Creating a System for the Online Delivery of Oral History Content

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Online Northwest
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Talk Objectives

Overview of the OH 150 Project

Description of its Technical Workflow

Examination of its Project Portal, including discussion of METS/MODS, TEI and XSL

Discussion of Digital Preservation Activities in support of the project

Assessment of the Portal Workflow
OH 150: Project Overview


The largest oral history project ever conducted at OSU

Interviews with three OSU Presidents and other well-known OSU figures

Broad regional representation, especially through interviews with Extension and Experiment Station staff

Formal launch scheduled for November 2017
OH 150: Project Overview

~400 hours of content

270 total interviews (201 interview sets)

108 Alumni interview sets - nine decades represented

102 Faculty interview sets - each of OSU’s colleges represented

22 Staff interview sets

10 Current Student interview sets

3.2 Million words transcribed

1.7 TB born digital
OH 150 Project Details

Topical strengths including:

Athletics
International Studies
Military Service
Multicultural Communities
Public Service
The Advancement of Women
Technical Workflow

Interviews captured using both video and audio recorders

- Video the primary format (.mts raw files)
- Audio the backup format (.wav raw files)

These files represent the “stuff” of the archival collection that we are creating.
Technical Workflow

Interviews processed using Adobe Premiere

Raw .mts files stitched together in Premiere

.mp3 audio derivative created as a transcription/access file

 Stored on department file server for staff access

.mpg video derivative created as a low-resolution reference file

 Stored on library preservation server

.m2t video derivative created as high-quality presentation file

 Deleted following upload to public space
Technical Workflow

.m2t presentation derivatives uploaded to OSU MediaSpace (Kaltura instance)

Made immediately available as raw interview video; minimal metadata
Technical Workflow

Interview described in a dedicated archival finding aid

Oregon State University Sesquicentennial Oral History Collection, 2013-2017

The Oregon State University Sesquicentennial Oral History Collection documents the history, culture and ambition of Oregon State University through interviews with alumni, faculty, staff, university employees, current and former students and supporters. Most of the items held in the collection take the form of oral history interviews, their sole common thread being an association, past or present, with Oregon State University.

CONTAINER LIST
Series 1: Interviews, 2013
Series 2: Interviews, 2014
Series 3: Interviews, 2015
Series 4: Interviews, 2016
Series 5: Interviews, 2017

CONTAINER LIST
Series 1: Interviews, 2013
Raw video files for each of the interviews described in this series are available online through the Special Collections & Archives Research Center MediaSpace platform. Transcribed and contextualized versions of specific interviews are available through a dedicated project portal as noted below.

Exit 1:001: Laidlaw, Andy; May 22, 2013
Laidlaw discusses his upbringing and his undergraduate days at Oregon State College; Interview conducted in Corvallis, Oregon by Mike Laidlaw. Transcribed video available online: "Growing Up, the 80s: Fish Tail and the 1982 Rose Bowl." Extent: 1:55:36
Technical Workflow

Interview transcribed with the help of Express Scribe
Technical Workflow

Web Portal

METS and TEI records created to describe interview as a digital object

Completed records and associated images committed to Git repository

Web portal pages generated through command line function
The OH 150 Portal: Background

Primary Ambitions:

- Present full video with transcripts and contextual information in a visually appealing package
- Make content browseable, searchable and sortable

Secondary Ambitions:

- Provide PDF view/download option for transcripts
- Enable download of .mp3 audio for all interviews
The OH 150 Portal: Recycled Code!

Index Pages: SCARC Events (mid-2000s)

Events

"SCIENTISTS MAKING WAVES AND BRINGING HOPE," DR. JANE LUBCHENCO

Index Pages: SCARC Events (mid-2000s)

OH 150 (2014)

"OCT OF THE NUCLEAR GRIDDING SCIENTISTS AND THE STRUGGLE AGAINST THE BOMB," DR. ZOR MIRAN

OH 150 (2014)

"TAP INTO HISTORY: FOUR PERSPECTIVES ON BREWING IN OREGON"

"PIONEERS OF CHANGE: BLACK FOOTBALL PLAYERS AT OSU (1951-PRESENT)"

Index Pages: SCARC Events (mid-2000s)

KAYLE BURCHER ORAL HISTORY INTERVIEW

Life history interview conducted by Kayle Burcher.

