

Week One: 1/10 - 1/17

Prompt: Reflect on what is an archive? What is the JOTPY archive and whose history is it preserving?



I immediately identified with the first man in the video "What is an Archive?" when he spoke about wanting to uncover stories. Though I've only been a part of ASU's history program since August, my idea of what an archive is has changed since I began. As an undergraduate anthropology student, I considered archives as data used to verify information. Now I have a better understanding of how crucial and beneficial archives are, especially after interacting with JOTPY and other Covid-19 archive projects in Professor Tebeau's class in the fall.

"Collective memory" is a phrase I'm not sure I had ever come across before starting in the history program, and now it's something I think about at least once a day. Everyone has such a unique take on what is happening in the world, and every experience is valid and worth documenting.

The JOTPY Archive is an accessible space where anyone can share their experience about how Covid-19 has affected their lives, and it is so easy to spend hours scrolling through stories and media. Recently, I've noticed a lot of similarly-themed stories shared to the archive by what seems to be younger students, and I think it just goes to show how useful this project is for people of all ages to share their perspective and stories.

That being said, it definitely does get heavy taking in so much information about how this pandemic has negatively affected so many lives. While it is fun looking at how people have found creative ways to cope and socialize, it is hard not to get emotional about just how much people have missed and lost over the past year. That being said, I would hope contributing to this archive would be cathartic, like venting to a friend, and that those contributing find comfort in knowing that they are not alone in their experience.

As far as whose history JOTPY is preserving, I'm not sure how to answer that question at this point. From what I've seen, there are stories from so many different places, age ranges, and communities, so it seems to act as a form of public history open to all. I'm sure that the more I work with the archive, I'll gain a better understanding of whose history is being preserved.

I am a bit nervous to work on this archive, as I've never worked on this type of project before, but more than anything I am excited to be able to contribute to JOTPY. It's hard not to feel helpless in times like this, and I hope I am able to make a meaningful contribution through this internship.

Week Two: '18-'24



← Spending so much time with the San Francisco Bay Area Collection made me miss the city so much

Prompt. Archival silences. How are they created? What are the current silences in the archive? What can you do about archival silences?

Archival silences are created, both intentionally and unintentionally, through the exclusion of specific communities or populations of people, leading to a skewed narrative presented by the archive. Throughout history, this is often seen because those in power and in charge of the archive, as they are often the ones who had the resources to contribute to and control what was contributed to the archive. Fuentes's book discusses this in length, focusing on enslaved women in Barbados. Given their social status, enslaved women almost never had the resources to contribute to the archive themselves; instead, they often only appeared if they were legally being punished or were for sale. Because of this censorship, much of the history of those excluded from the archive must be reconstructed from these small mentions and the knowledge of how social roles worked at the time.

In a more modern context, and specifically with rapid archives, silences can easily be created through a lack of technology, or lack of technological understanding. Those without access to technology are unable to contribute to online archives, creating a silence. This can also be true for those who lack access to educational resources, as sharing their story often relies on the ability to read unless someone else is submitting it for them.

With so many submissions to the archive, it's difficult to determine exactly what silences are present in the JOTPY archives. One I have noticed in the San Francisco is the homeless population. Resources like libraries, which give easy public access to the internet, are currently closed, making it more difficult for them to share online. I do appreciate the collections for Over 60 and Rural Voices, as I feel they are addressing populations that would otherwise be mostly overlooked or minimized in comparison to larger populations. I hope to help combat silences by extending invitations to those I know who are a part of communities that are often silenced.

Julia Jensen

HST 580

31 January 2021

Week 3 Journal

I was very excited to start curating this week. Between my 1:1 Curation meeting with Clinton and curating on my own, I've grown fairly confident in knowing how to curate, and look forward to continuing in the coming weeks. I also submitted photos for the first time, whereas in the past I've submitted screenshots and text stories. I gained a better understanding of the responsibilities of a curator, as it's essential to capture moments and gather information without changing or influencing it. For the JOTPY archive specifically, it is important to be as specific as possible with controlled vocabulary and tags, but unless we are redacting sensitive information, we leave the submission as it was to preserve that moment. I definitely need to get more comfortable judging what information is worth flagging for review, but for now I plan to be overly cautious until I have a better grasp on it. I'd rather be too careful than let something slip through the cracks.

