

Journal
HST580
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Week 1

I truly enjoyed the week 1 JOTPY internship experience. Dr. Mark Tebeau mentioned that we may feel as if we are “drinking from a firehouse” during this first week. And, he was absolutely right! There is so much to explore and absorb. And, honestly, I found it incredibly fulfilling. I found the videos and articles introducing the concept of an archive, as well as the publicity materials surrounding the JOTPY archive in particular helpful as they provided structure to the potentially paralyzing feeling that the massive undertaking of this project could present.

Understanding the mission of the JOTPY archive (i.e. to capture the everyday life experiences of the COVID-19 experiences) helped me to understand that this archive is inclusive of all items that are deemed significant to this experience by the archives contributors. Additionally, a crucial component of this archival project is inspiring others to add their experiences to the archives. Perhaps the biggest challenge of the archive will be identifying and addressing potential silences in the archive.

I spent my time this week contributing to the JOTPY Omeka archive, navigating Slack, attending the Southern Food Alliance oral history workshop, participating in the HST580 orientation Zoom meeting, developing relationships with ASU colleagues and professors, and forming connections for future archival partnerships and projects.

I found the actual contribution to the archive exhilarating. While I have more contribution ideas than I think my brain can actually process, I decided to focus on a few particular items or narratives that continue to dominate the COVID-19 experience. The lenses that my posts fall under this week are: San Francisco Bay Area, children, health, small business and foodways.

The Southern Food Alliance oral history training was another highlight of this week. I have no experience with oral history and am now completely intrigued. Based on this training, I am hoping to develop an oral history project - perhaps even connected to foodways! - as a part of this internship experience.

I also spent time this week thinking about how I can uniquely contribute to the archive through this internship and beginning to develop those partnerships. I am considering using the lens of the San Francisco Bay Area and shifting my focus each week. For example, one week I would curate educational contributions, another week would focus on sports, another on health and wellness, another on foodways, etc. As a native of California and an educator in the area, I am beginning to recognize my regional reach and believe I have some incredible opportunities to capture the diversity of experience by carefully developing specific projects that compliment my network.

Overall, this internship experience is off to a fantastic start. Many thanks to Dr. Kole and the team at ASU for giving us this opportunity. I learned that I have an affinity for public history and am grateful for the gift of this experience.

Week 2

I can hardly believe that week 2 is already coming to a close. This was another week full of learning and excitement. It feels oddly good to be doing something for the very first time. The feelings of confidence and humility existed side-by-side for me this week. I would feel great about an archive contribution, only to later reflect and realize that my description of the item did not fully capture the reason why I wanted to add it to the archive in the first place. I recognize that this is part of the process and that a learning curve exists in all new adventures. And my perfectionist personality is working to embrace all aspects of this incredible opportunity.

This week, I spent my time on the Module 2 readings and course work, archive contributions, familiarizing myself with new technology and processes to streamline the archive contribution process, the weekly internship Zoom call, and making initial connections within my personal network for future archive contributions and partnerships. The balance of course readings, the weekly Zoom call, and Slack have been instrumental in shaping my work. This week, I really appreciated the Collection Plan examples. Not only were they helpful as I built my own collection plan, they were fascinating to read. I especially liked the New Bedford Whaling Museum Collections Development Plan. One learning that stood out to me most was that the New Bedford Whaling Museum is not interested in duplicate items for their collection. Additionally, the document states that “curators need to bring their expertise in history to bear on the contemporary world and make their best call about what recent objects are likely to be of longer-term historical value, storing them away for use in future research and exhibition.” This document taught me that curators have an important role not to preserve everything but instead make judgments on items based on how they believe they will benefit future knowledge. The goal of collections is not necessarily to collect all the things.

For me, the New Bedford Whaling Collection Development Plan is where I saw an intersection between collection plans and the readings on silences this week. Those making decisions about what is preserved in historical archival collections have inherent biases that lead to archival silences. Additionally, there are voices that are much more difficult to access that create silences within archives. For example, Marisa Fuente powerfully addresses the silence of enslaved women in the urban area of Bridgetown, Barbados. She discusses how their silence was created by the violent power structures that controlled the women during their lives and during their historical preservation. To some extent, silences will be difficult to avoid. The silences that present themselves in the archive may perhaps not even be visible for decades to come. I believe, however, that is our ethical responsibility as historians and curators, however, to address as many potential silences as we possibly can. One potential silence that I am excited about giving voice too during this internship is children. As Dr. Kole and I have discussed, this is often a silence that exists within archives as children are unable to contribute to archives on their own. I am diligently capturing this experience as much as I possibly can through the eyes of children and am excited to begin contributing those items in the coming weeks. I am curious as to whether or not there is a potential oral history opportunity centered around children. Perhaps we interview parents and children? I'd like to better understand the ethics behind conducting interviews with children.

For my weekly archival contributions, I decided to focus on foodways with a specific theme of alcohol in the San Francisco Bay Area. While my current mindset is more centered around giving children a voice in the archive, following the thread of alcohol seemed to make more sense to me at the start of last week. Perhaps because of the social influence of Memorial Day. I attempted to present a broad overview of how the pandemic is impacting bars and behaviors centered around alcohol. I did contribute a couple of personal items to the archive. However, I ended the week wishing that I had contributed more personal items. Which left me pondering how we should balance our archival contributions. I think it is important to capture the government regulations around alcohol but also the culture associated with alcohol during the pandemic. Working on the archive with a specific theme in mind gave me additional focus but also a feeling of overwhelmedness. There are just so many possibilities when deciding upon what to add to the archive!

