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**Digital Public Scholarship Executive Summary**

**#Covid19Archive: A National Effort to Forge a Helpful Historical Resource in a Time of Uncertainty**

**Faculty Experts:** Dan Cohen, Vice Provost for Information Collaboration, Dean of the Northeastern Library, and Professor of History; Victoria Cain, Associate Professor of History

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With the COVID-19 global health crisis spreading on an enormous scale in such a short time, the need for proper documentation of this challenging moment in history is greater than ever. Northeastern’s College of Social Sciences and Humanities (CSSH) and the University Library have joined forces with an expansive network of historians, curators, and students in a nationwide effort to develop, curate, and maintain a #Covid19Archive digital repository.

This new digital repository will crowdsource images, oral histories, and more about the global experience of COVID-19 to create a lasting historical record of this unprecedented moment. The Library and CSSH have unique, deep experience in this realm. This project is directed by Victoria Cain, Associate Professor of History, and guided by Dan Cohen, Dean of the Northeastern Library, both of whom are distinguished leaders with extensive experience in curating digital historical collections. Professor Cain has previously led and contributed to a wide variety of public history projects, including the Encyclopedia of Boston, a digital encyclopedia of Boston linked to the Boston Research Center, while Dean Cohen helped establish and co-directed the September 11 Digital Archive, the nation’s first major digital archive of a historical event, now stored in the Library of Congress. Both individuals’ decades-long expertise has shown that these comprehensive and hugely valuable records of our time require not just technology but the resources to keep pace with the rapidly growing pandemic and to help expand personnel, from undergraduates to post-doctoral researchers.

This program embodies the experiential liberal arts by combining teaching and research. Historians and students will work closely together in a unique instructional and learning environment to build an important historical resource by gathering items to add to the repository, curating exhibits, and analyzing data in the archive as the COVID-19 pandemic unfolds.

With the expertise of the Library in creating and preserving digital archives, our students are well poised to play a key role in the curation and development of the content in the archive itself. Together, we will build an important historical resource while creating a learning and research opportunity for students to develop valuable digital archiving, curation, and analysis skills.

**Capturing this Moment: Opportunities for Support**

The #Covid19Archive represents diverse experiences not limited to generations, socioeconomic statuses, or ethnic groups—and there are many ways you can help preserve this piece of our history. From submitting your story to the archives, to helping Northeastern grow our research team, or by making a philanthropic gift to any area of the project, you have a unique opportunity to make a real-time impact now and in the future. And importantly, with the University Library as one of the few recipients of a National Endowment for the Humanities Challenge Grant, your support will be matched by the grant—and you will help fund the groundwork for the #Covid19Archive and similar collections.

**Share your story.** Northeastern encourages and invites participation in and contributions to the archive from the global public. The archive represents diverse experiences from all members of our community, and our world. The more people who contribute, the more robust this archive will be. Make an impact by sharing your photos, experiences, and news articles—or anything that speaks to the paradoxes of the moment at [covid19.omeka.net/contribution](https://nam05.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fcovid19.omeka.net%2Fcontribution&data=02%7C01%7Cg.mansfield%40northeastern.edu%7C85ea978c56c14aa1be3708d7d25b2932%7Ca8eec281aaa34daeac9b9a398b9215e7%7C0%7C0%7C637209161280540978&sdata=A%2FdzLjAh3RFc1jtBZWdfqT5fs%2FNECmn9YV0I%2B926MHg%3D&reserved=0).

**Help expand our team.** The digital repository is growing day by day. To ensure that Northeastern stays on the cutting edge of this important moment in history, there is an urgent need for financial support to strengthen and expand our limited curation and development personnel. Doing so will require increasing capacity within our Digital Scholarship Group at the following levels:

* **Undergraduate research:** $15,000 per year will provide support for two undergraduate students who are working on the project.
* **Graduate fellowships:** $80,000 per year can activate two PhD students to manage research activity and process; $20,000 per year will provide support for one master’s student.
* **Post-doctoral student:** $100,000 per year will back one post-doc oversight for one year.
* **Faculty resources:** $150,000 per year will support one faculty member leading the project.

Additional staff will provide increased support of projects and learning initiatives across the university, in addition to opportunities for future co-ops and next-generation research. With generous philanthropic support, the students and faculty of Northeastern University will continue to create a lasting historical record of this extraordinary time.