At the moment I am most interested in working on the Mental Health, Performing Arts, and/or San Francisco Bay Area collections, as I relate closely to all three of those topics and want to see them thoroughly fleshed out. The Mental Health collection does have many contributions, so that may be the strongest of the three, which leads me to want to work with the other two so that we can fill in silences that are currently present. I do have ideas on how to contribute to the Performing Arts collection, as I have connections with those in the Performing Arts community that have struggled due to the pandemic, but since I am no longer living in California, it would be more difficult for me to address the silences in the San Francisco Bay Area collection. That being said, I have reached out to friends in that area to brainstorm some ideas.

While this week has been exciting, it has also been challenging. I had one submission in particular that I curated in which the contributor talked about a great deal of trauma and suffering that they had experienced, and it weighs heavily on me. I am the type of person that wants to reach out and help people, so seeing all this hurt without being able to directly help has been challenging. That being said, I would hope contributing to the archive gave them a sense of

catharsis, and that sharing their story with the world allows for others to realize they are not alone in their struggles. I know I have connected with many submissions, even before I began curating, because I recognized the same stress and fear that I have in others. Representation and connection is so important during times like these.

Julia Jensen

7 February 2021

HST 580

This week we focused on privacy and redacting, and it led to many questions both in response to the readings and during the meeting. It had never occurred to me that there were processes to undo blurring and redaction, and it made me so disappointed that that's something we have to worry about. In such a public world, it is already so difficult to find a sense of privacy and safety, and to think that even attempts at privacy can be undone so easily is unsettling. That being said, it has become very clear to me why privacy is so important in a public archive, especially in regard to children and for protection from surveillance. With children, they are too young to consent, making it challenging to consider how to include them in the archives while still protecting their privacy. Even if their parent gives permission, the child could definitely grow up and decide they do not want to be included, creating challenges on how to then retroactively redact their information or image. There is also always the question of safety, since sharing information about a child publicly can put them in danger of exploitation or harm. As far as protection from surveillance goes, it is difficult to document situations like protests without risking individuals' safety if their image is shared. Unfortunately, people have been arrested for participating in protests, specifically Black Lives Matter protests, with little reasoning needed, and we do not want our archive to be used for those means.

It is also important to remember that even adults not involved in protests should not have their identities shared without consent. It is impossible to know what one has experienced, and whether or not they are actively trying to conceal their locations from specific individuals. Domestic abuse victims come to mind, as I know several people who keep their location and

information very private in order to prevent their abuser from keeping tabs on them. If their information is then unknowing shared in a public online archive, accessible by anyone, it could unintentionally put them in danger. While I do believe it is important to document as much as possible during this time so that we can look back on it in the future, it is also important to protect people.

This week's work has allowed me to grow more comfortable curating, as I feel I have interacted with enough submissions that I have the process down pretty well. I also appreciated the feedback on last week's curation, since there were a few mistakes I was making that I was able to prevent this week. I was also able to gain a better understanding of redacting information and blurring images, though I haven't had to do that on a submission yet. I did have some challenging things happen in my personal life that made it a little hard to focus at times, as I am in the midst of a career change and an apartment hunt, but once I was in the zone I was able to center all of my attention on curating and it provided a much-needed reason to slow down. I am hoping that this upcoming week is less challenging in my personal life so that I can work on curating earlier in the week.