The last item I'd like to discuss in this week's journal are the connections I am beginning to form in my personal network in hopes to build momentum in the San Francisco Bay Area. I reached out to the parent network that I have developed through my kid's elementary school. They have already sent me some amazing items to add to the archive. For example, I received a photo last night of a Barbie with a mask on. This little girl was playing Barbies by herself outside and her mom just noticed that she had masked one of her Barbies. I also have a Zoom call with one of my teaching colleagues later today who is pursuing her Doctorate in Education through the University of San Francisco. She has a social justice focus and has already done incredible work during this pandemic. She launched a virtual school led by black educators called Making Us Matter to provide alternative instruction models during the pandemic. [Here](#) is an article detailing her work. I'm hoping to add a contribution flow to the archive through a partnership with her.

This week has taught the different types of thinking needed to successfully work on an archive. Details matter. Formatting is important, descriptions are essential and language consistency is paramount (i.e. if you use current events, don't suddenly start using events as it will yield very different search results!). However, thinking about the archive from a macro perspective is also crucial. It is important to have a vision for the further development of the overall archive. We must understand where silences exist and how we plan to address those silences. There must be a plan to build contribution momentum through meaningful partnerships across the globe. I can hardly believe that week 2 has already come to a close and am looking forward to learning about the curatorial process in week 3.

Week 3

While I still have a great deal of learning to do, I found myself feeling more comfortable in my role on the curatorial internship team this week. Additionally, I found myself wanting to spend many more than the required hours working on the archive as I find this work empowering and meaningful. The highlights of my week centered around curation, relationships, treatment of the #nojusticenopeace protests within the archive, continued archival submissions, and the Call for Submission process.

Since this is the first week I actually curated anything within the archive, I'll begin with that process. Before I attempted to curate an item, I read the curation materials for Module 3 and

spent time reviewing the appropriate Slack channels. One of the articles mentioned “purposeful curation” and that phrase really stuck with me this week. When curating, we must remember the purpose of our job, which is to preserve the intent in which the item was submitted to the archive - and to make it as complete and searchable an entry as possible. It is also helpful to remember that our job as curators is to use a “light touch” so as to not to disturb the nature of the original submission. For example, a “purposeful curation” with a “light touch” may mean that we create a permalink and screenshots for websites that are submitted to the archive in order to ensure that the information can be accessed in the future, even if the live web link disappears. In regards to the dos and don’ts of the JOTPY archive, I’ll start with the don’ts. The most important don’t is that we should never, ever, ever delete anything from the archive. We also do not need to fill out every single box when curating an item - it is okay if some are left blank if the information is not readily available. We should not put “anonymous” or “unknown” in the Creator field and instead should leave it blank. We should not curate items from Australia, although we should assign them to the Australia Item Set and should curate items from Tasmania. We should give credit where credit is due to avoid potential copyright infringement (i.e. photographer credits). We should always make curatorial notes of the changes we make to each item. We should ask questions if we have them (in the appropriate Slack channel, of course!). We should honor the #curatorial-workflow process and communicate with our colleagues about when we are working and what items we are working on. Once approved for curation, we should find a curatorial buddy and check each other's work. We should stay on top of all Slack communication to ensure that we are using best practices each time we curate an item. There are many other dos and don’ts that are, and may always be, in flux. However, I find these guiding dos and don’ts to be most important. One final thought on curation, I really enjoyed working with Chris to review my first curated items. He was incredibly helpful and it was nice to work in that manner with another member of our team.

The next aspect of this week that I’d like to reflect on is relationships. I am grateful for the weekly Zoom meetings with Dr. Kole and the class. They are so helpful in understanding the trajectory of the week, our tasks at hand, and, what everyone else is working on and through. Through these meetings, I have especially loved the development of our professional relationships. Many of which continue outside of the Zoom meeting. Dr. Tebeau also hosted a curating office hour on Monday of this past week and I was luckily able to attend. Mark and I curated an item together which was incredibly helpful. But perhaps even more helpful was the opportunity to better understand his perspective and vision behind what we contribute to the archive as submitters and curators. I continue to be so impressed by the team at Arizona State University and am so grateful for this academic and professional experience.

While this week was positive on a lot of levels, it was also a difficult week overall. My local communities experienced widespread peaceful protesting, alongside violent looting. My entire county was placed on curfew and emotions ran high throughout the week. In regards to the archive, I grappled with how to move beyond the work I began at the start of the class, and shifted to attempting to capture the important aspects of the national protests as they relate to my regional location. I was first moved by images coming out of early protests in San Jose and Oakland and chose to submit those photographs to the archive. I was soon captivated by the large number of children and youth participating in the protests. As difficult as it was on many levels, I did not want this aspect of the protests in my area to disappear so I chose to try to capture them

on some level. All of the items I chose to submit evoked deep emotion for me personally but I felt compelled to capture these stories. This experience has shown me that I'd like to spend more time in the coming weeks trying to capture this experience through the eyes of children. I am still committed to the larger #sanfranciscobayarea collection and will work to build that out. However, on a personal level, I feel drawn to capture the stories of our children during this time.

Lastly, I'd like to reflect on the Call for Submissions process. I continued to be so impressed by the true and authentic way in which Dr. Kole and Mark care about our work. It is obvious that they both work tirelessly to ensure that we are truly learning from this experience. I can already see the ways in which my work and voice has improved under their guidance and it has only been 3 weeks. I just wanted to end with a huge "thank you!"

