

The 1918 Influenza Epidemic in Seattle

Description & Process

The University of Washington Libraries Special Collections Department will be marking the 100th anniversary of the 1918 Influenza Epidemic with a new online exhibit. This retrospective will highlight the effects of the epidemic on the city of Seattle and its residents. Under the guidance of our sponsor, Lisa Oberg, Associate Director of UW Special Collections, we have created an online resource in order to fill a vital gap in our understanding of this historical event. We used a number of digital and physical resources to gather genealogical and historical information about the influenza epidemic, focusing on Seattle and highlighting a small number of local victims and institutions.



Outcome & Impact

Through our genealogical and historical research, we uncovered information pertaining to both individual flu victims and local institutions affected by the epidemic. We then created an online exhibit and learning experience built around an interactive map of the city of Seattle. The map highlights various points of interest and pinpoints the locations where many victims succumbed to the flu. Our project will help the community to better understand the impact of this event while remembering the many Seattle residents who perished during this tragic period in history. Students, researchers, and other interested parties may now view, explore, and build upon the information presented in our visualization. More data can easily be added to the map as it is discovered, and the project can be expanded upon by others in the future.

