

Selection Policy for Oral History Narrators

The selection policy should be applied in the context of the Oral History Project Description. The selection policy is intended to support, but not replace, the judgment of the Oral History Advisory Committee when making decisions on the selection of potential narrators for inclusion in a specific project. The policy's aim is to create a consistent, structured approach to the selection of narrators.

The policy is intended to assure that only those narrators most relevant to the project are included, taking into account quality of documentation and fiscal and human resources available for long-term preservation and use.

The criteria listed below should be applied in the order listed, with those coming first being considered more significant than those presented later.

Content Analysis: Quality of information within the papers/series.

1. Accessibility and Use.

1. Will there be restrictions on the use of the interview that significantly impact its potential value as a resource?

2. Significance of Subject.

In general, how well does the narrator know or have experience with issues related to the project?

- a. Did the narrator play a direct role in significant events related to the project?
- b. Does the narrator have insights into interests, values, and experiences of individuals or organization important to the project?
- c. Does the narrator have connections to events, trends, and topics significant to the project?

3. Relation to Other Narrators

How does the narrator complement or add important information to that of other narrators.

- a. Does the narrator have insights into interests, values, and experiences that compliment those of other narrators?
- b. Does the narrator have insights into interests, values, and experiences not represented by other narrators?
- c. Does the narrator offer a viewpoint different from other narrators on significant aspects of the project?

- d. Do the narrator's experiences provide important information, insight, or perspectives not documented by other narratives currently held in the archives?

4. Quality of Documentation.

- a. How closely related is the narrator to the subjects covered in the project?
- b. Was the narrator a primary player in the events important to the project?
- c. How complete is the narrator's relationship to the events and subjects important to the project?
 - i. Does the narrator's experience with the events and/or subjects covered by the project relate to those events/subjects over a significant period of time?
 - ii. Was the narrator a leader in the issue/subject?

5. Cost Benefit Analysis.

- 1. Does the value of the narrator's perspective, especially compared with other narrators, warrant the time, cost, and preservation activities that will be required to maintain it?