Week 4

The highlights of week 4 centered around workflow, submissions, curation, and relationships. Additionally, I began to think of how I'd like this experience to shape my journey in the M.A. program after the internship ends, as well as potential opportunities to continue archival work with my own classes when I return to teaching in the fall.

At the start of the week, I decided that I wanted to improve my personal submission practices and focused on my workflow for archival submissions. I have found it much easier to post 1-3 items a day instead of saving ideas throughout the week and then posting them all on 1 day. It helps me to preserve the emotions of the moment and the intent of the post. I also decided to focus on submitting more personal items for this week. For example, I made a submission about my 10-year wedding anniversary as well as our personal victory garden. I also am enjoying submitting items that enhance multiple collections. For example, I included submissions about #nojusticenopeace protests that are occurring in the San Francisco Bay Area and that involve children. I am struggling slightly with what to submit in regards to regional items. Is submitting what people are experiencing in the region enough? Or should I focus on items that are unique to the region (like the #nojusticenopeace Golden Gate Bridge protests)? I will continue to ponder this aspect of my San Francisco Bay Area collection. I am also eager to dig deeper into the ethical aspects of submitting protest items this week. So far, I believe all of the submissions I have included are okay as they were all discovered on public media sites. However, some of them deal with children so I am not completely certain I am following proper protocol. I am researching blurring software in the case that I need to blur faces moving forward. Additionally, thanks to Mark, I also was able to think more deeply about the archive's ability to link submissions and am now curious as to whether submissions such as <https://covid-19archive.org/admin/item/20040> are preferred with multiple media elements included in a single submission. Or if each media item should be its own submission.

This week's Zoom call was especially helpful. It is so incredible to see what an expert Erin is on the archive in just 3 months. And exciting to imagine that we will be there soon. I honestly never envisioned an experience like this in grad school and am so thankful for the opportunity. It is making me reconsider the courses I'd like to take in the fall. Perhaps I should take a public history methodology class? Will there be continued opportunities to work on the archive? I continue to love the guidance and direction provided by Dr. Kole. Thank you for your confidence in our work and your support of us as we build up this skill set. I also love the

community we are forming in this class. The weekly meetings are an essential part of that - thank you Dr. Kole for hosting them as I know you have many other meetings to juggle throughout the week.

I am still taking my time curating to make sure I am doing it correctly. There is something different about each entry but I do feel like I am getting faster at the "standard curatorial practices" which is exciting. The Slack channel is a treasure trove of resources and once you learn how to navigate it, it is much easier/quicker to get answers to curation questions. I had Chris check my curations one more time before moving to the buddy system. He gave me the "green light" to proceed and I will plan to work on my own, obviously asking questions as they arise, in Week 5. I have already connected with Clinton and we plan to be curation buddies. I admire his work a lot so I am excited to work with him on the archive. We began working together this week and actually ended up curating our own items at the same time so that we could ask each other questions through Slack if needed. Near the end of our 10 curations, we were having each other check and it was incredibly helpful and reassuring. On that note, I have a potential internship workflow suggestion. Would it be possible for interns to work in curation pairs and curate over Zoom together before being released to curate on their own? My thoughts are that they perhaps sit through curation training (the time with Lawson and Mark on Zoom was invaluable), then move to curating over Zoom with a buddy, then move to curating on their own with a check from the chain of command, and finally curating with a buddy check. I would highly recommend anyone starting this process with no knowledge of the archive, to participate in a number of paired curations before completing one on their own. And I would definitely tell them to stay up to date on the Slack channels. Utilize the "Saved" function for important documents or tips you don't want to lose. And put the app on your phone so you can read the messages live.

On another note, I found this Module's readings incredibly fascinating. I would in no way ever want to put another human at risk by including them in the archive. The article "Doing Right Online: Archivists Shape Ethics for the Digital Age," I was disappointed to learn that the CIA uses archives to gather information on activists that are protests. I was also really intrigued by the ethics surrounding the digitization of print items as those that participated in the production of those items never envisioned them to be digitized and shared in such a large and public forum. The amount of time required to obtain consent feels potentially prohibitive, although so critical. I really respond to Twitter's move to allow users the opportunity to state that they do not wish their information to be archived. I was heartened by archivists' attempt to obtain consent from indigenous people's in the digitization of their materials/information as these items were often obtained under colonialism. As the article states, it is imperative that "archivists and historians do not become complicit in the marginalization of vulnerable populations." The article "Ethical Considerations for Archiving Social Media Content Generated by Contemporary Social Movements: Challenges, Opportunities, and Recommendations" made me want to attend conferences where these types of ethical conversations are discussed. I've always been intimidated by the idea of sharing my personal research at a conference. But this aspect of conferences is really appealing to me.

Lastly, I love the work that is occurring in the K-12 group. I am heading back to the classroom in August as my maternity leave has come to an end. And I would love to develop curriculum that allows my students to participate in the archive. I teach U.S. history, which seems a natural fit with the work currently being done within the group. I also teach a senior-level internship class and my wheels are spinning about potential opportunities for students who are interested in

history and/or academia to participate in the archival process somehow. I will continue to monitor the work done by this group and will reach out later in the placement for additional details.

