Digital Oral History Online: Projects, Centers, Resources

Any compilation of Web sites and Web-accessible resources has a very short lifespan. Some of the sites described below are likely to persist longer than others. Selections have been made to illustrate a variety of ways digital oral history materials are exhibited, contextualized, and made accessible on the Web. Also included are sites which offer guides, tutorials, or other help for creating and using digital oral history recordings.

Centers, Sites, and Resources for Help, Guidance and Training

H-Oralhist Discussion Network — http://www.h-net.org/~oralhist/

"H-Oralhist is a network for scholars and professionals active in studies related to oral history. It is affiliated with the Oral History Association."

The topics of digital recording and digitization are frequently discussed on H-Oralhist, and many of the most experienced practitioners and scholars contribute to these discussions. The Web site includes a link for searching the archives of the discussion logs, where answers to many common questions can be readily found. The site also provides an extensive list of oral history centers, programs, and collections on its OHA Wiki page. The Wiki page specifically for digital resources has not been developed yet, but OHA members are encouraged to contribute content to help build that area of the Wiki.

Baylor University Institute for Oral History — http://www.baylor.edu/oral_history/

The Baylor Institute for Oral History Web site includes an online workshop for beginning oral historians, as well as numerous other resources and references, as well as Web essays incorporating interviews from the Institute's collection of over eight hundred oral memoirs.
The Institute's collection is accessible online at http://contentdm.baylor.edu/cdm4/index_08oralhist.php?CISOROOT=/08oralhist . All of the interviews in the collection have been transcribed, and many of the transcripts have been indexed. All of the indexes and many of the full-text transcripts are available online.

Collaborative Digitization Program — http://www.bcr.org/cdp/

BCR's CDP provides assistance to the cultural heritage community through best practice guidelines, workshops and digitization grant funding.

Concordia University. Centre for Oral History and Digital Storytelling — http://storytelling.concordia.ca/

"The Centre for Oral History and Digital Storytelling serves as a point of convergence for collaborative digital historical research, teaching, and publishing among faculty and students at Concordia, as well as members of local, national and international communities."

The Centre provides many resources for oral history recording and digitizing. Among its projects is development of a software tool for annotating oral history recordings.

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For any other use, contact: Baylor University Institute for Oral History, One Bear Place #97271, Waco TX 76798-7271. Phone (254) 710-3437.

Vertov — http://digitalhistory.concordia.ca/vertov/

"Vertov is a free, open source Firefox 2.0 extension/Zotero plugin written in Java and JavaScript. [It is] a media annotating plugin for Zotero, an innovative, easy-to-use, and infinitely extendable research tool. Both are Firefox extensions. Vertov allows you to cut video and audio files into clips, annotate the clips, and integrate your annotations with other research sources and notes stored in Zotero."

Oral History on the Web: Selected Sites and Centers

Archive of American Television — http://emmytvlegends.blogspot.com/

"The Archive of American Television strives to preserve the rich history of television — from its Golden Age through our present Digital Era. Our mission is to educate and inspire future generations by filming and providing access to exclusive in-depth interviews with legends and pioneers of the medium.

"The Archive produces extensive video oral history interviews with television legends of all professions and makes them available online.

To date, the Archive has completed over 2000 hours of videotaped conversations with over 570 Actors, Producers, Writers, Newscasters, Executives, Directors, Craftspersons, and more."

Many of the archive's video interviews are freely available for online viewing. The site includes a list of all the interviewees in the collection, with links to those available online. Each online interview set includes a summary of the contents of the interview or interview segment and several keyword tags.

Basque Museum and Cultural Center. Basque Oral History Project —
http://www.basquemuseum.com/oralhistory/

"The Basque Museum and Cultural Center was established in 1985 as a small museum in the historic Cyrus Jacobs-Uberuaga House at 607 Grove Street. Located in scenic Boise, Idaho, the Basque Museum & Cultural Center provides a look into the heritage of the Basque communities of Idaho and surrounding areas.

"Museum collections include oral history archives, a library, a records/tapes collection, manuscript materials, numerous artifacts and photographs. It is the home of significant resources for anyone interested in Basque history and culture.

"Over the years many people have recorded interviews with Basque people in the American West for various research projects. Many of these audio tapes are archived at the Basque Museum & Cultural Center in Boise, Idaho and in the Basque Studies Library at the University of Nevada, Reno.

