



NEWSLETTER

Buffalo Set for Fall OHA Meeting

**By Debra Bernhardt and
Cliff Kuhn, Program Co-Chairs**

The Oral History Association's 1998 meeting is set for Oct. 15-18 at the Hyatt Regency Hotel in Buffalo, N.Y.

The conference theme, "Crossing the Boundary, Crossing the Line: Oral History on the Border," reflects not only its location near the U.S./Canadian border, but also oral history's special vantage point along numerous borders. Oral history is situated between history and memory, between private and public

lives, between interviewers and narrators, between public and scholarly history, between private and public lives, between various academic disciplines, media and forms of historical presentation.

As the unparalleled number of international participants at this year's conference indicates, oral history is practiced in every corner of the globe. By straddling these borders, oral history--and this conference--provides the possibilities for fruitful dialogue, exchange and cross-fertilization.

All of the featured speakers and

presenters have done considerable border crossing of their own. Barbara Garson is the author of such diverse works as "MacBird" and "All the Livelong Day." She will discuss her project, "Money Makes the World Go Round," in which she uses oral history techniques to help trace an investment and its impact on people in the United States and around the world.

John Mohawk and Yvonne Dion-Buffalo of the State University of New York at Buffalo are distinguished scholars of Native

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Standards, Guidelines Changes Proposed

**By Sherna Berger Gluck, Chair
Committee on New Technologies**

Since its inception 32 years ago, the Oral History Association has been responsive to changing theoretical and methodological issues in our own and related fields and has been committed to developing guidelines that encourage professionals and lay practitioners alike to produce oral histories of high caliber. As a result, the standards and guidelines of the association have been revisited several times over the past three decades, most recently leading to a significant overhaul in 1989 and 1990. In the spirit of democracy, which is so basic to oral history, these last revisions were thoroughly debated before they

were adopted by the membership at the annual meetings.

The rapid advances in technology we have experienced in the past decade have led many of us to think about the recording, preservation, uses and distribution of oral histories in new ways. And so, once again, we are asking the membership to consider revising our standards and guidelines. The following series of recommendations is being forwarded to the membership by the Ad Hoc Committee on New Technologies, comprised of Roy Rosenzweig, Marjorie McLellan, Pamela Henson, Charles Hardy, Sherna Berger Gluck and Terry Birdwhistell.

In accordance with past practice, prior to a formal vote on the
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Editor's Note

By Mary Kay Quinlan

Some of the usual features of the **OHA Newsletter** do not appear in this issue. Instead, space has been devoted to a full report by the Committee on New Technologies, which is proposing changes in OHA standards and evaluation guidelines. In the interest of making information as widely available as possible before the October OHA membership meeting in Buffalo, the proposals are covered in detail in this issue.

Next **Newsletter** deadline: Dec. 1, 1998.



From Your President

By Linda Shopes
OHA President

This column--my last as OHA president--provides an opportunity to inform the membership about association activities over the past several months and to assess the current state of the Oral History Association.

An important goal for me has been to actively engage OHA with national professional affairs and, more generally, to promote the visibility of OHA within the historical community. As reported in previous **Newsletters**, we have in recent months communicated with directors of graduate study in history at universities throughout the United States, with the more than 700 Institutional Review Boards at U.S. colleges and universities and with the Office for Protection from Research Risks at the National Institutes of Health.

These communications aimed to educate recipients about the principles and standards of oral history as codified in OHA's **Evaluation Guidelines** and urged appropriate compliance with them. The latter two were undertaken in collaboration with the American Historical Association and the Organization of American Historians. In coming weeks we will initiate similar correspondence with directors of American Studies graduate programs and with members of the American Association of University Presses.

As recommended by the National Coordinating Committee for the Promotion of History and at the direction of the Council, I have also written members of appropriate congressional committees urging full funding for the National Endowment for the Humanities, the National Archives and Records Administration and the National Historical Publications and Records Commission. I have also written to NEH Chair William Ferris in support of his

proposed regional humanities centers. Such action, I believe, serves the broad interests of oral historians throughout the country.

Several additional initiatives have also served to enhance OHA's visibility and, presumably, its sphere of influence. First, H-ORALHIST, launched late last fall under the able editorship of Jeff Charnley, Gene Preuss and Cheryl Oakes, now numbers more than 1,000 members, who regularly share information and resources and discuss important methodological and ethical issues.

Second, I've worked to reactivate OHA's liaisons to professional organizations and have established several new liaisons: to the American Jewish Historical Association, American Journalism Historians Association, Association of Personal Historians and National History Education Network. These actions should result in greater OHA presence at other professional meetings and greater communication across disciplines about oral history.

Third, OHA currently is discussing ways the association might collaborate with the National Park Service to advance the practice of oral history within NPS. Fourth, departing from the traditional OHA-sponsored breakfast at the Organization of American Historians meeting, this year OHA joined with the National Council on Public History to cosponsor a reception that attracted more than 100 people and introduced several to the work of both OHA and NCPH.

Finally, OHA's most systematic effort at outreach is occurring as a result of the association's contract with the University of California Press (UCP) to publish the **Oral History Review**. The Press has initiated an aggressive membership campaign that includes both advertising and direct mail.

Much of the above activity has been carried out with the active support of Executive Secretary Rebecca Sharpless and her staff at Baylor University, and I thank them for their efforts.

This then summarizes OHA's external relations, if you will, throughout the past several months.