Week 5

This week felt pretty straightforward overall. I spent the majority of my time either curating or working with colleagues on the curation process. In order to successfully curate, I have discovered that I need to set aside a larger chunk of uninterrupted time. It can be difficult to find a place to begin curating depending on the state of communication in the #curatorial-workflow channel. But navigating through spotty communication has taught me that my posts need to be crystal clear so as not to create confusion for other curators. I continue to be impressed by the ways in which the archive leadership team streamlines processes and communication when managing such a large project with so many individuals involved. The creation of curation teams is a wonderful idea and I'm excited to work within a smaller group in the upcoming week. I like the idea of checking each other's curations as well. With so many moving pieces and evolving standard practices, this is an important step to minimize potential curation errors. Additionally, I think I am going to hold my curation questions until I am done with a chunk of items to try to group issues/questions together to streamline that communication stream as well. For example, I discovered an item that mentioned a media attachment, however, the submission did not include a media attachment. I posted on the appropriate Slack channel and tagged Erin so that she could email the contributor. I then continued to curate. A number of items later, I encountered the same issue. I should have edited my original post so that she did not have to respond to 2 separate posts. In the future, I will be more mindful of consolidating my communication on Slack. A proud curation moment was when I offered to curate a couple of Dr. Kole's submissions that were entirely in Spanish. I definitely learned a lot through those 2 curations and am grateful she let me attempt them.

I really enjoyed the blurring/pixelating/redaction exercise this week. I love all of the skills we are developing through this internship. I continue to truly enjoy working in the archive. And I am excited about the development of various editing tools. As with the ethics lessons over the last couple of weeks, these tools are essential when working in the archive. I think it's wonderful to have these types of activities (i.e. the blurring/redaction activity) as part of the internship as well because it creates space for us to build these skills and then implement them immediately. My favorite part of the module this week, so far, was learning that even when items are blurred/pixelated, that can be reversed! And that only true redactions entirely protect content/an individual's identity. Ultimately, I am grateful to have these skills in my tool belt. If I continue working in archives, I will absolutely need to invest in a Mac!

Another highlight for me was the HST580 weekly Zoom meeting. A few minutes before the start of the meeting, I received a message from Dr. Kole. She asked me to run the start of the meeting as she had an emergency. I was thankful and flattered that she felt she could reach out to me to help in a time of need. Dr. Kole also helped to frame how we think about our collections and our remaining time in the internship this week. I really respond to the idea of building a portfolio to highlight the work that we've done and the skills we have built as a result of this experience.

I found it difficult to find space to submit to the archive this week. My goal is to significantly up my submissions next week. I have a lot to contribute but definitely need to carve out the time to

do so. I have been thinking a lot about change over time and I'd love to find a way to submit items to the archive through that lens.

Week 6

This week felt like a transformative week for me in many ways. I want to first focus on my collection (San Francisco Bay Area). I feel like I have possibly made a breakthrough in how I want to structure my collection in the upcoming weeks. I have been struggling with the focus of my collection. Dr. Kole's suggestion to think of the collection as a time capsule for the region was really helpful. I am working to add items that are specific to San Francisco but also to support collections my classmates are working on from a regional perspective. So far, I continue to have a great deal of material to contribute for both Children and Foodways. Stephanie Berry and I had a Zoom meeting to talk about opportunities to expand her Collection into my region. We decided to pursue a series of collaborative oral history interviews. Our first interview is scheduled for July 3rd and is with a kitchen manager that has been instrumental in the changes a local company has made to adapt to the pandemic. We have a number of other interview ideas - from a local brewery to a local bakery that is 117 years old! Chris Twing and I also had a Zoom meeting and are collaborating on the stories coming out of San Quentin, the most iconic San Francisco Bay Area prison. The bottom line is that I am feeling more confident about the direction of my collection. I would like to devote more time to submitting items to the collection in the upcoming weeks. I would like to submit 10-20 items per week if possible.

The second thing I'd like to focus on is the course readings. The Porter article really made me see how our work in the archive can translate to other industries. While I have not worked in a tech start-up, I have often had the thought that skills needed to build a digital archive must have many crossovers with the technology industry. I also really enjoyed learning the philosophy behind folksonomies. It is really helpful when determining folksonomies during curation. The "user-centric" lense really popped out to me and reminded me the importance of maintaining the integrity behind the original intent of each submission. I also love the organic nature of folksonomies. The sense of togetherness and community that folksonomies can create within the age of infinite data is really interesting. Additionally, I like how folksonomies allow many voices to build items/trends that were deemed important by those creating them. It is certainly an interesting way to build a historical archive! I could see how folksonomies can be challenging when stacked against the heavily controlled and regulated metadata. But that's sort of what also makes folksonomies beautiful. It's the yin and the yang. One of the weaknesses noted was also that items could be tagged with various words with the same inherent meaning - like cat, feline, animal and Siamese. I am curious as to the feasibility of eventually adding folksonomy synonyms? Is this too much workload? I noticed that when you are viewing entries on the website you have the option of adding your own tags. I am assuming these are added to folksonomy? I'm curious where these land within the system. I am also really excited about all of the skill and knowledge cross-over between historians and librarians. I'm curious what types of job opportunities exist for those interested in both? Archivists?

The Wiedman article was also fascinating! It is interesting to think about the tension between archivists finding methods and tools to organize the collection that may help with the organization but not the research access to said collection. Personally, if the point of archives is

to house history for others to access, research and write historical narratives, then the ease of access to said archives should be a top priority. It feels as if this is a new industry. And makes me curious as to the age of many archives that currently exist. They still feel new as it appears that many issues exist. Perhaps it is just the vastness of preservation and the seemingly endless amount of man hours needed to successfully manage an archive. I love the final lines of this article: "Perhaps a world without finding aids will include more data-centric thinking, a renewed focus on content standards, and a higher value on the labor necessary to create and structure description. Perhaps archivists could experiment in new forms to present a description, discuss the broader barriers to access, and ask whether new levels of access are possible. Individual archivists certainly have the creativity, values, and drive to make archival collections open, accessible, usable, and familiar to everyone, if only finding aids were not holding them back." It's really exciting to read about how an industry or field that I thought was so precise and fixed/stagnant is actually ever evolving, even to the point of developing entirely new technologies to replace previously used inefficient ones.

