



Serving those who are interested in methods and techniques of the oral history process as a means of preserving unique memory of people, places, events and ideas

Women’s March

The **Women’s March on Washington Archives Project** is collecting oral histories in order to document the movement and preserve men and women’s voices regarding the politics, rhetoric, and legislation born of this intensely controversial contemporary political climate. The Project began by a group of independent archivists in order to create a digital aggregate including recordings, photographs, finding aids from the physical repositories housing the material collections, and the potential of digitized physical materials eventually being available as well. Michigan State University (MSU) Archives will be collaborating on the Women’s March on Washington Archives Project:

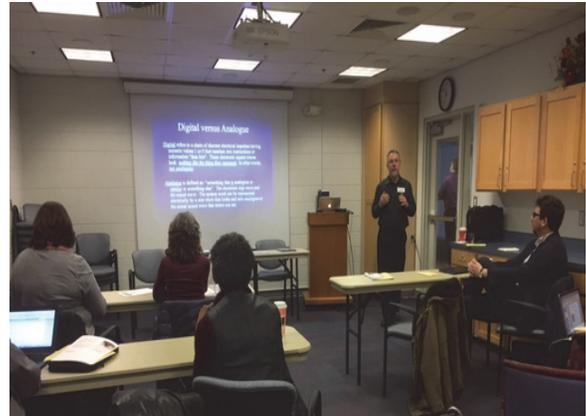
https://www.facebook.com/groups/1169366486444266/?multi_permaLinks=1191345704246344%2C1191230797591168%2C1190840797630168¬if_t=group_activity¬if_id=1484195719564969.

They will archive the records and oral histories from both the Michigan marches and the larger national march held January 21, 2017, along with the MSU Libraries Vincent Voice Library, Local History librarian at the Capital Area District Libraries, and Digital Humanities Center, MATRIX.

Contact information:
wmwarchivesproject@gmail.com

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Rick Peiffer presents “Equipment Recommendations and Resources for Recording Oral History” along with Michael Laney at MOHA’s Midwest Regional Forum. Handout material begins on P. 4.

Michigan Oral History Association’s “Oral History Regional Forum” was held November 9 in Portage, Michigan. Presentations included “Conducting an Oral History Project: The Basics;” “Sunrise at Sipayik: Stories of Indigenous People;” and “Oral History in the Classroom,” along with “The Latest in Oral History Technologies.” In addition, a lively participant discussion was held on experiences with verbatim vs edited transcripts and legal ownership of recordings, among other practical decisions.

NEXT ISSUE:
 * **Detroit 67**

* **Michigan Photos and Recordings from Women’s March on Washington**

About the Michigan Oral History Association

Mission

The mission of the Michigan Oral History Association (MOHA) is to provide effective cooperation and communication among persons, programs, and institutions concerned with the techniques, uses, and promotion of oral history in Michigan. Based on the foundation of the Michigan Oral History Council organized in 1979, the name of the non-profit corporation was changed to Michigan Oral History Association in 1994.

Who We Are

MOHA serves people interested in methods and techniques of the oral history process as a means of preserving unique memory of people, places, events and ideas. MOHA promotes and educates about oral history, as a resource for capturing on electronic media, attitudes and emotions not otherwise preserved. The pool of presenters includes experienced oral history practitioners, archivists, database managers, video producers, authors, professional transcribers, journalists and teachers. Presenters participate in history-related conference sessions, conduct workshops, and serve as facilitators for state and regional forums.

Request a Workshop! Workshops are tailored to meet the specific needs of the audience. Common topics presented: the importance of oral histories, how to organize a project, how to conduct oral histories, technology, forms to use, best practices, and archiving your oral histories. For help planning a workshop, contact Geneva Kebler Wiskemann at workshops@MichiganOHA.org or (517) 321-1746.

2017 OHA Annual Meeting October 4-8, 2017

The 2017 Oral History Association Annual Meeting will be held in Minneapolis, Minnesota. The annual meeting attracts a broad range of people and features the best work in the field. The meeting enables students and both emerging and established scholars to network and learn valuable skills.

The theme for 2017 is **Engaging Audiences: Oral History and the Public.**

How Can MOHA Help You?

Workshops, information, advice and resources are available to both beginning and experienced oral historians. Forums provide exchange with others who may have similar problems, obstacles, and opportunities. Established or in-progress oral history projects can benefit from MOHA's ability to promote and publicize initiatives and resources.

