

## REFERENCES ON ORAL HISTORY

Rebecca Allen  
KEA Environmental, Inc.  
455 University Avenue, Suite 370  
Sacramento, CA 95825

Oral history is one of the tools available to help supplement the archaeological record. It adds to evidence available from the documentary and ethnographic record, and contributes a personal, although sometimes idiosyncratic, facet to our understanding of past events. Oral history has obvious applications to the study of historic and ethnographic sites, but can also have potential in the study of prehistoric sites. As archaeologists make use of this important tool, three points become apparent:

(1) Archaeologists often are not trained in oral history. We have a lot to learn from ethnographers and historians.

(2) Often what is not said during oral history interviews is as important as what is said.

(3) When investigating the archaeological record of rural areas, where archival information is sporadic at best, utilization of oral historical traditions can be critical to fully understand and interpret sites. This is especially true with Native American sites.

With this in mind, the following references are offered as a guide to how to conduct effective oral interviews. Not all references are equally useful, but are included as some are more widely available than others. All are listed in the University of California *Melvyll* library computer system. In general, publications by the American Association of State and Local History are of high quality.

Allen, Barbara and Lynwood Montell  
1982 *From Memory to History: Using Oral Sources in Local Historical Research*. American Association of State and Local History, Nashville.

Baum, Willa K.  
1977 *Transcribing and Editing Oral History*. American Association of State and Local History, Nashville.

1987 *Oral History for the Local Historical Society*. American Association of State and Local History, Nashville.

Baum, Willa K. and David K. Dunaway  
1984 *Oral History: An Interdisciplinary Anthology*. American Association of State and Local History, Nashville.

Curtiss, Richard D.  
1973 *A Guide for Oral History Programs*. Public History Program, CSU Fullerton.

Davis, Cullom, Kathryn Back, and Kay MacLean  
1977 *Oral History: from Tape to Type*. American Library Association, Chicago.

Grele, Ronald  
1973 *Envelopes of Sound: Six Practitioners Discuss the Method, Theory, and Practice of Oral History and Oral Testimony*. Organization of American Historians, Chicago.

Havlice, Patricia Pate  
1985 *Oral History: A Reference Guide and Annotated Bibliography*. McFarland Press, Jefferson, NC.

Henige, David P.  
1982 *Oral Historiography*. Longman Press, London, New York.

Hoopes, James  
1979 *Oral History: An Introduction for Students*. University of North Carolina Press, Chapel Hill.

- Huber, Jack and Dean Diggins  
1991 *Interviewing Americas Top Interviewers: Nineteen Top Interviewers Tell All About What They Do*. Carol Publishing Group, New York.
- Ives, Edward D.  
1980 *The Tape-Recorded Interview: A Manual for Field Workers in Folklore and Oral History*. University of Tennessee Press, Knoxville.
- Kyvig, David E. and Myron A. Mary  
1984 *Nearby History: Exploring the Past Around You*. American Association of State and Local History, Nashville.
- Lummis, Trevor  
1988 *Listening to History: The Authenticity of Oral Evidence*. Barnes & Noble Books, Totowa, NJ.
- Moss, William W.  
1974 *Oral History Program Manual*. Privately published.  
1974 *Oral History: Basic Techniques*. Manitoba Museum of Man and Nature, Manitoba.
- Ritchie, Donald A.  
1995 *Doing Oral History*. Twayne Publishers, New York.
- Shumway, Gary L.  
1973 *An Oral History Primer*. Salt Lake City.
- Stielow, Frederick J.  
1986 *The Management of Oral History Sound Archives*. Greenwood Press, New York.  
1992 *Subjectivity and Multiculturalism in Oral History*. Greenwood Press, New York.
- Thompson, Paul Richard  
1988 *The Voice of the Past: Oral History*. Oxford University Press, Oxford and New York.
- Yow, Valerie Raleigh  
1994 *Recording Oral History: A Practical Guide for Social Scientists*. Sage Press, Thousand Oaks, CA.