Next, I will focus on the community of the class. I continue to be impressed by the community that we are building without ever sharing a physical space with each other. The depth of relationships that are being formed remotely is remarkable. I loved watching my classmates run the weekly Zoom meeting. And I really enjoy connecting with various classmates on different aspects of the archive. I am so grateful to live in the era of technology where these connections are really natural and easy. I am curious as I most likely will be teaching some, if not all, of my own courses online in the fall, how do instructors manage non-participatory students? I struggle with the equity aspect of this in online learning for elementary, middle and high school students.

The biggest challenge for me personally this week was the curatorial workflow. I like working in smaller teams. That has helped the overall workflow tremendously.

Overall, another wonderful week working in the archives!

Week 7

This week was full of surprises and new learnings yet again. The main items that I spent my time on were submissions, curation, writing a press release, collaborating with a classmate for an oral history interview, and the five key items assignment.

The tasks I enjoyed the most were preparing for the oral history interview and the five key items assignment. Stephanie Berry and I are working together to capture an oral history from a food service worker in the San Francisco Bay Area. It is great because it is an archival contribution that will enrich both of our collections. As well as help us develop a new skill (i.e. how to conduct oral histories). We've met twice to discuss the goals for our collections and to design the oral history interview. I conducted the pre-interview with the narrator. Overall, I think we are all very excited and a little bit nervous. The interview went really well. Although, obviously, there is room for improvement. The narrator was really comfortable and I believe the interview allowed his story to come through. Listening back to the audio and reading the transcript, I personally would like to cut down on my "ums." It can be a little cringe-worthy hearing yourself back on an audio recording! I was really inspired by Stephanie during the interview process as

well. This was a connection I made for us, and I know the narrator and the story of the company he works for, really well. She was coming into the interview blind. However, she really did her homework and, as a result, was able to ask follow-up questions that were not pre-written, in a really natural manner. For the next oral history interview I conduct, I would like to remember that the key to a successful interview is the preparation, I'd like to also focus on how to engage with the narrator without injecting my bias yet is authentic to my personality, and I'd like to continue to work with a partner when possible. Through this experience, and the MA program overall, I've learned that I love collaborating with colleagues.

I also really enjoyed the five key items assignment. It was nice to carve out time to evaluate the character of my collection and to identify opportunities for the collection. I love the items I chose for the five key items assignment. They feel very San Francisco and I think embody the spirit of the city. As a result of this experience, I feel more dedicated than ever to trying to find ways to inspire people to contribute. We need more voices in this collection to truly make it authentic to the region. Additionally, I want to work to ensure that silences are filled. For example, I'd like more submissions around how COVID is impacting families and children in the San Francisco Bay Area.

I spent a good chunk of time submitting items to the archive this week and really enjoyed it. My favorite chunk of submissions were a result of a connection I made with a friend from my undergraduate studies that I had since lost touch with. He lives in San Francisco and I reached out to him via Facebook. He sent me a series of 10-15 images, along with stories, to submit on his behalf. The images were incredible and a perfect addition to the archive! I am still working my way through submitting all of them. The images are primarily of art that he has encountered during walks in the city. Art is a big part of the culture in San Francisco, and something that was largely missing from my collection, so I am grateful to have these additions to the collection. Here are a few of those items: <https://covid-19archive.org/admin/item/22135>, <https://covid-19archive.org/admin/item/22137>, <https://covid-19archive.org/admin/item/22226>, <https://covid-19archive.org/admin/item/22230>. I am also continuing to submit some personal items as well. My favorite personal submission this week was of a rock garden near my home. <https://covid-19archive.org/admin/item/22093>. To support my goal of forming professional relationships and collaborations with my colleagues, I also submitted this item to support Cody's collection: <https://covid-19archive.org/admin/item/22091>, sent Kalissa a potential item to submit via our new collaboration channel on Slack, and asked a friend that is active duty in Poland to submit to Alexis's collection.

The biggest challenge for me this week was the press release. This is the first time I have written a press release. I really liked the opportunity to shift my thinking and to adapt my writing skills for a new audience. I am grateful for assignments like this because they certainly push me forward and out of my comfort zone. My daughter opened a fortune cookie this week and her fortune read, "People who never try are those who never fail." This is so true and was such a good way to frame my thinking this week - and for this entire experience! So much of the work I am doing right now I am doing for the first time. And there will certainly be "failures" as a result of doing something for the first time. However, it's only from trying something new, and learning how you can improve upon your first attempt, that true growth can occur. I also entered this experience a little nervous of the "peer review" aspect of academia. I acknowledge that I do

not know the “peer review” process intimately. However, a handful of us have developed our own “peer review” offline and it has been incredibly helpful. I am grateful for the authentic feedback as I definitely believe that it has made me a stronger writer overall. I am also impressed by how varied the writing styles are for the same assignment. It is great to be in a field that has structure, yet has room for individual writing personalities to emerge.

Lastly, I spent time curating this week. Due to my focus on submissions and the oral history interview, I did not curate as many items as I would have liked. However, I was able to curate a chunk of items, as well as review a chunk of my team’s items. Curating is becoming easier and easier. While it can be challenging, I do think the review process is very important. Human error will occur during curation. It is helpful to have another set of eyes on the items curated by everyone. It does not seem that everyone feels comfortable with the review process. I wonder how we can improve upon this process so that everyone feels at ease.