Julia Jensen

HST 580
14 February 2021

Weekly Journal

This week felt more personal than previous weeks, even though past weeks have involved sharing personal stories to the archive. When designing a collection, I did base it on my personal experience, as I am a (soon to be ex-) employee of Target and have been extremely frustrated by how Covid is being handled. While we are provided masks if needed and we have one person on rotation cleaning the store, we have a new policy where we aren't able to ask customers to fix their masks if they take them off. This is because one person was asked to pull their mask up, and they proceeded to destroy a display in response. I'm frustrated both with customers, who treat us employees like we don't deserve the same protection we are providing them, and the company, whose response is to not anger the customers, rather than to protect the employees. Almost every single day I have multiple customers come up to me, pulling their mask down to ask me a question, and I cannot bring myself to stay quiet. I risk getting in trouble with my supervisors by asking the customer to fix their mask, but the alternative is to risk my own health by allowing a customer to remove their mask while in close contact with me.

I am lucky enough that I found a new job that I start next week that is in a distanced office setting, but many of my coworkers rely on this job as their sole source of income and have not been able to find a job that pays as well as Target. Customers treat us like we're invisible unless they need something and lose their temper so quickly when we ask them to follow policies. Nobody deserves to be treated that way, but there are millions of people living in that reality as employees of Target, Walmart, grocery stores, and restaurants. We've all seen the videos making the rounds on social media, but those not working in these places would be shocked at how often that type of behavior is a daily occurrence.

All that being said, I think the experience of my coworkers and others in similar positions are very important to document. While their experience is still similar to what some would consider "back to normal," as they are leaving their house to go to work every day, the reality is much different than normal. It is a privilege to be able to work from home, even if it does get lonely and frustrating, as those working from home are protected from situations like I've explained. This is why I think a collection about those working in public is important, since these "regular" jobs have been stressful and frightening during this time, both because of exposure and because of aggressive customers. I have so many coworkers who have already had Covid-19, and I myself have been screamed at by countless customers because they didn't want to follow procedures that the state and the company created.

I think JOTPY can increase public participation by utilizing social media more and tapping into larger groups such as the one this collection would target. It's also helpful to continue relationships with schools and universities but relying on those creates silences by focusing only on young students and those who can afford an education. It might also be useful to reach out to adult fraternities and social clubs, such as the Moose Lodge and the Elks Lodge, to continue to grow the Over 60 collection since many members are often older. Ultimately, utilizing partnerships and encouraging participation through public posts and media would allow the archive to continue to grow, and hopefully it will get safer to do some in-person archiving soon as well.

While this week was challenging, I'm glad it gave me the motivation to propose this collection. I think too many people assume their story or experience is not important enough to share, when in reality every story is important to understand how this pandemic is affecting life. It can also serve as an emotional outlet, since sharing your experience can be cathartic. I think frustration will continue to grow throughout the rest of the year, so I would hope that companies are taking the proper steps to help their employees, though my experience has not shown that to be true.

Julia Jensen
HST 580
21 February 2021

Weekly Journal

This week was both a very enriching week of the internship and a disappointing one. I absolutely loved the Silver Lining mini oral history, as it allowed me to reconnect with two women who were so influential on my life growing up. I even discussed doing a longer oral history with one of them, BZ Smith, in the future, as she had so many incredible things to say about her experience during the pandemic. She has an education in history and has had careers both in teaching and storytelling, so both her contribution and our conversation were greatly appreciated, and I can't wait to continue it in the future. It was also a chance to reflect on my own experience during the pandemic, as I hadn't seen either of these women in over a year and both asked me to catch them up on what I've been doing. It was a nice reminder that even though it feels like my life has stalled a bit during the pandemic, I've been able to go after so many opportunities that have allowed me to learn and grow during this time. With that being said, it was also bittersweet, as I would have loved to speak to these women in person rather than over the phone. I was homesick by the end of both conversations, but I know that I'll be able to visit once it is safe to do so.

While both oral histories went well, getting people to contribute to the archive on their own was not as successful. The people I asked seemed excited during our conversations, but when I followed up with them about it later, two of them had forgotten about it and one "planned to get to it soon." I do understand that people have busy lives and different priorities, but it's always disappointing when you're passionate about something and others don't quite understand it. Either way, I hope that they do actually contribute in the future, since I think their contributions would be great for the archive.

