



Mission Statement For Collection

The Marginalized Communities collection is a collection based on the idea that the voices of marginalized communities should be present and reflected in A Journal of the Plague Year in order to preserve these voices for the historical record. It encourages submissions from members of marginalized communities and also adds submissions to the archive as it relates to marginalized communities, in order to accomplish the goals of the archive in diminishing silences and ensuring its diversity of voices.

Building a Collection Plan – Lawson Miller

Mission: The mission of this collection plan is to submit material relevant to the impact of Covid-19 on marginalized communities. This builds on the mission of the Journal of the Plague Year archive by ensuring that there's diversity within the archive and that silences are diminished to the fullest extent possible as they relate to marginalized communities.

Collection scope: The purpose of this collection is to diversify the archive and reduce silences wherever possible. The goal of this collection is to ensure that the voices and plight of marginalized communities are preserved as part of the historical record. This includes but is not limited to people of color, the LGBTQ community, ethnic minorities, religious minorities, etc. The scope of this collection is broad in terms of communities which are relevant to the mission statement, as this collection plan seeks to be as inclusive as possible and seek the voices and experiences of marginalized people regardless of the community to which they belong. When the historical record on the impact of and response to Covid-19 is established, the goal of this collection plan is to reduce silences and ensure that the voices and struggles of people are represented from every community. Future generations will be able to see the diversity of the world in this collection plan and reflect on the unique ways in which Covid-19 impacted marginalized communities.

Acquisition: Depending on the form of the media being submitted and the context, the acquisition process will vary. The first and best way for diverse voices to be submitted to the archive is to promote the archive itself and encourage submissions directly from marginalized people themselves. However, as many people may not have a time or interest to do so, it is the duty of this collection plan to ensure their voices, reactions, etc. are still represented. Because of this, the acquisition process must be done in a way that accomplishes the mission statement and collection scope while also ensuring the integrity of the process. Outlined below are the primary forms of acquisition and how to approach each respective submission.

- (1) **Social media:** This includes sites such as Twitter, Facebook, Instagram, Reddit, etc. If the media/screenshots being collected from social media is in the public sphere is not a private account or involves adding someone to access, then this will be able to be uploaded to the archive with the proper context. Some exceptions may apply to this if they are of a deeply personal nature. If an item being collected is in a private group or community, or someone must be added in order to access it, permission to share it to the archive will be requested and any requested changes such as blurring out full names, etc. will be honored.
- (2) **News and Mass Media:** News and media that is published on publicly accessible websites may be added to the archive. The relevant fields will be added on the Omeka site, including commentary, context, and perspective which adds to value of the item being submitted. Special attention will be paid to news organizations that cater to specific communities (Advocate Magazine for the LGBTQ community, The Root for people of

color, etc.), but submissions found in local or mainstream news may also be of interest if they relate to the mission statement.

- (3) **Official Organizations:** It's important to garner the responses from official organizations representing marginalized communities to help trace the response and reaction to people within their respective communities. The Human Rights Campaign, the NAACP, and other relevant organizations that represent the interests of marginalized peoples will be looked to for potential material.

Evaluation: Compared to some of the other collections in the archive, this collection specifically seeks to advance the voices of underrepresented people and by definition is a collection distinguished from other collections that relate to geographic locations, and student responses. This collection will help fill in silences by ensuring that diverse voices are represented within it. This collection also specifically enhances and works in coordination with the LGBTQ+ collection and will assist in adding to its material.

LGBTQ+ Collection – Call for Submissions

The impact of Covid-19 has changed everyday life around the world. The LGBTQ+ community has been impacted in unique ways because of the unique struggles faced by the community. Pride events have been postponed or cancelled, pride centers have been forced to lay off staff, LGBTQ+ people are facing higher unemployment rates amid the pandemic, and the community also has unequal access to healthcare.

One of the important goals of historians is to diminish silences within the historical record. What does this mean? It means that it's important that underrepresented communities are represented in the history of this moment. It's recognizing that the history of this moment should recognize the history of people from all backgrounds and walks of life. The unique and storied history of the LGBTQ+ community should be fully represented in the history of this moment.

If you're a member of the LGBTQ+ community and you'd like to share how Covid-19 has impacted your life or what stories and events you're paying attention to, share it to the archive!

We want your stories whether or not they explicitly deal with LGBTQ+ issues, because the experiences of individuals transcend their identities. You can make photo submissions, journal entries, videos, and basically any other forms of media. Help ensure that the history of the community is documented during these unprecedented times. Years and even decades from now, your stories will be integral to the history of this moment.

