Introductions

lauren.kata@gmail.com
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


Introduction

http://www.oralhistory.org/about/principles-and-practices/
New Roots: An Oral History Metadata Case Study at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill

http://ohda.matrix.msu.edu/category/category/curating/
Oral History Section

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

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“Curation refers to the long-term care and management of historical documents, in order to ensure maximum access for the present and the future.”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

CREATE ➔ TRANSFER ➔ ACQUIRE ➔ ORGANIZE ➔ STORE

SHARE ➔ PRESERVE ➔ CATALOG ➔ ORGANIZE ➔ STORE

https://archiveguide.witness.org
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 length.”
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

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
“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
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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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Oral History Interview with Randall Jimerson, August 25, 2011</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Interviewee</td>
<td>Jimerson, Randall C.</td>
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<td>Interviewer</td>
<td>Kata, Lauren</td>
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<td>Description</td>
<td>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.</td>
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<td>Archivists--In-service training</td>
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<td>Archival institutes and workshops</td>
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Thank you!