Archiving COVID-19 at UNT

Purpose: Daily life has changed radically in the last few weeks in response to the coronavirus pandemic. To preserve the history of this unprecedented event, we're creating a collection of materials related to COVID-19 at UNT to be included in the University Archive so future generations will be able to better understand what life was like at this time.

What is already being added to the archive is the official response to the pandemic from the institution: campus-wide email announcements, the UNT health alerts website, news articles, etc. It is much harder to capture how something like this truly effects the people in our campus community. By recording how you experience this crisis and contributing to the archive, you can help to tell the full story of how COVID-19 impacted the UNT community.

Directions: Any way you'd like to document daily life during the pandemic is welcome in the archive. Keeping a journal in any format (handwritten, typed, recorded as a voice memo) is a very straightforward way to document your experiences. If you decide to keep a journal, don't worry about making it incredibly detailed or "well written," just try to convey whatever is true to your experience in a way that's comfortable to you. A historian at UVA has some tips for keeping a journal at this time here. Taking photos or videos is another simple, direct way to record what is happening in our community right now. Other ways you might document your experiences to add to the archive include saving your social media posts, writing a blog, making a zine, creating a sketchbook, recording a podcast, or expressing yourself through whatever your preferred creative medium is.

When recording your experiences, think about what is different now in your daily life as opposed to a couple of weeks ago. The stories that might be most informative to future generations are things like how you were communicating with family and friends, the transition to online classes and work from home, what information you got from social media, your feelings about campus events being postponed, how restaurant and other business closures affected you and your community, etc.

Guidelines:

- If you are documenting your experience as a work from home assignment, communicate your work from home plans to your supervisor and discuss how to report your time spent on this project.
- Continue adhering to social distancing best practices and practice self-care in this stressful time. The Help Yourself Campaign in the libraries has provided some resources for students regarding the pandemic here.
- When recording your experiences, be conscientious of any other people you include in your documentation and respect their privacy (these materials will be made available online and in person -- not everyone will appreciate being named in your journal or having their photo taken).
- Submit digital materials through Keeper. Be sure to provide any descriptive metadata to contextualize your submission.
- To submit physical materials contact Rachael Zipperer at rachael.zipperer@unt.edu to arrange for a donation once we return to campus. Be prepared to fill out a gift agreement form with your donation.
- Anything you create that you will be adding to over time (like a journal or sketchbook) should be submitted to the archive as one single donation when it is complete.
- Items like photos, videos, or completed creative works can be submitted individually at any time.