I do look forward to continuing to invite people to contribute, as I think JOTPY is both fascinating and essential during this time. It has sort of changed my mindset about the pandemic; when I'm having conversations with people about their lives during the past year, I now have more of an open mind about how people have been coping and adjusting since I have come across so many stories when curating. Ultimately, I think everyone has a story to tell, and I'm grateful to be a part of the process.

Julia Jensen
HST 580
28 February 2021

Weekly Journal

Social media has the capacity to expand access to the archive, but it is hard to find a universal audience that way. When people post, their page has to be public in order to be seen by anyone, and even then, only those who are friends with that person or follow that page can see it in the case of Facebook. Twitter and Instagram allow for a wider reach, since the use of hashtags open the post up to a wider audience. The problem with social media is that there is no obligation to respond, which makes it a fairly passive form of outreach. It also neglects to reach those who do not have access to social media, either due to a lack of technology or inability to access the internet. It also excludes those who do not read the language that the post is in, since not all forms of social media provide translation services, particularly if the information is presented in an image format. This would also contribute to the silence of the elderly community, as many of them are not as involved with social media or lack the knowledge of how to use it.

This week I posted about the archive on my Facebook page, and a few people messaged me about contributing their stories. I gave them some more information about how to post and let them bounce ideas off of me, but I don't think any of them have submitted yet. I'm hopeful that they will, and plan to follow up with them next week to see if they have any other questions. I haven't been very active on social media during the pandemic, so I might use this as an opportunity to post more and share about my work.

My week was extremely busy with it being the last week of Spring A classes, so I unfortunately did not get to curating until the weekend, which is a mistake I do not plan on making again in the future. I also went through a job change, which will ultimately work out for the best, but transitioning from one schedule to another proved to be challenging. This week will likely also be the first week I don't reach 12 hours, but I plan on making up for it next week, especially since I have a short break before Spring B classes start. With this new job I will have a regular schedule, rather than the unpredictable schedule I was on working retail, which should hopefully help me form regular routines that make time management easier.

With one year of lockdown coming up, I'm struggling with homesickness and a restlessness from not being able to visit friends and family for over a year now, and it's weighing on me more than I thought it would. I feel like I keep thinking I'm used to this, and that I can easily wait it out until I get a vaccine (which I will), but then something reminds me of home, and I want to hop on a flight that same day. I'm just hopeful that vaccine distribution gets smoother as we enter spring so that I can visit again soon. I'm trying to resist letting this distract me from my obligations, but it's been tough. I'm looking forward to a chance to reset this upcoming week with a break between classes, and I hope I can start spring clear-minded and focused.

Julia Jensen
HST 580
7 March 2021

Weekly Journal

This week's work was enjoyable. Going through the pre-interview process allowed me to learn more about the people I'll be interviewing, and it was fun catching them up on my work with the archive so far. Unfortunately, the first person I talked to is no longer available for an interview next week due to a family emergency, so I had to do a third pre-interview to be ready for next week. Hopefully I'll be able to interview the friend I was originally going to talk to at a later date, once she is available. For now, I'll be interviewing my mother, who I think will be a great contributor for both the K-12 and Vaccine Stories collections. She works in a district office for a high school, so she has seen first-hand how complicated handling the pandemic has been for schools, both for the students and on the administrative side. She even participated in scheduling vaccines for the staff of the high school. My small town had some complications distributing vaccines, but she was able to get an appointment early on and received her vaccine without issue. I will also be interviewing my sister, who can talk about her experience as a college student during this time and her job at TJ Maxx, which will be helpful for the Service Industry collection. While I initially wanted to avoid interviewing family members, I came to realize that they both have had unique experiences during this time, and I think the difference between their perspectives despite living in the same place will be insightful. Plus, even though I had asked them to both contribute to the archive before, neither has, so this can be our compromise.