May 5, 2014

Kaye Burcher (b.1942) is a member of the OSU Libraries faculty from 1964 to her retirement in 2010 as a University Librarian. She served as the President of the Oregon Library Association and was the President of the Oregon Library Association. She is a member of the American Library Association and the American Association of University Women. She has been active in the Oregon State University community and has served as a consultant in the field of librarianship. She has also served as a mentor to many librarians. She is a member of the Oregon Library Association and has served as the President of the Oregon Library Association. She is a member of the American Library Association and the American Association of University Women.

Index Pages: SCARC Events (mid-2000s)

JOHN BYRNE ORAL HISTORY INTERVIEW

Life history interview conducted by John Byrne.

January - February 2014

John Byrne (d.2012) has had a major influence on Oregon State University through his association that has spanned over five decades. He was a trusted advisor, a voice for the campus, and a strong advocate for the university. He was a friend and mentor to many, and his contributions to the university are immeasurable.

Index Pages: SCARC Events (mid-2000s)

DANNY CALLAHAN ORAL HISTORY INTERVIEW

Life history interview conducted by Kelly Callahan.

August 15, 2014

Callahon Callahan (b.1942) graduated from OSU in 1964 with a degree in Chemical Engineering and moved directly into a career at Chevron that spanned over forty years. Over the course of his career, Callahan worked as a research engineer, financial analyst, and executive, and now is the president of Chevron's Chemical Company. As the leader of the company, he is responsible for the company's strategic direction and financial performance. He has been involved in the development of new processes and technologies, and has been a key player in Chevron's efforts to increase its global footprint and diversify its product portfolio. He has also been actively involved in the university community, serving as a member of the OSU Foundation, the OSU College of Engineering, and the OSU Board of Trustees, and has been actively involved in the university's efforts to support research and innovation. He is a member of the Distinguished Alumni Society and has been an active participant in the university's events and activities.

Title
Ralph I. Gifford Photographs (P 218-AG 2)

Dates
c. 1910s - 1947 (inclusive)
1935-1947 (bulk)

Creator
Gifford, Ralph I.

Summary
The Ralph I. Gifford Photographs consist of images taken by Gifford throughout Oregon, primarily during the 1930s and 1940s. The photographs depict many Oregon landmarks and scenes, including the Oregon Coast, Crater Lake, Mount Hood, the Willamette Valley, and the Snake River Canyon. The collection includes numerous images of sport fishing as well as several photographs of Native Americans. Ralph Gifford was the son of Benjamin A. Gifford and took over his father's Portland photography business around 1920. In 1936, Ralph became the first photographer of the newly established Travel and Information Department of the Oregon State Highway Department, a position he held until his death in 1947.

Quantity
2.3 cubic feet, including 2089 photographs (17 boxes, including 2 oversize boxes, and 1 map folder)

Restrictions on Access
Collection is open for research.

Transcript

M. Buehler Oral History Interviews, “OSU’s First Rhodes Scholar”, August 4, 2014

Transcript

Janice Dlig: So, today is August 4th, 2014. I’m here with Dr. Knute Buehler at his campaign headquarters in Bend, Oregon. My name is Janice Dlig and this is part of the Oregon State University oral history project. Good afternoon.

Knute Buehler: Good afternoon.

JD: So, I think it seems always kind of fitting to begin a little at the beginning. If you would just talk briefly about where you’re from and you’re growing up, and perhaps what you were interested in and liked to do in your early years.

KB: Yeah, well I have deep, deep Oregon roots. I grew up in Roseburg. I graduated from Roseburg High, and then from there on to Oregon State, so I have that connection with the state, certainly. So, my decision to go to Oregon State certainly was easy based on that.

JD: And what was it about Oregon State University that attracted you? There are other universities within the borders.

