Using LibApps to manage the COVID-19 Community History Project

SpringyCamp, August 5, 2020

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Big ideas. Real-world thinking.

Project Overview

COVID-19 Community History Project at MSU

- The COVID-19 Pandemic has become a unique and significant part of world history. As these historic events continue to affect our everyday lives at Minnesota State University, Mankato and the greater Mankato community, the University Archives plans to document personal experiences in the form of a community history project.

- The University Archives will collect, preserve, and provide access to these COVID-19 Pandemic experiences for current and future researchers. Many of these experiences will be made accessible through our digital collections, freely available on the internet through ARCH, the University Archives digital collections site. We want to ensure we leave behind a substantial record for future scholars and historians.

COVID-19 Community History Project Collection

- Official University communications

- University social media posts

- Oral History Interviews

- Individual Experience
  - Self Interview
  - Journal or Diary
  - Reflective essay
  - Creative work (poetry, photography, drawings, etc.)
  - Other ways as suggested by Participants

"Fiesta Postponed" by Cali Cantu

Who would contribute to this project?

- Students in University courses
  - Some professors may include the oral history or individual experience documentation as part of their course. All donations to the Archives should be voluntary.

- Members of the Community
  - Individuals who want to contribute their experiences are welcome to do so.
  - This includes the campus and greater Mankato community.
  - This component of the project was launched June 2020.

- Student Workers at the University
  - In collaboration with University Archives staff, Student Supervisors can assign this project as a work task.
  - International Students were hired to specifically work on this project.

Impact of Having Student Employees

- Project Management Team

- Student Supervisors across campus
  - 18 supervisors from 9 departments

- Project website was integral to communication

- Enhanced Training
  - Supervisors
    - Project expectations and overview
    - All student training
  - Students
    - Project expectations and overview
    - Readings on conducting oral histories, journaling, and more.
    - Weekly themed emails

Utilizing LibApps

https://libguides.mnsu.edu/covid19historyproject

COVID-19 Community History Project

This page is designed to support the community history project to document the COVID-19 experience of Minnesota State University, Mankato students, employees, friends and family and community members.

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Project Introduction

The COVID-19 Pandemic has become a unique and significant part of world history. As these historic events continue to affect our everyday lives at Minnesota State University, Mankato and the greater Mankato community, the University Archives plans to document self-experiences in the form of a community history project to help record our daily lived experiences during the COVID-19 Pandemic.

Because every individual's experience is different and valued, the University Archives at Minnesota State University, Mankato will provide expanded documentation on the COVID-19 Pandemic experiences for current and future researchers and make it easily accessible through our physical and digital collections, freely available on the internet. We have no way of knowing how significant of an event this may be at this time, but we want to ensure we leave behind a substantial record of our experiences for future scholars and historians.

Project Overview

To expand access and understanding about the COVID-19 Pandemic experience to current and future individuals, the University Archives will collect documentation and accept donations on the COVID-19 Pandemic experiences for inclusion in the Archives. These materials will be made available through our physical and digital collections. Examples of physical and digital collections can be found by searching our Collection Guides, ARCH, or Cornerstone websites.

Much of this collection is produced by Minnesota State University, Mankato students by collecting the experiences of their peers, family, friends and members of the campus community. Individual contributions will also be accepted.

Video Introduction to Project

• Video Introduction - COVID-19 Community History Project, Minnesota State University, Mankato

Why we chose LibGuides

- Easy
- Faster and more flexible than website
- More control
- All team members are familiar and could edit
- Integration of many formats (ebooks, videos, forms, quiz, etc.)

Oral History Resources

Catching Stories: A Practical Guide to Oral History by Donna M. Deblasio, et al.

Doing Oral History by Donald A. Ritchie

The Oxford Handbook of Oral History by Donald A. Ritchie (Editor)

How we used LibGuides

- General Project Information

- Project Question and Forms

- Tell Your COVID-19 Story Submission Form

- FAQ Page – Updated regularly

- Training of Students and Supervisors
  - Expectations and Specifics of the Project (How to Document your Time)
  - Readings on Oral History Interviews and a Quiz

Why we chose LibWizard

Be interviewed by a Minnesota State Mankato student

Student workers at the University are being trained to do oral histories for this project. If you would like to be contacted and interviewed by a student,

Please fill out this form

First and Last Name (required)

[   ]

Phone Number including Area Code (required)

[(999)999-9999   ]

Email Address (required)

[   ]

What type of interview do you prefer? (required)

[Make a selection   ▾]

[Submit]

- Easy to use and integrate into LibGuide
  - Team members came with some to no experience with this product but found it intuitive and easy to master.

- Results of Forms and Quizzes were automated and easily shared

How we used LibWizard - Forms

- "How to participate" Form
  - Patrons could fill out a form to be contacted for interviews

- "Your COVID-19 Story"
  - Donate a written personal experience online
  - Functioned as Donor Agreement

Your COVID-19 Story

Thank you for taking some time to record your COVID-19 Story with us. Please note that by filling out this form and the donor agreement at the end, you are donating your story for use by the Minnesota State University, Mankato Archives. If you'd like the materials restricted in anyway, please fill out the appropriate boxes.