I have definitely found it challenging getting my friends and family to engage with the archive. I really think it's because they don't quite understand the impact it can have and how helpful it can be, but hopefully as I continue to talk about it, they will come to understand. I talked to quite a few people before finding anyone willing to do an interview, as many were either worried that they'd sound awkward or were insistent that they'd have nothing to say. I didn't want to pressure anyone into participating, but maybe after I share with them about interviewing my mom and sister, they'll be more willing to share. It has also been challenging arranging time to talk with people, as I don't know many people where I live and I'm in a different time zone than most of my friends and family. Working a job 8:00am-5:00pm Monday through Friday limits my schedule, and with my friends and acquaintances working all kinds of different jobs, it seems as though we have opposite schedules.

Curating this week was fairly straightforward, though I did have several items that were missing media. I have been making sure to go over my items before making them public, as I have a habit of forgetting to add the date created, as well as leaving my initials and date in the curatorial notes. I have even put sticky notes on my computer to try and help myself remember. I also forgot to check for feedback last week, so I spent some time correcting mistakes for the past two weeks and reviewing what I curated this week to make sure I didn't repeat the same mistakes.

This week was also personally challenging (which seems to be a pattern this semester), as I am adapting to my new job and moving apartments, so balancing my time has taken some work. Luckily, within the next week or two I'll be settled in to both the job and my apartment, so I can finally get back into a regular routine. I've also recently been diagnosed with OCD and

have been working through trying to establish healthy coping mechanisms to productively manage that. I wish I would have known how much change I was going to experience in my life during February and March, so that I could have prepared better and avoided feeling so overwhelmed all the time. I am definitely one who takes on too much because I don't want to miss out on any opportunities, but I need to learn when to say no so that I don't have too much on my plate. That being said, I don't regret any of the decisions I have made, as I am enjoying everything that I am currently a part of, but it's definitely one of the busier times in my life. I'm so thankful for caffeine and my support system at the moment, since they've been what's powering me through this.

Julia Jensen
HST 580
14 March 2021

Weekly Journal-Week 9

Conducting an oral history was more complicated than I expected. With the mini oral histories a few weeks ago, I had no problem organizing, conducting, and transcribing them, most likely because they were so short. I found it much more challenging this time around, as it was hard to schedule an hour (or more) to talk to my interviewees at a time that worked for both of us. Even when we did find a time, my sister didn't answer my calls for our first scheduled time, and we had to find a later date during the week. The actual interviews went well, as both of my participants had thoughtful, thorough answers, and I enjoyed hearing what they had to say. The transcription process, however, was a different story. Waiting for the websites (I had to use both otter.ai and rev.com because of the lengths of the interviews) to transcribe took longer than expected, and both were riddled with errors. Since I have a similar voice to both of my interviewees, the programs often mixed or combined who was saying what, and I almost would have been better off just transcribing it without automated assistance. Even with all the issues, I still enjoyed the process and the end result, and I have a better idea of how to prevent some of these issues in the future.

This week was a little smoother than previous weeks, and I felt less overwhelmed by school and work. Curating was a little different this week, as I was curating oral histories, but once I got through the first one, I was able to get into a groove and work through a handful. Each item did take more time, as I often had to convert files, and there were more steps than there are for the standard items submitted. I am glad I got the opportunity to learn how to curate these items, but each item was more time-consuming, and I didn't make it through as many items as I have in past weeks.