KB: That’s right. Well, I think it was that unique combination of a great location in Corvallis—I had a brother who went there, so I felt comfortable at Oregon State, spent quite a bit of time with him, which was really nice of him to show me around when I— because I’m eight years younger than him, so showing your little brother around college is not always the most, the first choice of a big brother, but he was good about that. And then I played baseball at Oregon State, so you know the top-rated baseball program certainly was an attraction, and then high quality academics in the subjects I was interested in, and that was mainly microbiology at that time.

JD: So, you had already developed some fairly specific interests, or just you knew microbiology broadly and would figure it out from there?

KB: Yeah, exactly. So, I knew I liked science, was interested in science, exactly which direction I didn’t know, but I had an interest in microbiology from the very beginning, because of—then genetic engineering was just starting and that’s really captivated me when I was a high school student.

JD: So, talk briefly about when you arrived in Corvallis on the OSU campus, kind of what was the campus like at that point in time and what were your interactions with some of the professors and the courses that you took?

KB: Well, I remember the first week I got there, because the baseball team actually shows up a couple of weeks before school starts, which is actually quite nice because no one else is around and you kind of have a free run of the place, which was nice to sort things out as a freshman. It also introduced you to upperclassmen on the baseball team who became good advisors and mentors of things to do and things not to do; classes to take and those types of things. And then we quickly transition from the baseball into the dorms, which is always a great experience, so I was on the fourth floor of McNary Hall, which I don’t, not sure if McNary is still a dorm anymore, but—

JD: It’s actually part of the Honors College.
The OH 150 Portal: Recycled Code!

Correspondence
72 documents

Letter from Linn's Paunling to Arnold Sommerfeld. October 20, 1925.
Pauling writes to inform Sommerfeld of his forthcoming travels to Europe and to discuss the research topics that he plans to pursue.

Letter from Linn's Paunling to the Research Fellowship Board of the National Research Council. April 25, 1926.
Pauling writes to update Noyes on his travel experiences, research and scholarly interactions while in Europe on a Guggenheim fellowship.

Julie Benz Oral History Interview
Life history interview conducted by Chris Petersen.
June 14, 2013
Julie Benz (b. 1956) graduated from Oregon State University in 1980 with a Bachelor of Science degree in United States Army Major General. Benz, at the time of this interview, served as the Director, National Security Staff within the Executive Office of the President. While attending OSU, she was in a ROTC program. The Benz oral history interview covers her educational, social, and military experiences.

Knut Bußhier Oral History Interviews
Two oral history interviews conducted by Janice Dlbg.
August 2014 - August 2015
Knut Bußhier (b. 1964), a native of Roseburg, Oregon, attended Oregon State University from 1981-1982, played baseball and graduated with a B.S. in Microbiology. Following the completion of his studies at OSU, he joined the Rhodes Scholar, the first OSU alum in OSU history. He completed his M.D. A. in Politics and Economics and M.D. from Johns Hopkins University. Bußhier now practices as an orthopedic surgeon in Band, Oregon, and national politics. Over two interviews, Bußhier discusses his life at OSU, his experiences at Oxford and his interest in politics.

Carl and Kim Casale Oral History Interview
Life history interview conducted by Chris Petersen.
November 6, 2015
Carl Casale (b. 1961) and his wife Kim (Martin) Casale both graduated from OSU in 1983 with degrees in finance. The years that followed. Carl moved up the executive ranks at the McDonald's Corporation, ultimately becoming the company's Financial Officer. Kim enjoyed a career growth as well, eventually becoming an Area Director at Bristol-Myers Squibb. The couple accepted the position of Chief Executive Officer and President of CHS, Inc., the nation's largest agricultural cooperative. Though based in Minnesota, the Casales also own and operate a 100-acre blueberry farm that they manage, in part, through cutting-edge precision agriculture technologies. Their wide-ranging career experiences have shaped their professional and entrepreneurial trajectories. Carl's life as a chief executive, their blueberry farm and their community.