"Recently, a grant provided by the Basque Government is allowing these interviews to be transformed and published into a medium that makes them more accessible to the public."

Links from interviewee names on this Web site lead to introductory information about the interviewee and further links to a summary of the interview contents, photographs, and in many cases, audio clips from the interview recordings.

Bates College Digital Library. Edmond S. Muskie Oral History Collection —
http://digilib.bates.edu/gsdl/cgi-bin/library?site=localhost&a=p&p=about&c=muskieor&l=en&w=utf-8

"The Edmund S. Muskie Oral History Collection is composed of more than 400 interviews with individuals who knew, affected, or were affected by Senator Edmund S. Muskie in the course of his

life and career…[It is] one of the largest and most comprehensive oral history projects ever undertaken of a modern political figure."

"Each interview is documented with an audio recording, a transcript and a summary sheet, containing biographical information about the interviewee and an abstract of the interview."

Brooklyn Historical Society. Oral History Program —
http://brooklynhistory.org/oral_history/oral_hist.html

This Web site provides descriptions of the program's numerous oral history projects. It is notable for its creative and effective presentation of a collection of audio excerpts representing a number of the interviewees in its currently exhibited project, "In Our Own Words: Portraits of Brooklyn's Vietnam Veterans."

California State University, Long Beach. Virtual Oral History Archives — http://salticid.nmc.csulb.edu/cgi-bin/WebObjects/OralAural.woa/wa/collection?ww=1024&wh=572&pt=109

"The Virtual Oral/Aural History Archive is a collaborative project of Academic Computing Services, the College of Liberal Arts, and the University Library at California State University, Long Beach.

"The Virtual Oral/Aural History Archive is an archive of the sound recordings of our major oral history collections — not their transcripts. The audio files are not downloadable, but under fair use provisions, you can transcribe up to five audio segments from one or more interview tapes without permission."

The VOHA Web site provides online access to an audio archive of 1,000 hours of interviews. The Web site groups interviews by project. Users may drill down through successive layers of pages to read summaries of projects and of subgroups of interviews, background information about interviewees, and finally, audio segments of interview recordings. For some interviews, photographs are available for online viewing, as well.

Columbia University Libraries. Oral History Research Office. Notable New Yorkers —
http://www.columbia.edu/cu/lweb/digital/collections/nny/index.html

"The Notable New Yorkers Web site offers audio recordings and transcripts of interviews with ten influential New Yorkers, drawn from the collections of the Oral History Research Office of the Columbia University Libraries. These interviews, conducted by the Office between 1955 and 2001, open an imaginative portal into twentieth-century New York City and the ways in which it has deeply affected the culture and history of the United States and the world beyond. With three background essays and a briefer methodological introduction for each oral history, this site also provides a revealing look at the art of the biographical interview — a methodology developed by the Office over its four and a half decades of existence — in which individuals who have shaped history reflect upon their lives and accomplishments."

Coney Island History Project. Oral History Archive: Voices from Coney Island —
http://www.coneyislandhistory.org/voices/index.php?g=voices&s=browse_speaker

The Coney Island History Project, founded in 2004, is a not-for-profit organization that aims to increase awareness of Coney Island's legendary and colorful past and to encourage appreciation of the Coney Island neighborhood of today. Our mission is to record, archive and share oral history interviews; provide access to historical artifacts and documentary material through educational exhibits, events and a website; and honor community leaders and amusement pioneers through our Coney Island Hall of Fame. Emphasizing community involvement, the History Project teaches young people the techniques of oral history and develops programs in conjunction with local schools,

museums, and other organizations."

Coney Island Voices is "an oral history archive that preserves the stories and memories of people who visited or lived and worked in Brooklyn's famous playground."

The archive's Web site provides links to audio excerpts of interview recordings, with brief descriptions identifying interviewees.

Conservation History Association of Texas. Texas Legacy Project — http://www.texaslegacy.org/bb/index.html

The Conservation History Association of Texas has created "an online archive of video, audio, text, and other materials collected through interviews and correspondence with the people who have shaped and continue to influence the protection of Texas natural resources."

The project's home page presents "a selection of some of our video pieces. The link to 'Full Interviews' will take you to examples of complete, unedited versions of some of our visits with Texas conservationists. The 'Profiles' link will show 2-3 minute excerpts from our interviews, interspliced with footage of natural, industrial and urban landscapes."