The sun is finally coming up after months of dreary Columbus winter, and between that and the time change I am hoping to feel productive for longer periods of time during the day. This week I get the keys to my new apartment, which is exciting, but I am pretty stressed about getting all of my belongings packed and moved. Luckily, my family is staying in the house that I am moving out of, so there isn't a hard deadline for when I need to get all of my stuff out, but it's still a lot to do. Either way, I am optimistic about this change in environment. I am feeling more settled in my job and excited about the class I am in, and the overall positive vibes are helping me push through the changes in my life. I did have to take a look at my summer courses and decided to take a true summer break this year. I have been going non-stop since July between classes, jobs, the internship, and family changes, and decided that not taking any courses during the summer would be beneficial for my mental and physical health. It will give me a chance to really process how my life has changed in the past year, and I can give myself a break from the pressure I've been putting myself under. While it does mean I will likely have to take a course next summer, I don't mind putting it off a bit since I am not in a drastic rush to finish the program. I hope that this is the right choice for me to make.

Julia Jensen
HST 580
3/21/2021

Weekly Journal

The oral history project was much more detailed than I expected, involving the consent form, the pre-interview, the actual interview, and transcription, but I actually really enjoy the process. Transcribing is probably my least favorite part, especially when there are auditory issues in the interview file as that causes problems with transcription programs, but besides being time-consuming it's not too terrible. I conducted an interview with a friend of mine this week, and while the interview itself was fun, the recording program I used caused some issues, causing the audio to cut out every few minutes, and transcribing that was difficult. Even with these problems, I do enjoy conducting interviews and oral histories and plan on doing more in the future.

I think I'm finally getting my friends and family to understand more about this internship and the JOTPY, especially as they're getting appointments for the vaccine. As they see the light at the end of the tunnel, they're reflecting more on their experience over the past year and are able to see how unique their experience was. I think they're also more willing to contribute through interviews rather than submissions, as it gives them a guide for them to follow rather than having to come up with something to submit. It is funny to see patterns between their experiences, even though they all had separate experiences throughout this time. For example, both my sister and my friend mentioned playing Animal Crossing, showing how prominent it was throughout the pandemic.

Curating this week was interesting, as I feel we are starting to catch up on submissions. This made it a bit more challenging trying to navigate what to curate, as I didn't want to intrude on other people's assignments, but the day I was assigned only had two entries. I did contribute to the international submissions that were listed in the Curation Tasks document, but many of those were already curated by the time I got to them. Ultimately, I ended up looking for gaps between curations, and filled the gaps as needed. I also curated Robert's oral history, which took a decent amount of time as I wanted to make sure everything was correct. I did eventually hit the 6-hour mark for the Curate-a-thon assignment and got more experience with curating oral history.

This week was a bit stressful as I was moving into a new apartment, but now I am settled and looking forward to next week. While I still have some moving to do, my timeline is more flexible which will allow me to feel less stressed and busy throughout the week. The weather has also improved here, making the days feel longer and more productive. I'll also be able to start attending the weekly meetings, which I am very excited for since I've been missing them due to work and time zone differences up until now.

Julia Jensen
HST 580
28 March 2021

Weekly Journal

Writing for a public audience can be difficult because there is no way to know exactly who it will reach, and you want it to be enticing for as many people as possible in order to convey your message to a large audience. This requires providing information in a succinct way that will hold the attention of individuals while still containing all of the necessary information. It should also not contain any personal information or opinion and be written in a professional voice. Balancing these requirements can be extremely challenging, as you run the risk of losing the main point of the text by shaping it to reach a wide audience.

The blog post this week proved to fall into some of those challenges, as I struggled to keep emotion out of what I was writing. I also struggled to find texts to support my collection, as it is too early for long studies about the effects of Covid-19 on the service industry and many are focusing their attention elsewhere. I did manage to find a few, though it took me quite a lot of digging. I hope more work is done in the future to acknowledge the impact this has had on the service industry. Other than that, I rewrote my blog post a couple of times, as I found it challenging to balance the amount of text between my two subheadings. I did eventually work it out so that they were somewhat even, though it's easier to write about the economic impact of the pandemic than the emotional impact, since the economic impact is more quantifiable.