Two items have dominated our internal affairs during my tenure: action on the report of the Ad Hoc Long Range Planning Committee submitted to the Council in January and an unexpected and serious financial downturn. Let me address each in turn.

We currently are codifying the Council's decisions in response to the Long-Range Planning Committee's report, turning them into a Long-Range Plan that will chart a rational course for OHA over the next several years.

Among the most pressing concerns identified in the planning committee report is the need for OHA to expand both its membership base and available revenue streams. Before the association can act on these fronts, however, it needs a thorough assessment of its existing memberships and dues structure and of the benefits offered to current and potential members.

Accordingly, at the direction of the Council, I have appointed a Task Force on Membership, Dues and Benefits, chaired by Michael Gordon and charged with addressing these interrelated issues by the fall 1999 Council meeting.

The association's precipitous financial decline gives a particular urgency to the work of the task force. To put it baldly, OHA is not generating revenue adequate to sustain current levels of service, much less expand services. In 1997, OHA's budget surplus plummeted by 60 percent, from about \$50,000 to \$20,000. The severely restricted 1998 budget, printed in the Membership Directory, reflects this crisis, and we anticipate a carryover of only about \$5,000 from 1998 to 1999.

The specific reasons for this situation are twofold: the failure of the 1997 annual meeting to generate an anticipated \$12,000 profit, which in turn is related to the rising costs of annual meetings; and losses of income attendant upon UCP's publication of the **Review**. Many of these latter losses were anticipated and, we believe, will be offset in the long run as the Press' membership

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Buffalo Meeting Features Wide Variety of Participants

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American/First Peoples issues. They will describe their current efforts to cross the borders between oral tradition and cyberspace.

Since 1946, New York University professor George Stoney has produced, written or directed more than 50 films and videos. He will discuss oral historical issues engaged in his work, including "The Uprising of '34," winner of the 1995 OHA Non-print Media Award, and his film-in-progress, "Paolo Freire in Action." In addition, on Friday evening, the conference will feature a George Stoney film festival.

Finally, actor Marty Pottenger will present excerpts from her acclaimed one-person performance that draws from oral history interviews with working people in New York City.

In an attempt to move beyond the boundaries of traditional conference presentations, the meeting will include two new features.

The Hyatt Regency's Sun Garden Room will serve as the site for presentations that don't neatly fit into conventional formats: performance pieces, poster sessions, informal discussions of works-in-progress and the like.

And in conjunction with various groups and individuals in the Buffalo community, the conference will include five off-site sessions on:

labor and deindustrialization, the work of the Buffalo Holocaust Resource Center and the Afro-American Historical Association of the Niagara Frontier and on radio disk jockeys in Buffalo and Toronto from the 1950s and 1960s. These sessions and the Stoney film festival will be open to the public as well as to conference attendees.

In addition, we have scheduled discussion sessions of four "affinity groups" so that people with similar concerns might more effectively share ideas about a variety of professional issues. One of these sessions is for members of the Canadian Oral History Association and Canadian oral historians. Canadians are well represented throughout the program, and Canadian input has contributed greatly to making this a truly transnational conference.

We hope that in other ways, too, the program offers practical information, intellectual challenge and lively discussion as the OHA, with its extraordinarily diverse membership, continues to try to bridge gaps between communities that historically have been splintered.

The annual Awards Dinner will feature presentation of OHA awards for outstanding oral history project, a significant published article that draws upon oral history and a distinguished postsecondary

educator. The dinner also will recognize the 50th anniversary of the Columbia University Oral History Research Office, the world's largest and oldest oral history program. Multicultural live music will highlight the Saturday night dance party.

Special sessions will be devoted to an open forum to discuss proposed changes in the OHA **Evaluation Guidelines** and a forum to brainstorm and share ideas about the long-range planning report, membership development and implications of the OHA's publishing contract with the University of California Press.

Saturday afternoon tours give conference participants the following choices: Native American sites in Buffalo; Buffalo architecture; Niagara Falls, Canada; Buffalo's ethnic and industrial heritage; Western New York Underground Railroad.

Silent Auction Items Listed

A cabin the woods, autographed books on oral history, arts and crafts, gift certificates for restaurants and items of local flavor from Upstate New York and Alaska will highlight the fifth annual OHA silent auction at this year's meeting in Buffalo.

Items being auctioned will be on display near the conference registration desk throughout the meeting. Proceeds benefit the OHA's Endowment Fund.



The Pan-American Exposition at night. Buffalo, N.Y., 1901. Photo from the Buffalo and Erie County Historical Society.

Putting Interviews on the Internet? A Look at Key Issues



By John A. Neuenschwander
Carthage College

One of the advantages of the H-ORALHIST Discussion List, a network of people interested in oral history sponsored jointly by the National Endowment for the Humanities and Michigan State University, is that it allows issues of pressing interest to receive a timely airing.

This was certainly the case last spring when there was an active discussion via e-mail of whether one should place oral history interviews on the Internet. Although several participants favored the policy, the majority seemed to be in tune with the cautious approach advocated by Dale Treleven, director of the UCLA Oral History Program: "not at this time. We believe there are simply too many unknowns at this point, including what Congress may or may not do in regard to amending the Copyright Act of '76, specifically about digitized information that presumably will help move along progress in policymaking re: tapes/Web."

The purpose of this article is to examine some of the legal and ethical issues that any archive, program or individual oral historian should carefully weigh before uploading interviews onto a Web site on the Internet. The author does not claim to be either a computer whiz or junkie, but just another user who periodically tries to step back and assess the larger meaning and

implications of the Internet.

