Welcome to H-OralHist, H-Net’s network for those interested in oral history studies.

I. The H-OralHist Network: Scope, Content, Purpose

H-OralHist is a network of people interested in oral history. Oral history is commonly defined as a method of collecting and preserving recorded remembrances of past experiences. Although historians have been interviewing people since the ancient Chinese dynasties, the modern oral history movement is considered to have begun in 1948 when Allan Nevins established the Columbia University Oral History Research Office. The Oral History Association, with 1,200 members, promotes oral history internationally.

H-OralHist is built on the work of OHA-L which began in 1993 under Dr. Terry Birdwhistell at the University of Kentucky. It included subscribers from a variety of backgrounds, including public historians, students, local historians, and university faculty members.

Active editing on H-OralHist stimulates discussions which reflect the theory as well as the practice of oral history interviewing. The main objective of H-OralHist is to provide an interactive forum for individuals interested in using oral history as defined above or for those who wish to contest the above definition.

H-OralHist differs from other publications on oral history because of its interactive nature and its immediacy. Subscription is free and subscribers may sign up to receive notifications via email or RSS feeds.

The primary purpose of H-OralHist is to enable oral historians to discuss research interests, current projects, teaching methods and the state of field’s historiography. H-OralHist is especially interested in methods of teaching oral history to graduate and undergraduate students in diverse settings.

H-OralHist seeks to feature dialogues in the discipline, publish syllabi, outlines, handouts, bibliographies, tables of contents of journals, guides to term papers, listings of new sources, library catalogs and archives, and reports on new software, datasets and cd-roms. Subscribers write in with questions, comments and reports. H-OralHist posts announcements of conferences, fellowships and jobs. It carries information about new books and commissions book reviews. We will not become an electronic journal. Items posted on H-OralHist are in the public domain, and may be copied, forwarded, re-disseminated, and/or downloaded provided credit is given to the original author.

II. Editors.

H-OralHist is edited by field experts approved by the network board and certified by H-Net's Executive Council. The editors serve two-year renewable terms and rotate their duties. Editors are listed in the Network Staff List linked from the network’s front page. The editors will solicit postings through the Commons, will approve new subscriptions, will handle routine inquiries, and manage submissions. Anyone with suggestions about what H-OralHist can and might do is invited to send in ideas by writing to the editorial address. The editors will solicit and post newsletter-type information (calls for conferences, for example, or listings of sessions at conventions.) Like all H-Net networks, H-OralHist is moderated to edit out material that, in the editors’ opinion, is not germane to the network mission, involves technical matters (such as subscription management requests), is inflammatory, or violates evolving, yet common, standards of Internet etiquette. Please read section III below for details about ownership, style, formatting, and content of your messages. H-Net’s procedure for resolving disputes over editorial practices is Article II, Section 2.02 of our council policies, located at:

http://www.h-net.org/about/policies.php

For a list of current editors, visit: http://networks.h-net.org/node/16738/staffpage

III. Communicating Through the Network

A. Copyright notice. PLEASE READ CAREFULLY. H-Net considers all messages posted to its forums to be a form of publication. Unless otherwise arranged with H-Net, all contributions to H-OralHist are subject to H-Net’s Terms of Use and its policies concerning copyright and intellectual property, Art. III, Sec. 3.01-3.08 of the H-Net Council Policies. Use of this site constitutes acceptance of H-Net’s terms of use. Users of the site verify that they are authorized by copyright holders to submit content to H-Net for publication
B. Contributions: The tone and content of H-OralHist depends directly on subscribers. The editors want to encourage lively, informal, productive discussion and exchange of information. To that end, we ask that contributions be considerate of the needs of a busy audience of scholars, many of whom must pay for their access to the internet. A number of excellent guides to online behavior and style are available on the internet and we invite you consult them.

-- ALL CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE NETWORK MUST BE SIGNED. If your profile on the H-Net Commons is not filled out with a valid name and affiliation the editors will delay posting until authorship and email address are confirmed.

-- CONTENT: Editors retain the right to review material for its pertinence, tone, style, and relevance to the network's mission. Ad hominem, unattributed quotations or innuendo, private messages forwarded for posting without permission, or messages that violate the norms of civility and professional courtesy will be rejected. Persistent violators can be removed as subscribers to the network. H-Net permanently archives its content on the H-Net Commons. Do not submit material that you consider to be of a private nature or that you would not want available to future readers.

-- STYLE: the default editorial style for discussion postings is that of a letter to the editor. Your remarks can be crafted to suit the tone of an existing discussion thread, but in any case they should address the editor and not make direct personal references to others, except where you are replying directly to a simple query (e.g., "you can find this information in Webster's Third International Dictionary."). Avoid excessive quotation of messages you refer or reply to.

-- FORMAT: While you can submit your posts to the Commons using various fonts, styles and formatting these may be edited by the editor for uniformity and readability.

IV. Technical Information

When you subscribe to the Commons, H-Net will send you a confirmation message containing important information about managing your subscription. For online help with your subscription see http://networks.h-net.org/help-desk, especially the “Getting Started” section. These guides will help you modify your notifications, unsubscribe from the network, change the e-mail address associated with your profile, and use your “My H-Net” page effectively. If you still have questions after reading the guides please email help@mail.h-net.msu.edu.

V. The H-OralHist Network Site

The H-OralHist network site contains the following required information and services:
- The archives of the H-OralHist network discussions and other uploaded content
- The network's official documents: its about page, lists of board members and editors, contact information, and other founding and information documents.
- Hypertext links to resources in our subject: teaching materials, research archives, other networks.

VI. Advisory Board.

H-OralHist's daily activities are managed by the editors. Its long-term policies are developed by the advisory board. If you are interested in serving on the board, please contact the current editor. Board members referee incoming articles, reviews, and teaching materials; establish basic subscription restrictions and policy; advise the editors on disputes among editors and subscribers; monitor the network and make active contributions to discussion; and serve as the subscribers' voice in H-Net affairs. You are encouraged to contact any or all of the editorial board members with ideas and concerns about H-OralHist.

For a list of the current advisory board, visit: http://networks.h-net.org/node/16738/staffpage

VII. Our Parent Organization: H-Net

H-Net is an international consortium of scholars in the humanities and social sciences that creates and
coordinates electronic networks, using a variety of media, and with a common objective of advancing humanities and social science teaching and research. H-Net was created to provide a positive, supportive, egalitarian environment for the friendly exchange of ideas and scholarly resources.

The goals of H-NET networks are to enable scholars to easily communicate current research and teaching interests; to discuss new approaches, methods and tools of analysis; to share information on electronic databases; and to test new ideas and share comments on the literature in their fields.

H-Net's Council Policies and Bylaws, along with a list of its officers and committees, is available at: http://www.h-net.org/about/

Among H-Net's many services are:
- Book and software reviews: timely, exhaustive, authoritative, professional, fast. Mailed through our lists and stored in searchable, printable, retrievable format on our site at http://www.h-net.org/reviews.
- H-Net calendar: announcements of conferences, papers, and professional activities, archived and searchable at our web site. You can visit our site and sample these and other services, at: http://www.h-net.org/announce

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