The collection aggregation was enjoyable, as I was able to read through a variety of experiences of those working in the service industry and how people were coping with it. I also found quite a few submissions that were news articles about restaurants and stores, which gave the collection some variety. I'm sure there are still many more submissions that can fit into the collection despite the hours I spent sorting through items, and I will continue to look for them as I curate in the future. I actually did not get through as many curation items this week, as my time was spent on the other assignments and the items I did curate proved to be time-consuming, as they had many files that needed to be converted.

Julia Jensen
HST580
4 April 2021

Weekly Journal

This internship has given me a clearer idea of the practical side of my career goals. While I am still open to a variety of positions, I had wanted to end up in the museum field as a curator or educator, and this has allowed me to strengthen skills that will be essential in pursuing that goal. I am also very glad to have the opportunity to work with others in the field of history outside of classes, as I have learned so much about the vast amount of career and life choices that a degree in history can contribute to. I've also gained a better appreciation for some of the collections, as I was not as well-versed in their importance until I started curating submissions that fit well into those collections. I do still hope to work at or with museums, though I am growing more interested in other forms of public history as well. I feel more confident in my archival and curatorial skills and hope to utilize them soon in a career.

This week's assignments were straight-forward, but I did end up spending a great deal of time on my resume. I had written an original draft early in the week, but after the team meeting, I realized mine was not nearly focused enough and I started over. I decided not to put any work experience on it and to focus instead on the internship alone, mostly to challenge myself to build a substantial resume with it. I also have very little professional history and writing experience besides the internship, as I've mostly worked service industry jobs, so it also made sense to focus on that when tailoring it to a history-specific job. When I apply to history jobs, I will add in more of my professional experience outside of the internship, but I wanted to keep it simple so as to not bury the important information.

I also spent a lot of time researching for items for my collection, as I wanted to diversify since I focused submissions on my own experience last week. This week I pulled from Ohio, California, and New York, hoping to highlight how service industry workers are experiencing Covid in different states. Two of them focused on vaccines, as service industry workers were on the CDC's list of essential workers but were not prioritized in all states. Between the resume and researching, I spent less time on curating this week, but I did focus on my assigned date to make sure those were complete. Overall, this week helped me understand how to utilize this experience in the future, and while I am disappointed that we only have a few weeks left, I plan to make the most of it and I am grateful for this experience.

Julia Jensen
HST580
11 April 2021

Weekly Journal

In my experience, one of the most effective strategies to prompt effective peer feedback is to be upfront about the struggles one is having with a particular project. By acknowledging what struggles have occurred throughout the process, it can spark ideas among peers that often leads to helpful brainstorming. I will admit I often struggle to provide feedback unprompted, though, as I'm often concerned that my ideas will either not align with their vision for the project or that my critique will come off as more severe or judgmental than I meant it to be. That being said, the amount of discussion I've experienced in this grad program has helped me gauge how to politely share feedback, and I think the most effective way to provide it is to share a couple clear, succinct points or ideas. That way, you're not overwhelming them with too much information, and you are avoiding any unnecessary anxiety or confusion. I wish I had put that into practice during the meeting this week, as I do find the exhibits that are being worked on interesting, but I wasn't feeling well and found it difficult to come up with suggestions. I am glad that my collection has been helpful, and I look forward to seeing the final product for both exhibits.

This week's curating was a bit frustrating, as I was having a variety of technological issues. For any submission that involved social media posts or videos, Wayback would often load for an absurd amount of time, only to give an error message. At first, I thought this was just the server being overloaded, but it occurred over several days. It definitely made curating go much slower this week, and I did not get through nearly as many submissions as I had hoped to. I did enjoy researching to find items for my collection this week, as I made an effort to switch it up from personal stories and news articles and found some interesting things. Thrillest Serves was probably my favorite thing that I found, as it is a webpage full of small businesses (mostly restaurants) and ways to support them during this time. While they did not have any businesses in my area that I could support in-person, every single business listed also had a donation link, allowing people to help out from wherever they live. Next week I hope to gather some more personal accounts from people in my life still actively working in the service industry, especially as the vaccine becomes more widely available, as I know that has affected customers' opinions about mask mandates.

