwritten diaries, journals, essays, artwork, poems, music or photographs. Both analog and digital forms of expression are welcome. For more information and ways to document and donate your stories, please visit:

<https://www.lib.utk.edu/special/chronicling-covid-19/>

“Documenting Bowdoin & COVID-19” by **Bowdoin College** is accepting journals and oral histories from Bowdoin’s students, faculty, staff, and alumni. Learn more here:

<https://library.bowdoin.edu/arch/covid-19/covid-19-stories.shtml>



“Capturing Quarantine: Student Life During a Pandemic” : **Columbia College Chicago Archives & Special Collections**, in partnership with Associate Professor Erin McCarthy and her Oral History Honors students, will document the impact of Covid-19 on the lives of Columbia College Chicago students. All interviews will be recorded, transcribed, and uploaded to the institutional repository.

**Trinity University’s** “Response and Impact: Perspectives from Trinity University on COVID-19” seeks to document Trinity institutional and community experiences.

<https://libguides.trinity.edu/covid19-collecting-project/about>

**Molloy College** has launched “COVID-19: A Long Island Journal” to solicit journal or diary entries, reflections, photographs, videos, voice memos, audio recordings, and other digital evidence relating to the impact of COVID-19 on the Malloy and Long Island community.

<https://www.molloy.edu/about-molloy-college/offices-and-services/archives-and-records/living-history>

**University of Illinois at Chicago’s** Special Collections and University Archives has launched a survey, “Six Feet Apart: Stories from UIC during COVID-19” to collect the experiences of UIC students, staff, and faculty.

<https://researchguides.uic.edu/coronavirus/sixfeetapart>

**The Ohio State University Archives** has put together a survey to send out to students:

<https://forms.gle/upcSm2fizU4asJGu7>. This survey is an attempt to capture the student perspective during a time of great change. We’ve decided to use a survey to reach as many students as possible. We had one of our student assistants draft the questions and then worked to organize and review the questions. We’ve had a lot of success sending the survey out to faculty, staff, student organizations and others who can forward it to others. We have a blog post with more information about the survey and its importance: [Documenting COVID-19 and the student experience at The Ohio State University](#). [Google Forms: Sign-in](#)

**Franklin & Marshall College** created a collection form with a few suggestive questions and an option to attach a file for members of the Franklin & Marshall Community.

[https://docs.google.com/forms/d/18\\_iAk3yF9FCd1ygpL3Q2bupVlc3LNL0\\_biUfU3oLKdk/viewform?ts=5e8f606f&edit\\_requested=true](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/18_iAk3yF9FCd1ygpL3Q2bupVlc3LNL0_biUfU3oLKdk/viewform?ts=5e8f606f&edit_requested=true)

**Wake Forest University's Special Collections & Archives** has begun a [COVID-19 collection](#) and is actively documenting the experiences of Wake Forest alumni, students, staff, and faculty: <https://zsr.wfu.edu/special/collections/archives/covid-19/>

**California State University, Dominguez Hills** established an initiative to collect photos, video and audio recordings, journal entries, and other materials that document COVID-19 from CSUDH students, faculty, and staff, as well as members of the Southern LA County community. You can read more about the initiative here: <https://libguides.csudh.edu/blog/documenting-COVID-19>

**San Diego State University** is collecting digital or handwritten accounts/diaries, artwork, photographs, zines, poetry, video, and audio files documenting the COVID-19 experience of students, faculty, staff, administration, and alumni. <https://library.sdsu.edu/covid-19-memory-project>

The **California Institute of Technology** archives is "collecting the experiences of the Caltech community on campus, at home, and elsewhere during this unprecedented time. Please contribute only text and computer files that you have created yourself. Please do not include derogatory statements or health information about identifiable people. You will have a choice as to whether the Caltech Archives makes your contribution publicly visible on the web or available to researchers only by request." <https://digital.archives.caltech.edu/covid-19>

**Gettysburg College** is documenting the experiences of students during the COVID-19 pandemic here: <https://special-collections.sites.gettysburg.edu/documenting-covid-19/>

**Louisiana State University Libraries Special Collections** is launching a campus-wide initiative to document the impact of COVID-19 on the LSU community. <https://www.lib.lsu.edu/special/covid-stories>

**University of Puget Sound (Tacoma, WA)**: In conjunction with colleges and universities across the nation, the Archives & Special Collections is launching a campus-wide project to encourage Puget Sound students, faculty, staff, and alumni to document their personal experiences during the coronavirus / COVID-19 pandemic and contribute them to the archives. [pugetsound.edu/archive-your-experience](https://pugetsound.edu/archive-your-experience)

**Towson University** is documenting community experiences during this time through a series of questions/prompts: [https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSe2k21oaygnErq\\_lcn2Gr1YCNGdxGq\\_ogsyMn2His1GDYfU7g/viewform](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSe2k21oaygnErq_lcn2Gr1YCNGdxGq_ogsyMn2His1GDYfU7g/viewform)

The **University of Maryland, Baltimore County** is documenting the experiences of UMBC students, staff, faculty, and other members of the campus community during the COVID-19 coronavirus pandemic through photographs, videos, audio, and text.