The project's Web site also includes full video recordings of interviews, "representing the full, uncut tapes of our conversations discussing these narrators' lives, careers and insights. They are presented in Real Media. Please note that most include roughly 60 seconds of color bars and sound tone for technical settings at the outset of the recordings. Please know that the current version of the free PC Real Media player (version 11) allows a user to not just stream video, but also save it for use later. To do that, after you double-click on a Real file that you'd like to see, just look under the command, 'File', you'll see the menu 'Record', and then 'Record this Clip', which should store the file on your computer. We hope that this new feature gives you more flexibility in how you use the Texas Legacy materials."

As an aid to finding passages within the full interviews, the Web site provides links to Excel and PDF versions of the interview log, "which includes over 10,000 entries and has variables for reel number, time code, narrator, location, category, keyword, detailed description, etc."

Densho: The Japanese American Legacy Project — http://www.densho.org/densho.asp

"Densho is a nonprofit organization started in 1996, with the initial goal of documenting oral histories from Japanese Americans who were incarcerated during World War II. This evolved into a mission to educate, preserve, collaborate and inspire action for equity. Densho uses digital technology to preserve and make accessible primary source materials on the World War II incarceration of Japanese Americans.

"The Densho Digital Archive holds over 300 visual histories (600 hours of recorded video interviews) and over 9,500 historic photos, documents, and newspapers. The archive is growing as Densho continues to record life histories and collect images and records. These primary sources document the Japanese American experience from immigration in the early 1900s through redress in the 1980s with a strong focus on the World War II mass incarceration."

Densho provides its resources online "to students, teachers, researchers, and the general public for educational purposes. The video interviews are fully transcribed and segmented for ease of viewing. The interviews and images are indexed by topic, location and chronology, and can be searched using keywords.

"To help ensure proper use of the archive, Densho requires a free registration process to gain access to the archive."

George Mason University. Center for History and New Media — http://chnm.gmu.edu/

"Since 1994…the Center for History and New Media (CHNM) at George Mason University has used digital media and computer technology to democratize history — to incorporate multiple voices, reach diverse audiences, and encourage popular participation in presenting and preserving the past. "CHNM uses digital media and technology to preserve and present history online, transform scholarship across the humanities, and advance historical education and understanding."

The Center provides extensive resources on both theoretical and practical aspects of using digital technology to document and study history. The Web site provides links for educators, scholars, students, and researchers.

Cohen, Daniel J. and Roy Rosenzweig. *Digital History: A Guide to Gathering, Preserving, and Presenting the Past on the Web.* Available full-text online at http://chnm.gmu.edu/digitalhistory/index.php.

"This book provides a plainspoken and thorough introduction to the web for historians — teachers and students, archivists and museum curators, professors as well as amateur enthusiasts — who wish to produce online historical work, or to build upon and improve the projects they have already started in this important new medium."

Institute of Texan Cultures, University of Texas-San Antonio, Museum Library — http://texancultures.com/library/histories.html

The Institute of Texan Cultures seeks to preserve artifacts of Texas's vast cultural diversity as well as illustrate how those cultures have interacted in the state's history. The Museum Library at the Institute possesses more than six hundred audio-recorded interviews by "culturally significant" Texans. Transcripts for most of the interviews may be accessed in person at the Library. Fortunately for researchers, the Library does make transcripts, photos, and audio from twenty of the six hundred interviews available online as samples. Unfortunately, the Library does not have an index for all six hundred narrators.

King's Cross Voices Oral History Project, Camden Local Studies and Archive Centre, London UK — http://www.kingscrossvoices.org.uk/

Since its founding in 2004, the King's Cross Voices Oral History Project has chronicled the experiences of those people who have called home London's historic King's Cross district. The Project is managed by the King's Cross Community Development Trust and funded by national lottery proceeds as well as the London boroughs of Camden and Islington. "The Cross" is famous for its industrial and working-class heritage as well as having been the setting of the 1955 English film *The Ladykillers*. It is equally infamous for its reputation as a haven for blight, crime, and vice. Fortunately, in recent years, new business investment and residential construction have created a renaissance of sorts in the district, and it is experiencing brisk change.

