

## **Sights, Sounds, Stories: Documenting COVID-19 at the National Library and National Archives of Singapore**

The outbreak of coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) has impacted lives around the world. Libraries, archives and museums have been racing to collect materials that capture human experiences of the pandemic. In May 2020, the National Library Board (NLB) launched "Documenting COVID-19 in Singapore", a joint initiative with the National Museum of Singapore (NMS) to crowdsource COVID-19 related material. NLB and NMS have collected close to 7,500 photographs, personal stories, websites, videos, oral histories, and objects that reflect the impact of COVID-19 on everyday life in Singapore. Under the NLB umbrella, the National Library, Singapore (NLS) and the National Archives of Singapore (NAS) play a key role in this effort. This presentation will cover the development of the project and practical solutions for collecting in pandemic times. Crowdsourcing not only complements the regular collecting and archival work of the NLS and NAS (particularly the Audio-Visual Archive (AVA), and Oral History Centre (OHC), but has also strengthened synergies and efficiencies across the two NLB institutions and NMS. The presentation will also introduce the materials collected by NL and NAS as well as the stories they tell of Singapore's COVID-19 experience.

### **Authors' Bio**

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Lisa Wong is an Audio-visual Archivist in the National Archives of Singapore, an institution of the National Library Board (NLB). Her work focuses on the acquisition of audio-visual materials that are significant to the history of Singapore. She holds a Bachelor Degree in History (Honours) from the National University of Singapore.

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Janice Loo is a Librarian with the National Library, Singapore. Her main responsibilities include managing collections, developing content, as well as providing research and reference services related to Singapore and Southeast Asia. She oversees the library's 'Documenting Covid-19 in Singapore' initiative.