For a number of years commentators have noted that the legal system is way behind when it comes to the Internet and cyberspace. Although this is still true, the gap is narrowing as more and more cases involving Internet litigation are decided by both federal and state courts. With more precedents to work with, courts are less likely to have to confront this mindboggling technology single-handedly.

A good example of the ever expanding volume of cases involving the Internet is Reno v. ACLU, 138 L. Ed. 2d 874, 880, (1997). Here the Supreme Court devoted several pages of its decision to describing just what the Internet is: "an international network of interconnected computers that enables millions of people to communicate with one another in 'cyberspace' and to access vast amounts of information from around the world."

In 1997 an estimated 40 million people had access to the Internet, and by the year 2000 that figure may well quadruple. With a few strokes on a computer keyboard, tens of millions of people not only have the opportunity to access information but to do their own printing whether by typing a message or uploading an article or manuscript onto a Web site.

Issue #1: The Legal Release Agreement

In the last issue of this **Newsletter** I provided an assessment of some legal release agreements that had been sent to me by various oral historians and groups. Of the 30 agreements reviewed, only one contained specific language that allowed the sponsoring program to place interviews on the Internet. Many of the others, however, did contain broadly worded future use language that possibly could be stretched to allow for the uploading of interviews onto the Web.

A recent federal district court decision, Playboy Enterprises Inc. v. Chuckleberry Pub. Inc., 839 F. Supp. 1032 (S.D.N.Y. 1996) provides some support for the position that an

agreement that was reached without any contemplation whatsoever of the Internet could be construed so as to include this means of publication in the original intent of the parties. Although this sort of reinterpretation of an agreement may work in the business world, it is of questionable value to oral historians, who should be concerned about the ethical as well as legal side of their relationship with the interviewee.

The best course of action both ethically and legally for interviews that are already in your collection is to seek informed consent from the interviewee or his/her heirs before putting even excerpts onto the Web.

Such a policy would be in keeping with the Oral History Association guideline that calls upon oral historians to keep interviewees fully informed of the "...expected disposition and dissemination of all forms of the record."

It would also eliminate any legal disagreement as to the meaning of the future use language contained in the original legal release agreement. This approach may result in some interviews being kept off the Web but would virtually eliminate the ethical or legal uncertainties attendant with trying to justify an overly expansive view of future use language.

Issue #2: The Copyright Dilemma

At this time Congress is close to passing a digital copyright bill that would make several major amendments to the Copyright Act of 1976. Most of these amendments seek to clarify and expand the rights of copyright holders on the Internet. While the major thrust of this legislation is to provide greater protection for computer software owners, the rights of authors in general also will be strengthened if the legislation is signed into law.

There is an old saying in the world of intellectual property that "all copyrights are not equal." One distinction that this underscores is the two levels of protection that coexist within the Copyright Act of 1976: namely, the interpretation of ideas

versus the mere expression of them. Creators of works of fiction usually are able to protect the characters and settings they create as well as the words they use to convey their interpretation. Historians and nonfiction writers, on the other hand, are allowed only to protect their manner of expression. As the 7th Circuit noted in denying the nonfiction author/plaintiff any copyright protection for his interpretation that John Dillinger had in fact survived the FBI ambush at the Biograph Theater in 1934, "The inventor of Sherlock Holmes controls that character's fate while the copyright lasts; the first person to conclude that Dillinger survived does not get dubs on history." Nash v. CBS, 899 F.2d 1537, 1541 (7th Cir. 1990).

While there is no exact quantitative measure of how much of a nonfiction author's words must be appropriated before a court would hold that the author's copyright has been infringed, for published works of nonfiction the amount is very substantial. Numerous quotes, even of the long block variety, usually are not enough. Since placing information onto the Internet is considered to be an act of publication, the protection afforded by the Copyright Act to oral history interviews is therefore limited to extensive copying or wholesale appropriation. Of course, even this modest protection could be secured only by going to court.

Given the Wild West atmosphere that has surrounded the growth of the Internet and the attendant abuse of copyright interests by some users, it is no wonder that business interests are pushing Congress to turn up the heat on infringers.

The practice of "framing" is just one example of how infringers currently can scam material despite copyright warnings. As explained by Caroline H. Little in her article, "WELCOME TO THE WEB, Pointers for Setting up a Site of Your Own," in *Business Law Today*, March/April 1998, "framing" is "...a variation of hyperlinking by which a party's content is 'framed' by another party, so that the framed party's

content, including ads, is hidden, and the Universal Resource Locator or 'URL' of the framed content does not appear." One of the most negative attributes of "framing" is the unsolicited association with the framing party.

A recent tour of the Internet turned up about a half dozen oral history programs that have uploaded interview transcripts onto their Web sites. There was a wide divergence in how each of these programs chose to present the copyright issue to potential users.

The Library of Congress has uploaded onto its Web site a number of interviews from the Social Security Administration Oral History Project. The introductory section alerts browsers to the existence of copyright restrictions on those interviews that are not in the public domain and cautions that "...no use (beyond limited quotation) should be made of the transcripts of these interviews without the express permission of the Social Security Administration."

The Library's copyright notice for the WPA Life Histories from the New Deal-era Federal Writer's Project informs prospective users that there is no copyright protection for any of the interviews because they were collected and transcribed by U.S. government employees.