The purpose of King's Cross Voices is to capture the many different experiences of those associated with a historic neighborhood in rapid flux. The recorded histories are organized around three main themes of Community, Commitment, and Communication. Diverse races, classes, and cultural groups are represented in the project. Examples of persons interviewed include a life-long native female resident who recounts memories of her working-class childhood, a female city councilor detailing her efforts at cleaning up the neighborhood, and an African-British constable.

A few audio excerpts with transcriptions are available for sampling. No complete audio tracks or transcripts are available for downloading. The site does not provide a full index of interviewees, so

there is no way of telling whether the site's audio samples represent the full complement of narrators. However, one interesting interactive feature is the Argyle Square Sound Trail. The Trail allows readers, using maps in .pdf format, to "tour" the neighborhood using interview audio samples assigned to certain landmarks on the Trail map.

LBJ Library Oral History Collection, Lyndon Baines Johnson Library and Museum, National Archives and Records Administration — http://www.lbjlib.utexas.edu/johnson/archives.hom/biopage.asp

The Collection is home to scores of interview transcripts taken from persons with relevance to the life and political career of Lyndon Johnson. Some are available online for researchers in PDF format. The vast majority are not online but accessible in person at the archive's facilities in Austin, Texas. One of the best things about the Web site is that the curators have chosen to post online transcripts from persons like Lloyd Bentsen, Robert McNamara, and Thurgood Marshall. The most intriguing-sounding interviews are not all online, though. Lester Maddox, Leon Jaworski, and George McGovern are only a few of the offline transcripts. Even unexpected figures like Benjamin Spock are indexed. The collection has a sophisticated online search function, and all persons whose interviews are online have a brief occupational history next to their names. The only thing missing from the collection's Web site are abstracts for at least those interviews whose transcripts are posted online.

Maryland Digital Cultural Archive. American Century Project: St. Andrew's Episcopal School — http://www.mdch.org/collection.aspx?id=11150

"The American Century Project is a collection of oral histories completed by students at St. Andrew's Episcopal School in Potomac, Maryland, in their junior year of high school.
"Each year students in St. Andrew's AP U.S. History and America in the Twentieth Century classes select an individual of no relation to interview about a particular period or event of the American Century. ... These interviews offer a unique view of some of America's historical events explored by the inquiring minds of Maryland's future generation."

The archives of these interviews are presented by the Maryland Digital Culture Heritage project, "a collaborative, statewide digitization program headquartered at the Central Library, Enoch Pratt Free Library/State Library Resource Center in downtown Baltimore." The St. Andrew's archives provide an example of ContentDM, a digital content management system which has been deployed to provide access to full text transcripts in searchable PDF format as well as interview summaries and subject keywords.

The St. Andrew's oral history program is coordinated by Glen Whitman, author of the invaluable book of guidance for teachers, *Dialogue with the Past: Engaging Students and Meeting Standards Through Oral History*. The American Century Web page (http://www.doingoralhistory.org/) offers extensive resources for creating and managing oral history projects with students.

Minnesota Historical Society. In Their Own Words: Stories of Minnesota's Greatest Generation — http://stories.mnhs.org/mgg/index.html

"In Their Words: Stories of Minnesota's Greatest Generation is an evolving web site that follows the personal stories of members of this remarkable generation through the pivotal decades of the Depression, the War, and the Boom, illustrated with photographs, objects and other materials found in the Minnesota Historical Society's Collections."

The Web site makes the audio recordings and contextual materials accessible in various ways; a timeline organizes material in chronological subsets, while a search page allows users to retrieve materials according to various custom criteria.

Talking History — http://www.talkinghistory.org/

"Talking History, based at the University at Albany, State University of New York, is a production, distribution, and instructional center for all forms of "aural" history. Our mission is to provide teachers, students, researchers and the general public with as broad and outstanding a collection of audio documentaries, speeches, debates, oral histories, conference sessions, commentaries, archival audio sources, and other aural history resources as is available anywhere." See, for example:

Zahavi, Gerald. *Attica Revisited.* This is an on-line multimedia archive and resource site focusing on the history of the 1971 New York State Attica prison uprising. http://www.talkinghistory.org/attica

Regional Oral History Office, Bancroft Library, University of California-Berkeley — http://bancroft.berkeley.edu/ROHO/

The Regional Oral History Office, or ROHO, is one of the oldest centers for oral history in the United States, having been in operation since 1954. Officially a part of the University of California-Berkeley's Bancroft Library, ROHO's mission is to document the history of the Bay Area, the state of California, and the American West. ROHO's subject areas of interest are as broad and varied as its geographic focus, ranging from law to art to business to labor to the environment and more. ROHO currently maintains nearly twenty featured projects having to do with such topics as Earl Warren in California, the Free Speech Movement, and Western Mining History.

