

ORAL HISTORY AND ARCHIVES IN PRACTICE



Lauren Kata, MA, CA

February 2, 2017

San Jose State University SAA Student Chapter

Introductions

lauren.kata@gmail.com



**ORAL HISTORY
ASSOCIATION**



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Principles and Best Practices

Principles for Oral History and Best Practices for Oral History

Adopted October, 2009

[Introduction](#)

[General Principles for Oral History](#)

[Best Practices for Oral History](#)

PRINT

The **Principles and Best Practices for Oral History** update and replace the [Oral History Evaluation Guidelines](#) adopted in 1989, revised in 2000.

Introduction

UPCOMING EVENTS

January 28, 2017

Columbia will be offering a series of interactive public workshops on oral history methods and practice at the Columbia School of

Journalism on **Saturday, January 28 from 9:30 to 5 p.m.** See [One-Day Oral History Training Workshops](#)



<http://www.oralhistory.org/about/principles-and-practices/>



Oral History in the Digital Age



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Category Archive: Curating

New Roots: An Oral History Metadata Case Study at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill

 Curating, Metadata

New Roots: An Oral History Metadata Case Study at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill by Jaycie Vos
Since 2007, faculty, staff, and students at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill (UNC) have conducted oral history interviews focused on issues relating to Latino migration to North Carolina and the formation of ...

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Oral History Section

Oral History Section

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The Oral History Section of the Society of American Archivists is composed of members of the Society and others who are interested in or are actively engaged in conducting oral history interviews and/or teach oral history methodology. The Oral History Section provides a forum for news, for discussion of issues and developments, and for establishing and maintaining communication and cooperation with other professional organizations.

Recent News & Announcements

[Dialogue: The Newsletter of the Oral History Section Society of American Archivists](#)
[1 Summer 2016](#)

SPECIAL PROJECTS

[The Belfast Case: Information for SAA Members](#)
[SAA Oral History Project](#)
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<http://www2.archivists.org/groups/oral-history-section>

ARCHIVISTS DOING ORAL HISTORY

- Facilitate Oral History
- Conduct Interviews
- Process, Catalog, Preserve
- Create online collections, exhibits, publications, community events

WHAT IS ORAL HISTORY?

“It is a great privilege to record someone’s
life story and a great responsibility to care
for that story in a preservation
environment.”