Another government Web site, the Sacramento Air Logistics Center Office of History also seeks to limit use without express permission with the notice: "Note: Please be aware that the availability of these materials on the Internet does not constitute the right to copy and/or publish these materials. All copyrights belong to the United States Air Force and the Office of History at McClellan AFB. If you wish to publish a quote from a study or any oral history interview, you should seek permission from the Office of History."

Finally, several other programs that have uploaded interviews onto their Web sites, the Mississippi Civil Rights Oral History Bibliography and the Rutgers Oral History Archives of World War II, make no statements regarding copyright.

Although cautionary notes and

warnings about the copyright interest in material that is placed on the Internet may make little difference to a would-be infringer, interviews should not be posted without them. A clear statement of who holds the copyright and any restrictions as to use is certainly in keeping with both the law and common sense. Dedicating interviews to the public domain, of course, eliminates all concern about copyright protection.

Issue #3: Libel and Invasion of Privacy

No single issue seems to invoke more anxiety among oral historians. The fear of being sued for libel because of something that an interviewee said is always present. Since the practice of limiting both access and use of interview material may be seen by some as a means of reducing the legal risk in this area, the idea of publishing interviews on the Internet is nothing short of revolutionary. Once an interview has been uploaded to a Web site, ANYONE with a computer can gain access to that interview.

The general consensus among legal commentators is that libel on the Internet is rampant. But the locus for almost all of these libelous statements is the news groups/bulletin boards/discussion groups that rely on e-mail to post and read messages.

A recent case in Delaware exemplifies this type of libel. Following the disappearance of a diver during a visit to a submerged World War II oil tanker, the diver's partner posted numerous messages on a discussion forum accusing another diver of abandoning his partner, being a coward and causing his presumed death. Clayton v. Farb, 1998 WL 283468, (Del. Sup.).

Except for some cases in which courts have held that libel on the Internet does not fit the language of existing state statutes for jurisdiction purposes and other cases involving whether an on-line service provider is also responsible for libelous messages that are posted on the bulletin boards it offers, the law of libel as it relates to traditional print materials is fully applicable.

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Internet

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Another potential area of liability, although it might be a real stretch, is the tort of invasion of privacy based on public disclosure of private facts. This tort has four elements: public disclosure of private facts, the facts disclosed must be private in nature, the facts made public must be offensive and/or objectionable to a reasonable person of ordinary sensibilities and the facts disclosed are not of legitimate concern to the public.

This is the poor cousin of libel.

Since the private facts need not be and are rarely untrue, the injury is one of shame or humiliation and only indirectly goes to reputation. Due to the 40 million plus accessors, it is possible that an interviewee's disclosure of private facts about a colleague or rival might come to light more readily than if the interview were only available through more traditional means. As in the area of libel law, the offended party must be alive or there is no case.

Conclusion

Before putting interviews onto a Web site, I would strongly recommend that you communicate

with some of the programs that have uploaded interviews onto the Internet and be sure to consult with a local attorney who has some expertise in the emerging field of cyberlaw. The general statements of law that I have offered are no substitute for legal advice that is directly applicable to your particular circumstances.

Editor's Note: John A Neuenschwander, a past OHA president, teaches history at Carthage College and is a municipal judge in Kenosha, Wis. He is the author of the OHA pamphlet "Oral History and the Law."

New Standards

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recommendations at the national meeting in Buffalo, there will be an opportunity to discuss and suggest changes in the committee's recommendations, either in a scheduled public form, which will be listed in the program, or by submitting them in writing, as outlined below.

Our many months of work, involving scores of e-mail exchanges and resulting in four drafts, might have led some to believe that we were going to propose massive revisions. On the contrary, although some items required a fair amount of dialogue among us, we mainly tinkered with the 1989-90 Standards and Guidelines, adding clauses and sentences here and there, with rare instances of deletion of original language. We are proposing only two entirely new sections: "Selection of Recording Equipment" and "Tape Preservation Guidelines."

Our discussions and the resulting recommendations revolve around two basic issues: encouraging practitioners to pay more attention to technical standards and to use and apply some of the new technologies or media (e.g. using the Internet to publicize the availability of oral histories) and, on the other hand, sensitizing people to some of the ethical dilemmas posed in using new technologies (e.g. trying to make sure that we honor the spirit or intent of

interviewees' participation when unanticipated uses of their oral histories arise). In fact, as we reviewed the original document with an eagle's eye to the ethical implications of rapidly advancing technology, we noted that several considerations needed to be addressed more specifically in the Educator Guidelines, particularly in light of the recent debates about requirements relating to human subjects in research.

In debating changes in the Standards and Principles and the Evaluation Guidelines, we constantly tried to maintain a balance between the need for specificity, on the one hand, and the danger of over-burdening practitioners with too many obligations. Although we believe that we achieved that balance, the document is by no means perfect. We certainly expect to make further revisions based on feedback from you, the members, before we submit the recommendations for a vote to the assembled conferees.

Reproduced below are only those portions of the Guidelines where we are recommending changes. If you wish to view the document in its entirety, check the OHA Website at www.baylor.edu/~OHA.

[New language is shown in **bold italics**; deletions are in ~~strikeout~~ format.]

Proposed Revisions

Preamble

The Oral History Association promotes oral history as a method of gathering and preserving historical information through recorded interviews with participants in past events and ways of life. It encourages those who produce and use oral history to recognize certain principles, rights, **technical standards** and obligations for the creation of source material that is authentic, useful, and reliable...