Become a Member!

As a member, you will receive:

- The MOHA Newsletter
- Mentoring and assistance with your oral history project
- Opportunities to participate in local and statewide conferences and workshops
- News of MOHA publications and other related resources
- Updates on oral history innovations and current projects in the state
- Opportunity to join a MOHA committee

Membership Dues:

Individual:	\$25
Institutional:	\$50
Patron:	\$50
Sponsor:	\$100
Student:	\$15

*Send to: MOHA,
5580 W. State Rd., Lansing MI 48906-9325.*

MichiganOHA.org

*To receive the **MOHA newsletter electronically**, send an email to newsletter@michiganoha.org with the word "newsletter" and a preferred email address.*

MOHA Annual Report in Spring 2017

“Gi-gikinomaage-min (We are all teachers): Preserving the Memories of Urban Native American West Michigan”

By Melanie Shell-Weiss, Ph.D., Department of Liberal Studies, Grand Valley State University

In the last half of the 20th century, a government program created one of the largest movements of American Indians in U.S. history. The scope and implications of the Urban Relocation Program still impacts lives today, yet few Michiganders even know this Program existed. Very little has been done to record the memories and experiences of those individuals who lived through the relocation period or those who worked to build new Native American organizations, support structures, and community in urban spaces. Collecting these stories is the focus of the “Gi-gikinomaage-min (We are all teachers)” initiative.

Launched through a six-month planning period in 2014, with support from the Michigan Humanities Council, the Gi-gikinomaage-min Initiative is overseen by an Advisory Council representing various partnering units within Grand Valley State University (GVSU), including the Division of Inclusion & Equity (Native American Advisory Board and Office of Multicultural Affairs), Kutsche Office of Local History (Brooks College of Interdisciplinary Studies), and GVSU Libraries.

This governance structure is important to the project for two reasons: First, it allows the effort to straddle both academics and student services within the university, providing a holistic approach to collecting, preserving, and ensuring these materials are accessible to the communities that generated them, including Native American students. Second, the Advisory Council structure ensures majority Native American control over these Native American resources. In this way, the Council hopes this endeavor can model ways that non-Tribal Serving Institutions, like GVSU, can model best practices for partnering with local Native communities and community members.

The project began collecting its first oral histories and related materials in Winter 2015.



Materials collected as part of the first year of research provided the basis for a traveling exhibition, “Walking Beyond Our Ancestors’ Footsteps: An Urban Native American Experience.” The exhibition highlighted how many questions remain unanswered about the urban Indian experience in West Michigan as well as the importance of uncovering and preserving this history.

Oral history interviewing is still in the early stages on this project. We will focus on collecting oral history interviews this year through 2019. Anyone who is interested in sharing their memories through an oral history, allowing project members to make digital copies of family photographs or related materials, is invited to contact Belinda Bardwell, Project Coordinator, at the GVSU Kutsche Office of Local History: linbardwell@gvsu.edu.

See Spring 2017 issue of the MOHA newsletter for GVSU’s “Growing Community in Oceana County” feature.

Please submit newsletter or website ideas, information, news, and features to: newsletter@michiganoha.org.

Recommendations and Resources for Recording Oral History

By Rick Peiffer, G. Robert Vincent Voice Library,
Michigan State University

Conducting oral history interviews not only requires some understanding of interview skills and techniques, but also requires the proper equipment for recording the audio. Good quality digital recording equipment is recommended that will record uncompressed audio files at higher bit rates. The Michigan State University G. Robert Vincent Voice Library standard for digital audio recording is a PCM-WAV file sampled at the 96kHz/24-bit rate. There are many portable digital recorders available that will perform at this level. With small budgets, it is still recommended to record interviews as WAV files, at the minimum CD-quality sampling rate of 44kHz/16-bit. Recording original files using other compressed formats such as mp3 is discouraged. These formats should only be used to make derivatives copied from the master way files when, for example, streaming Internet access is desired. The original way files should be treated as archived masters that are safely stored and backed-up whenever possible.

