

Ashley Pierce
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HST580
Building a Collection Plan

Mission:

The Journal of the Plague Year archive is a crowdsourced archive where anyone can contribute their stories, experiences and thoughts surrounding the global pandemic. The aim of the archive is to document this historic moment in history for future generations. The archive seeks to represent varied perspectives from a diverse population, encompassing views and experiences from all walks of life. Submissions of all kinds are welcome, from pictures, videos, news articles, social media posts, oral histories, news clippings and personal statements. All languages and areas of the globe are welcome to contribute.

Collection Scope:

The area of collections I am focusing on is the perspective of Law Enforcement. The purpose of this focused collection topic is to fill a noticeable gap in the current material submitted to the archive; namely the stories and perspective of those working in law enforcement. Law Enforcement, along with healthcare workers are often on the front lines, right in the thick of things, potentially exposed everyday to the virus just by doing their job. Add to that the stress of all the protests and civil unrest and historically low levels of support for law enforcement in general, theirs is a story that should be heard and remembered. In the long term, the archive aims to preserve for the future, the voice of those living through this unprecedented time, using any and all means of communication. Those that come to this archive in the future will be able to learn about and experience this point in time using primary sources that will put a more personal angle on the topics they are reading about.

Acquisitions:

In order to gather submissions from the law enforcement community, I would like to be able to post information regarding the archive in accessible areas, namely briefing rooms and other similar officer frequented areas so they are made aware of the project and how to submit items. I will also be mentioning and explaining the project via 'word-of-mouth' to those I know and work with and invite them to both submit their stories and spread the word. I will be requesting they share their own experiences and thoughts as well as media they come across that they feel would be relevant, such as social media and other such postings.

Evaluation:

This collection is similar to but not exactly the same as the #lockedupwithcovid collection. That collection focuses on the experiences of those who are or were incarcerated during the pandemic, whereas my collection focus will seek to find the other side of that coin. This collection will help fill a silence in the archive, namely that of the Law Enforcement Officers story. This collection will help the goal of documenting the experience by ensuring that as many groups of people are represented as possible.