Responsibility to Interviewees

2. Interviewees should be informed of the mutual rights in the oral history process, such as editing, access restrictions, copyrights, prior use, royalties, and the expected disposition and dissemination of all forms of the record, **including the potential for electronic distribution.**

4. Interviewers should guard against making promises to interviewees that they may not be able to fulfill, such as guarantees of publication. **And while** control over future uses of interviews after they have been made public **cannot be guaranteed, every effort should be made to honor the spirit of the interviewee's intentions.**

8. [New:] Interviewers should **use the best recording equipment within their means in order to accurately reproduce the interviewee's voice and, when appropriate, other sounds as well as visual images.**

9. [New:] Given the rapid development of new technologies, interviewees should be informed of the wide range of potential uses of their interviews. In the event that new and unanticipated uses are planned, good faith efforts should be made to seek subsequent permission for these uses.

Responsibility to the Public and the Profession

7. Interviewers should make every effort to record their interviews using the best recording equipment within their means to reproduce accurately the interviewee's voice and, if appropriate, image. They should also collect and record other historical documentation in the possession of the interviewee, including still photographs, print materials and other sound and moving image recordings.

8. [Note: New Number only, split off from original #7] Interviewers should provide complete documentation of their preparation and methods, including the circumstances of the interviews.

9. [Note: Re-numbering, re-ordering and additions to portions of original #7] Interviewers, and when possible, interviewees, should review and evaluate their interviews, including any tape summaries or transcriptions made from them.

10 to 14. [Note: Old numbers 9 to 12, no changes in text.]

Responsibility for Sponsoring and Archival Institutions

1. Institutions sponsoring and maintaining oral history archives have a responsibility to interviewees, interviewers, the profession and the public to maintain the highest technical, professional and ethical standards in the creation and archival preservation of oral history interviews and related documents.

2. Subject to conditions that interviewees set, sponsoring institutions (or individual collectors) have an obligation to prepare and preserve easily usable records; to keep abreast of rapidly developing technologies for preservation and dissemination; to keep accurate records of the creation and processing of each interview; to identify, index and catalog interviews

and to make known the existence of the interviews when they are open for research.

3. [New: Addition to last clause in original #2] Sponsoring institutions and archives should make known the existence of the interviews when they are open for research through a variety of means, including electronic modes of distribution.

4. Original #3

5. [Original #4, with added phrases] Sponsoring institutions should train interviewers, providing them basic instruction in the recording of high fidelity interviews, and when appropriate, other sound and moving image recording; explaining the objectives of the program to them; informing them of all ethical and legal considerations governing an interview, and making clear to interviewers what their obligations are to the program and to the interviewees.

7. [New] Archives should make appropriate efforts to keep interviewees apprised of the publication or public dissemination of interview recordings and transcripts.

Oral History Evaluation Guidelines

Program/Project Guidelines

Selection of Recording Equipment
[New section to follow Purpose and Objectives]

a. Is the appropriate recording media being used? Should the interview be recorded on audio or videotape?

b. Is the best possible equipment and tape available within one's budget being used?

c. Are interviews recorded on a medium that meets archival preservation standards?

d. How well has the interviewer mastered use of the equipment upon which the interview will be recorded?

Availability of Materials

b. How is information about materials directed to likely users? Have new media and electronic modes of distribution been

considered in order to publicize and make interviews available?

Finding Aids

d. Have new technologies been used to develop the most effective finding aids?

Ethical/Legal Guidelines

What procedures are followed to assure that interviewers/programs recognize and honor their responsibility to the interviewees? Specifically, what procedures are used to assure that:

e. the interviewee is fully informed about the potential uses to which the material may be put, including deposit of the interviews in a repository, publication in print, multimedia or electronic media, the Internet, or other emerging technologies, as well as in books, articles, newspapers, magazines, radio or film documentaries, and all forms of public programming?

g. [New, incorporating some of the intent of original "j"] that care is taken so that the distribution and use of the material does not exceed the spirit of the interviewee's agreement and that good faith efforts are made to consult the interviewee about other subsequent uses of their interview.

h. [Original g.]

i. [Original h.]

j. —care is taken when making public all material relating to the interview?

j. [Original i.]

What procedures are followed to assure that interviewers/programs recognize and honor their responsibilities to the profession? Specifically, what procedures assure that:

b. the interviewer is well trained, uses appropriate recording equipment and media and will conduct his/her interview in a professional manner?

f. the interview materials, including tapes, transcripts, relevant photographic, moving image and sound documents as well as agreements and documentation of the interview process will be placed in a repository after a reasonable period of time, subject to the agreements made with the interviewee; and that

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Standards

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the depository will administer their use in accordance with those agreements?

Tape Preservation Guidelines: *[New section to be added]*

Recognizing the historical significance of the recording and the potential uses of oral history interviews in non-print media, what procedures are followed to assure that:

a. *appropriate care and storage of the original (master) recordings begins immediately after their creation?*

b. *the original (master) recordings are duplicated and stored under conditions that are in accordance with accepted archival standards [i.e. stored in closed boxes in a cool, dry, dust-free environment]?*

c. *original recordings experiencing significant degradation are duplicated onto the best preservation media available?*

d. *every effort is made in duplicating tapes to preserve a faithful facsimile of the interviewee's voice?*

e. *all transcribing, auditing and other uses are done from a dub, not the master?*

Interview Content Guidelines

In what ways does the program/project contribute to historical understanding?

i. *To what extent does the audio and/or video recording if videotaped, does the interview capture unique sound and "visual information?"*

j. *Does the visual and other sound elements complement and/or supplement the verbal information? Has the interview captured interaction with the visual and sound environments, processes, objects or other individuals?*

Interview Conduct Guidelines

[Note: Only two sub-sections are affected.]