Other important recording equipment considerations include:

- **microphone selection:** Most recorders have built in on-board microphones that should pick up the subject well, provided that the interviews are conducted in a quiet space with little or no ambient noise. With the built-ins, the recording device should always be placed as close as possible to the primary subject. A better approach is to use two microphones, with one placed close to each participant, if the recorder can accommodate them. Lavalier microphones are ideal for this.
- **memory type for file storage:** Memory type is typically removable SD cards for most digital recorders, with a few exceptions. The important thing is to insure you have enough storage capacity on hand when conducting longer interviews. A pair of 16G cards should

provide plenty of capacity, and also provides a back-up card if one should fail. It's always wise to build in as much redundancy with your equipment set-up as you can afford.

- **power source:** It is recommended to operate the recorder using a local AC power source whenever possible. When battery operation becomes necessary, extra batteries are a must. Using multiple sets of good rechargeable batteries may help offset battery cost.

Always test the complete system while conducting mock interviews until you are comfortable and confident operating the system.

Don't forget to have all participants sign copyright release forms at the time of the interview so the audio files can be published as intended.

Suggested sources for portable (tape-less) digital audio recording:

1. B&H Photo a good source for competitive priced equipment:
<https://www.bhphotovideo.com/c/buy/Portable-Digital-Recorders/ci/14934/N/3992462091>.
2. If budget allows, this complete bundled product from Tascam is an excellent choice:
[https://www.bhphotovideo.com/c/product/849160-REG/Tascam DR40 One on One Interviewer Package.html](https://www.bhphotovideo.com/c/product/849160-REG/Tascam_DR40_One_on_One_Interviewer_Package.html).
3. Full Compass offers a large selection at discounted prices:
<http://www.fullcompass.com/category/Portable-Recorders.html>

Using a laptop – total investment: \$120.00
Buy two of either microphone above and use your laptop as the recorder when you connect it to this USB audio interface:
<http://www.fullcompass.com/product/392761.html>

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War Memories: Intergenerational and Intercultural Oral History Project

War Memories explores memories of World War II by Japanese-speaking people who lived in the Japanese Empire during the war. It is part of the ***Oral History in the Liberal Arts (OHLA)***, Great Lakes Colleges Association. (See *MOHA Fall 2016 issue for "Engaging the Wisdom" feature of OHLA*) Noriko Sugimori is Assistant Professor of Japanese Language at Kalamazoo College, where she teaches courses including Advanced Japanese and Japanese Language in Society. For this project, she interviewed other Japanese-speaking people in the Japanese Empire, including resident Koreans as well as Japanese war brides residing in Kalamazoo, Michigan. She interviewed more than one hundred people in total. Sugimori's students have been involved with the process of this project: They interviewed people with Sugimori, transcribed the interviews in Japanese, translated the transcripts into English, indexed the interviews in OHMS, and have written about the project.

Simplification of imperial honorifics—linguistic encodings of the emperor's status— in newspapers after Japan's defeat is considered one of the most important changes in the use of Japanese language in the twentieth century. Initially as a part of her sociolinguistics dissertation project, Noriko Sugimori began to interview Japanese people about their perceptions of drastic simplification of imperial honorifics. (<http://www.bu.edu/applied-linguistics/files/2010/07/Noriko-Sugimoris-abstract.pdf>) During these interviews, people who began to talk about their ideas about honorific use quickly digressed into telling their war memories. Being touched by their untold war memories, Sugimori continued to interview people after finishing her dissertation, and later interviewed Japanese and Koreans residing in Kalamazoo. Interview topics include life in Japan after war and experiences with food rationing, being taught to show restraint in one's emotions, being made to discard photos in Korea, imperial honorifics in Korea, being stripped of one's possessions.

Based on the understanding that students are history makers as well as history recorders, students who are involved in this project are also being interviewed and videotaped, with videos

transcribed in English and translated into Japanese. For the demonstration of the transcription and translation, the Oral History Metadata Synchronizer (OHMS) has been used. OHMS is an open source web application to enhance online access to oral history interviews to enhance online access to oral history interviews. Its technology for English/Japanese bilingual use is under construction. This will be among OHMS's first bilingual projects— and the first in Japanese. Interviews with the family members of Japanese and of Kalamazoo College students who worked on this project will be added.

<http://ohla.info/war-memories-intergenerational-intercultural-oral-history-project>

Student Reflections:

"I think that World War II story project is important because we are running out of time especially with these veterans and having seen or heard about the death of two such people ... makes it personal and more important."

