



Growing archival sustainability through collaboration: Lessons learned from “The COVID-19 Experience Collection” collaboration at Youngstown State University

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Presentation Agenda

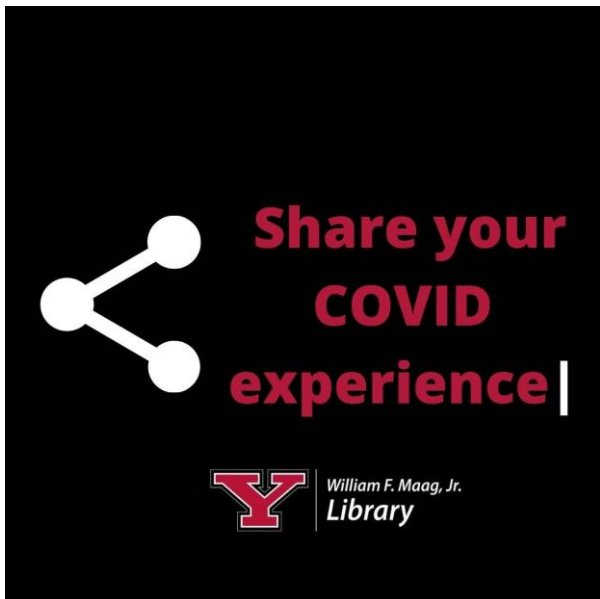
- **Cassie:**
 - “COVID-19 Experience Collection” description, background.
 - Connecting with collaboration partners (Blundell, Michele Gatts, etc.).
 - Media coverage and the collection today.
- **Shelley:**
 - Magazine Writing and Reporting course collaboration.
 - “COVID Voices” special edition, student response.
- **Cassie and Shelley:** Lessons learned, challenges faced.
- *Advice from the audience.*
- Q&A.



“COVID-19 Experience collection” description, background.

- COVID Response collection documents University’s actions.
 - websites
 - emails
 - virtual meetings
 - social media posts
- After 3 months of saving University-created materials, ready to collect personal experiences from students, faculty, and staff. Created a separate COVID Experience collection.

Collecting forms



1. COVID-19 Experience social media graphic.

A screenshot of a web browser displaying the "COVID-19 Story Collection Form". The page has a red header with navigation links: Home, Research, Services, Help, About Us, and Library Account. Below the header is a navigation bar with social media icons for Instagram, Twitter, Facebook, and YouTube. The main content area is white and contains the following text:

COVID-19 Story Collection Form

The YSU Maag Library Archives acquires, preserves, and provides access to materials that document the history of the University, and the COVID-19 pandemic is a major event in our history. In light of its significance, the Archives is starting its first-ever project to document this moment while it's unfolding. We are seeking contributions from students, faculty, and staff to add to our COVID-19 YSU Experience collection. Your submissions will be made available to future researchers under a Creative Commons license, which will allow others to share and adapt the material while crediting the creator(s).

Use the form below to submit a story about how COVID-19 has affected you. It can be about a significant event, surprising experience, loss, change, etc. We are also interested in your stories about how your life has changed. For example: the shift to remote instruction and learning, studying and working remotely, undergoing quarantine, working at off-campus jobs (on the front lines, service industry, grocery stores, etc.), living in residence halls with limited campus services, and the ways you have stayed connected with friends and family. Once the stories are reviewed and processed by the University Archives, they will be available in the [Digital Maag](#) online archives.

Please email archives@ysu.edu with questions, privacy concerns, or for instructions on how to submit photos, audio files, short videos, or other formats for this project.

Rights Policy

By submitting this form, you certify that you are either the sole creator and the owner of the copyright(s) and all other rights to the material, or to the extent that any portions of it are not your own creation, they are used with the copyright holder's express permission or as permitted by law. In addition:

- You grant to Youngstown State University (YSU) the non-exclusive right to publish, reproduce, translate, and/or distribute your submission on its website, in print and/or electronic format, in any medium, including but not limited to audio or video.
- You grant permission to add your submission to the YSU Maag Library Archives where it will be preserved for any future use by students, staff, scholars, and researchers.
- You agree that YSU may, without changing the content, translate the submission to any medium or format for the purpose of preservation.

Submissions should not include protected health information nor violate patient and student privacy laws.

Author/Name *

YSU ID Number *

YSU Email Address *

Title of Your Story *

Story Content *

SUBMIT

2. COVID 19 Story Collection Form



Connecting with collaboration partners.

Partnership essential for collecting authentic stories of people across campus

Needed connection to variety of experiences on campus- international students, student athletes, students living in residence halls, working off-campus, with care responsibilities, students of color.

