

Arizona State University seeks to preserve history in real-time.

The COVID-19 pandemic is one of the most world-changing events of our time and Arizona State University professors and graduate students seek to document this historic moment. In March of 2020, Arizona State University professors Mark Tebeau and Catherine O'Donnell shared a vision of creating a space where everyone could freely share their stories and experiences during the COVID-19 pandemic. This vision became reality in the form of [A Journal of the Plague Year](#) (JOTPY) online archive. The archive is an online, crowdsourced archive open to the public, meaning anyone can submit their own stories and experiences or view items others have felt the need to share with the world.

What began as a small project, has become a global network of stories representing all backgrounds and walks of life. Since its creation, the archive received nearly 7,000 public submissions and continues to grow. The archive includes partner institutions from as far away as Australia and Tasmania and over 150 archivists, graduate students, K-12 teacher, professors, and programmers. By gathering photographs, journals, news articles, firsthand accounts, etc. from a wide variety of people from unique walks of life, *Journal of the Plague Year* is creating a lasting resource for future generations and scholars to learn about, and reflect upon, this unique and trying time in our history from a wide range of perspectives, as expressed in real-time. Another primary goal of the JOTPY archive is to create an inclusive archive representing as many walks of life, groups, and voices as possible. While it is impossible to fully represent every possible voice, significant work is being done to address silences that might exist in more traditional archives. To date JOTPY has collections dedicated to topics such as the LGBTQ community, the over 60 population, the incarcerated population, rural voices, social justice movements, minority communities, and many others. Each collection is headed by a graduate intern who has personal experience or a personal interest in the collection they have chosen to create. As submissions continue to grow, so will the number of collections and the voices they represent.

JOTPY quickly became a multi-regional and then, multi-national effort. Regional collections include Greater Boston, New Orleans, Skid Row LA, San Francisco, and Las Vegas, individual regions across the United States. International collections include Peru, Australia, and the Philippines, providing insight on a global scale. As with the collections by graduate students, the regional and international collections are overseen by partners from within their respective regions or by historians with a specialty in the specific region.

JOTPY is always looking for new partners to help further the mission of the archive and to help preserve the history of this monumental and tumultuous time. If you or your organization is interested in forming a partnership on the archive, please visit the site at <https://covid-19archive.org/s/archive/page/team> and contact one of the project creators.