Erika Worley worked on translation of Shigeo Kasuya's interview

"It is an honor to participate in this project by transcribing these interesting stories. I hope that my work ... will help others to see the history from the objective view."

Kaoru Ishida, a visiting international student from Japan, who transcribed Mr. Shin's video.

"As we interviewed Lee Ok Sun, one of the comfort women, we could learn her vivid memories from the point where she got abducted and how she escaped and lived to tell the story. There was something to her voice that made me sympathize deeply and I could feel my tears rise up in my eyes. It was an experience that reminded me of how terrible a war and its results can be."

MinSoo Kim

Hard-of-Hearing Heroes Project

The National Court Reporters Foundation (NCRF), the charitable arm of the National Court Reporters Association (NCRA), the country's leading organization representing stenographic court reporters and captioners, has unveiled the Hard-of-Hearing Heroes Project initiative as part of its Oral Histories Program. This project aims to capture the personal experiences of veterans with hearing loss for the Veterans History Project (VHP) through the use of Communications Access Realtime Translation (CART) captioning.

Since 2003, NCRF has collaborated with the Library of Congress (LOC) Veterans History Project (VHP) to both complete oral history interviews of the nation's war veterans and to transcribe pre-recorded interviews from the Library's collections. Court reporters are uniquely qualified to transcribe these interviews as certifications in their profession require keyboarding speed of at least 225 words per minute. The transcribed interviews are then archived by the LOC and made available for use by researchers and the general public. The new initiative is expected to reach a group of veterans who have been previously underserved but who can now share their stories for inclusion in the VHP.

According to the U.S. Veterans Administration, hearing loss is among the most common service-related injuries and is attributed in large part to the constant exposure to high noise levels in both training and combat operations. The statistics have continued to worsen as weaponry has become more advanced in more recent conflicts. According to the Hearing Health Foundation, 60 percent of veterans returning from Iraq and Afghanistan suffer some form of hearing loss.

"The written record of these veterans' interviews not only provides a searchable database that is used for research purposes by students, archivists, and Congress," notes Mike Nelson, CEO and Executive Director of NCRA and NCRF, "but the interviews help us get a sense of the struggles of war and the sacrifices our protectors have made to guard our freedoms."

NCRF will host a kickoff event during the 2017 Court Reporting and Captioning Week, February 11-18.

For more information about NCRF's Hard-of-Hearing Heroes initiative, contact April Weiner, Foundation Manager, at aweiner@ncra.org.

Access to the Veterans History Project online is loc.gov/vets. Jessica L. Jaynes, CSR 7597, RPR is President-Elect of the Michigan Association of Professional Court Reporters (MAPCR)

OHA ALERT: The Trump Administration is considering the elimination of National Endowment for the Humanities, along with other cultural agencies!

It is time to take action and make clear that you value federal funding for the humanities!

Click here to take action.

[https://na01.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Furldefense.proofpoint.com%2Fv%2Furl%3Fu%3Dhttp-3A_www.nhalliance.org_r-3Fu-3Dhttp-253A-252F-252Fp2a.co-252FqgIhfKy-26e-3D652391804fabaab396a8f51733d1fe8d-26utm-5Fsource-3Dnhalliance-26utm-5Fmedium-3Demail-26utm-5Fcampaign-3Dblueprint-5Falert-26n-3D2%26d%3DDQMcaQ%26c%3DAGbYxfJbXK67KfXyGqyv2Ejiz41FqQuZFk4A-1IxfAU%26r%3Dc0h1vXg-laCq1tyZdhr9F491NMxbCxLNYeQqbLuSDIE%26m%3D6yTCzLqVih9hnYO9SdIvGdXkMh5Ne4enXv34dkaj1S0%26s%3DBoRD4vTkEWhjChi17jykEeq9bMeBfIQKu3hNfgppOEw%26e%3D&data=01%7C01%7Cqknight%40gsu.edu%7Cc7fd1b49629d4baad79d08d443d8fde7%7C515ad73d8d5e4169895c9789dc742a70%7C0&sdata=f8iy5IeMcXotlVDrGwI9yCeAhAW2Rz5EKM79s%2FixUnk%3D&reserved=0\)](https://na01.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Furldefense.proofpoint.com%2Fv%2Furl%3Fu%3Dhttp-3A_www.nhalliance.org_r-3Fu-3Dhttp-253A-252F-252Fp2a.co-252FqgIhfKy-26e-3D652391804fabaab396a8f51733d1fe8d-26utm-5Fsource-3Dnhalliance-26utm-5Fmedium-3Demail-26utm-5Fcampaign-3Dblueprint-5Falert-26n-3D2%26d%3DDQMcaQ%26c%3DAGbYxfJbXK67KfXyGqyv2Ejiz41FqQuZFk4A-1IxfAU%26r%3Dc0h1vXg-laCq1tyZdhr9F491NMxbCxLNYeQqbLuSDIE%26m%3D6yTCzLqVih9hnYO9SdIvGdXkMh5Ne4enXv34dkaj1S0%26s%3DBoRD4vTkEWhjChi17jykEeq9bMeBfIQKu3hNfgppOEw%26e%3D&data=01%7C01%7Cqknight%40gsu.edu%7Cc7fd1b49629d4baad79d08d443d8fde7%7C515ad73d8d5e4169895c9789dc742a70%7C0&sdata=f8iy5IeMcXotlVDrGwI9yCeAhAW2Rz5EKM79s%2FixUnk%3D&reserved=0)