Julia Jensen
HST 580
18 April 2021

Weekly Journal

Writing for a public audience is tricky, because you have to balance including all of the important information with also making it engaging and easy to understand. It is also helpful to keep it succinct, as attention spans tend to be short, especially if there isn't an interesting hook at the beginning of the writing to draw the reader in. Academic writing, on the other hand, should focus heavily on content and arguments, often serving to defend a thesis rather than solely educate. You can also often assume a reader in an academic audience is used to a more professional and academic tone, whereas writing for a public audience often calls for a more conversational tone with less use of jargon or vernacular. When writing for both academic and public audiences, citing sources is extremely important in order to maintain credibility, and to allow further research on the topic that is being written about.

As we approach the end of the semester, I'm definitely feeling more stressed about final papers and finishing up classes, which made it more challenging to focus on curating this week. That was exacerbated by similar tech problems that I was having last week, as since I moved my internet has not been great, but the internet provider isn't able to look at it for another week and a half. This led to much longer loading times, especially when dealing with the Wayback Machine or loading videos and links to look for tags and controlled vocabulary. It was frustrating not being able to curate at the pace I was before, but it did allow me to take more time with tags and make sure I was curating each item thoroughly.

After looking through feedback, I revised my blog post to be more inclusive of archive submissions and images. I think I misunderstood the initial assignment, as I wrote it to explain the need for the collection, rather than using it to showcase how representative the collection is. I did maintain portions of my original blog post, as I think some of the points I made were important, but I was able to use images and situations from submissions to strengthen the blog post and connect it more directly with the archive. I did revise it a few times this week, as I let a few people read it and it was quite wordy at one point. I then had to revise it again because I was over the word count. As it is, I'm at the high end of the word requirement, but I didn't want to sacrifice any main arguments. I also searched through quite a few archive submissions to determine what I wanted to include in the post, and I decided on one retail image, one food service image, a sign about masks, and a poster with a call to action in order to diversify the imagery.

I'm looking forward to this last week of the internship and will likely want to volunteer for curating throughout the summer, even if it's just a couple hours a week. This project is so important, and as someone who would like to work in public history, this experience has been an incredible look into possible career paths.

Julia Jensen

HST580

25 April 2020

Weekly Journal

I can't believe this is my last weekly journal! This assignment has actually gotten me to journal about my life every week as well, and I've found it very therapeutic at the end of the week. I would describe my JOTPY experience as an incredible learning experience that has helped me grow more confident in my career path of public history. I am so grateful for the skills I developed throughout this experience, and I'm sure they will be so helpful as I continue in this field. I will say, even though I was overwhelmed some weeks between school, work, and this internship, I never regretted joining. It did not feel like it lasted 15 weeks! Everyone was so helpful and eager to see this project succeed, and even though I was an intern, I never felt less important or less respected than anyone else working on JOTPY.

Despite this being a curation internship, I did not curate much this week, instead focusing on the portfolio and gathering submissions for my collection. I wanted to be sure all the pieces of my portfolio were the final drafts that I had submitted, and it took me quite a while to consolidate all my journals. I am glad to be volunteering for JOTPY this summer, so that I will be able to continue curating. I think what I enjoyed most about curating was interaction with so many different experiences people have had during the pandemic. As a very empathetic person, it did make me emotional at times when reading about those going through hard times, but I think this archive has been a great way for people to share their stories, good and bad, and to feel like their experience matters, since it does. It is also a great way to document how communities have come together to support those in need during this time, and to hold establishments accountable when they have been less than helpful, or even harmful. The collections in particular have been helpful with gathering this information and seeing how passionate my fellow interns have been about their respective collections has been inspiring. I will definitely miss the weekly Zoom meetings with my fellow interns, but I'm sure they'll also appreciate this experience as much as I do and carry forward with the work that they're doing. I wish them all the best and look forward to seeing how JOTPY will grow and adapt as the pandemic changes.