Guidelines and Recommendations for Oral History Projects
PART III: CURATED RESOURCE LIST

General/Foundational Resources

Oral History Association (OHA)
The OHA website includes information about its annual meeting, a link to its journal *The Oral History Review*, and its own guide to OHA Principles and Best Practices in oral history.

Baylor University's Institute for Oral History "Introduction to Oral History"
The go-to online reference from one of the oldest and best oral history programs in the U.S.

Oral History in the Digital Age (OHDA)
While the OHDA website can appear daunting, its creators have created "playlists" to help ease oral history neophytes into the site.

OUPBlog: Oral History
The goal of the OUP (Oxford University Press) blog is to further promote the mission of the Oral History Review, advancing the understanding of oral history among scholars, educators, practitioners, and the general public.

Doing Oral History by Don Ritchie
Considered the premier guidebook to oral history - this basic manual offers detailed advice for setting up an oral history project, conducting interviews, making video recordings, preserving oral history collections in archives and libraries, and teaching and presenting oral history.

Society of American Archivist Oral History Roundtable (listserv)

H-OralHist (listserv)

Legal Issues and Copyright

Sample Legal Release Forms
It is important to obtain a signed legal release form for every single interview, especially if you plan to make the interview available to the public at any point in the future. This link points to example release forms you can use as models for creating your own form.

A Guide to Oral History and the Law by John A. Neuenschwander
The go-to source for those needing basic legal advice and support, including those starting an oral history project and those with extant collections with unclear provenance.

Copyright & Fair Use
Up-to-date information on copyright and fair use issues, from Stanford University Libraries.

Creative Commons
A website offering a different way to legally share the oral histories you create.

Tools and Equipment

Transom
A website and organization dedicated to public radio and audio stories. Good resources for oral history projects and particularly tips and advice on tools and equipment.

Audacity
This free software allows one to record or edit audio, including--with the proper set-up--digitized analog audio.

Express Scribe or InqScribe
Free or inexpensive transcription software options. Note: This is NOT automated transcription. For an example of automated transcription see Pop Up Archive. Another option is to outsource transcription work to a freelance individual or to a company like Audio Transcription Center.

Ask Doug
An interactive resource within the OHDA website. With answers to a couple of questions, "Doug" will offer recommendations for digital audio recording equipment.

OHMS (Oral History Metadata Synchronizer)
Created by the Louie B. Nunn Center for Oral History at the University of Kentucky Libraries OHMS is "a web-based system to inexpensively and efficiently enhance access to oral history online."

Digitization and Preservation

Recollection Wisconsin Contributor Guidelines
Basic steps in developing digitization projects, including selecting content, creating metadata and planning for long-term storage.

Guidelines on the Production and Preservation of Digital Audio Objects
An extremely helpful website from the International Association of Sound and Audiovisual Archives detailing the process of digitizing analog audio, including basic principles, metadata to record, archival storage and digital preservation, access, and more.

CAVPP Audiovisual Formats Identification Guide
This identification guide can help you with one of the scariest A/V issues around: figuring out what something actually is. Once you know what medium you're working with, you can make better preservation decisions.

Three more of our favorite identification guides (choose which works best for you!):
- http://www.obsoletemedia.org/
- http://avaa.bavc.org/artifactatlas/index.php/A/V_Artifact_Atlas
- https://github.com/ablwr/media-id-posters/blob/master/tapes_table_white_hires.png