Together, we will communicate that public support for the humanities benefits students, teachers, and communities across the country!
The National Humanities Alliance and the Oral History Association

Michigan History Day, Historical Society of Michigan (HSM)

An educational program, this is an affiliate of National History Day that encourages students to explore local, state, national and world history. The 2016-17 annual theme is *"Taking a Stand in History."* The State Finals will be held April 29 in Bay City. Students conduct extensive research by using libraries, archives, museums, and **oral history interviews**.

The **Michigan Oral History Association** is pleased to sponsor the **James Campbell Award for Best Use of Oral History**. \$100 will be awarded to each in Youth, Junior and Senior groups.

According to HSM, the award *"meant a lot to the young people involved and added to the excitement of the competition... MOHA's support of Michigan History Day played a significant role in the growing success of this academic competition."*

NOTE: Use of established Best Practices is important, including signed releases.

"Michigan in Perspective," the 2017 Local History Conference of the Historical Society of Michigan -

includes numerous sessions with core oral histories. The Detroit 67 Project: Looking Back to Move Forward;" "The Battle of the Overpass: A Labor Movement Turning Point;" and "Paralyzing Summer: The True Story of the Ann Arbor V.A. Hospital Poisonings and Deaths" (review of new book published by U of M Press) are just a few of the topics that bring forth the voice of history. **A PDF version of the conference flier and online registration can be found at:**

www.hsmichigan.org/conferences/local-history-conference.

Recording Oral History *continued from P. 4*

**NOTE: MOHA presenters and resources are available:
MichiganOHA.org**

Marantz PMD-561 that should perform equally well for \$400 as the Marantz PMD-661 (\$700).

Microphones:

1. Two-each hand-held and stand: \$30 (or select two clip-on lavalier mics): two clip-on lavalier mics):

<http://www.fullcompass.com/product/391975.html>

<http://www.fullcompass.com/product/408128.html>

2. \$30 boundary microphone for wider pick-up with larger groups: <http://www.fullcompass.com/product/370698.html>

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A Message from the national Oral History Association

As we emerge from a divisive election cycle, the nation, our cities, our communities, even our neighborhoods, workplaces, and schools feel more divided than ever. The Oral History Association reaffirms our ***values of Democracy, Inclusivity, and Quality*** to bring together people interested in oral history as a way of collecting and interpreting memories to foster knowledge and dignity.

Our membership remains committed to documenting personal narratives of complex and diverse histories and advocating for a collaborative practice of oral history which values and honors people, communities, subjects, and events that otherwise might not be included in the historical record. An open exchange of stories and ideas can only occur when participants are free from fear. With this ***reaffirmation of our fundamental values of respect, empowerment, diversity, engagement, and inclusion, we reject the current rhetoric of hate, division, exclusion and discrimination.***

Oral history, the acts of questioning, listening, recording, and preserving diverse historical perspectives, remains a powerful model for bridging divides, advocacy, public engagement and greater historical understanding. The Oral History Association will strengthen our commitment to uphold our core principles and values and continue to welcome diverse individuals and communities into our Association and at its meetings and activities.

Sincerely, OHA Council

**Michigan Oral History Association
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