

OPTION B: A JOURNAL OF THE PLAGUE YEAR (JOTPY)

<https://covid-19archive.org/>

Evaluate and contribute to the Journal of the Plague Year COVID-19 Digital Archive

You are required to contribute 5 items, and write an evaluation of the JOTPY archive which may respond to one or other of the following set of questions.

- How does the digital realm change the nature of archives? How are privacy and access concerns balanced by digital archivists? How is metadata active interpretation?
- How does record-keeping matter in the context of a democratic government? Is archival practice neutral? Who controls the records kept in archives, and who controls access to these archives? What 21st century events may pose a challenge to future historians because of the way records of these events have been collected?
- Whose voices are absent from traditional and digital archives? How does an archive's collecting policy influence what is understood to be the historical record?
- How has oral history brought to light the stories of groups whose history might otherwise have been hidden? How has the practice empowered individuals and been employed for advocacy? What are the advantages and disadvantages to using oral histories?

In the section “An account of the resource”, please include the subject code HIST30060.

ASSESSMENT CRITERIA

- success in contributing relevant content (5 items) to JOTPY website as a historical record of the pandemic: 20%
- reflecting on these contributions and/or the archive as a whole in an engaging, coherent, imaginative and thoughtful way: 80%

Professor May is a collaborator on the JOTPY project, run out of Arizona State University. The site title was inspired by Daniel Defoe's novel of that name. First published in March 1722, *A Journal of the Plague Year* tells story of one man's experiences of the year 1665, in which the bubonic plague shook London.

The JOTPY project has emerged as a curatorial consortium that includes academics, graduate and Honours students from around the United States and now the world, including Melbourne. Join the Melbourne History Workshop in the School of Historical and Philosophical Studies, University of Melbourne

(melbournehistoryworkshop.com) in documenting these challenging times. We are working with Professor Mark Tebeau from Arizona State University and others by acting not just as historians, but as chroniclers, recorders, memoirists, as image collectors. We invite you to share your experience and impressions of how CoVid19 has affected our lives, from the mundane to the extraordinary, including the ways things haven't changed at all. Share your story in text, images, video, tweets, texts, Facebook posts, Instagram or Snapchat memes, and screenshots of the news and emails — anything that speaks to paradoxes of the moment. Imagine what future historian might need to write about and understand this historical moment.

These might include:

- Images: photographs, screen captures (including from your phone or laptop) of social media, media, communications, memes, and other expressions of the moment
- Audio histories
- Video clips taken of the world, including yourself
- Files: emails, announcements, text messages, scientific documents, and flyers

Your contributions can and should come from the landscapes of your daily life and also also through the social media and interwebs that increasingly connect us. Stories can be deeply personal, political, or mundane. Help your communities to understand the extraordinary, as well as the ordinary of this moment. In the future, historians will be able to use this record of daily life to better understand the changing nature of our lives.