

Rapid Response Collecting

WHAT IS RAPID RESPONSE COLLECTING?

Rapid Response Collecting refers to collecting materials related to a present moment, movement, or crisis. The two such moments most commonly referred to within this resource are the **global COVID-19 pandemic** and the **Black Lives Matters protests of 2020**. However, these lessons and tools can be applied to rapid response collecting on any scale, to collect materials about a wide variety of activities, events, and communities.

According to the Society of American Archivists, “The recurrence of both human-made tragedies and disasters of weather combined with the great speed of technological development lead archivists [and other information professionals] to a new role in society—as stewards of contemporary information.”

RESOURCES

- [Documenting in Times of Crisis: A Resource Kit](#), Society of American Archivists
Templates and documents to assist in collecting materials amid unprecedented and unanticipated situations.
- [Digital Collecting Toolkit](#), University of Virginia Library
- [Oral history at a distance: conducting remote interviews](#), Oral History Association
- [Remote interviewing information and resources](#), Oral History Association Archives Interest Group
- [“How are we centering equity in this time?”](#) MASS Action (Museum as Site for Social Action)
- [“How LAMs are documenting the pandemic: Resource roundup,”](#) OCLC
- [Rapid Response Collecting and COVID-19](#), Recollection Wisconsin
- [Documenting the Now](#), Documenting the Now develops open source tools and community-centered practices that support the ethical collection, use, and preservation of publicly available content shared on web and social media.
 - [Documenting COVID-19](#), A collaborative document listing active documentation projects for COVID-19.
- [Documenting Your Community’s Experience of COVID-19: A Resource List](#)

ARTICLES

- [As COVID-19 Reshapes the World, Cultural Institutions Collect Oral Histories](#), Katherine Wu, *Smithsonian Magazine* (April 7, 2020)
- [Museums Scramble to Document the Pandemic, Even as it Unfolds](#), Lisa Abend, *New York Times* (March 31, 2020)
- [With Rapid Response Collecting, Who Are We Responding To?](#), Carol Ghiorso Hart, Director, Greensboro History Museum, American Alliance of Museums blog (November 23, 2020)

- [The Blackivists' Five Tips for Organizers, Protestors, and Anyone Documenting Movements](#)
Published on Sixty Inches From Center, June 2, 2020
- [Archive This Moment D.C.: A Case Study of Participatory Collecting During COVID-19](#), DC Public Library

TOOLS

- [Webex](#), [GoToMeeting](#) and [Zoom](#) – video conferencing
- [Rev](#) - audio recording app (iOS + Android)
- [Zoom](#) – digital audio recorders
- [Audacity](#) - audio processing software
- [Google Forms](#) – web-based form creator for collecting information
- [Archive-It](#) – web archiving tool
- [Omeka](#) – digital content platform/management system

EXAMPLES

- [Your Story is the Peninsula's Story \(YSPS\)](#), Palos Verdes Library District
- [Listening in Place](#), Vermont Folklife Center
- [Archive This Moment D.C.](#), DC Public Library
- [Black Lives Matter Memorial Fence Artifact Collection](#), DC Public Library