Interviewer Preparation

c. *[New] Has the interviewer mastered the use of appropriate equipment and the field recording techniques that insure a clean, high-*

quality recording?

Technique and Adaptive Skills

a. In what ways does the interview show that the interviewer has used skills appropriate to: [insertions to second bullet]

- the interview *location* and conditions (disruptions and interruptions, equipment problems, extraneous participants, *background noises*, etc.)?

c. Has the program/project used recording equipment and tapes which are appropriate to the purposes of the work *and potential non-print uses* of the material? Are the recordings of *good the highest possible technical quality?*

d. If videotaped, are lighting composition, camera work and sound of *good the highest technical quality?*

Educator and Student Guidelines

Has the educator:

b. ensured that each student is properly prepared before going into the community to conduct oral history interviews, *including familiarization with the ethical issues surrounding oral history and the obligations to seek the informed consent of the interviewee?*

c. become knowledgeable *with* of the literature, *recording equipment* techniques and processes of oral history so that the best possible instruction can be presented to the student?

Has the student:

a. become thoroughly familiar with the *equipment*, techniques...

b. explained to the interviewee the purpose of the interview and how it will be used, *and obtained the interviewee's informed consent to participate?*

If you will be at the October OHA meeting in Buffalo, please try to attend the scheduled Friday forum or post your written suggestions for committee consideration by Thursday evening, Oct. 15. If you wish to propose alternatives for consideration at the business meeting, these must be posted by Saturday morning. For those unable to attend the conference, send your comments in advance via e-mail (sbgluck@csulb.edu) or fax (c/o Department of History, 562-985-5431) by Tuesday, Oct. 8.

Oral History Educators Form New Group

By Barry A. Lanman
Association of Oral History Educators

In the spring of 1998, the Association of Oral History Educators (AOHE) was established as a non-profit professional organization dedicated to the effective implementation of oral history as an educational methodology. The motivation for AOHE grew from the interest in and the expanding use of oral history as an instructional strategy in settings from the grade school classroom to the graduate school seminar.

To support the successful implementation of classroom oral history, AOHE's long-term goals will promote professional standards for student research, assist the production and sharing of curricular materials and support the acquisition of quality student oral history interviews. AOHE is committed to providing regional assistance, newsletters and computer links to help over-committed educators improve and expand their use of oral history as an interactive teaching strategy.

AOHE plans to create a regional network of advisors and is organizing its first national conference.

For more information, contact Barry Lanman, P.O. Box 24, Ellicott City, MD 21043. Phone: 410-747-1257. E-mail: AOHELANMAN@aol.com.

Endowment Thanks

The OHA Endowment Fund thanks Albert S. Broussard for his recent contribution.

While the Endowment Fund's major campaign has ended, the OHA hopes members continue to keep in mind that tax-deductible contributions to the non-profit organization continue to help the OHA reach its goals of expanding programs and services to members.

International Oral Historians Share Perspectives in Rio

By Teresa Barnett
UCLA Oral History Program

The International Oral History Association (IOHA) held its biennial meeting from June 14-18 in Rio de Janeiro. This conference marked a dramatic departure for the organization since, although this was its tenth meeting, it was the first meeting to be held in the southern hemisphere and in a city that was in neither Europe nor the United States. That single fact lent the gathering an air of excitement that, in my experience, rarely permeates an academic conference.

As participants, we were keenly aware not only of the vibrancy of Rio itself but of the fact that we were participating in a truly international discussion of oral history and were being exposed to a range of issues that had been much less visible in previous conferences.

This sense of a genuinely international gathering was fostered by the conference organizers, who had taken care to ensure that the general sessions--of which there were half a dozen--were all available in simultaneous translation. Thus, by putting on earphones, conference attendees could listen to a fluent translation of each speaker either in one of IOHA's official languages (English and Spanish) or in the Portuguese of the host country. The result was that participants from widely disparate areas of the world could actually debate and respond to each other, and we could all hear of projects undertaken in countries whose circumstances were drastically different from our own and in which the impediments, both political and practical, were often much greater.

An example that stays in my mind, for instance, were the words of a woman from Uruguay who spoke of the still lingering effects of that country's years of dictatorship and of the material and ideological constraints that persist. In a particularly vivid image, she talked of being able to call up tantalizing

lists of book titles on her computer screen but of being unable to obtain the actual books--technology's utopian promise of effacing borders serving in her case only to reinforce a sense of lack and isolation.

The promise of an international conference, on the other hand, for that Uruguayan woman no less than for the rest of us, is that it takes us beyond the confines of our usual disciplines and ultimately limiting national contexts and allows us to gain some sense of complicated identities and histories that are not our own.

In one of the most memorable of the general sessions, for example, members of a panel from Germany spoke not only about issues related to Holocaust survivors but about the much less generally known issue of commemorating the survivors of Soviet camps in Germany. They spoke of the political valence of the status of "victim," of the contested status of public memory and of the way public memories can either validate or suppress personal ones.