Susan Castillo Oral History Interview
Life history interview conducted by Janice Dlbg.
June 17, 2014
Susan Castillo (b. 1951) graduated from OSU in 1973, having returned to school at the urging of OSU President Spears Gray, for whom Castillo worked as a secretary. A Communications major, Castillo found work with KVAL-TV, Eugene, and her coverage of the Oregon legislature sparked her interest in running for elected to the state Senate, and in the process became the first Hispanic woman to occupy an office. In 2003-2012, she also served as Superintendent of Public Instruction in the Oregon Department of Education, the first Latino to lead a state agency, and worked to increase student achievement among states of color and low-income families, among many other initiatives. Her interview focuses on her role as a leader in public policy.
METS and MODS: Used at OSU for ~15 years

Metadata Encoding and Transmission Standard (METS): Used to encode descriptive, administrative and structural metadata for digital objects

- XML schema

Metadata Object Description Schema (MODS): Bibliographic description schema for digital objects

- Also an XML schema; analogous to a MARC record for digital objects

In our case, MODS description is nested within METS records
Text Encoding Initiative: A simple xml-based mark-up language used to encode texts

Used at OSU Libraries for many years to prepare texts for presentation on the web.

Also used by OSU Libraries to encode texts for print production.

Easy to learn and well-suited for student work.
Knute Buehler Oral History Interviews
Two life history interviews conducted by Janice Dilg.

Knute Buehler (b. 1964), a native of Roseburg, Oregon, attended Oregon State University from 1982 to 1986, where he played on the baseball team and graduated with a B.S. in Microbiology. Following the completion of his studies at OSU, Buehler was selected as a Rhodes Scholar, the first in OSU history. He completed his Oxford M.A. in Politics and Economics and went on to earn an M.D. from Johns Hopkins University. Buehler now practices as an orthopaedic surgeon in Bend, Oregon, and is active in both state-wide and national politics. Over two interviews, Buehler discusses on his life at OSU, his experiences at Oxford, his medical training and career, and his interest in politics.

Multiple locations including Buehler campaign quarters and The Center: Orthopedic and Neurosurgical Care and Research, Bend, Oregon.
"OSU’s First Rhodes Scholar" August 4, 2014 Location: Buehler campaign quarters, Bend, Oregon. Watch Video | Download Transcript (PDF)

From Baltimore to Oxford: August 5, 2014 Location: The Center, Orthopaedic and Musculoskeletal Care and Research, Buehler. Watch Video (Download Transcript PDF)

In his second interview, Buehler provides additional details on his experiences in medical school: a Rhodes Scholar at Oxford, and as a surgeon in the Oregon Health Care System. Buehler, in addition to his experiences in medical school, discusses the impact of the Rhodes Scholarship on his career path. He also describes the impact of his experiences in medical school on his career path. He also discusses the impact of his experiences in medical school on his career path. He also discusses the impact of his experiences in medical school on his career path.

The interview concludes with Buehler’s reflections on his experiences in medical school, which he believes have laid the foundation for his future career in medicine. He also discusses the impact of his experiences in medical school on his career path. He also discusses the impact of his experiences in medical school on his career path.

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Knute Buehler (b. 1954), a native of Roseburg, Oregon, attended Oregon State University from 1982 to 1986, where he played on the baseball team and graduated with a B.S. in Microbiology. Following the completion of his studies at OSU, Buehler was selected as a Rhodes Scholar, the first in OSU history. He completed his Oxford M.A. in Politics and Economics and went on to earn an M.D. from Johns Hopkins University. Buehler now practices as an orthopedic surgeon in Bend, Oregon, and is active in both statewide and national politics. Over two interviews, Buehler discusses his life at OSU, his experiences at Oxford, his medical training and career, and his interest in politics.

In interview 1, Buehler reflects upon his roots as an Oregonian and his undergraduate experience at Oregon State University. In particular, Buehler discusses his academic experience, including two influential professors, his participation on the OSU baseball team, his hangouts, and campus jobs that he held. From there he notes his time at Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine and his experiences as a Rhodes Scholar at Oxford University. The remainder of the session is devoted to Buehler’s career in medicine and in public service, his continuing connection with OSU, and advice that he would impart upon college students of today.

