

Oral Histories

What is an oral history?

- ▶ Oral history is a field of study and a method of gathering, preserving and interpreting the voices and memories of people, communities, and participants in past events.
- ▶ Oral History Association

Components of an Oral History

- ▶ Interviewer: asks the questions
- ▶ Interviewee: answers the questions
- ▶ Transcript: a written or printed version of material originally spoken
- ▶ Index: “chapters” for the interview
- ▶ Summary: overview, synopsis of the interview

OHMS

- ▶ OHMS is open source platform designed to enable people to index oral histories
- ▶ OHMS stands for “Oral History Metadata Synchronizer”
- ▶ OHMS facilitates digital segmentation, access, and searchability
- ▶ Examples on the next slide

OHMS

ORAL HISTORY
METADATA SYNCHRONIZER

Examples

- ▶ https://kentuckyoralhistory.org/oh/render.php?cachefile=2015oh434_jk010_ohm.xml#segment342 Leon Cooper- Naval Service and Jewish identity in the Navy
- ▶ https://kentuckyoralhistory.org/oh/render.php?cachefile=2016oh399_jk034_ohm.xml#segment671 Madeline Abrahamson-Education and Career
- ▶ https://kentuckyoralhistory.org/oh/render.php?cachefile=2017oh220_jk049_ohm.xml#segment526 David Wirtschafter- **Childhood Jewish traditions**

What's the big deal?

Work individually or in small groups to think of strengths and weaknesses of written history versus oral history

Class Discussion

Oral Histories

- ▶ Strength
- ▶ Weakness
- ▶ Strength
- ▶ Weakness

Written Histories

- ▶ Strength
- ▶ Weakness
- ▶ Strength
- ▶ Weakness