None of this was completely recognizable to me--citizen of a country that has suffered neither death camps nor a foreign occupation--and yet, in a nation that has only recently acknowledged Japanese Americans' right to reparations, in which recognition of Vietnam veterans' suffering has obliterated recognition of the suffering of the Vietnamese people themselves, none of this was exactly unfamiliar either.

What an international conference allows us to see are the ways our own issues are conditioned by a specific national context and a specific past, while at the same time making us aware of the echoes and continuities that transcend national boundaries. Thus as conference participants we heard about such familiar gender issues as women's political organizing or domestic violence, but in contexts that were entirely different from our own. We heard

about French citizens' memories of the Algerian Revolution and how both antiwar activists and war veterans drew links between their own experiences and Americans' experience of the Vietnam War. And we heard about a variety of issues centering on minority and ethnic identity, immigration and exile, which testified to the ways that a merely national identity is no longer an adequate category (was it ever?) for our life experiences and interconnections.

In sum, the conference had a great deal to teach us about oral history, but in ways that transcended a narrowly academic discourse and instead forced us to examine our own identities and roles in an increasingly less Eurocentric world.

*Editor's Note: Teresa Barnett is principal editor at the UCLA Oral History Program. She has been book review editor of the **Oral History Review** for about five years.*

The next meeting of the International Oral History Association is scheduled for Istanbul in 2000.

Canadian History Group Calls for '99 Papers

The 78th annual meeting of the Canadian Historical Association will be held June 5-7, 1999, at Sherbrooke, Quebec. Proposals are invited for individual papers and complete sessions relating to the four conference themes: historical consciousness and historical practice today; the material world; the state and political culture; and communications and society.

The deadline is Sept. 15 for proposals. Send submissions, with a one-page vita for each participant, to: Peter Gossage, Co-Chair, CHA Program Committee, Departement d'histoire et de sciences politiques, Universite de Sherbrooke, Sherbrooke (QC), Canada J1K 2R1.

Call for Papers

"Giving Voice: Oral Historians and the Shaping of Narrative"

Oral History Association Annual Meeting
Anchorage, Alaska
Oct. 7-10, 1999

The Oral History Association invites proposals for papers and presentations for its 1999 annual meeting to be held Oct. 7-10 in Anchorage, Alaska. The theme of the meeting is "Giving Voice: Oral Historians and the Shaping of Narrative."

In recent years, oral historians have recorded many voices that had rarely been heard outside their home communities. But oral history is not simply a process of collection. In their roles as interviewers, editors and producers, oral historians mediate between narrators and their audiences. In what ways do oral historians shape the voices as they give them public expression?

We welcome papers and presentations that explore the relationships of interviewers and narrators as well as papers that discuss the implications of editing decisions in subsequent writing and production. Discussion of film, video and electronic uses of oral history are especially welcomed. We encourage discussion of the collaborative nature of oral history research and discussions of how the relationships between participants (and their prospective audiences) shape what is produced. Proposals on all aspects of the practice and interpretation of oral history are also welcomed.

"Giving Voice" suggests many things: breaking silence, being heard, speaking truth; facilitating or directing speech; issues of representation and appropriation; translating and mediating meaning; collaboration and shared authority; authorship and reflexivity; opportunities and constraints of various forms of publication/production.

As the Oral History Association convenes in Alaska, we hope the program will reflect local work as well as other ways in which the conference theme can be approached. Possible topics include, but are in no way limited to: oral histories with indigenous peoples, anthropological research, cultural contact between diverse peoples, relationships in interviewing, interdisciplinary approaches, transnational (and especially Pacific Rim and Polar) issues.

The program committee invites proposals from oral history practitioners in a wide variety of disciplines and settings, including academic institutions, museums, historical societies, archives and libraries; community organizations; media professionals and independent

historians. We also encourage proposals from graduate students and from those involved in both precollegiate and postsecondary teaching. Sessions may address the many uses of oral history in media such as film, video, radio, exhibitions, drama and electronic media. Similarly, while sessions may be organized in the customary panel format, we encourage proposals for roundtables, workshops, poster sessions, media and performance-oriented presentations, off-site sessions and other formats that go beyond the boundaries of conventional conference presentations.

We welcome proposals from other professional organizations, including state and regional oral history associations affiliated with the Oral History Association, and proposals from oral history organizations and individuals from Pacific Rim and other nations.

Applicants must submit four copies of the following: for full session proposals, a one-page description of the issues and questions the session will address and abstracts of each presentation; the name of the convenor; suggested commentator(s) and a one-page vita, including institutional affiliation, mailing address, phone numbers and e-mail addresses for each presenter. Individual proposals should include a title, abstract of the presentation and short vita of the presenter. The program chairs request that you send applications by mail, not by fax.

For further information or to submit proposals, contact:
Susan Armitage
Editor, Frontiers
Women's Studies Program
Washington State University
Pullman, WA 99164-4007
Phone: 509-335-8569
E-mail: (queries only, no proposals) armitage@wsu.edu

William Schneider
Curator of Oral History
Alaska and Polar Regions Department
Elmer Rasmuson Library
University of Alaska Fairbanks
P.O. Box 756808
Fairbanks, Alaska 99707-6808
Phone: 907-474-5355 E-mail: ffwss@aurora.alaska.edu

Proposal Deadline: Dec. 15, 1998

From Your President.....

(Continued from page 2)
development activities bear fruit.