When making a submission relevant to this collection, whether explicitly dealing with LGBTQ+ issues or not, use the hashtag #LGBTQ+.

If you have any questions about this collection, please contact Lawson Miller at lhmlle2@asu.edu or Carolyn Evans at cjevan11@asu.edu.



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE – The Salt Lake Tribune, KSL, Fox 13, ABC4 Utah

A Journal of the Plague Year: An Archive of Covid-19 was created in March of 2020 after Covid-19 began to garner more attention in the United States. The archive is a crowdsourced digital archive documenting the impact of Covid-19 on communities around the globe. Anyone with internet access is able to make a submission in the form of a photo, video, journal entry, PDF, audio, and basically any other forms of media. The archive is capturing the response to Covid-19 across the world, which is reflected by [our international and national institutional partnerships](#): *The University of Melbourne in Australia, Northeastern University, UC Irvine, University of New Orleans, and George Mason University*, just to name a few.

The archive began in response to an idea from professors of history Catherine O’Donnell and Mark Tebeau – trained historians and faculty at Arizona State University. Since its inception in March, the archive has received nearly [5,000 submissions](#) from places all around the world, with the involvement over 150 graduate students, K-12 teachers, and professors. Additionally, the project has received international, national, and local media coverage – from [The New York Times](#), to [ABC News](#), [Forbes magazine](#), the [Chronicle of Higher Education](#), [CBC Radio](#), and [AZ Family](#). The project continues to grow as the importance of capturing the stories of and reactions to this moment are fully realized.

In one submission from a contributor, titled “*Talking to a Friend*,” they explain how they had to talk to their friend from their apartment window as a result of quarantining and social distancing.



“Talking to a Friend”

<https://covid-19archive.org/s/archive/item/9375>

Another submission titled “Graduation” captures the graduation photos taken for a senior graduating from college with references to the toilet paper shortage at many stores and face masks.



“Graduation”

<https://covid-19archive.org/s/archive/item/19567>

Utahns have a vested interest in ensuring that their stories are represented in the archive. 20 years, 10 years, and even 1 year from now, the archive will prove to be an invaluable resource for researchers. It has a resourcefulness that is both in the present and the future – virtually all materials in the archive are accessible to the public, and contributors also have the option to

make submissions anonymously. We are also working with universities in implementing the archive in K-12 social studies and history curricula.

Involving local media outlets in this project is essential, because archive submissions start locally. They involve the stories of ordinary people right here in Utah and from all around the world. The rapid response collection from the global pandemic is similar in nature to the [Hurricane Katrina Digital Memory Bank](#) and the [9/11 Digital Archive](#), but is much larger in scale. We have partnered with the very institutions that created these archives to make this one possible. Project publicity and community involvement is essential to ensure the history of this moment is represented as accurately and diversely as possible – something that is in the public interest.

Covid-19 Archive, Share Your Story: <https://covid-19archive.org/s/archive/page/Share>

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QUEERINTINED DURING THE PLAGUE

MORE THAN GLITTER AND RAINBOWS

Sitting indoors in a pastel wig, wrapped in a flag to match, was one of the many ways Pride month was celebrated during the year of the modern plague. Pride celebrations around the globe were canceled and postponed as a result of the Covid-19 pandemic, so many in the LGBTQ+ community took it upon themselves to carry on the legacy of Pride month, while Queerintined at home. Beyond the glitter, pastel wigs, and general fabulousness that typically encapsulates Pride Month, issues that have long faced the community have been exacerbated by the pandemic. Like almost everyone else, LGBTQ+ people marched on and carried with them a longing for a return to normalcy. Despite the impact of Covid-19 on the world, it will be preserved in the historical record that the LGBTQ+ community remained resilient, maintained a sense of community, and fought against unique and difficult challenges. The challenges faced by the LGBTQ+ community amid the pandemic has made more evident the issues that those who are otherwise privileged are not required to confront.



(“Quarantine pride,” Victoria Spring, <https://covid-19archive.org/s/archive/item/16042>)

Access to adequate healthcare, homeless youth, and higher unemployment rates are just a few of the challenges many in the community face.¹ Some of the problems inherent in societal treatment of LGBTQ+ people make identity inescapable, even for those seeking to lead lives where who they are or who they love is not relevant to their socioeconomic status or having access to healthcare. Outside of the United States, some people face even more dire consequences, such as in Uganda, where Covid-19 was used as a rationale to arrest LGBTQ+

1. Petruce Jean-Charles, “LGBTQ Americans are getting coronavirus, losing jobs. Anti-gay bias is making it worse for them,” *USA Today*, May 9, 2020, <https://www.usatoday.com/story/news/nation/2020/05/09/discrimination-racism-fuel-covid-19-woes-lgbtq-americans/3070036001/>

Ugandans.² The global pandemic has ravaged LGBTQ+ communities across the globe, and it's important that the triumphs, joys, struggles, and everyday ordinary lives of LGBTQ+ people are captured in this moment, for the history of this moment should not be filled with silence when people call upon the past to find answers.

