

Chris Twing
HST580
Notes on Incarceration Collection

Notes on collecting:

While the collection is full of news stories and social media posts it proved very difficult to obtain first person accounts from incarcerated persons because access to them has been cut off due to Covid. Normally a large number of nonprofit groups, lawyers, educators, and other people go into correctional facilities this access has been stopped in an effort to slow the spread of the virus.

Social media, particularly Twitter, has proved the most fruitful way to connect with the community around incarceration. Here one can find people that have family and friends in correctional facilities, keep up with criminal justice advocates and their efforts, and occasionally come across an incarcerated person using a contraband cell phone to post about their lived experience.

Notes on expanding the collection:

This collection was originally called Prison Voices but was changed to Incarceration because it would allow for future expansion. In addition to incarcerated adults, in the U.S. prisons and jails, other incarcerated populations should be considered for addition, particularly those being held in immigrant detention facilities and juvenile detention.

Another avenue for adding to the collection would be to expand it geographically outside the U.S.