All in all, another great week working in the archives in the books! I am curious, what opportunities will exist in the fall to continue working in the archive if we’d like to continue?

Week 8

The highlight of this week for me was the Oral History. I really liked developing yet another new skill through this experience. I continued to be impressed by the vast skill set that is required of professional historians. I also appreciated this assignment because it allowed me to deeply connect with another intern in the course. As a teacher during the COVID-19 pandemic, I have heard on more than one occasion in my local community that people do not want fully remote learning because they do not believe that students will develop relationships with their teachers or their peers and because the curriculum is not as rigorous as in-person curriculum. Time and time again, this belief is challenged by Arizona State University’s robust online learning experience. In many ways, I have learned more applicable skills and have developed more meaningful and direct connections to my professors and classmates than I did when I attended large, in-person classes for my Undergraduate degree. This is not to say that one method is better than the other. Only that, with adjusted curriculum, it is absolutely possible to have a fully remote learning experience that is rigorous and that builds community amongst students and teachers. The fate of the 2020-2021 school year has yet to be decided by our local Board of Educators. Many are nervous about how to adjust if we do move to an online model. I, however, am not afraid because of the strong model of online learning I am experiencing through ASU.

Back to the Oral History experience. I conducted my Oral History I was surprised by how much I enjoyed the experience. While emotional on many levels, it was truly rewarding. I can understand why some historians specialize in Oral Histories. It truly brings to life historical experiences and uniquely captures them for posterity. I do think it takes a certain personality to be really successful at repeatedly conducting interviews. It definitely takes a specific skill set to make the narrator feel comfortable sharing their story without interjecting and influencing the stories they choose to tell. The art of follow-up questions is also not developed overnight. To me it is like watching a skilled teacher in a classroom. You know an excellent teacher when you see one, but it is difficult to pinpoint how they developed that skill as they make what they do look so natural and easy. I was shocked at how much information I was comfortable sharing on a recorded interview that I know is part of a public archive. I was also shocked at the emotions I

felt when sharing my stories. I choked up on more than one occasion. And, honestly, I'm glad I did. It really woke me up to how real and personal the stories I may ask people to tell are for the person sharing them. Instead of thinking of oral histories from a research perspective (i.e. what can this person tell me that could be important for researchers when they are writing the history of this event), I really want to focus on the person telling the story to ensure that they are comfortable during the process. Again, I am grateful for the exposure to oral histories and for the opportunity to actually conduct one as a part of this internship.

At the end of last week, Stephanie Berry and I conducted a separate oral history together and this week I worked on transcribing the interview. Stephanie and I split up the transcription and once complete will review each other's work before officially submitting the oral history to the archive. I used the app Temi and it did a really wonderful job transcribing the interview. There were very few errors that were really quite easy to fix. I hope to collaborate with other classmates on additional oral histories during the time we have left in this internship.

I also updated my press release to incorporate Dr. Kole's recommendations and sent it to 3 local media outlets. I am really hopeful that it gets picked up by one! If not, I am going to get creative and will try to think of other ways to get this story out there. Maybe a tag on social media? Or a personal connection? I was interviewed by local media a couple of years ago for an award I received so perhaps I can reach out to those individuals?

I spent the remainder of my time this week on the weekly Zoom calls, curating and submitting items to the archive. I continue to find those a major highlight of my week. It is so nice to connect with colleagues in this manner. We have been really isolated during the COVID-19 pandemic and the live interaction is healthy professionally and personally. I am grateful for this aspect of the course. Curation continues to go well and each week I am more comfortable with the overall process. I have been working offline with Carolyn Evans a bit on some of the initial items I curated and our work has felt exactly like "shared authority." There was an item she reviewed that I tagged with foodways. Instead of removing the tag, she asked about my reasoning. When I explained, she agreed! It is a very healthy professional relationship. And is serving as a good model for me when working with others on my team during the review phase of curation. "Shared Authority" is not one person is right and the other is wrong. But instead is that we decide together how to appropriately curate an item. Granted, this applies to folksonomy and controlled vocabulary. But still, it has been a good reminder for me of how to communicate and work with teammates during curatorial review. I also submitted a number of personal items and items for my collection this week. Overall, I enjoyed having a little extra wiggle room in my hours for the week to work on curations and submissions.

I'm looking forward to the week ahead!

Week 9

This week I spent my time on oral histories, our weekly Zoom meetings, archive submissions and curations. First, oral histories. I am grateful that we are learning how to conduct oral histories as a part of this internship. My favorite part of the process is definitely interviewing other people. I was really surprised by how long the transcription process takes. But it is such an important component of oral history. It took me over 3 hours to transcribe my partner's interview, which completely surprised me. I was oddly relieved to hear that oral historians often have a budget to purchase transcripts! Reviewing my partner's transcript, however, was a much

quicker process. I also spent some time ensuring the transcript from the earlier oral history that Stephanie and I conducted was in the proper format. We are almost done with the transcript from that collaborative interview so we will hopefully be uploading it to the archive soon. I am eager to find a better audio recording tool for interviews that I conduct during COVID. Our audio was okay - but I think it could be much better. The audio from the Zoom recording turned out the best so I will plan to do more work around ensuring that the audio file from Zoom actually converts in the future (i.e. will use Lawson's suggestion to use my ASU Zoom account). I will, of course, still ensure there is a backup audio recording of the interview. I enjoyed designing questions specifically for my collection. I am hopeful that I will find people that agree to participate. I am in contact with a few different people right now. But so far nobody has committed. If they do not in the next day or so, I will continue to hunt for narrators. I also really enjoy having visibility to the work that my colleagues are doing in this course. Seeing the questions that everyone wrote for their collections in Slack was great. It gives me a better idea of the essence of their collections.