The LGBTQ+ collection for A Journal of the Plague Year: Covid-19 digital archive is serving as a digital repository for LGBTQ+ people living during the pandemic and those seeking to better understand the impact of the pandemic. Filled with both personal stories and news about, as well as reactions to the news about the impact of Covid-19 on the community, the collection offers an essential composite of information. In its essence, it encapsulates and represents stories spanning the globe as well as a diversity of content. The spectrum of content available in the collection includes challenges, emotions, and Pride.



(Mick De Paola on Unsplash, <https://unsplash.com/photos/UM1wuw2wEaQ>)

DETERMINED AND FABULOUS

Despite the setbacks and disadvantages experienced by the community during this tumultuous time, the resolve and determination of LGBTQ+ people are displayed throughout. With the advent of technology, Pride celebrations continued undeterred with live-streamed drag shows, history related events, and other celebrations.³ Pride is celebratory and significant in its

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2. Derick Clifton, "Ugandan Police Arrest 19 LGBTQ+ People Under Dubious COVID-19 Charges," *Them.*, May 13, 2020, <https://www.them.us/story/ugandan-police-arrest-19-lgbtq-people-under-dubious-covid-19-charges>
 3. JD Shadel, "10 Pride events you can attend from home, from underground Zoom parties to a virtual Pridemobile," *The Washington Post*, June 3, 2020, <https://www.washingtonpost.com/travel/tips/pride-events-you-can-attend-home-underground-zoom-parties-virtual-pridemobile/>

recognition of the progress that LGBTQ+ people have made around the world, but in a time where a pandemic has exacerbated some of the struggles still being fought, the need to carry on the tradition of Pride was recognized by the community. The determination that is inherent within the LGBTQ+ community is evident in the submissions to A Journal of the Plague Year.

Within the LGBTQ+ collection is the recognition that LGBTQ+ people are just ordinary people outside of their identities, seeking to cope with a global crisis. In one submission to the archive titled “In the Woods,” a gay trans couple escapes from civilization to spend time together. Finding moments of joy and looking for an escape to the crisis which the world is embroiled in, isn’t something exclusive or unique to LGBTQ+ people. However, the additional struggles which are thrust upon the community by virtue of their identities has made their situation more dire than others. It is in this context that the extent of resolve and perseverance can be seen. The emotions experienced by people in the LGBTQ+ community are represented in ordinary moments of everyday life in an unprecedented time.



(“In the Woods,” Felix Satterly, <https://covid-19archive.org/s/archive/item/16362>)

Exemplary of one of the issues faced by far too many LGBTQ+ people is the story of a woman in Kenya who lost her job as a result of Covid-19’s impact on the economy and was forced to return home to her unaccepting family as a result.⁴ There are those who don’t even have that luxury, and the history of this moment cannot leave those stories behind. While it seemed that the world stopped turning for many in the middle of the pandemic, it did not stop

4. Anthony Irungu & Marko Zroic, “LGBT: Covid-19 forced me back home where I’m ‘unwanted,’” *BBC*, May 31, 2020, <https://www.bbc.com/news/av/world-africa-52835114/lgbt-covid-19-forced-me-back-home-where-i-m-unwanted>

spinning for the challenges faced by the marginalized. While the pandemic in fact exacerbated many of these challenges, the LGBTQ+ community has remained steadfast and determined, and they've had the necessary experience to meet this moment with grit.



(“Free Covid-19 testing at Utah Pride Center,” Utah Pride Center, <https://covid-19archive.org/s/archive/item/22861>)

Making a submission to the archive on topics from the ordinary and mundane, to how Covid-19 has impacted you, or what you have experienced as someone who is LGBTQ+ and living in the middle of a global crisis, your contribution is essential. When the history of this moment is written, and when future researchers seek answers about how the LGBTQ+ community responded to this event, your contributions will serve as historical evidence. The highs and lows of living in such an unprecedented time are bound to be challenging for anyone, but especially for LGBTQ+ people. We have met the moment with grit, fierceness, and maybe a little glitter and rainbows.