

SDH Oral History workshop questionnaire

27th June 2024

Answer these questions BEFORE the workshop

What did you know about oral history before this project?

A fair amount, from practising & using oral histories in the past (esp. before current NT role) and from engagement with Hannah's work over the last few years

What have you learnt about oral history during this project?

◇ How misunderstood / mistreated it can be (and how much potential it really can hold in the 21st c)

◇ How much it scares people - the paradox of worrying about doing it badly but also just doing it, without a precise plan in place.

How do you feel about oral history?

Positive. I think it is hugely valuable and with 'modern' developments for storing, sharing and using voices / individual experience to storytell, it could really be coming (back) into its own.

What questions do you have about oral history?

◇ How do we make it discoverable (w/in org but also as a 'national' collection dispersed across many organisations).

◇ How do we make high quality work easy and a part of everyday collections practice?

Answer these questions AFTER the workshop

What did you learn from this workshop? Were your questions answered?

Yes - I feel we are reaching a place where it's clearer who is 'owning' OH @ SDH, but also how that 'ownership' can be spread.

Hannah's indexing model was also looking very usable - interesting to think about tagging.

What did you NOT learn from this workshop?

How to tackle internal systems without needing to 'work around'. Not Hannah's issue to solve!

How do you feel about oral history after the workshop?

Positive, and especially nice to be at the hall (& therefore as a practical, non-project model for other NT places).

Please write any additional questions you have on oral history or any recommendations you have on how this workshop could be improved?

Turned out it needed to be a little larger.

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Answer these questions BEFORE the workshop

What did you know about oral history before this project?

An incredibly valuable resource but hard to know how best + safely store and keep, particularly thinking about GDPR compliance.

Particularly useful for those people who, historically, may not have been able to read + write so could tell their stories orally. Mass Observation Archive.

What have you learnt about oral history during this project?

It's an incredibly valuable resource and one that there is huge potential to develop within the trust to democratise histories and provide a broader context.

How do you feel about oral history?

Very important to be able to capture. Great opportunity for community involvement.

What questions do you have about oral history?

How can we safely, legally and easily record and store them.

How can we make them publicly available?

How do we start thinking about who can give us the story?

What are the legal frameworks we need to consider?

Answer these questions AFTER the workshop

What did you learn from this workshop? Were your questions answered?

A starting point for a process to move forward.
Still need clear steer for GDPR - what set
consent forms/permissions -

What did you NOT learn from this workshop?

GDPR - but more info coming.

How do you feel about oral history after the workshop?

Excited - it's a great way of expanding the "collection"
at SDH and also providing more context for
existing collection items/projects.

Please write any additional questions you have on oral history or any
recommendations you have on how this workshop could be improved?

See above. We need watertight GDPR consent
forms approved by the Trust's GDPR department.

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What did you know about oral history before this project?

I knew of oral history and its purpose but perhaps didn't assign any particular value to it. Not that I didn't feel it wasn't worthwhile, really it was a resource I hadn't really interacted with

What have you learnt about oral history during this project?

I have learned much more about its value as both a resource and a storytelling medium. To capture someone's personal history and their passion for something is brilliant.

How do you feel about oral history?

See above
but also feel it is a brilliant way of capturing an in-depth story

What questions do you have about oral history?

N/A

Answer these questions AFTER the workshop

What did you learn from this workshop? Were your questions answered?

Learned a lot more about the processes and procedures involved and it feels like we have clarified our vision and more certain on what we'll be doing.

What did you NOT learn from this workshop?

Wouldn't say there was one specific ~~place~~ piece missing - we just have a little more work to do

How do you feel about oral history after the workshop?

Great, really great to have this as part of the work we do and have a clear commitment to it.

Please write any additional questions you have on oral history or any recommendations you have on how this workshop could be improved?

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Answer these questions BEFORE the workshop

What did you know about oral history before this project?

Surface knowledge, with more in depth knowledge gained through supporting Hannah in her PhD (particularly re systems).

What have you learnt about oral history during this project?

See above...

More about the how, I was aware of the importance.

How do you feel about oral history?

Excited that we have made a grounded / more informed start + looking forward to embedding this as a way of working.

What questions do you have about oral history?

More about the embedding. Making it simple enough that we can continue to collect oral histories at SDH as part of our practice.

Answer these questions AFTER the workshop

What did you learn from this workshop? Were your questions answered?

Good, considered overview
+ practical outputs that we
can embed.

Yes I had questions re training
storage trays etc - all of which were
answered.

What did you NOT learn from this workshop?

It covered all that I wanted,
although we didn't quite
finish. These things can be
followed up on after the workshop.

How do you feel about oral history after the workshop?

Excited. Feel like we can
embed it in our practice.

Please write any additional questions you have on oral history or any
recommendations you have on how this workshop could be improved?