Next, I continue to find our Zoom meetings one of my favorite parts of this class. Not only are they productive, they are really fulfilling personally. While I had to have my microphone muted and camera off during the call on Wednesday because my kids were incredibly loud, I was still so grateful that I was there. We have a really special group of individuals in this class. I feel beyond lucky to be a part of this crew. Everyone is committed to community and to supporting each other. It is really inspiring and heartwarming.

I also worked on my San Francisco Bay Area collection within the archive. When we completed the aggregate assignment, many of my items had yet to be curated. I reviewed the items in my collection again to ensure they were indeed added to my collection. I am glad that I took the time to do this because there were a large number of items that had not been added to the collection. I also submitted a handful of personal items as well. My favorite were Cookies Wearing Masks (<https://covid-19archive.org/admin/item/23852>) and Honey Bear Hunt in San Francisco (<https://covid-19archive.org/admin/item/23832>) because honestly they both just made me happy. I am close to 170 items in my collection.

Lastly, I curated items with the time I had remaining. Nothing major to report in regards to curating. I did see that there is a curating assignment next week and I am grateful for that as I'd like to spend more time curating to help move through the backlog for the team.

I did want to reflect a bit on some major changes that occurred in my life this week that are going to have an impact on my life in the coming weeks and months. First, my school district - and most school districts across the state of California - will begin the school year with remote learning. Although I wish it was safe for my children to be in class in the fall, it is not and I am comfortable with remote learning for our family. I do have a lot of worry and concern about the most vulnerable students in our district and am hopeful that the district will find ways to better support our students that need it most. I am also returning to the classroom this fall as my maternity leave has come to an end. I am really excited and eager to begin teaching again. However, I am nervous that I am walking into an incredibly hostile environment. There has been some anger directed toward teachers because of the decision to proceed with remote learning. And there is a lot of aggressive, hurtful and really nasty commentary that members of our community are openly posting on social media. Our district has communicated that there will be a live bell schedule throughout the day and students/teachers are required to take attendance at

the start of each period - and teach/learn throughout the period as if we were together in person. I honestly do not know how I am going to ensure that my kindergartener, my 3rd grader, and myself will be where we need to be throughout the day, all while caring for a 1.5 year old. My head is spinning trying to figure out how to make it all work. My husband will also be working from home so that will provide some additional support. But...it's going to be crazy. I purchased desks for my kids (and then posted about it in the archive: <https://covid-19archive.org/admin/item/23796>), some desk organizers and a planner. Hopefully that will help?!

In addition to preparing for the madness of the school year, we found out last week that my mother-in-law was diagnosed with breast cancer. The initial diagnosis was good and we were really optimistic that the process would be smooth and easy for her. She will be having a double mastectomy in about a month, which coincides with the start of school. We will obviously be prioritizing her health and caring for her. But, again, I am just not sure how we are going to manage everything. I am working as hard as I possibly can right now to get us organized and ready for the start of the school year. I can hardly believe how much our world has changed in just 4 months. I did decide to take Fall A off so that I can get my bearings straight and will plan to take my required course during Fall B. I wonder if I should consider a leave of absence from my job but am feeling incredibly guilty about requesting it so close to the start of the school year. I will certainly keep you posted on how this all progresses.

Week 10

This week I spent my time in our weekly meeting, curating, conducting oral histories, submitting items to the archive, and scrubbing my collection. I honestly felt really helpful and productive curating for as many hours as we did this week. It was nice to have a large chunk of time dedicated to one activity. I was able to settle into that task and refine my curatorial skills. I still find that living by the curation checklist and the collection sheet for HST580 is absolutely essential. I would love it if there was a way to add "one off" items to the curatorial checklist. Perhaps at the beginning there could be a section for these items. I think this could be really helpful when the next group of interns are trained. Working in teams for assigned dates has really streamlined the curation process too. It is much easier to know where to begin curating without worrying about running into another curator while working. I do believe there is room for improvement in the team review process. I'm not sure how this is working in other teams, but I would love to understand if a team has figured it out and how I can help move our team forward in this regard.

I also spent time conducting oral histories this week. I am still working on finding narrators to interview for my collection and have at least 1 promising lead in the works. In the meantime, I decided to interview my children. I still am really passionate about ensuring that children are included in the archive. And this felt like an interesting way to capture their actual voices. Both of my children far exceeded my hopes for the interviews and I am really happy I decided to follow my gut and interview them.

I spent another chunk of time submitting items to the archive and scrubbing the San Francisco Bay Area collection. The collection is approximately 175 items. I'd like to up my submissions next week as I'd like to end the internship with around 250 items in the collection.

Otherwise, there is not much new news to report! I did take a few days in the middle of the week to spend some time with my family and my mother and father in law at the beach. Given the recent news of her breast cancer, we just all needed to get away for a few days. It was really nice to take some time to just be together without distraction. I am grateful for the opening in my schedule and for the ability to take the much needed respite in this chaotic time of life

Week 11

My primary focus for this week was on oral histories. I first focused on the oral history curations assigned to my team. Two of the three oral history curations were relatively straightforward and took me about an hour to an hour and half each to complete. Unfortunately, the third oral history curation took substantial time. The audio file quality was incredibly poor and Otter.AI had difficulty transcribing. In order to get a transcript for the oral history, I had to listen and edit/transcribe myself. Even still, there are many inaudible/untranscribed segments of the interview. I reached out to the interviewer in the hopes that they will review the transcript and fill in missing segments. Since they conducted the interview and have stronger context for the discussions, perhaps they will be able to decipher the audio. Even though this was frustrating, it taught me a major lesson in oral histories. Namely, the quality of the audio file is incredibly important. Without a clear audio file, it creates a significant amount of work on the back end.

