

My initial reaction to the prospect of submitting a story to the Journal of the Plague Year was, and is, nervousness. I thought I didn't really have anything to contribute to the Journal; nothing that anyone would find meaningful or important or profound in some way. However, as I looked through the archive and read the submissions I began to understand what it was about. This archive wasn't just filled with all these super scientists talking about the virus, or even incredibly complex articles about biology or history. The submissions were from people. They spanned all sorts of topics about the impact of the virus, how lives have changed, predictions for the future, judgements of the past. The archive was a diary, a place where people could upload stories, pictures, even memes. It is attempting to create a full picture of what living during the 'year of the plague' was like, and that is something I can contribute to. It is also something I admire, and I am proud of all the work that went into creating an archive like this. I encourage anyone who can to post something they find important to the experience of 2020, and even 2021, to the archive. It is, in a way, therapeutic. I think that is why it is so popular (not to mention all the individuals working to spread awareness about the archive through social media and the grape vine). The Journal of the Plague Year is truly a feat of public history, a fast moving archive that is documenting experiences in real time. And at the time of this submission to have over 14k contributions is incredibly fascinating not to mention impressive. I am very excited to see how the archive continues to develop and how it will help teach the future what it was like to live during 'a plague year'.