However, the switch from OHA's cash basis accounting system to UCP's deferred payment system--terms that I confess were not part of my vocabulary eight months ago--created an unexpected one-time loss of several thousand dollars in 1997. Hence, the Long-Range Planning Committee's recommendation that OHA establish a Finance Committee to monitor carefully the association's fiscal affairs is most timely. Again at the direction of the Council, I have established such a committee, to be chaired by the president.

Implicit in much of this action is the likelihood of an increase in membership dues, which were last increased in 1992. UCP has recommended modest increases phased in over several years in order to meet the financial goals outlined in its proposal to OHA, and it pressed for a dues increase for 1999.

The Council agreed to an increase in library rates for 1999, but

preferred to consider a general dues increase in the context of recommendations to be made by the Task Force on Membership, Dues and Benefits.

In addition, OHA's bylaws require that dues increases "be subject to a concurring vote by the members," something that would have been difficult to secure within the timeframe required by the Press. I am mindful of this bylaw's roots in the association's concern for participation of the members in decisions affecting them.

Yet I am also concerned that this bylaw does not allow the Council the flexibility to act in a timely way and deal responsibly with financial difficulties. The Council, which constitutionally has the power to change OHA bylaws, will be considering the advisability of this bylaw. **I especially welcome hearing from members on this or any other matter.**

To conclude: I believe two issues will continue to dominate OHA

affairs in coming months--membership and money, and presumably the desire to acquire more of each.

Underneath these very practical considerations, however, lie important questions about OHA's identity, mission and audience: What is our purpose? How can we best fulfill this purpose? Who are our constituencies? And how can we fulfill our purpose and reach our intended constituencies in a fiscally sound manner? These are the questions that deserve our collective attention.

Thank you for the opportunity to serve you this past year. It has been a challenge and a privilege.

Linda Shopes
Pennsylvania Historical and
Museum Commission
Box 1026
Harrisburg, PA 17108
Phone: 717-772-3257
Fax: 717-787-4822

E-mail:
LSHOPES@LLPPTN.PALL.ORG

OHA Pamphlet Order Form

Add to your professional reference library the Oral History Association's pamphlets. OHA members get a 10 percent discount for orders of 10 or more copies. Clip and mail this coupon, with your check made out to OHA, to:
Oral History Assn., Baylor University, Box 97234,
Waco, TX 76798-7234. Questions? Call: 254-755-2764. E-mail: OHA_Support@Baylor.edu

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Country _____

Shipping and Handling: All prices include shipping via domestic mail. Inquire for costs on Federal Express delivery. International shipping by surface mail at no extra charge; add 30 percent to your order if you prefer international airmail delivery.

Pamphlet	Price	Quantity
Oral History and the Law , 2nd edition, edited by John A. Neuenschwander, 1993	\$8.00	_____
Oral History in the Secondary School Classroom , by Barry A. Lanman and George L. Mehaffy, 1988	\$8.00	_____
Using Oral History in Community History Projects , by Laurie Mercier and Madeline Buckendorf, 1992	\$8.00	_____
Oral History Evaluation Guidelines , 2nd edition, 1991	\$5.00	_____
Order total:		_____
Optional mailing charge:		_____
TOTAL ENCLOSED:		_____

OHA to Sponsor AHA Sessions

Past Oral History Association presidents Albert S. Broussard and Donald A. Ritchie have organized two OHA-sponsored sessions for the 1999 American Historical Association meeting in Washington, D.C.

Both sessions are scheduled for Jan. 9, 1999, and will be open to anyone who is interested, Ritchie said.

The morning session is entitled "50 years of Oral History at Columbia, 1948-1998: Reflections on the Past, present and Future of Oral History." OHA past president Ronald J. Grele of the Columbia Oral History Research Office will chair a panel that includes: Ronald Bayer and Gerald Oppenheimer of the Columbia School of Public Health, Ronald E. Doel of Oregon State University and Mary Marshall Clark of the Columbia Oral History Research Office.

In the afternoon, Donita Moorhus and Robert Grathwol of R&D Associates will present a workshop on oral history as a research tool.

Book Review Editor Needed For OHA Journal

The Oral History Association is seeking applicants for the position of book review editor of the **Oral History Review**. The **Review** is an academic journal published twice a year and has a circulation of about 1,500, including many libraries. Under the direction of the editor of the **Oral History Review**, the book review editor is responsible for ordering books to be reviewed, assigning all book reviews and book review essays, editing completed reviews and giving feedback and suggesting revisions to authors as necessary.

Applicants should be knowledgeable in oral history methodology and theory, should possess basic computer skills and should be conversant with standard conventions of English usage, grammar and punctuation. Some previous editing experience is helpful. The book review editor receives an annual honorarium as

well as travel expenses to the OHA annual meeting.

Interested applicants should send a resume to: Bruce Stave
University of Connecticut
Center for Oral History
Dodd Research Center
405 Babbidge Road, U-205
Storrs, CT 06269-1205
Stave@uconnvm.uconn.edu
And to: Teresa Barnett
Oral History Program
A253 Bunche Hall, UCLA
Los Angeles, CA 90095-1575
tbarnett@library.ucla.edu

Deadline for submitting a resume is Sept. 15.

Pennsylvania Invites Scholar Applications

The application deadline is Jan. 15, 1999, for the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission's 1999-2000 Scholars in Residence Program and a new Collaborative Residency Program. For information, contact: Division of History, Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission, Box 1026, Harrisburg, PA 17108. Phone: 717-787-3034.

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Address membership, change of address, subscription and delivery inquiries to: Oral History Association, P.O. Box 97234, Waco, TX 76798-7234

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