

Alice Springs Town Council's Oral History Workshop Project

The workshop Facilitators will be Megg Kelham a consultant and Matthew Stephen from the Northern Territory Archive Service.

Workshop Plan.

Day 1	Day 2
Session 1 08:30 – 10:00	Session 1 08:30 – 10:00
Introduction and housekeeping Oral History – What is it and Why is it important?	Recording Issues
Morning Tea	Morning Tea
Session 2 10:20 – 12:00	Session 2 10:20 – 12:00
What is Oral History cont'd – Ethics – OHAA guidelines	Trial Interviews – planning,
Lunch	Lunch
Session 3 13:00 – 14:30	Session 3 13:00 – 14:30
Methods and Standards	Trial Interviews – practical
Afternoon Tea	Afternoon Tea
Session 4 14:45 – 16:15	Session 4 14:45 – 16:15
Copyright, ownership & stakeholders	Trial Interviews – practical
	Close – Support and references.

Workshop Overview.

Please note that this is a guide only. All of the content will be covered in sequence but the specific timing of activities will be determined by the facilitators and the group itself.

Day 1 Session 1

- **What is oral history?**
 - Definitions of oral history
 - Oral history in the public domain
 - NT oral history, book covers, discuss
 - Megg to present her recent work for Tennant Creek and AS Old Timers
 - Variations in purposes and outcomes
 - private, one-off, project, institutional
 - the ARCHIVAL approach

Day 1 Session 2

- **What is oral history? Ethics—OHAA guidelines.**

Day 1 Session 3

- **Methods & standards (may commence in session 2 depending on time)**
Contrast [broadcast media approach] & [interview as in-depth research tool]

Researching interviews

Planning

general issues of key focus points
devising ground plan for interview structure
preparing typical questions

Interview technique

some key aspects:

active listening

objective, but engaged; rationalised agenda

control vs facilitation

minimal interviewer presence; whose record is it?

logical progression: chronology vs. topic

detailed follow-up; following plan

dynamic of interviewer/interviewee relationship

respondent picks up on communication mode/style

controlled pace: length of session, concentration factor

Sound grabs with commentary

Day 1 Session 4

- **Copyright, ownership & stakeholders**
Copyright: not information, only form of words, use of actual records
Ownership: rights of recorder, respondent, project funder, publisher etc.
Contracts; uses and abuses
Uses of material; cf. private research and public domain uses
Agreements with interviewees: legal release forms

Day 2 Session 1

- **Recording issues**
Bad recording is bad oral history
Main criterion is clarity, and minimal background noise
Microphone technique (same for ANY recording medium)
Equipment: AS Public recorder
Copying & preservation: use of computers
for transcription
for research use
for preservation

Day 2 Session 2

The group will divide into pairs to conduct a trial interview through the interview process and administration from planning to completion.

Day 2 Session 3

The group will divide into pairs to conduct a trial interview through the interview process and administration from planning to completion.

Feedback and analysis for planning continuing support, training and project development.

Day 3 Session 4

- **Where to from here?**
- **support & references**
 - Beth Robertson's Handbook
 - Assistance from NTAS OHU
 - The OHAA
 - National Library of Australia's web site (<http://www.nla.gov.au/oh/>)
 - Janis Wilton's *List* (show copy)
 - H-oralhist (<http://www.h-net.msu.edu/~oralhist/>)
 - OH-Indeps (<http://www.oral-history.com/mailman/listinfo/oh-indeps>)
- **Close**