

## Resources for Teaching about COVID Archives and Preserving History while it's Happening

*Many thanks to Susannah Ottaway, Stephanie Rowe, Melinda Marie Jette, Andrew May, Greg Beaman, David McKenzie, Cameron Blevins, Kara Schlichting, Tracy Neumann, Queens Memory, Abby Gautreau, Aaron Cowan, Fleur Elkerton, Denise Meringolo, Rebecca Wingo, and @grrl\_herstorian for sharing many of the excellent resources collected here!*

*Have additional resources to share? Email [LWieck@stmarytx.edu](mailto:LWieck@stmarytx.edu) or share on twitter at [@lwieck](https://twitter.com/lwieck)*

### [Inclusive Historians Handbook](#)

#### **Pedagogy & Lessons**

Cathy Davidson, [“The Single Most Essential Requirement in Designing a Fall Online Course,”](#) 2020.

Davidson reflects on accounting for trauma in our course design this fall. “Because education is an excellent way of moving beyond trauma to a place of agency, confidence, control, community, care, activism, and contribution.”

Claire A. Tratnyek, Victoria Cain, “Teaching the Archives - A Journal of a Plague Year: An Archive of Covid-19,” 2020.

#### [Introduction](#)

[Module 1: Archives 101](#) | [Module 1 Readings](#)

[Module 2: Digital Archives](#) | [Module 2 Readings](#)

[Module 3: Civic Purpose of Archives](#) | [Module 3 Readings](#)

[Module 4: Archival Silences](#) | [Module 4 Readings](#)

[Module 5: Rapid Response Collecting](#) | [Module 5 Readings](#)

[Module 6: Oral Histories](#) | [Module 6 Readings](#)

#### **Rapid Response and Emergency Collecting**

*History@Work* and *The Public Historian* (also in 2018) did a crossover journal/blog series on Rapid Response: <https://ncph.org/history-at-work/tag/tph-rapid-response/> and <https://online.ucpress.edu/tph/issue/40/1>. Items from this series marked with a \*\*.

\*\*Brenda Tindal, [“K\(NO\)W Justice K\(NO\)W Peace: The Making of a Rapid-Response Community Exhibit,”](#) *The Public Historian* (2018).

Elizabeth Pandolfi, [“How Rapid-Response Exhibits Are Changing the Way Museums Engage Their Communities”](#)

Jim McGrath, [“Our Marathon, five years later: Reflections on the work of digital public humanities.”](#) *History@Work*, 2018.

In 2018 McGrath wrote a great piece for reflecting on his work on the Boston Marathon bombing digital archive five years later. He references some other great readings, resources, and projects. In particular, Documenting the Now Project is essential:

<https://www.docnow.io/>. --Stephanie Rowe

\*\*Pam Schwartz, Whitney Broadaway, Emilie S. Arnold, Adam M. Ware, and Jessica Domingo, [“Rapid-Response Collecting after the Pulse Nightclub Massacre,”](#) *The Public Historian* (2018).

\*\*Callie Hawkins, [““The Discourse We All Need So Seriously”: An Evening of Reflection at the Lincoln Cottage.”](#) *The Public Historian* (2018).

\*\*Ashley Maynor, [“Places of Refuge, Keepers of Memory.”](#) *History@Work*, 2018.

\*\*Liza Dale-Hallett, [“Making meaning from ashes—the development of the Victorian Bushfires Collection,”](#) *History@Work*, 2018.

\*\*Tammi Kim, [“Archiving the 1 October web.”](#) *History@Work*, 2018.

\*\*Roger Christman, [“The accidental web archive: The Tragedy at Virginia Tech Collection,”](#) *History@Work*, 2018.

\*\*Louise Shaw, [“Public health and public history: Rapid response to the Ebola crisis.”](#) *History@Work*, 2018.

\*\*Ashley Maynor, [“Five ways we can do better to respond to crises in our communities.”](#) *History@Work*, 2018.

Donna Baker and Sarah Calise, [“A Redemptive Model of Labor: Documenting student activism at Middle Tennessee State.”](#) *History@Work*, 2019.

[“Remembering the Hurricanes of 2005,”](#) Roy Rosenzweig Center for History & New Media, George Mason University, 2012.

*For earlier archives similar to the covid-19 initiatives, see both Hurricane Katrina and 9/11 Initiatives.*

James B. Gardner and Sarah M. Henry, “September 11 and the Mourning After: Reflections on Collecting and Interpreting the History of Tragedy,” *The Public Historian*, 2002.

## **COVID Archive Examples**

[\*A Journal of the Plague Year: Covid-19 Archive.\*](#)

[\*Archiving COVID-19: A Georgetown University Student Exhibition Archiving the Present.\*](#)

Queens Public Library, [\*Queens Memory COVID-19 Project.\*](#)

[\*Design in Quarantine.\*](#)

[Documenting COVID-19](#) - list of COVID-19 archive projects.

## **On COVID Archives & Collecting**

Aaron Cowan, ["Shared Voices, Shared Experiences,"](#) *Humanities for All*, 2020.

Tom Beazley, Victoria Cain, and Rebecca S. Wingo, ["Archiving a Plague Year: Building a Crowdsourced Digital Archive of COVID-19,"](#) *AHA Perspectives*, 2020.

Made by Us, ["YOU are the Primary Source: These 400+ History Organizations Want Your COVID Story,"](#) (2020).

Lisa Abend, ["Museums Scramble to Document the Pandemic, Even as It Unfolds,"](#) *NYT*, 2020.

