

La Salle University

La Salle University Digital Commons

Explorer Café

Explorer Connection

9-9-2020

How Can I Contribute to Making History Now? The COVID-19 Archive Project: Chronicling La Salle's Own Experiences of the Pandemic

Katie Carey MLIS

Follow this and additional works at: <https://digitalcommons.lasalle.edu/explorercafe>

How Can I Contribute to Making History Now?

*The COVID-19 Archive Project: Chronicling La Salle's Own
Experiences of the Pandemic*

September 9, 2020

The background of the slide is a dark teal color with a complex, wavy topographic map pattern. The pattern consists of numerous thin, light-colored contour lines that create a sense of depth and movement. Scattered across the map are several small, white plus signs (+).

What are archives?

- Archives are collections of primary source documents or records providing information about a place, institution, person, or group of people.
- Archives are documents that are no longer needed for their original purpose, yet have significant informational and evidential value for the purpose of writing history.

What's in the archives?

- Documents: letters, ledgers, diaries, reports, manuscripts, etc.
- Publications: journals, books, articles, magazines, etc.
- Photographs
- Ephemera: tickets, flyers, pamphlets, posters, etc.
- Audiovisual materials: films, music recordings, home movies, etc.
- Maps and building plans: architectural drawings, diagrams, etc.
- Digital information: spreadsheets, datasets, tweets, FB posts, etc.
- Artefacts and Art

What is the purpose of keeping archives?

- Preserving evidence of events, people, etc. in order to write history
- What else?

“History is written by the victors”

<https://slate.com/culture/2019/11/history-is-written-by-the-victors-quote-origin.html>

Archival Silences

=

Gaps in the
Historical Record

Carter, Rodney G. S. 2006. "Of Things Said and
Unsaid: Power, Archival Silences, and Power in
Silence." *Archivaria* (61): 215.



“...if we so much as say *silence*, we have already destroyed it.”

Karmen MacKendrick, *Immemorial Silence* (Albany: State University of New York Press, 2001), p. 5.

The background of the slide is a dark teal color with a subtle, intricate pattern of white contour lines, resembling a topographic map. The lines are irregular and wavy, creating a textured effect. There are also several small white plus signs scattered across the background.

Contemporaneous Collecting



La Salle University Archives COVID-19 Project

We are living in an historical moment. There is no doubt that future Lasallians will want to understand what it was like for us to go through these difficult times, just as today we draw inspiration and meaning from La Salle's past. The University Archives is preserving communications from the University administration in the form of emails, webpage captures, and social media, but we are challenged to actively document the experiences of the wider La Salle community now that we are working from home. Recognizing this, the La Salle University Archives wants to collect and preserve as many personal experiences from the La Salle community as possible. We encourage all members of the La Salle community - students, faculty, staff, alumni, and Christian Brothers - to share stories, photos, videos, screenshots, or other materials that bear witness to what you have experienced or how you have responded to this crisis.

You may submit to the La Salle University COVID-19 Archive Project as many times as you like, such as to share new stories or upload additional files.

You may submit anonymously if you wish.

Your contribution will not be publically available right away, but will become a part of the permanent collection of the La Salle University Archives and in time be made available to researchers and the public.

If you have questions or concerns you wish to discuss with us, please contact us at archives@lasalle.edu

- Do you agree that it's important to collect these experiences now rather than later? Why or why not?
- Look at the La Salle Covid-19 Archive submission page. What would make it easier for community members to contribute?