<https://library.umbc.edu/speccoll/covid19>

**Case Western Reserve University** is seeking to document the personal experiences of our students, faculty, staff, and alumni, and other campus members during the COVID-19 coronavirus pandemic through all formats.

<https://case.edu/library/research/special-collections-archives/university-archives/covid-19-tell-your-story>

The **Syracuse University Archives** is seeking to record and preserve the personal responses of Syracuse University students, faculty, and staff during the COVID-19 pandemic. Guidelines are provided as well as a form for submitting digital content.

<https://library.syr.edu/scrc/collections/archives/covid19.php>

The **University of California, Riverside** is seeking to collect and preserve materials documenting the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on the UCR community (faculty, staff and students). More information about this initiative, including a link to a google form, is available here: <https://library.ucr.edu/about/news/preserving-ucr-history-and-community-responses-to-covid-19>

**Berklee Archives** has launched the Berklee COVID-19 Creative Arts Archiving Project to preserve and make accessible the Berklee College of Music and Boston Conservatory at Berklee's artistic experiences of and responses to the global pandemic. We are collecting examples of compositions, performances, creative writing, images, and other artistic output by Berklee students, faculty, staff, and alumni, as well as personal reflections during this unprecedented time, through this Google form:

[https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSf6kNs21XjrQmcl1Rnh\\_St\\_i52RhSTfYwP\\_ApEf0zNw332GOg/viewform](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSf6kNs21XjrQmcl1Rnh_St_i52RhSTfYwP_ApEf0zNw332GOg/viewform)

The **George Washington University Archives** is collecting stories to document what students are experiencing during Covid-19. Participation is completely voluntary; students will need to be logged into their gwu.edu emails to participate. The end of the form includes an option for further participation, or to share physical or digital materials (photographs, videos, posters, etc) with the Archives. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact the University Archivist, Brigette Kamsler, at [archives@gwu.edu](mailto:archives@gwu.edu).

Link: <http://go.gwu.edu/GWStudentCovidExperience>

We plan to do something similar to document the experiences of faculty and staff.

**Macalester College** has started an Omeka site for members of our community (students, staff, faculty, and soon alumni) to contribute images, stories, media, etc. Students from a few classes, including a Public History class, are also contributing as part of final class projects. <https://dwlibrary.macalester.edu/spring2020/>

**Berea College Special Collections and Archives** is collecting the stories of Berea College alumnae, students, faculty and staff as part of their Bereans and COVID-19 Initiative. For more information see: <https://libraryguides.berea.edu/COVID-19DocumentingInitiative> or contact Lori Myers-Steele at myerssteel@bera.edu.

**Cal Poly San Luis Obispo** is calling for expressions — snapshots — that reflect experiences specifically from marginalized communities along the Central Coast of California. We are collecting stories, interviews, photographs, poems, audio, video clips, portraits, artwork, and anything else, from the Cal Poly community, San Luis Obispo County, and Northern Santa Barbara County, with the aim of recording and preserving the stories that have historically been overlooked, unheard, and unacknowledged. <https://tinyurl.com/CentralCoastCovidStories>

**Middlebury College**, in Middlebury, Vermont, launched [The Middlebury COVID-19 Archive](#) to document and preserve the vast array of Middlebury's experiences during these unusual times. The archive seeks submissions in a range of formats, including photographs, voice memos, voicemails, videos, memes (as image files, screenshots, or links) zines ("quaranzines"), diaries, poetry, and other writing. Also at Middlebury College, [The Twilight COVID-19 Diary Project](#) enlisted its first cohort of nearly 40 diarists, all who identify as members of diverse communities historically excluded from the cultural record. Twilight Diarists are actively documenting their lives during the months that followed the suspension of campus life and face-to-face classes.