[Aleia Brown's recent Twitter chat](#) with NCPH on "transforming the field to center an ethic of care for Black life, particularly during the convergence of the COVID-19 pandemic and continued anti-Black violence"

Aleia references a host of valuable resources, but in particular, [chapter 1 of Christina Sharpe's \*In the Wake\*](#), where she explores the question, "How do we memorialize an ongoing event?"

--Stephanie Rowe

Eira Tansley, ["No one owes their trauma to archivists, or, the commodification of contemporaneous collecting,"](#) 2020.

Greta Kaul, ["How the Minnesota Historical Society is collecting the history of COVID-19 as we're living it,"](#) *MinnPost*, 2020.

Fiona Sinclair Scott, ["How can photographers capture human connection in the age of coronavirus?,"](#) *CNN*, 2020.

**\*\*Note: Several pieces will be coming out in History @ Work in the next month or two.\*\***

### **Community Collecting and Ethics**

[Documenting the Now](#) | [Twitter Feed](#)

[Witness](#) | [Twitter Feed](#)

### **Project Stand**

Bergis Jules and Ed Summers, [“Documenting the Now: Ethics White Paper.”](#) 2018.

Society of American Archivists, [“Documenting in Times of Crisis: A Resource Kit.”](#) 2019.

Sheila A. Brennan and T. Mills Kelly, [“Why Collecting History Online is Web 1.5.”](#) 2009.

### **Comparisons to Influenza Pandemic 1919**

[Susan Kingsley Kent](#), *The Influenza Pandemic of 1918-1919: A Brief History with Documents*, Bedford/St. Martin's, 2012.

Can include public health posters and announcements (with advice such as "Wear a Mask").

*Susannah Ottoway shared the below reading list which pulls from many of the Journal of the Plague Year contributors' selections.*

### **On the role of archivists and public historians**

- Andrew Flinn and Ben Alexander, “Humanizing an inevitability political craft’: Introduction to the special issue on *archiving activism and activist archiving*,” *Archival Science*, 2015.
- Randall C. Jimerson, “Ethical Concerns for Archivists,” *The Public Historian*, 2006.
- Randall C. Jimerson, “Archives for All: Professional Responsibility and Social Justice,” *The American Archivist*, 2007.
- Mark A. Greene, “A Critique of Social Justice as an Archival Imperative: What Is It We’re Doing That’s All Important?” *The American Archivist*, 2013.
- Randall C. Jimerson, “Archivists and Social Responsibility: A Response to Mark Greene,” *The American Archivist*, 2013
- Jimerson is a critical voice in this conversation in the US context, and wrote a book, *Archives Power: Memory, Accountability, and Social Justice*, 2009. The library does not have access to an online version (that I can find), but there are several reviews that give a sense of the work.

## Questions of privacy

- Christine Anne George, “Archives Beyond the Pale: Negotiating Legal and Ethical Entanglements after the Belfast Project,” *The American Archivist* 76, no. 1 (Spring/Summer 2013): 47-67.
- Elena S. Danielson, “Privacy Rights and the Rights of Political Victims: Implications of the German Experience,” *The American Archivist*, 2004.
- Karsten Jedlitschka, “The Lives of Others: East German State Security Service’s Archival Legacy,” *The American Archivist*, 2012.

## Inclusivity and Diversity

- Michelle Caswell, Marika Cifor, and Mario H. Ramirez, “‘To Suddenly Discover Yourself Existing’: Uncovering the Impact of Community Archives,” *The American Archivist*, 2016.
- GVGK Tang, “[We Need to Talk About Public History’s Columbusing Problem.](#)” *History at Work*, 2020.
- Kären M. Mason, Review of *Through the Archival Looking Glass: A Reader on Diversity and Inclusion* edited by Mary A. Caldera and Kathryn M. Neal, *The American Archivist*, 2016.
- Michelle Caswell, “Seeing Yourself in History: Community Archives and the Fight Against Symbolic Annihilation,” *The Public Historian*, 2014.
- Amy M. Tyson and Azie Mira Dungey, “‘Ask a Slave’ and Interpreting Race on Public History’s Front Line: Interview with Azie Mira Dungey,” *The Public Historian*, 2014.
- Andy Urban, “[Lifting the curtain on living history.](#)” *History @ Work*, 2017.
- Leondra N. Burchall, “Emphasis on the Public,” *The Public Historian*, 2010.

## Museums/Working with Publics

- Katherine T. Corbett and Howard S. Miller, “A Shared Inquiry into Shared Inquiry,” *The Public Historian*, 2006.
- Jeff Manuel, “[‘A Shared Inquiry into Shared Inquiry’ in the public history classroom.](#)” *History @ Work*, 2017.
- Steven B. Burg, “‘From Troubled Ground to Common Ground’: The Locust Grove African-American Cemetery Restoration Project: A Case Study of Service-Learning and Community History,” *The Public Historian*, 2008.
- Ruth J. Abram, “Kitchen Conversations: Democracy in Action at the Lower East Side Tenement Museum,” *The Public Historian*, 2007.
- Kathryn E. Wilson, “[Exploring approaches to civic engagement through ‘Kitchen Conversations.’](#)” *History @ Work*, 2018.

- Maggie Russell-Ciardi, “The Museum as a Democracy-Building Institution: Reflections on the Shared Journey Program at the Lower East Side Tenement Museum,” *The Public Historian*, 2008.
- Adam Steinberg, “What We Talk About When We Talk About Food: Using Food to Teach History at the Tenement Museum,” *The Public Historian*, 2012.