



Oral History Project: Celebrating 30 Years Of Health Sciences Library Visionaries

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Estelle Brodman



David Boiland



Suzanne Grefsheim



Diane McKenzie



Richard Nollan



Victoria Pifalo



Ruth Wender



Dorothy Whitcomb



Nancy Whitten Zinn

Who Is Interviewed?

Interviewees are chosen based on their contributions to North American health sciences librarianship and the Medical Library Association, including MLA Presidents; Board Members; Fellows; headquarters executive directors; directors of major health sciences libraries and Regional Medical Libraries; educators and award winners.

Who Does the Interview?

Interviewers have prior experience and training in conducting oral histories as well as a personal acquaintance with the subject and some knowledge of the library, the Association, and issues in librarianship.

What Does the Interviewer Do?

1. Prepares by reading articles, committee reports, official statements
2. Prepares an interview summary
3. Prepares questions for the interview
4. Makes arrangements for travel and accommodations for themselves and the interview
5. Conducts and records the interview – allowing at least 4 hours
6. Keeps name list for verification
7. Send tapes and paperwork to Project Director

Oral History Project Contributors and Volunteers

Joan Tittle Adams • Scott Adams • Marty Adamson • Jana Allcock • Rachael K. Anderson
 Gertrude L. Annan • E. Jean Antes • Catherine Arnott-Smith • Joan Ash • Robert B. Austin
 Jackie Bastille • Audrey K. Berteau • Bethesda 11 • David Bishop • Harold J. Bloomquist
 David W. Boiland • Alfred N. Brandon • Billie K. Broadus • Estelle Brodman • Naomi Broering
 Sarah Cole Brown • Holly S. Buchanan • Alison Bunting • Anne Carroll Bunting • Carol A. Burns
 Virginia R. Mattson Carden • Susan B. Case • Elizabeth W.J. Chase • Robert G. Cheshier
 Gilbert J. Clausman • Sue Corbitt • Helen Crawford • Susan Y. Crawford • Martin M. Cummings
 Louise Darling • Janet Doe • Wesley Bright Draper • Rosalind Dudden • Myrl Ebert • Shirley Echelman
 Leonard Eddy • Jonathon Erlen • Elena Eyzaguirre • Carol H. Fenichel • Elizabeth Figa • Janet Fisher
 Eileen Fitzsimmons • Thomas P. Fleming • Tom Flemming • M.A. (Babs) Flower • Colin William Fraser
 Emil Frey • Patricia Gallagher • Marilyn Gibbs-Barry • Phyllis Gillikin • Nelson J. Gilman • Ann Gilmer
 Vicki Glasgow • Shane Godbolt • Eleanor Y. Goodchild • Stephen Greenberg • Suzanne Grefsheim
 Frances K. Groen • Rachel Gyore • Barbara Halbrook • Bertha Hallam • Grace Hamlyn • Heidi Heilemann
 Cynthia Henderson • Bernice M. Hetzner • T. Mark Hodges • Mary Ann Hoffman • Sue Hollander
 Ruth Holst • Virginia Holtz • Sara Anne Hook • Diane J. Hudson • Betsy Humphreys • Susan Jacobson
 Mary J. Jarvis • Belva Jennings • Millard Johnson • Dee Jones • Dixie Jones • M. Irene Jones
 David Keddle • Ann E. Kerker • Jack Key • Thomas E. Keys • Frederick G. Kilgour • Barbara Koehler
 James J. Kopp • Nancy Bruce Kozlowski • David A. Kronick • Betty Kulifay • Natalie Kupferberg
 Gertrude H. Lamb • Jane A. Lambremont • Mary Langman • Mildred C. Langner • Joseph Leiter
 Robert Lentz • Jana Lieberman • John S. LoSasso • Erica Love • Richard Lyders • Marlyse MacDonald
 Mary Louise Marshall • Susan B. Marshall • Jess A. Martin • Karen Martinez • Nina W. Matheson
 Priscilla M. Mayden • Jill Mayer • Lucretia McClure • Ann McGregor • Diane McKenzie
 Michelynn McKnight • Pamela Meredith • Erich Meyerhoff • Lois Miller • Ruth C.T. Morrie • Carolyn Morris
 David Morse • Leslie T. Morton • Kathleen Murray • Audrey Powderly Newcomer • Richard Nollan
 Gerald J. Oppenheimer • Judith A. Overmeier • Kimberly S. Pierceall • Victoria Pifalo • Vernon M. Pings
 Julia C. Player • Ursula H. Poland • Suzanne Porter • William D. Postell Sr. • Margueriete Prime
 Mary Fran Prottzman • Ann Reilly • Barbara Reilly • Beatrice Robinow • Judith G. Robinson
 Frank Bradley Rogers • Fred W. Roper • Elisabeth D. Runge • Mary L. Ryan • Susan Sanders
 Charles W. Sargent • Janet Schnall • Winifred Sewell • Rita Shaffer • Alice Sheridan • Ada M. Smith
 Bernie Todd Smith • Susan Speer • Michael Doss Sprinkle • Stephen Squires • Joan M. Stoddart
 Eva Stowers • Loretta Stucki • Brigit S. Sullivan • Seymour I. Taine • Patricia L. Thibodeau
 Michael Torrent • Wilma Troxel • Barbara A. Van Brimmer • Edwina Walls • Donald Washburn
 Ronald M. Watterson • Jeff W. Wehmeyer • Glenda Weise • Ruth Wender • Dorothy Whitcomb
 M. Sandra Wood • Jo Anne Bell Wooten • A.J. Wright • Kathryn (Kitty) Wrigley • Helen T. Yast
 Joan Zenan • Nancy Whitten Zinn

What Does the Project Director Do?

1. Selects the interviewee and interviewer
2. Requests photo and consent forms
3. Receives the tapes and other paperwork
4. Arranges for transcription
5. Selects an Editor
6. Compiles the manuscript, title page, photo, summary, table of contents, CV and index
7. Copies, binds and distributes completed histories to interviewee, MLA, and Regional Medical Libraries
8. Sends tapes, original transcripts, letters and other pertinent materials to NLM for archiving
9. Arranges for announcement to MLA membership in MLA-FOCUS

What Do the Editors Do?

1. Spend time consulting with the interviewee and interviewer
2. Listen to the tapes with transcript
3. Verify details such as dates, names, places, institutions and organizations.
4. Carefully read the transcript, identifying the speakers
5. Balance use of phrases, if repetitive, careful not to censor
6. Create a Table of Contents and Index for the interview
7. Put into final prescribed format

The Oral History Project reflects the work of over 150 volunteer members of the Medical Library Association. Begun in 1977, the Oral History Project has produced 62 oral histories that have been taped, transcribed, edited, summarized and distributed for use in historical research. The project allows readers to learn the history of the Association and of the profession through the words of those who shaped it. The Medical Library Association's Oral History Project is an inspiration to younger members of the Association who will lead health sciences librarianship into the 21st century.