**Carleton College** is working to collect materials of all formats from direct members of the college community, as well as experiences of their neighbors. <https://covid19archive.sites.carleton.edu/>

## ***Historical and Cultural Societies***

The **History Center in Tompkins County** and the **Cornell University Archives** are soliciting materials at the Tompkins County, New York and national level respectively related to the impact of COVID-19.

- <https://www.tompkinsweekly.com/stories/the-history-center-requests-help-in-documenting-covid-19-impacts-in-tompkins,3728>
- <https://cornellsun.com/2020/04/01/cornell-archives-history-center-to-chronicle-ithaca-covid-19-experience/>
- <https://news.cornell.edu/stories/2020/03/cornell-history-course-adds-spring-2020-archives>

“Historical Society Launches “Haddonfield Virus Year” Project” by the **Historical Society of Haddonfield**. The Society has created an email list to which they will send prompts that encourage documenting this period in a variety of formats.  
<https://haddonfieldhistory.org/historical-society-launches-haddonfield-virus-year-project/>

“Listening in Place” by the **Vermont Folklife Center** solicits audio that will become part of a Sound Archive to document daily experiences. They are also hosting online Virtual Story Circles where individuals from Vermont can gather remotely to listen and share experiences. <https://www.vermontfolklifecenter.org/listening>

“COVID-19 How has the pandemic changed your life?” by **History Colorado** has probing questions, a form, and a journal template for Colorado residents to document their experience. [https://www.historycolorado.org/covid-19?fbclid=IwAR3uVKbJEMwu-JYHdtk1qtNXhx2S0IFS1c9a2N1VAB7BgS5K7DDvE\\_OOCrg](https://www.historycolorado.org/covid-19?fbclid=IwAR3uVKbJEMwu-JYHdtk1qtNXhx2S0IFS1c9a2N1VAB7BgS5K7DDvE_OOCrg)

“Experiencing History: Collecting Materials Related to the Coronavirus and COVID-19 Response” by **The Senator John Heinz History Center** in Pittsburgh, Pa. is collecting objects and archival materials which demonstrate the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic in Western Pennsylvania. A landing page for the initiative, including a nomination portal for digital content and contact information for physical donations, can be found here: <https://www.heinzhistorycenter.org/collections/collecting-materials-related-to-the-coronavirus-covid-19-response>

“Chronicling coronavirus: our effort to document the crisis starts with you” by **The Historic New Orleans Museum Collection** is seeking physical and digital materials of all types documenting New Orleans, Louisiana citizen experiences.  
<https://www.hnoc.org/publications/first-draft/chronicling-coronavirus-our-effort-document-crisis-starts-you>

“History is Now: COVID-19 Health Crisis Collecting Initiative” at the **Minnesota Historical Society**. The state of Minnesota, like so many other places around the world, is reacting and adapting to the widespread COVID-19 health crisis. The Minnesota Historical Society is seeking to document the impact in Minnesota state by collecting stories, observations, images, sound files, or moving images as quickly as possible. Over time, the MNHS hopes to collect objects, diaries, documentaries, and more. <https://forms.gle/8xpHVszPXHWCHNn17>

“#ForTheFuture” by the **Wyner Family Jewish Heritage Center** invites New England Jewish communities to help capture & preserve the unprecedented, history-making COVID-19 era for the future. The JHC is collecting observations and reflections through any medium about this time, creating a collection for its archives that will benefit historians and generations of the future. <https://jewishheritagecenter.org/forthefuture>

**Washington State Historical Society** seeks to capture personal stories and document diverse perspectives for COVID-19 pandemic experiences. We collect and preserve artifacts and stories - cultural "data points" - to reveal how history connects us all. What we collect today will inform generations to come. [www.washingtonhistory.org/.../coll.../yourCOVIDstory/Default.htm](http://www.washingtonhistory.org/.../coll.../yourCOVIDstory/Default.htm)

**Maryland Historical Society** is doing two initiatives: LETTERS FROM THE HOMEFRONT: Inspired by the poignant letters in the MdHS collection documenting past adversities from the Spanish flu of 1918, to the Annapolis yellow fever epidemics of 1793 and 1800, MdHS is calling on Marylanders to send their personal stories of how the pandemic is impacting their lives. Email submissions to [lettersfromthehomefront@mdhs.org](mailto:lettersfromthehomefront@mdhs.org).