Interview narrators as well as featured projects may be searched via ROHO's online engine or through the Bancroft Library's online catalog. Interview transcripts can be viewed online. Audio and video excerpts for selected narrators may be streamed online or downloaded from iTunes U. The online transcripts are linked to a dynamic table of contents. Individual pages and all pages may be printed off, but no PDF version of transcripts are to be found. This is a site of great depth and ease of use.

Sonoma State University. A Fine and Long Tradition: Stories from the Contemporary Women's Movement in Sonoma County — http://www.sonomawomenshistory.org/

"SonomaWomensHistory.org is the online expression of 'A Fine and Long Tradition: Stories from the Contemporary Women's Movement in Sonoma County,' a 2007 exhibit at Sonoma State University presenting the work of Dr. Michelle Jolly and her students to collect the oral history of the Sonoma County women's movement of the 1970s and 1980s.

"The heart of this research is listening to the voices of the participants in the women's movement in Sonoma County. To date, 49 women have been interviewed."

The site provides a page of audio excerpts, with information briefly identifying the speakers. Another page lists all of the interviewees and provides summaries of topics discussed. Audio clips play automatically and continuously when the home page of this project loads.

Tejano Voices, The University of Texas at Arlington Center for Mexican American Studies Oral History Project — http://libraries.uta.edu/tejanovoices/

The purpose of Tejano Voices is to preserve "the personal recollections of 77 Tejanos and Tejanas and their struggle against racial discrimination in post-World War II Texas. The history of Tejanos, or Texans of Latino descent, has only in the last few decades captured the dedicated interest of academics. Tejano Voices is a step forward in the effort to pay more attention to the Tejano story.

Professor José Angel Gutiérez of the University of Texas at Arlington recorded all seventy-seven interviews between 1992 and 1999. A good portion of those Tejanos interviewed were usually the first persons of Mexican heritage in their communities who achieved government office. All help fill out

the overall narrative of a long-ignored population finally finding power and asserting themselves in the public square.

There is no search function; narrators are listed alphabetically by last name (narrators can be located by region, however). Once the user clicks on the name, a personal page appears with the narrator's photographs, biography, and interview abstract. A PDF version of the transcript is available, and the interview audio can be streamed (but not downloaded). A high-speed Internet connection is necessary in order to stream.

Telling Their Stories, Oral History Archives Project, Urban School of San Francisco — http://www.tellingstories.org/

The Urban School of San Francisco is a private, alternative high school, founded in 1966. It offers a history class named *Telling Their Stories (TTS): Oral History Archives Project*. TTS students interview Bay Area residents who encountered, firsthand, a seminal event of the twentieth century. Students are tasked with researching specific populations with a unique relationship to those events. Past populations who were interviewed include Holocaust survivors, liberators of Nazi concentration camps, and Japanese-Americans interned during World War II. Currently, TTS students are collaborating with students in McComb, Mississippi, who are interviewing local residents who were active in the Civil Rights Movement.

Howard Levin, the Urban School's director of technology and a one-time interviewer for the Survivors of the Shoah Visual History project, has produced several workshops pertaining to oral history and technology. In 2004, the National Association of Independent Schools (NAIS) presented the Urban School with an award in technology integration for the work of TTS.

The purpose of TTS is to make students more profoundly aware of historic events by exposing them to living primary sources. The Urban School also views TTS as a means of serving the greater Bay Area by chronicling the diverse experiences of its inhabitants as well as an instrument for integrating the academic with the urbane. TTS allows its students to acquire many useful skills, including historical research, interviewing, transcribing and editing, and use of digital equipment.

Transcripts and original video footage for many, but not all, of the interviews are available for viewing and streaming on TTS's Web site. Those that are not available are currently in the process of being prepared for publication online. Neither the transcripts nor the video may be downloaded. Users may navigate to different chapters of each interview via a drop-down menu. Users can click on a paragraph of interview text to view that related video. There is no type-in search function available. A drop-down Quick Navigation menu exists on every interview page to take the user to the interview page of the specific narrator the user wishes to see.