-- Doug Boyd

CREATE, CURATE, DISSEMINATE

The Life Cycle of Oral History

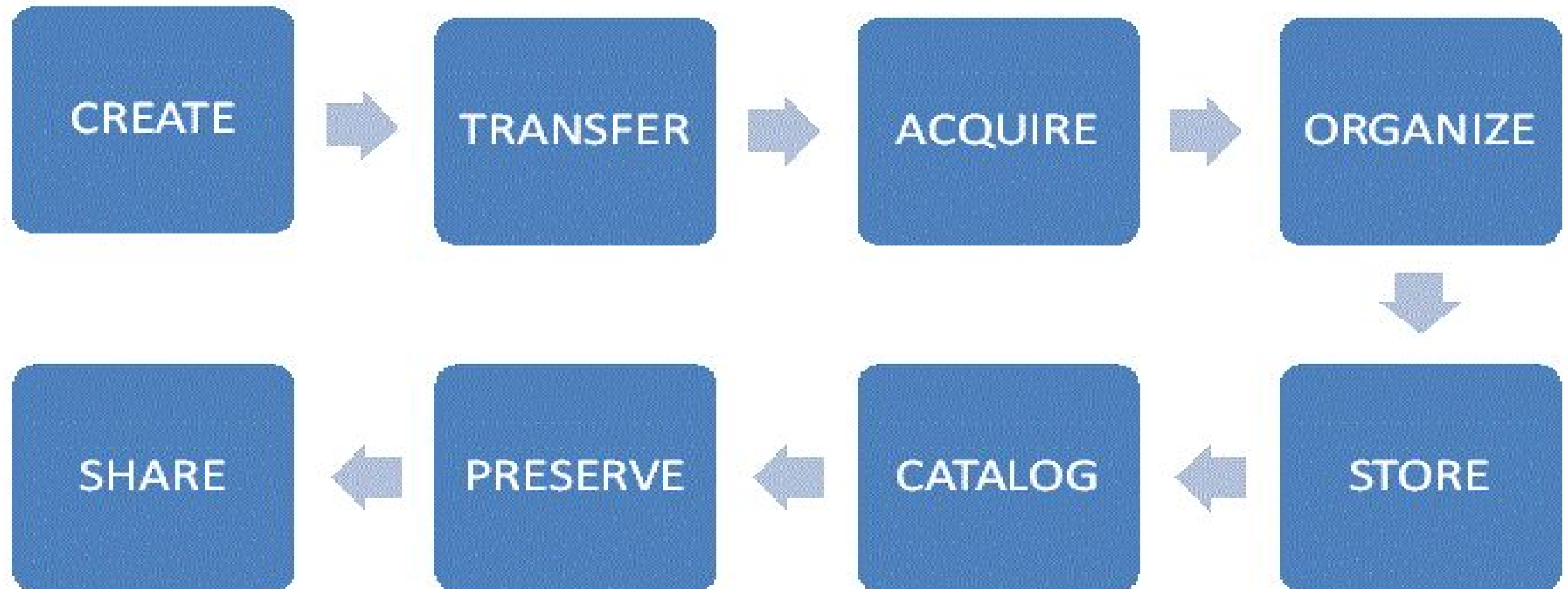
ARCHIVISTS DOING ORAL HISTORY

- Facilitate Oral History (Create)
- Conduct Interviews (Create)
- Process, Catalog, Preserve (Curate)
- Create online collections, exhibits, publications, community events (Dissemination)

“Curation refers to the long-term care and management of historical documents, in order to ensure maximum access for the present and the future.”

-- Nancy MacKay

8 STEPS OF ARCHIVING ORAL HISTORIES



<https://archiveguide.witness.org>

The OHA Metadata Task Force: The Force Behind Our Task



Curating, Metadata

The OHA Metadata Task Force: The Force Behind Our Task

By Cyns Nelson, Lauren Kata

This I Believe: A Micro Essay Not About Metadata

by Cyns Nelson

- I believe in the power of information to improve the human condition
- I believe that first-hand accounts present the most impacting kind of information
- I believe that oral history—the key vehicle for obtaining first-hand accounts— must be made prevalent and pertinent to our frameworks for sharing information
- I believe that the path to making oral history prevalent and pertinent will be guided by [metadata](#)
- And finally: I believe that I might convince every person reading this essay to also believe in the criticality of the word “metadata,” even as I believe that most people do not want to use or understand that word.

Imagine you have a very small kitchen, you are an energy conscious individual, and you rarely use the full capacity of your existing gas oven. You do, however, enjoy cooked food, and you do not like the idea of tiny waves being used to cook your food. Each of these factual circumstances leads you to consider a counter-top oven. You Google “toaster ovens” and discover exactly 1,330 different models that await your purchase. (Who knew???)

What differentiates one from another? How can you begin to make a selection? What is important to know? Factors to consider are: brand name, price, size, functions, features, and appearance. Your nearest appliance store is Best Buy, which has a website that allows you to compare different models based on selected criteria. So you sift through the website and identify a top-tier toaster oven. You head to Best Buy, and then you head home with a box containing the DeLonghi – 0.7 Cu. Ft. Rotisserie Convection Oven. You are excited by the promise of convection cooking in a sleek-black oven with a non-stick interior, removable drip tray, and integrated timer.

When you remove the appliance from its box, you discover that the cord only stretches 5 inches long, and you had designated a location for the oven that is eight inches from the available outlet. You wish that “cord length” had been included in the item details about the DeLonghi oven. You think to yourself: That was an important data point.