I next focused on the oral histories for my collection. This task also took me a bit longer than expected as I had three oral histories to submit and curate. I am, however, grateful for the opportunity to add these to the archive and my collection as they provide invaluable perspective on the COVID-19 pandemic. I really like the intersectionality of all of the oral histories. This is, yet another, skill that I am glad we've developed as a part of this internship experience.

Unfortunately, due to the time spent on oral histories this week, I was unable to complete my blog post. I have a working shell but it is not in a position to submit. I will make sure to prioritize and submit this assignment as a part of my Week 12 work.

Overall, I feel a sense of pride at all that I am currently managing. Work has ramped up significantly since my district finally made the decision to begin the school year with remote learning. We have three to five hours of training per day. I am also headed into the final week of the HST580 Genealogy class. All of my coursework is complete for that class with the exception of the final paper and portfolio. I am still dedicating at least 12 hours per week to the archive. I have found space to support my mother in law through her various medical appointments. And I carved out time to celebrate my son's birthday. Life is busy but I am grateful for the gift of family, for a job that I love, for a soul filling graduate program experience, for health, safety and security in these challenging and uncertain times.

Week 12

This week absolutely flew by. I started the week by completing the blog post. As with the press release, this was a new type of writing activity that I have not had any experience with. I really appreciated the opportunity to stretch and grow in a new way through this assignment. While my blog post needs refinement, I am really excited with where it landed. My plate has been full with competing priorities lately, but I'd like to take some time this week to work on trying to get both my press release picked up and my blog published.

I also spent time building my resume this week. I am happy with how it turned out. I really appreciated the opportunity to learn more about the differences between a CV and a resume. My biggest take-away from that exercise was that if I'd like to pursue a career in academia, I definitely need to focus on getting publishing and working on larger projects and initiatives in leadership roles within the field. On a side note, Dr. Kole, you are so impressive and are such an inspiration!

Lastly, I worked on the curation assignment for Team 1. We were assigned July 26, 27, and 28. July 26 is complete. There are approximately 40 items left to curate from July 27 and 28. I am currently working my way through these items and will complete as many as possible by the end of day Sunday. If I am unable to complete these items, I will prioritize curation this week.

Outside of this course, I am gearing up for the start of the school year. There is work to do but I am finally starting to see the pieces come together. I am grateful that I am a planner and an organizer. This challenging time would undoubtedly be a lot more stressful without those life skills. I completed my final narrative and portfolio for the Genealogy course so am happy to have the gift of time completing that course has opened up as well.

Week 13

I cannot believe we are in week 13 of the internship. I am so sad my time with JOTPY is coming to an end. I have learned a ton about myself and about working in academia. And I have also developed some truly meaningful relationships. Enough sappiness for the moment. Now to reflect upon my work this week.

I first tackled curations assigned to Team 1 for the week. I have found that I actually enjoy curating. It is really interesting to see the various items that are submitted to the archive. It makes me reflect upon the items that I am personally submitting to the archive. It is also in my nature to enjoy helping others. I know that there is a direct impact positive to someone else's workload when I curate. In a time where things often feel out of my control, it feels good to know that my actions are contributing to something positive.

The rest of my time was split between working with colleagues to review blog posts, revising my own blog post and submitting items to the archive. In regards to my blog post, I reached out to Kathryn Nystrom at the University of San Francisco for potential publication avenues. I will report back if she has any suggestions and will continue to look for alternative publication avenues. Writing the blog post has spurred an interest in me to follow street art in the San Francisco Bay Area. My submissions for the week were centered around street art and I will continue to look for this interesting cultural aspect of the San Francisco Bay Area COVID-19 experience.

Lastly, back to school and remote learning have been...a lot. I have been easily putting in 14+ hour days for the last 2 weeks and have yet to have a day completely off. I see the light at the end of the tunnel as I am figuring out how to adjust to this new normal. I have been thinking of you, Dr. Kole, and am wishing you smooth waters through this next phase and transition of life. We can do hard things!

Week 14

Well, this is it. The final journal submission. It has been such a wild ride and a wonderful experience. I have learned an immeasurable amount about public history, professionalism, working in live archives, curation, writing, collaboration, and so much more. I am truly sad that my JOTPY internship has come to an end. Unknowingly, my work in a COVID-19 pandemic archive has actually helped me process living the COVID-19 pandemic in real time. I have also developed relationships during my work that I will carry with me. I will miss my direct connection to the archive. However, I know that my connection to the archive is not yet completely over. I plan to continue to contribute personal submissions and submissions to the San Francisco Bay Area Collection. As a teacher, I am going to weave archival contributions into my curriculum. I am also hoping to help with the onboarding of the new internship cohort. And have begun work with my high school's History Club to support them in the development of an oral history project they plan to submit to the archive. I am excited to see how JOTPY evolves throughout the duration of the COVID-19 pandemic. I am forever grateful for this opportunity and will carry the lessons learned with me for a lifetime. A very special thanks to Dr. Kole for your leadership, guidance, support and friendship.