

IPres2021 Lightning Talk

Title: COVID-19 Web Archive

Author: Lori Donovan, Community Programs Manager, Web Archiving & Data Services, Internet Archive, lori@archive.org

Abstract:

Our current global moment reminds us of the central role of the web as a historical record and communication platform, if an ephemeral and technically challenging one, and has presented the institutions responsible for archiving web-published materials an opportunity to expand their collecting activities to document the pandemic's wrenching changes upon our institutions, communities, neighborhoods, and lives. Additional opportunities exist in facilitating the use of these materials by the The Internet Archive has worked with a diverse set of over 200 libraries from around the world to enable them to create hundreds of COVID-19 digital collections. Taken together these collections include over 300 million unique web documents, social media posts, audio and video files, datasets, and other born-digital resources archived from the web, totaling over 90 terabytes of archival materials documenting the impact of the pandemic on communities and citizens. We will give a brief overview of the state of COVID-19 Web Collecting as well as work to enhance access and encourage research use of the collections.