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HST580, JOTPY Internship
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Module 2: Building a Collection Plan

Mission:

The mission of this collection is to crowdsource submissions for the “Rural Voices Collection” to be placed within the Journal of the Plague Year archive. These submissions seek to raise awareness of rural archival voices by providing unbiased representation of their experience during COVID-19. By providing these “Rural Voices” records within the archive future researchers can better understand, evaluate, and academically teach the unique experiences of rural people during COVID-19.

Collection Scope:

The collection’s goal is to raise awareness and encourage submissions that can provide worldwide representation to those with “Rural Voices” within the JOTPY archive. These “Rural Voices” will be addressed thematically through impacts of COVID-19 upon rural life through photographs, audio files, videos, and documents. The long-term goal for this collection is to provide a future repository of information that addresses rural representation in the JOTPY archive. Future generations will learn of differing perspectives, alternate adaptations, and uniquely rural experiences that were held by those with “Rural Voices,” that otherwise would be overshadowed by voices from larger population centers.

Acquisitions:

The action plan for the “Rural Voices” collection is to crowdsource submissions from social media, traditional rural print media, and through small-town college outreach. The social media campaign will be designed to reach those that seek advocacy and preservation of local rural history. The traditional rural print media will be encouraged online and in person requests to run stories on how their communities can submit to the “Rural Voices” collection within the JOTPY to preserve their representation in the archive. The small-town college outreach will include professor and department requests to ask both faculty and students to contribute their rural experiences of life during COVID-19. The growth of this collection would improve the representation of rural locations worldwide. A #ruralvoices hashtag could gauge the impact of this collection within JOTPY and verify any rural representation through location field metadata.

Evaluation:

This collection is similar in that it encourages submission from those that have witnessed COVID-19 impacts. The impacts that come from the “Rural Voices” collection identify changes to normal routines for education, religious centers, agricultural practices, economic systems, access to public spaces, and overall community experiences in rural areas. The particular “Rural Voices” collection seeks to address the otherwise dominant representation from higher population areas. This collection seeks to use its submissions to fill the silence of those living in rural areas. This collection enhances other collections within JOTPY that call for submissions on subjects of educational, religious, agricultural, economic, and social experiences by adding the diversity of rural perspectives to broaden their framework.