In his second interview, Buehler provides additional details on his experiences in medical school, as a Rhodes Scholar at Oxford, and as a legislator in the Oregon House. He begins by describing the value that an OSU degree has brought to his life, and then moves on to a description of his medical training at Johns Hopkins University. In this, Buehler touches upon the poverty and social problems that gripped Baltimore during his time there and the impact that they made upon him as a doctor-in-training. He also discusses his contributions to various community outreach efforts during his tenure at Johns Hopkins, as well as his participation on the medical school’s governing council.

The bulk of the session is devoted to Buehler’s stint as a Rhodes Scholar at Oxford University. He describes the application process required of potential Rhodes Scholars, including the multiple interviews that he incurred along the way. He also details the significant differences between Oxford’s approach to education as compared to his earlier experiences at OSU, and reflects on the far more formal social milieu at Oxford as well.

The interview concludes with Buehler’s thoughts on successes that he was a part of during his first session in the Oregon House, his optimism for the development of OSU-Cascades, and his appreciation of OSU as it looks forward to its sesquicentennial.
Knute Carl Buehler was born in 1964 in Roseburg, Oregon, graduating from Roseburg High School in 1982. That year he began his undergraduate tenure at Oregon State University, majoring in Microbiology and walking on to the baseball team as a pitcher. Buehler completed his B.S. in Microbiology in 1986. Buehler is the first Rhodes Scholar in OSU history. He attended Oxford University for two years, from 1988-1990, studying Politics and Economics, and completing his M.A. degree. Beginning in 1986, Buehler had also been working on his M.D. at the Johns Hopkins School of Medicine - he completed his doctorate in 1991. As a professional, Buehler has interned in the Department of Surgery at Oregon Health Sciences University and has also served as a resident in orthopedics at OHSU. He is presently an orthopedic surgeon at the Center for Orthopedic and Neurosurgical Care and Research, located in Bend, Oregon. Buehler has also been actively involved in both statewide and national politics. An advisor to the 1992 Perot presidential campaign, Buehler helped to organize a successful citizen initiative to reform campaign finance law in Oregon and is also a past party nominee for Oregon Secretary of State. In 2014 Buehler was elected to represent the Bend-area's District 54 in the Oregon House of Representatives.
Janice Dilg: So, today is August 4th, 2014. I'm here with Dr. Knute Buehler at his campaign headquarters in Bend, Oregon. My name is Janice Dilg and this is part of the Oregon State University oral history project. Good afternoon.

Knute Buehler: Good afternoon.

JID: So, I think it seems kind of fitting to begin a little at the beginning. If you would just talk briefly about where you're from and you're growing up, and perhaps what you were interested in and liked to do in your early years.

KB: Yeah, well I have deep, deep Oregon roots. I grew up in Roseburg, I graduated from Roseburg High, and then from there on to Oregon State, so I have that connection with the state, certainly. So, my decision to go to Oregon State certainly was easy based on that.

JID: And what was it about Oregon State University that attracted you? There are other universities within the borders.

KB: That's right. Well, I think it was that unique combination of a great location in Corvallis—I had a brother who went there, so I felt comfortable at Oregon State, spent quite a bit of time with him, which was really nice. I like to show around. When I was eight years younger than him, so showing my little brother around college is not always the most, the first choice of a big brother, but he was good about that. And then I played baseball at Oregon State, so you know the top rated baseball program certainly was an attraction, and then high quality academics in the subjects I was interested in, and that was mainly microbiology at that time.

JID: So, you had already developed some fairly specific interests, or just you knew microbiology broadly and would figure it out from there?

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JID: So, talk briefly about when you arrived in Corvallis on the OSU campus, kind of what was the campus like at that point in time and what were your interactions with some of the professors and the courses that you took?