University at Albany, State University of New York. Documentary Studies Program.

Zahavi, Gerald. *Life and Labor in a Corporate Community: An On-Line Multi-Media History of the Endicott Johnson Corporation*. Part 1, "The Endicott Johnson Corporation: 19th Century Origins." http://www.albany.edu/history/ej

_____. *The Glovers of Fulton County, New York*. This is an online virtual museum, archive, and resource site on the history of the Fulton County, N.Y., glove industry. When completed it will include thousands of pages of text and documents, over 1200 photographs and images, biographies of manufacturers, streaming video and audio interviews with workers and managers, as well as extensive descriptions of work processes. http://www.albany.edu/history/glovers/

University of Kentucky. Laurie B. Nunn Center for Oral History —
http://www.uky.edu/Libraries/libpage.php?lweb_id=11&llib_id=13

Houses over 7,000 oral history interviews, mostly relating to Kentucky history in the twentieth century. Also the base for several specific Kentucky oral history endeavors, including the Robert Penn Warren Civil Rights Oral History Project, which includes interviews with Henry Aaron, Martin Luther King Jr., and Malcolm X. Online searchable by narrator. Audio of specific projects can be downloaded, and in some cases users can extract portions of interview audio without having to download the entire recording.

University of Nevada Oral History Program. Nevada Voices — http://oralhistory.unr.edu/nvvcmain.html

"The 'Nevada Voices' section of the UNOHP's Web site was developed as a way of making oral history materials more accessible to the general public and to teachers and students. While the program's collection contains oral histories on a wide range of topics, information is scattered throughout over 80,000 pages of transcripts. In an effort to bring together material on popular subjects, the UNOHP has created three components within 'Nevada Voices' that deal with the Civil Rights Movement, World War II, and mining, all as they pertain to Nevada. Each section is broken into subtopics and includes transcript and audio excerpts as well as photographs, context statements, and a brief discussion of the excerpts' relevance. Lesson plans are also being developed, and links will be provided as these plans become available. Work on this project, including the lesson plans, has been supported in part by the Library Services Technology Act and Nevada Humanities, with additional assistance from Sue Davis and the teachers of the Teaching American History Project."

University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. Oral Histories of the American South —
http://docsouth.unc.edu/sohp/index.html

"'Oral Histories of the American South' is a three-year project to select, digitize and make available 500 oral history interviews gathered by the Southern Oral History Program (SOHP). These 500 are being selected from a collection of over 4,000 interviews, housed at the Southern Historical Collection, that cover a range of fascinating topics. This project is made possible by a grant from the Institute of Museum and Library Services."

Links on the project's home page provide access to interviews grouped by topic. Each interview is represented by a description page which includes key metadata, as well as links to segments of the audio recording with an accompanying transcript, a downloadable version the complete audio file, and transcripts in HTML and XML/TEI source file format. Item descriptions include an abstract of the interview's contents and brief information about the interviewee.

University of South Florida Libraries. Oral History Program —
http://kong.lib.usf.edu:8881/R/IP1XFIJ24RDIQ1GG363GK2VF2S22CBE9AREKKCRKYA39KM91JC-02249?func=collections&collection_id=1243&pds_handle=GUEST

"Through an active oral history program that includes interviews, workshops, and outreach, the USF Libraries' Oral History Program records, collects, and preserves individual and community memory for future generations. These oral histories offer valuable information that furthers knowledge of social, cultural, historical, political, and economic activities in the Tampa Bay area and beyond."

The Web site provides links to topical and project groupings of interviews. Individual interviews are represented by extensive metadata, and item descriptions include links to both transcripts in PDF format and audio recordings in QuickTime format.

U.S. Library of Congress. Veterans History Project — http://www.loc.gov/vets/

Several thousand oral history narratives taken from American veterans from many wars, ranging from World War I to the current conflicts in Iraq and Afghanistan. Many, but not all, of the original transcripts and media recordings can be accessed from the Web site. Online searchable by name and/or gender of narrator, branch or theater of service, and prisoner of war status.