BUSINESS UNUSUAL: With current mandates for all non-essential businesses to close, business is anything but usual in Maryland. MdHS is asking business employees, owners, customers, passers-by and neighborhood residents to visually share their experiences so far. MdHS will create a photo essay illustrating the industrial spirit of Marylanders during this critical time. More info about the initiative, including a link for submitting Business Unusual images, can be found on this webpage: [https://www.mdhs.org/ciq\\_md](https://www.mdhs.org/ciq_md)

MHS uses a spreadsheet to track all submissions, we ask those submitting for permission to share their stories/images online, and then we are following up with a deed of gift for those submissions that we would like to archive long-term. We've modified the deed of gift template available through the SAA's Documenting in Times of

Crisis toolkit for this purpose. Submissions are being shared daily on our library blog: <http://www.mdhs.org/underbelly/>

The **Austin Public Library** and **Austin History Center** are doing a community outreach project to document COVID-19 in the Austin community. Information of the COVID-19 Files: Austin Responds to a Pandemic can be found here: <https://library.austintexas.gov/covid-19-files>

**The Chevy Chase Historical Society** is collecting stories through the “Corona Chronicles” project. Community residents can submit their materials (images, video/audio files, text) via a [Google form](#) or by sending them in via email to [CoronaChronicles@chevychasehistory.org](mailto:CoronaChronicles@chevychasehistory.org).

“Documenting Metro Denver Neighborhoods During the COVID-19 Quarantine” by **Denver Public Library, Western History and Genealogy Department (WHG)** WHG Staff members will photograph and collect materials that reflect how the stay-at-home and social distancing orders have impacted their neighborhoods, including small businesses, restaurants, parks, and churches. Material will be shared online in May at <https://digital.denverlibrary.org>

The **Rhode Island Historical Society** and the **Providence Public Library** have partnered to launch a crowdsourced digital archive to document and present the Covid-19 experience in Rhode Island. The “**Rhode Island Covid-19 Archive**” is an Omeka site that accepts contributions from the public of still images, written documentation, audio and video, and then presents them back for public access within the same platform. <https://ricovidarchive.org/>

**The State Historical Society of Missouri** has created the project “Documenting the COVID-19 Pandemic in Missouri” and is looking for materials that “document your experience in self-isolation/quarantine, working essential jobs, working from home, homeschooling, and your personal medical experiences during this time. How has your life changed during the pandemic?” <https://shsmo.org/collections/covid>

**Missouri Historical Society** has created the project “Stories of the Pandemic: A St. Louis COVID-19 Digital Archive” which seeks to document how the St. Louis region is experiencing the historic COVID-19 pandemic of 2020. <https://mohistory.org/stories-of-the-pandemic-a-st-louis-covid-19-digital-archive>

**Boone County History and Culture Center** has created the project “Remembering the Coronavirus” for individuals in Boone County, Missouri to “share your story through a written, physical journal or a digital record (flash drive or an emailed document).”

<https://boonehistory.org/remembering-the-coronavirus>

The **Historical Society of Washington, D.C.** launched the In Real Time initiative to connect with people as well as gather potential materials for the collections. Participants can contribute in several ways:

**Immediately: Share your experience right away by participating in periodic prompts designed to document life during the stay-at-home order effective April 1, 2020.**

[Take brief surveys](#) designed to capture varied local experiences through short answers. New survey questions are added each week; you can choose to participate in [any or all of the surveys](#), at any time.

**Photograph your experiences.** Either share on Instagram using #washingtoniansathome and tagging the Historical Society ([@dchistory](#)) or submit 1-10 high resolution photos via email to [collections@dchistory.org](mailto:collections@dchistory.org). For each photo, please include a description of what the photo documents, neighborhood or ward where it was taken, and the date. Names and addresses are welcome. Submissions are subject to [these terms and conditions](#).

**2. Over time: Begin or continue to document your experiences in writing and through videos, artwork, photographs, and recordings.**

Maintain a **journal** – digitally and/or with good old-fashioned pen-and-paper – for personal catharsis as well as for potential future donation to the Historical Society. Contact us via the collections-specific email queue with questions about your documentation and/or to add your contact information to the list of community story keepers we will maintain.

**3. Over time: Designate a space in your home or business to collect materials that could contribute to a Covid-19 time capsule. Gather or take note of physical materials that reflect the current reality.**

**In Real Time:** <http://www.dchistory.org/in-real-time/>



"Letters from 6' Away: South Asian American Experiences during COVID-19" by the **South Asian American Digital Archive** is collecting letters written to yourself one year in the future based on supplied prompts. Letters will be sent to the submitter one year from now.