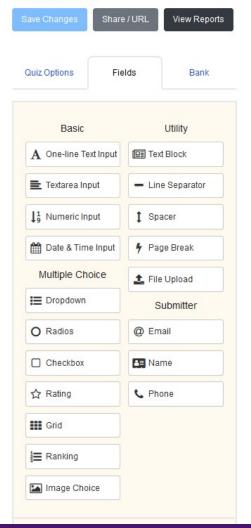Are you a student, alumni, faculty, staff or community member (required)

○ Undergraduate Student

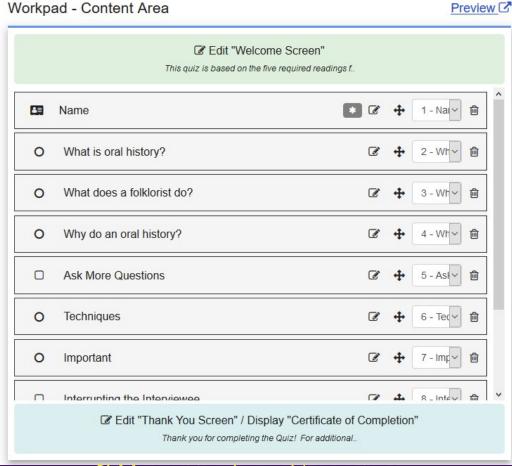○ Graduate Student

○ Faculty

○ Staff

○ Alumni

○ Community Member

How we used LibWizard - Quiz

- Training purposes for student employees and supervisors
- Step required before they could begin work on the project
- Student paid for time on readings and quiz
- Quiz Completion verified by running the LibWizard Report and exporting to Excel

Project Summary

Project Contributors as of July 2020

- Total Student Employees: 121
  - Student Workers from campus departments
  - International Students

- Total Student Supervisors: 18

- Students added to project throughout the spring semester and summer.

- Level of engagement varied throughout the project. (June participation was high.)

Photograph by Felix Asante

MINNESOTA STATE UNIVERSITY MANKATO

Contributions by Type (As of July 2020)

- Oral Histories (recorded and written)- 176

- Recorded self-interviews – 13

- Written reflections – 200

- Drawings/Paintings – 48

- Other creative projects – 97

- Total contributions: 528

"Closed Restaurants" by Steven Orvaiti

Project Highlights:

- Early submissions reflected fear and anxiousness of the unknown. Over time they have started to reflect hope and an acceptance of new normal.

- Creativity of student submissions

- Students reflected on social justice movement worldwide

- Interviews with people from around the United States and the world

- Many languages used to conduct interviews

- Students working from all over the world

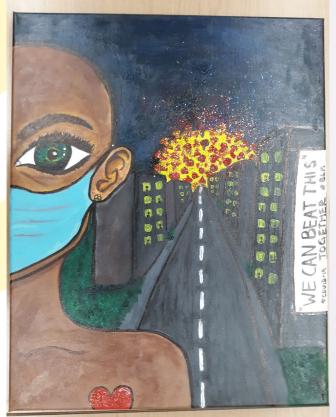- Valuable collaborations across campus made this project possible

Creative Projects - Artwork

Joshua Lazarus

Jacqueline Asplund

We Can Beat This - Together

Audio Oral History, May 31, 2020

Estrevistador: Y ahora ¿Cómo haces para pasar el tiempo?

Interviewer: Tell us about how you are passing the time.

Entrevistado: Bueno, he aprendido diferentes cosas como dije antes, organizó mejor mi tiempo. Pues, al organizar mejor mi tiempo estoy aprendiendo a tocar el ukulele, cocino, hago ejercicio y leo.

Interviewee: As I said earlier, I have been learning new things since I improved my time management. I am learning to play the ukulele. I cook, exercise, and read.

Portion of an oral history interview conducted in Spanish and translated into English

Next Steps

Minnesota State University Mankato
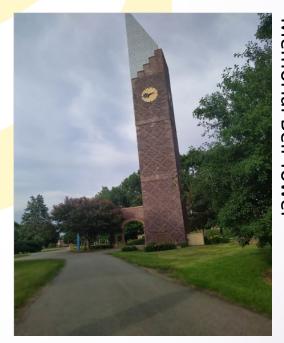
Sharing the Collection

- Examples of contributions
  - Library Social Media channels
  - University Archives website
    - https://library.mnsu.edu/archives/covid-19-project-stories/

- Archives Collections
  - Physical Collection in Archives
  - ARCH: University Archives Digital Collections – In development
  - Access dates are TBD

- Collection Restrictions
  - Restricted for 10 years - 41
  - Anonymous - 141
  - Physical collection only - 63

Photograph by Anonymous student of Ostrander Student Memorial Bell Tower

Final Thoughts on LibApps

Complications (Minor)

- Quiz was attached to the creator
- What's wrong with sending out this link?

https://mnsu.libapps.com/libguides/admin_c.php?g=1018807&p=7394776

Correct link
https://libguides.mnsu.edu/c.php?g=1018807&p=7394776

Successes (Lots!)

- Overall ease of use in a team environment
- User friendly for team and project participants
- Use this project as a framework for future collaborations to strengthen University Archives and Southern Minnesota Historical Center collections

Questions? Contact the Archives Team

University Archives and Southern Minnesota Historical Center

Phone: 507-389-1029
Email: archives@mnsu.edu

Today's Presentation:
https://cornerstone.lib.mnsu.edu/lib_services_fac_pubs/180/

Project Website: https://libguides.mnsu.edu/covid19historyproject