U.S. Library of Congress. Voices from the Days of Slavery — http://memory.loc.gov/ammem/collections/voices/)

"The recordings of former slaves in Voices from the Days of Slavery: Former Slaves Tell Their Stories come from several collections held in the American Folklife Center's Archive of Folk Culture. They were made by various interviewers working in nine Southern states between 1932 and 1975.

"Three of the recordings were made for the Commonwealth of Virginia between 1937 and 1940 by Roscoe E. Lewis in affiliation with the Federal Writers' Project (FWP) of the Works Progress Administration (WPA). … Another ten recordings resulted from Linguistic Atlas projects and are part of a 1,300-disc collection donated to the Library by the American Dialect Society in 1985. Five of these interviews were recorded by Lorenzo Dow Turner in 1932 and 1933 in the Gullah areas of South Carolina and Georgia. The remainder were recorded by Archibald A. Hill and Guy S. Lowman in Virginia from 1934 to 1935.

"The remaining thirteen recordings were made by a number of different fieldworkers. The earliest came from a 1935 recording expedition to Georgia, Florida, and the Bahamas by Alan Lomax, Zora Neale Hurston, and Mary Elizabeth Barnicle.

"The recordings in this online collection provide an opportunity for linguists to examine the development of Black English and the transformation of language over time. Transcriptions of recordings received from the American Dialect Society are available for the first time in this presentation, as are transcriptions of several other previously published interviews, including those made for the book *The Emergence of Black English: Text and Commentary*, edited by Guy Baily, Natalie Maynor, and Patricia Cukor-Avila (Amsterdam: John Benjamins Publishing Co., 1991) and appear with slight modifications in this presentation. American Folklife Center staff from the Library of Congress transcribed the remaining recordings. Adhering to the accepted practice for professional folklore scholarship, the transcripts, for the most part, are presented in standard English. However, as the audio tracks attest, the speakers all render their stories in a variety of dialects that reflect their heritage. Recordings that suffer from poor audio quality have gaps in their transcriptions, but even in those cases, the transcriptions are a useful tool for following and understanding the interviews."

Vermont Folklife Center — http://www.vermontfolklifecenter.org/index.htm

The Vermont Folklife Center produces widely used and cited guides and tutorials for digital field recording and audio preservation. Staff of the center participate actively in discussions of digital practice on H-Oralhist and at meetings of the Oral History Association. Find their invaluable field guides at http://www.vermontfolklifecenter.org/archive/archive-fieldguides.html.

The center is also actively engaged in collecting field recordings and other primary resources. "The Vermont Folklife Center, founded in 1984, is dedicated to preserving and presenting the folk arts and cultural traditions of Vermont and the surrounding region. … The center has made preservation of the spoken word the core of its endeavors, and the VFC archive now comprises over 3,800 taped interviews, which have been transcribed and electronically indexed.

"The Vermont Folklife Center archive is a repository for materials from ethnographic field research and oral history interviewing created on a project-by-project basis. It is made up primarily of audio field recordings, as well as transcripts, video recordings, slides, photographs, and manuscript materials.

"The Vermont Folklife Center Digital Archive allows users from across the world to access materials in the research collections of the Vermont Folklife Center via the World Wide Web. As our collections continue to be digitized and cataloged, they will be added to the Digital Archive.

"As with the Vermont Folklife Center's physical collection, materials in the Digital Archive are organized into units based on the research project from which they were generated. These units, called Collections are the basic level of organization and access. Each collection is made up of a number of smaller units called Fieldwork Records that provide access to available media files such as audio recordings, still images and transcripts."

Vietnam Center & Archive: Oral History Project, Texas Tech University, Lubbock —
http://www.vietnam.ttu.edu/oralhistory/

Organized in 1999, the Oral History Project (OHP) at the Vietnam Center and Archive at Texas Tech University seeks to help produce a more comprehensive understanding of what it calls "the wars of Southeast Asia" through the use of oral history. Its stated aim is to be nonpolitical. The Archive invites all who had a stake in the wars to participate, whether they have been friendly or enemy combatant, antiwar activist, family member of a soldier, and so on.

A site navigation menu on the project's Web site allows users to easily access audio files and transcripts of interviews. A search function is available through a Web feature called the Virtual Vietnam Archive. The project's Web site also houses the United States Marine Corps History and Museum Division's oral history interviews. Each interview is well-indexed, with catalog information for each narrator paired with the interview media and transcript.