<https://www.saada.org/letters?fbclid=IwAR2TrTPM7gpnKK2qk9SetLp69OoNOZXaphCrZ8QuHACsaUUo6oVTPgHJ1fc>

### ***Other Organizations***

**Shenandoah County Library** invites physical and digital journals from the Shenandoah County, Virginia area.

<https://www.facebook.com/countylibrary/photos/a.426826219157/10158082184759158/?type=3&theater>

"Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19) Collection" by the **International Internet Preservation Consortium** seeks to document materials posted to the internet. <https://archive-it.org/collections/13529>

**A Journal of the Plague Year: An Archive of COVID-19:** The crowdsourced public archive [Journal of the Plague Year](#) is collecting digital artifacts, ephemera and first-person accounts of the impact of the CoVid19 pandemic — mundane and extraordinary, serious and humorous, traumatic and uplifting. Initiated by public historians at Arizona State University on March 13, 2020, the project has emerged as a curatorial consortium of history professionals and students who have partnered to collect and publish submissions of all kinds: written accounts, photographs, videos, audio recordings, screenshots of the news, tweets, emails, Facebook posts, links, Instagram, and Snapchat memes. The diversity of the content speaks to the fact that everyone can act as historians, chroniclers, and observers during this extraordinary time. The collaborative continues to seek new curators; it presently includes more than 100 scholars, teachers, students, artists, and archivists, from 57 institutions, 23 different states, and three countries. To learn more: <https://covid19.omeka.net/>

The **Department of History in Hamburg, Germany** is collecting materials. Full details here:

<https://www.univie.ac.at/pubint/doku.php?id=start>

**“Six Feet”** is a collaborative photography project that invites photographers from around the globe to document the COVID-19 pandemic from an intimate and personal perspective. While six feet has become the cultural metaphor for safe distancing, photographically, six feet is an intimate distance. Six Feet encourages photographers of all levels to use their cameras as a tool for connecting deeply with their daily lives and immediate communities. Together we will explore the meaning of distance and connection during this time of social distancing. We urge you to share your personal and unique experiences of living #lifeatsixfeet.” <https://www.sixfeet.photography/>

Anesthesiologists are on the front lines in the COVID-19 crisis, caring for infected patients both in the operating room and in intensive care facilities. The **Wood Library-Museum of Anesthesiology** is collecting all materials relating to the anesthesia community’s responses to the pandemic, and the impact of the pandemic on anesthesia personnel.

The **Abraham Pollen Archives of Massachusetts Eye and Ear** has launched a COVID-19 [documentation project](#) for the MEE community. We are soliciting both donations to the archives (journals, photographs, audiovisual materials, etc.) and responses to an optional survey, where participants are prompted to share their thoughts on how their lives have changed since the outbreak. We are hoping to see responses from people working in many different roles throughout the hospital.

**StoryCorps Connect** - Developed in March 2020 in response to the COVID-19 pandemic, [StoryCorps Connect](#) is a first-of-its kind platform that enables you to record a StoryCorps interview with a loved one remotely using video conference technology. The audio and a still photo from each interview goes into our archive at the American Folklife Center at the Library of Congress. Your interview becomes part of American history, and hundreds of years from now, future generations will listen in. We think of StoryCorps as an ever-growing archive of the wisdom of humanity. <https://storycorps.org/participate/storycorps-connect/>

**The Chicago Dance History Project** launched “Dancing Under Quarantine” April 13. The [Dancing Under Quarantine](#) Collection is CDHP's first community-sourced, digitally assembled collection of materials. It aims to honor all the various ways in which we continue to survive, create, and connect with our communities. We invite you to donate your digital dancing artifacts – recorded events such as classes, panel discussions, performances, or other virtual gatherings, written thoughts, living room dances, photographs, e-blasts – whatever represents you and your reality at this time.

Please send submissions to [media@chicagodancehistory.org](mailto:media@chicagodancehistory.org) with as much contextual information as possible. Use "Dancing Under Quarantine" as the subject line.

**Archive This Moment DC** DC Public Library's Special Collections Department wants your help in telling the story of daily life in the District during this period of social distancing. We are always connected to history, but it is rare that all of us are so drastically and suddenly affected by an event. Help us tell the story of this moment through your pictures and words. There are two ways to participate: Use the hashtag #archivethismomentdc on your public Instagram or public Twitter account. Submit videos, images, or stories [here](#).

<https://www.dclibrary.org/node/67018>

**Palos Verdes Library District** in Los Angeles County, archivist and local history librarian Monique Sugimoto has moved a community archives project online. Started in 2016, Your Story is the Peninsula's Story has offered scanning events at the library, inviting the public to share their materials which were scanned and returned on the spot. During shelter-in-place, the initiative has moved online, allowing the public to upload its images and stories remotely.

