Introduction

The Oregon State University Libraries Special Collections and Archives Research Center (SCARC) is home to one of the nation’s premier oral history programs. The Special Collections and Archives Research Center (SCARC) is home to one of the nation’s premier oral history programs. This oral history program is a component of the Horner Museum Oral History Collection, with particular emphasis placed on interviewing ethics, feminist approaches to interviewing, and the intersection of oral history with the history of the OSU Women’s Center. The class also delved into both the theory and the practice of oral history.

The Voices Initiative

Launched in 2017, the Voices Initiative is a long-term project of the SCARC Oral History Program. The initiative identifies, unveils, and promotes the voices of marginalized and underrepresented groups across the state. The project focuses on collecting interviews that highlight the voices of women, people of color, LGBTQ+ individuals, and other underrepresented communities.

The Analog Years

For many decades, oral history at Oregon State University was largely the province of the Horner Museum, which was located on campus from its founding in 1868 to 1986. The Horner Museum was endowed in 1969 and was named for the Horner family, whose generosity allowed the museum to be established on the OSU campus. The museum was located in a building that was originally the Horner family home.

Rebirth

With the creation of the Special Collections and Archives Research Center in 2011, the responsibility for oral history at Oregon State University was shifted to SCARC. SCARC is now the home of the university’s oral history program, and the Horner Museum Oral History Collection, with particular emphasis placed on interviewing ethics, feminist approaches to interviewing, and the intersection of oral history with the history of the OSU Women’s Center.

A Vibrant Program

In addition to the initiatives noted above, the SCARC Oral History Program has been active on many other fronts. A few of the programs major activities include:

- The Oregon African American Historical Project (OH 150): A project that documents multiple generations of women who have been associated with OSU. The project focuses on the history of the OSU Women’s Center and the history of the OSU Women’s Studies Program.
- The Women’s History Project (Women’s History Project): A project that documents the history of women in Oregon, including their contributions to the state’s economic, cultural, and political development.
- The Queer Oral History Project (Queer Oral History Project): A project that documents the history of LGBTQ+ individuals and communities in Oregon.
- The Oregon State Queer Archives Oral History Collection (OSU Queer Archives Oral History Collection): A project that documents the history of LGBTQ+ individuals and communities in Oregon.
- The Oregon State University Sesquicentennial Oral History Project (OSU Sesquicentennial Oral History Project): A project that documents the history of Oregon State University from its founding in 1868 to the present.

Project Data

The completed project contains interviews with almost all of the students interviewed. The interviews were conducted by SCARC staff and students at the OSU campus. The interviews were recorded on audio cassette tape and transcribed.

Affiliations

The completed project contains interviews with alumni from all over Oregon. The interviews were conducted by SCARC staff and students at the OSU campus. The interviews were recorded on audio cassette tape and transcribed.

http://scarc.library.oregonstate.edu/oh150

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