Undergraduate Research Opportunity

PROJECT

Journal of the Plague Year: A Digital Archive of COVID-19

Erin Craft
History

This project, "Journal of the Plague Year: A Digital Archive of COVID-19," is a crowd-sourced digital archive of the COVID-19 pandemic. It is the largest digital archive of the pandemic in the world. Organized into thematic sites and searchable through its metadata, the archive offers current and future users insight into the way the pandemic has been experienced by people and communities across the world. Students have played a vital role in curating the archive and presenting the work to broad historical communities.

STUDENT

Research assistant’s duties:
The duties of student curators may include conducting and processing oral histories; facilitating submissions from partners; curating or editing digital submissions; creating digital exhibits; creating educational programming; assigning metadata to existing items; expanding or creating focused collections.

Required skills or qualifications:
Desired qualifications include strong writing skills; good communication skills; interest in Oral History; time management skills; computer literacy.

Skills student will acquire:
Students will be exposed to a real-world historical project and be able to describe that work on their resume or CV; working on JOTPY is especially useful for students who might be interested in careers in libraries or archives. Skills developed include the following: digital collection management; metadata; content collection; rapid-response collections; ethics surrounding rapid response and digital collecting; creating focused collections; and longitudinal collecting.