And here is my point: Data is important. The information that surrounds an object—be it an appliance, a book, a movie, anything—is incredibly useful. It’s essential. Researchers depend on surrounding information to discover content; educators rely on surrounding information to access curriculum material; citizens presume the existence of surrounding information with every catalog search or Google inquiry; and librarians/archivists need surrounding information to ensure the longevity of their holdings. We can afford to be cavalier about a missing detail like “cord

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Oral History & Archives: The SAA Oral History Project & Online Collection

Announcing the launch of the SAA Oral History Project Digital Collection at ARCHIVES*RECORDS 2016

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Announcing the launch of the SAA Oral History Project Digital Collection at ARCHIVES*RECORDS 2016

Treshani Perera, SAA Oral History Project Intern, University of Wisconsin Milwaukee Archives

The SAA Oral History Project Digital Collection at the University of Wisconsin Milwaukee (UWM) will be launched during the ARCHIVES*RECORDS 2016 Oral History Section meeting (Thursday, August 3, 2016 3:30pm-5:00pm). The project intern, Treshani Perera, will discuss her experience processing and creating the digital collection, with special emphasis on indexing and creating metadata using the Oral History Metadata Synchronizer (OHMS). A video montage of interview segments will be on display throughout the conference.

The collection was created by the Oral History Section to mark SAA's 75th anniversary, and consists of 20 interviews of SAA leaders. From 2009 to 2012, volunteers conducted interviews with SAA leaders to document the development and future directions of SAA, the archives profession, and the archivist as a professional. Under Coordinator of the SAA Oral History Project Lauren Kata's guidance, volunteers organized the material, compiled basic metadata, and created first/initial drafts of transcripts to accompany interviews. In May 2015, Council approved a grant to hire an intern at the UWM Libraries, home to the SAA archives, in order to complete the project and create a digital collection. The digital collection is hosted using the UWM Digital Collections platform CONTENTdm; interviews are

Society of American Archivists Oral History Project Interviews

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Society of American Archivists Oral History Project Interviews

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Oral History
Interview with
Charles Dollar,
August 11, 2010



Oral History
Interview with
Cynthia Pease
Miller, August 25,
2011



Oral History
Interview with
Daniel Pitti, August
11, 2010



Oral History
Interview with
Daria D'Arienzo,
August 24, 2011



Oral History
Interview with
David Gracy,
August 14, 2009



Oral History
Interview with
Edward Galvin,
August 11, 2010



Or
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Oral History
Interview with



Oral History
Interview with



Oral History
Interview with



Oral History
Interview with Kris



Oral History
Interview with Mark



Oral History
Interview with Mary



Or

“I think the main challenge for us as archivists is to decide what’s important, what are we doing, why does it matter, why should anyone care what archivists do and what archives contain?”

-- Rand Jimerson

Oral History Interview with Randall Jimerson, August 25, 2011

Oral History Interview with Randall Jimerson, August 25, 2011

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Link

Text



0:02 - Introduction and current title

0:52 - Introduction to archives while pursuing a doctorate in American History at the University of Michigan, early archival career, and job search process using the SAA Newsletter

4:14 - Career as Processing Archivist at Yale University Manuscripts and Archives Department, and previous experience processing the Temperance and Prohibition Papers at the University of Michigan

10:09 - Developing a professional interest in archival education during career as archivist at the University of Connecticut

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Oral History Interview with Randall Jimerson, August 25,...



Oral History Interview with...



[Transcript](#)

| ▼ Object Description | |
|-------------------------------|---|
| Title | Oral History Interview with Randall Jimerson, August 25, 2011 |
| Interviewee | Jimerson, Randall C. |
| Interviewer | Kata, Lauren |
| Description | Randall Jimerson discusses his education and early archival career, extensive career experience as an archival educator, service as SAA Executive Council member and President, involvement in the international archival community, involvement with the revision of Guidelines for Graduate Archival Education in 2001, and archives and social justice issues. |
| Subject (LCSH) | Archivists--In-service training Archives Society of American Archivists. Annual Meeting Archival institutes and workshops Career development |
| Genre | oral histories |
| Place | Chicago, Illinois |
| Language | eng |
| Original Collection | Society of American Archivists Records, 1935-2014 |
| Original Item Location | UWM Manuscript Collection 172 |
| Finding Aid | http://digital.library.wisc.edu/1711.dl/wiarchives.uw-mil-uwmmss0172 ↗ |
| Repository | University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee Libraries, Archives Department |
| Rights | Copyright jointly held by the Society of American Archivists and The Board of Regents of the University of Wisconsin System |
| Digital Collection | Society of American Archivists Oral History Project |

| ▼ Description | |
|-------------------|---|
| Title | Oral History Interview with Randall Jimerson, August 25, 2011 |
| Digital ID | saaoh_jimerson_2011.pdf |

Thank you!