Media coverage and the collection today

YSU student survives stroke, Page 5 | Women's lacrosse team makes history, Page 15

The student voice of Youngstown State University since 1931

THE JAMBAR

FACEBOOK.COM/YSUJAMBAR | Thursday, March 18, 2021 | TWITTER.COM/THEJAMBAR

WRITING HISTORY AT YSU



COVID-19 update

14 new cases are reported at YSU

By ABIGAIL CLOUTIER
The Jambar

Youngstown State University reported 14 new COVID-19 cases on its dashboard this Monday. The count included 12 students living off campus and two students living on campus. The university tested 98 people in its voluntary surveillance testing program. Four of those people tested positive.

Last week, over the two university wellness days, YSU reported seven cases, including one student living on campus and six living off campus. The university has not reported any staff or faculty cases. The university tested 53 people in its voluntary surveillance program, and most tested positive.

On March 16, Ohio Gov. DeWine announced all citizens over the age of 18 would be eligible for the COVID-19 vaccine beginning March 29. The Office of Environmental and Occupational Health and Safety sent out a survey to the student body March 11, asking if students would use an on-campus vaccination clinic.

For further updates, check YSU's COVID-19 dashboard.

Library collects coronavirus stories

By SYDNEY A. STALNECKER
Jambar contributor

employees to contribute written accounts of their personal experience with the pandemic.

William F. Maag Jr., Library's Archives and Special Collections began the COVID-19 Youngstown State University Experience Repository in April 2020. The repository allows for students and


researchers to get a well-rounded understanding of the pandemic's impact on campus.

Cassie Nespor, curator of the Maag Library Archives, is conducting the collection for the repository. The materials submitted and collected are kept digitally and will be made available for future

History, Page 2

1. COVID-19 Experience coverage: *The Jambar* student newspaper

Cassie Nespor on Archiving the COVID Experience | Excellence at Work



Friday, February 11, 2022 | Staff

Cassie Nespor on Archiving the COVID Experience | Excellence at Work

YOUNGSTOWN, Ohio — While it's still a daily reality, in time the COVID pandemic will be relegated to history, and the events that transpired will be known only by what was preserved by those who were there.

That was the purpose of the Curating COVID panel at the 2021 Society of American Archivists conference. It was there that Cassie Nespor, curator of Youngstown State University archives and special collections at YSU, shared her project documenting the changes that happened and are still taking place at Youngstown State University during the pandemic.

"I just felt like this was obviously a very different time in the university's history," Nespor says.

1. COVID-19 Experience coverage: *Business Journal Daily* publication.



Magazine Writing and Reporting course collaboration

COURSE OVERVIEW:

“In this course, you will learn the fundamentals of writing and reporting for magazines to a) produce an individual magazine feature story package, b) **produce a topic-assigned feature story package for the Spring 2021 digital edition of YO Magazine**, and c) **collaborate in groups in the creation and facilitation of a multimedia project for the Spring 2021 digital edition of YO Magazine and for the Maag Library’s “COVID-19 YSU Experience” archival collection.**”

- Facilitating collaboration in (and out of) class.
- Teaching students archival literacy foundations = sustainable archives!



YOMag COVID Voices special edition, student response [1 of 2].

- YO Magazine Spring 2021 Special Edition “[COVID Voices.](#)”
 - Eight stories, most containing multimedia elements of some type.
 - Covered range of student experiences during pandemic.
 - Entire edition now a part of the “COVID-19 Experience Collection” as well - multimedia elements in special edition contribute interactive element to collection.



YOMag COVID Voices special edition, student response [2 of 2].

- Student responses documented in “Group Project Self-report” - overwhelmingly positive.
 - “I would encourage future students to network with people outside of ... YSU’s journalism program. I think that collaboration is a great way for both parties to benefit. I think that this would also encourage students to build connections, which is a big deal.”
 - “I’d like to see this continue beyond the pandemic, because I feel like so much of official university records aren’t from a student perspective, and submissions and databases like this could even coordinate with the student yearbook to provide perspective.”
 - “Genuinely, I have never been more satisfied with a group project.”
 - “More professors should use this as an assignment/extra credit option!”



Cassie: Lessons learned, challenges faced

Lessons:

- Collaboration with community is essential.
- Define goal of active collecting, stick to parameters, and reevaluate periodically.

Challenges:

- Saving difficult formats such as email, websites, and social media content
- How to write finding aid for all-digital collection and present it in our digital repository
- Increase awareness and use of Archives across campus



Shelley: Lessons learned, challenges faced

- **CHALLENGE:** Magazine course offered in online/synchronous modality.
- **CHALLENGE:** Big aspirations vs. what was doable.
- **LESSONS LEARNED:** Takeaways for students beyond the course -
 - Seeing archives as information resource.
 - Inspiring questions about archival sustainability.



Collection sustainability: Advice from the audience?



Q&A



References

- . (2022). Archives and special collections: Digital Maag. *Youngstown State University Maag Library*. <https://digital.maag.yzu.edu/xmlui/>
- . (2022). *YO Magazine*. <https://theyomag.com/>



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