

ORAL HISTORY FOR THE 21ST CENTURY

November 12-13, 2009

AGENDA

Thursday, November 12, 2009

Oklahoma City Zoo Education Center, 2101 NE 50th Street, Oklahoma City

- 9:00 am **Registration**
- 9:30 am **Welcome**
- 9:40 am **Fast Forward: Oral History in the 21st Century.** In this opening keynote presentation, Donald A. Ritchie will discuss the evolution of oral history, particularly how it has been affected by changing technology, and the observable and potential trends developing in the digital era. Dr. Ritchie is Historian of the U.S. Senate Historical Office and author of "Doing Oral History: A Practical Guide."
- 10:45 am **Break**
- 11:00 am **Unlocking the Past: Techniques for Conducting Meaningful Interviews.** Successful oral history interviewing requires a high level of listening skills and an ability to establish rapport with the respondent. In this session, a panel of experts will provide insights into techniques and strategies that go beyond the basic principles of conducting interviews and delve into the essential ingredients of empathy, participation, and observation. Panel Members: Donald Ritchie, U.S. Senate Historical Office; Mary Larson, Oklahoma Oral History Research Program, Oklahoma State University; Wesley Fryer, *Celebrating Oklahoma Voices*; Larry O'Dell, Director of Collections, Oklahoma History Center Research Department. Moderator: Jennifer Paustenbaugh, Oklahoma State University
- 12:00 noon ♦ **Lunch in the East Room of the dining pavilion** (provided)
♦ **Book Signing with Dr. Ritchie**, "On Doing Oral History" (provided)
- 1:00-4:00 pm **Digital Storytelling and Oral History.** In this session, Wesley Fryer with the *Celebrating Oklahoma Voices* project will provide an introduction to the principles and techniques of recording, editing and distributing oral history in a video format. We will demonstrate how to develop short documentaries that incorporate oral history, primary documents (photographs, letters, maps, clippings, etc.), music, and other materials that can be used in a variety of projects. In an easy-to-understand way, we will lead participants through the various stages of production (plan/gather materials/shoot/edit/share), give practical advice on recording techniques, introduce digital video editing software and techniques, show examples of ways in which video interviews can be shared with others, and demonstrate a variety of finished documentaries.



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Oklahoma History Center, 2401 N. Laird, Oklahoma City, Chesapeake Room

9:00 am **Registration**

9:30 am **Welcome**

9:40 am ***The Marriage of Oral History and the Web: Opportunities and Issues***, Mary Larson, Oklahoma Oral History Research Program. The presence of oral histories on the internet has increased considerably in the last decade and a half. Technological advances have made it much easier to place material on the Web and make it accessible to the world, but at the same time, that broad accessibility also raises some ethical concerns. This session addresses both the delivery opportunities the Web affords and possible accompanying issues.

10:30 am **Break**

Practical Uses for Oral Histories. In the next four sessions, case studies from successful oral history projects will cover the nuts and bolts of establishing projects, including funding, project design, ethical considerations, deciding who to interview, training interviewers, selecting and using equipment, legal considerations, interview settings, and other practical information. A short question and answer period will follow each session.

10:45 ***Collecting and Exhibiting Rock & Roll History.*** The Oklahoma History Center's "Another Hot Oklahoma Night" exhibit uses oral history to artfully tell the story of musicians and the culture of live music in Oklahoma. In this session, discussion will encompass exhibit development and marketing, including the methodology for collection of artifacts and oral history interviews, issues regarding licensing of intellectual property, and the creation of a story that can engage the public by drawing on personal experiences and memories. This session also will examine the appropriate equipment to use to ensure that public expectations of quality are met and that oral history materials collected are recorded in a manner that will allow them to be used in multiple applications. Panel Members: Larry O'Dell, Oklahoma Historical Society Research Center; Jeff Moore, Oklahoma Museum of History; Jennifer Day, Oklahoma Museum of History .

12:00 noon **◆ Lunch (provided)**

| Sponsored by the Oklahoma Department of Libraries, Oklahoma History Center, Oklahoma Historical Records Advisory Board, Oklahoma Humanities Council, Oklahoma Museums Association, and Oklahoma Oral History Research Program at Oklahoma State University. Funded, in part, by the National Historical Publications and Records Commission.



◆ **Show and Tell:** Tour of “Another Hot Oklahoma Night” exhibit.

- 1:00 pm** ***Edible History: Using Oral Interviews to Document and Preserve Cultural Identity.*** Part cookbook and part oral history, “Famiglia e Cucina: Stories and Recipes from Northwestern Nevada’s Italian-American Community” chronicled stories and memories about family history, the cultural significance of food, and time-honored traditions. The resulting cookbook set campus and community sales records, prompted book signings with the book’s contributors, and heightened interest in the immigrant experience. Presenter: Mary Larson, editor and project director, *Famiglia e Cucina*.
- 2:00 pm** ***Building Traditions, Educating Generations: Using Oral Interviews to Document Organizational History.*** In 2004, the University of Central Oklahoma launched a project to collect oral histories from past presidents, retired faculty, and alumni. These interviews helped document the collective memory of the institution in *Building Traditions, Educating Generations: A History of the University of Central Oklahoma* (2007), an Oklahoma Centennial Commission project co-authored by Patti Loughlin and Bob Burke and published by the Oklahoma Heritage Association. Panel Members: Bob Burke, Attorney and Author, and Patti Loughlin, Associate Professor of History, University of Central Oklahoma.
- 3:00 pm** ***Break***
- 3:15 pm** ***Projects of the Oklahoma Oral History Research Program.*** Formally created in 2007, the Oklahoma Oral History Research Program promotes and facilitates the collection, preservation, and analysis of interview-based research and related projects relating to the history of Oklahoma and Oklahoma State University. This session will present information on six of its projects: ***Women in the Dustbowl, Women of the Oklahoma Legislature, O-STATE Stories, Oklahoma Women’s Hall of Fame, Oklahoma Centennial Farms, and Spotlighting Oklahoma.*** In addition to discussing project specifics, information will be provided on the use of oral history in radio broadcasts, using the KOSU *Then & Now* weekly radio series as an example. Presenters: Tanya Finchum (insert title); Juliana Nykolaiszyn (insert title), and Jennifer Paustenbaugh (insert title), Oklahoma State University.
- 4:15 pm** ***Statewide Oral History Initiatives/Projects.*** In this concluding session, results of the 2008 Oral History Collection Survey will be shared by Tanya Finchum and Juliana Nykolaiszyn, followed by a general discussion of how we might work together to facilitate collaboration between organizations, generate greater awareness, provide ongoing training opportunities, and alert organizations to funding opportunities for oral history projects. Audience members are encouraged to contribute information on what has been done, what needs to be done, and what is in progress. Panel Members: Tanya Finchum, Oklahoma State University; Juliana Nykolaiszyn, Oklahoma State University; Mary Larson, Oklahoma State University; Larry O’Dell, Oklahoma Historical Society; Ann Thompson, Oklahoma Humanities Council. Moderator: Jan Davis, Oklahoma Department of Libraries.

