

## Reading list and website list

*Note in 2018: This reading list and website list were originally compiled in 2002. The website links have been updated. The reading list has been left untouched.*

### Reading list

Paul McLaughlin, *A Family Remembers*. Written in 1994, so out-of-date on technical matters, but a good sound practical guide to recording an audio or video memoir with someone in your family. Listed on [www.amazon.co.uk](http://www.amazon.co.uk) as taking 4-6 weeks to deliver.

Rob Perks, *Oral History; Talking About the Past* (Historical Association/Oral History society, rev. edn, 1995) A short practical guide for beginners

Rob Perks and Alistair Thomson (eds), *The Oral History Reader* (Routledge, 1997) Some of the best thinking on all aspects of oral history, for beginners and advanced alike.

Paul Thompson, *The Voice of the Past: Oral History* (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 3<sup>rd</sup> edn, 2000). The main guide by one of the founders of oral history techniques and the use of oral testimony, combining an historical overview with practical advice and an extensive bibliography.

Ken Howarth, *Oral History: A Handbook* (Sutton Publishing 1998) A helpful, down-to-earth guide for beginners

Valerie Raleigh Yow, *Recording Oral History: A Practical Guide for Social Scientists* (Sage, 1994) A thoughtful and up-to-date guide for those new to oral history.

George Ewart Evans, *The Crooked Scythe: An Anthology of Oral History* (Faber & Faber, 1993). A lively collection of writings from a pioneer of British oral history.

Faith Gibson, *Using Reminiscence: A Training Pack* (Help the Aged, 1989) the best tape/slide and video programme for those working with older people in a caring context. From Winslow Press, Telford Road, Bicester, Oxon OX5 0TS.

Lyn Macdonald, *The Roses of No Man's Land* (Michael Joseph, 1980). Moving oral history accounts from nurses of the First World War.

Tony Parker, *The People of Providence: A Housing Estate and some of its inhabitants* (Hutchinson, 1983) A superb, readable example of an oral history of one place.

Allan Redfern, *Talking in Class: Oral History and the National Curriculum* (Oral History Society, 1995). A vital manual for teachers. From the Oral History Society,

Elizabeth Roberts, *A Woman's Place: An Oral History of Working Class Women 1890-1940* (Blackwell, 1984) A ground-breaking book charting women's lives through oral history.

Studs Terkel, *Working* (Penguin, 1985) A classic from America's greatest living oral historian.

Davis Arscott *Eavesdrop* (Pomegranate Press, 1996; mail order only from Pomegranate Press, Church Cottage, Westmeston, Sussex BN6 8RH) 'A cheap and user-friendly oral history package for the absolute beginner', comprising an information booklet and cassette tape which sets out the basics of oral history.

Oral History Society, *Copyright, Ethics and Oral History* (Oral History Society, 1995) For a full discussion of the legal and ethical aspects of interviewing with an example of a copyright assignment form.

Some examples of using oral histories:

Cynthia Brown, *Wharf Street Revisited: a history of the Wharf Street area of Leicester* (Leicester Living History Unit, 1995) 'Wharf Street was the "rough area" but for the people who lived in the area there are different stories to be told.' This is one of a series produced by the Living History Unit.

Stephen Bourne & Esther Bruce, *Aunt Esther's Story* (2<sup>nd</sup> edn, 1997; available from the Project at The Lilla Huset, 191 Talgarth Road, London W6 8BJ) The story of a black woman born in London before the First World War.

Living Archive, *Positive Tales: 9 lives in a book* (Living Archive Press, 1996) Life stories of people with living difficulties; a model of how to conduct an oral history project to give a voice to a hidden population.

Peckham People's History, *The Times of our Lives: Growing up in the Southwark Area, 1900-1945* (Peckham Publishing Project, 1983) An excellent example of using local people's memories to write the history of a community.

## Website list

### StoryCorps

<https://storycorps.org/>

A large US organisation which encourages people to share and record stories. They provide sample questions, an app for recording on a mobile device, and an online archive.

### Biography Assistant

<http://www.genealogy.com/bio/index.html>

All the questions you could ever want. Designed for people writing biographies or autobiographies, it's a huge list of questions helpfully divided up into various topics.

### H-Oralhist

<http://www.oralhistory.org/h-oralhist-listserv/>

The home page of the most widely-used mailing-list for professional oral historians.

### Oral History Society (UK)

<http://www.ohs.org.uk/>

A very useful site

### Foley Centre for the Study of Lives

<https://www.sesp.northwestern.edu/foley/instruments/interview/>

The Foley Centre is (or possibly was) an academic institution studying life stories. The link above leads to an 'Instruments' section which provides an outline for a life story interview, that focuses on dividing a person's life up into chapters and focussing on key events such as 'peak experiences.'

### Oral History Association (US)

<http://www.oralhistory.org/>

### British Library National Sound Archive Oral History Collection/ National Life Story Collection, London:

<https://sounds.bl.uk/>