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XSL Transformation/XSL Formatting Objects

Extensible Stylesheet Language (XSL): A family of languages used to transform and render XML documents

XSLT: In this case, a collection of rules that interprets METS and TEI records and, with the help of CSS, creates HTML as its output.

No HTML is ever encoded for any of our projects. All of our HTML is a product of XML, XSL, and CSS.
XSL Transformation/XSL Formatting Objects

XSL-FO: The flavor of XSL used by us to create PDFs.

All PDFs are generated as a result of the batch command line process that we run to generate HTML as well. E.g. -- it all happens at once and all as a result of a single command line process.

XSL is extremely powerful but it requires specialized expertise. This requirement is the biggest hindrance to wider adoption of the OH 150 platform across institutions.
Affiliation/Theme Tagging: Custom XML
Upon transcription, all interviews are presented on this website and may be browsed through an A-Z list or explored by interviewee affiliation or theme. In addition, interview transcripts are presented alongside each video in downloadable PDF format and audio .mp3 files of every session are freely available for download via this link.

- Nearly 400 hours of total interview time and over 3.2 million words of transcription. (In excess of 1.7 terabytes worth of raw digital audio captured as a result of the project.)
- More than 700 interviews with OSU alumni.
- Close to 100 more with OSU faculty, both current and emeritus.
- Another 20 interviews with OSU staff (current and retired) and 10 more with current OSU students (undergraduates and graduates).

In addition:

- OSU President Ed Ray gave four interviews for the project, as did President Emeritus John Byrnes. President Emeritus Paul Richardson gave three in the 1960s and 1970s.
- All of OSU’s college presidents are represented within the collection, including the Graduate School and the University Extension College.
- Oral History Project interviews are conducted throughout the project. Specific interviewers focusing on Sea Grant, Special Collections, and the Oral History Project are noted throughout the collection.
- The collection features interviews with more than a dozen OSU Endowed Professors, four members of the OSU Board of Trustees as members of the OSU Board.
- By the numbers, the collection’s most significant topics include the Advancement of Women, Athletics, Emergencies, Political Science, International Studies, Journalism, Military Service, Multiculturalism, Geography and Public Service.
- During Oregon, project staff traveled to Bend, Hood River, Klamath Falls, Newport, Pendleton and Sutherlin, as well as many communities in Willamette Valley, to collect interviews. Outside of the state, interviews were conducted in Denver, Colorado, Houston, Texas, Los Angeles, Arizona, San Francisco, and Washington, D.C.
Preservation

Not great!

So far, following a poor man’s LOCKSS (Lots of Copies Keep Stuff Safe) protocol

- .mp3 derivative on department file share
- .mpg derivative and raw files (.mts and .wav) on library preservation share

Problem: Department and preservation servers are two different RAID arrays physically located right next to each other...
Preservation

Access video provided by OSU MediaSpace

Problem: Likely a third server located in the same room as the above two

All raw files as well as Word transcript files uploaded to Box

Problem: My personal account, so issues there

Print everything out? ...considering it...

Hopefully getting better!

Library testing Archivematica as a preservation solution for all of its digital content
Assessing the OH 150 Platform

Pro

Achieved all of our design objectives

Did so using mostly recycled code

Scalable!

A platform with which we are very experienced and quite comfortable, so efficient locally

Also used for a second smaller oral history project that is currently online
Assessing the OH 150 Platform

**Con**

Would be at least somewhat difficult to implement elsewhere.

- METS template is fairly easy to master.
- TEI encoding is trivial.
- XSL components are much trickier, though OSU’s code could likely be tweaked by someone with rudimentary knowledge of XSL.
- Requires custom CSS & graphic design from project to project.
- Requires a media host.
The Future of Oral History at OSU

In the process of implementing the Oral History Metadata Synchronizer

Web-based metadata editor developed at the University of Kentucky

Enables indexing as an alternative to full transcription

OHMS metadata objects exported out of OHMS editor and displayed within a CMS (Omeka, in our case)

Far less flexible or customizable than OH 150, but much more extensible
Thank You!

<p><hi rend="bold">Chris Petersen:</hi> Any questions?</p>