<https://programminglibrarian.org/articles/your-story-peninsula%E2%80%99s-story-local-history-time-coronavirus>

**La Cañada Flintridge – The Lanterman House** Archives, which preserves the history of the Crescenta/Cañada Valley, is inviting local residents to share their experiences living through the current COVID-19 pandemic in a new digital archival collection titled: Documenting COVID-19 in the Crescenta/Cañada Valley. You can share here:

<https://www.lantermanhouse.org/>

## **Broad Guidelines**

“Documenting in Times of Crisis: A Resource Kit” by the Tragedy Response Initiative Task Force, Society of American Archivists, last updated in 2019. This comprehensive guide provides templates and documents for collecting in the broad categories of “Immediate Response”, “Collection Management”, “Administrative Policies and Agreements”, “Digital Content”, “Emotional Support”, “Oral Histories”, and “Manuals and Resources”. This set of resources helps determine collection guidelines and processes in accordance with best practices on all topics related to collecting materials during turbulent events. <https://www2.archivists.org/advocacy/documenting-in-times-of-crisis-a-resource-kit>

“Archiving the Present: A Guide to Creating a Record of COVID-19” by Dr. Ananya Chakravarti, history professor at Georgetown University, provides an overview of why this event is important and needs documented (helpful for institutional justification!). Chakravarti’s slides discuss ways that archivists should reflect on inherent archival silences, ways to address future gaps in records, how to protect submitters’ personal information, and considerations for documenting history at the individual and societal level. Broad recommendations include considering that scale at which your archive can feasibly collect (local, regional, national, or global) and focusing documentation and collecting on that area. Additionally, she also comments on the ability for journaling to be a therapeutic activity that can serve as a coping mechanism by providing individuals with a medium of free thought and expression.

<https://twitter.com/achakrava/status/1241515981186289665>

“Mass Observation Online” is a collection of materials created by Mass-Observation, a research organization created in the United Kingdom to document life in Britain through diaries, questionnaires, and social observation. These materials provide ideas for prompts and formats to suggest to individuals submitting records.

<http://www.massobservation.amdigital.co.uk/Introduction/TheDocuments>

“‘Write it down’: Historian Suggests Keeping A Record of Life During Pandemic” by Anne Bromley in *UVA Today* covers historian Herbert Braun’s view of why documenting this experience is important and what individuals can do to record it. The article also discusses a journaling project that Braun is doing with his class that is not open to the public. <https://news.virginia.edu/content/write-it-down-historian-suggests-keeping-record-life-during-pandemic>

“Archivists at Home” by the Accessibility & Disability Section, Society of American Archivists is a document of tasks and considerations for archivists who may find themselves working from home during this time. This document can be found here. [https://docs.google.com/document/d/16ubmmTtJ7oCjbUFI\\_75fqG9J62pul9dg\\_RCd4au4tMw/edit#](https://docs.google.com/document/d/16ubmmTtJ7oCjbUFI_75fqG9J62pul9dg_RCd4au4tMw/edit#)

“Digital Public Humanities and COVID-19” (Jim McGrath, Brown University): Twitter thread from former Co-Director of *Our Marathon: The Boston Bombing Digital Archive* on the work of crowdsourced digital archives for traumatic events and how COVID-19 is still a developing event that presents particular challenges. <https://twitter.com/i/events/1239973599957508097> (added to this list by Jim; noting for transparency purposes)

“Resources for Response to COVID-19 Health Crisis” by the Society for American Archivists “provide[s] links to tools for managerial advocacy, support for displaced archives workers, and other resources to help the archives community navigate this global health crisis.” <https://www2.archivists.org/resources-for-response-to-covid-19-health-crisis>

The Web Archiving Section Project List provides a collection of links to web archiving initiatives for the COVID-19 pandemic: <https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/122oyYEfrfhMxX7XgQJ14weTU0tTDIqIk38UqJ09qxSU/edit#gid=0>

“Recording a Pandemic” is a free, kid-friendly set of resources to teach people how to conduct oral history interviews, which they can then donate to museums, archives, and other collection initiatives. <https://recordingapandemic.com/> (Note from Elizabeth (creator of this doc): please only use this resource in conjunction with consent forms and a deed of gift if the end goal is donation to an archive/museum.)

\* \* \*

***Please forward additional info to:***

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