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Creating a System for the Online Delivery of Oral History Content

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Creating a System for the Online Delivery of Oral History Content

Chris Petersen
Special Collections and Archives Research Center
Oregon State University Libraries

Online Northwest
March 31, 2017
Talk Objectives

Overview of the OH 150 Project

Description of its Technical Workflow

Examination of its Project Portal, including discussion of METS/MODS, TEI and XSL

Discussion of Digital Preservation Activities in support of the project

Assessment of the Portal Workflow
OH 150: Project Overview


The largest oral history project ever conducted at OSU

Interviews with three OSU Presidents and other well-known OSU figures

Broad regional representation, especially through interviews with Extension and Experiment Station staff

Formal launch scheduled for November 2017
OH 150: Project Overview

~400 hours of content

270 total interviews (201 interview sets)

108 Alumni interview sets - nine decades represented

102 Faculty interview sets - each of OSU’s colleges represented

22 Staff interview sets

10 Current Student interview sets

3.2 Million words transcribed

1.7 TB born digital
OH 150 Project Details

Topical strengths including:

Athletics
International Studies
Military Service
Multicultural Communities
Public Service
The Advancement of Women
Technical Workflow

Interviews captured using both video and audio recorders

Video the primary format (.mts raw files)

Audio the backup format (.wav raw files)
Technical Workflow

Interviews processed using Adobe Premiere

Raw .mts files stitched together in Premiere

.mp3 audio derivative created as a transcription/access file

Stored on department file server for staff access

.mpg video derivative created as a low-resolution reference file

Stored on library preservation server

.m2t video derivative created as high-quality presentation file

Deleted following upload to public space
Technical Workflow

.m2t presentation derivatives uploaded to OSU MediaSpace (Kaltura instance)

Made immediately available as raw interview video; minimal metadata
Technical Workflow

Interview described in a dedicated archival finding aid
Technical Workflow

Interview transcribed with the help of Express Scribe
Technical Workflow

Web Portal

METS and TEI records created to describe interview as a digital object

Completed records and associated images committed to Git repository

Web portal pages generated through command line function
The OH 150 Portal: Background

Primary Ambitions:

Present full video with transcripts and contextual information in a visually appealing package

Make content browseable, searchable and sortable

Secondary Ambitions:

Provide PDF view/download option for transcripts

Enable download of .mp3 audio for all interviews
The OH 150 Portal: Recycled Code!

Index Pages: SCARC Events (mid-2000s)

**Events**

**"Scientists Missing Waves and Blooming Hope," Dr. Jane Lubchenco**

2016 Linus Pauling Legacy Award
April 28, 2016

Oregon State University professor and U.S. Science Envoy for the Ocean Dr. Jane Lubchenco spoke in Portland, Oregon on Tuesday, April 28, 2016. Her lecture, titled "Scientists Missing Waves and Blooming Hope," was presented at the Oregon Historical Society. Lubchenco was honored as the ninth recipient of the Linus Pauling Legacy Award, greatest honor ever given for outstanding achievement in an area of study or interest to Dr. Linus Pauling. The Pauling Legacy Award is sponsored by Oregon State University Libraries and Press.

**MAKE PAGE | SCHEDULE | VIDEO | ABSTRACT | BIOGRAPHY**

**"Out of the Nuclear Shadow: Scientists and the Struggle Against the Bomb," Dr. Zia Mian**

2016 Linus Pauling Legacy Award
April 21, 2016

Princeton University professor Dr. Zia Mian spoke in Portland, Oregon on Monday, April 21, 2016. His lecture, titled "Out of the Nuclear Shadow: Scientists and the Struggle Against the Bomb," was presented at the Oregon Historical Society. Mian was honored as the eighth recipient of the Linus Pauling Legacy Award, greatest honor ever given for outstanding achievement in an area of study or interest to Dr. Linus Pauling. The Pauling Legacy Award is sponsored by Oregon State University Libraries & Press.

**MAKE PAGE | SCHEDULE | VIDEO | ABSTRACT | BIOGRAPHY**

**"Tap Into Historic Four Perspectives on Brewing in Oregon"**

Panel Discussion
March 23, 2014

Oregon State University at Oregon Hops & Brewing Features Launch Party, and was accompanied by screening of video shorts and a full-length documentary on the history of brewing. Panel participants included agricultural historian Peter Kopf, journalist John Freeman, Full Sail Brewing founder and CEO Harry Funken, and OSU alumnus David Schep.

**MAKE PAGE | SCHEDULE | VIDEO | ABSTRACT | BIOGRAPHY**

**"Pioneers of Change: Black Football Players at OSU from 1951-Present"**

Panel Discussion
February 18, 2014

This event paid posthumous tribute to the first African American football player at OSU, Dave Harris (1951-1954), and also discussed the development of football and what has ensued for the Oregon State athletic program. Panelists included past OSU football players Earnie Dalby (1960-1964) and Kerri Safford (1996-2007), football historian Dr. Michael Ouri, author Herman Bianc, and former OSU President Dr. Charles Prizer. The event was sponsored by Oregon Humanities.

**MAKE PAGE | SCHEDULE | VIDEO | ABSTRACT | BIOGRAPHY**

**OH 150 (2014)**

**Karyle ButterクリオHL History INTERVIEWS**

Life history interviews conducted by Janice Drp.
May 6, 2014

Karyle Butter (b. 1943) was a member of the OSU Libraries faculty from 1981 to her retirement in 2012, serving as University Librarian for the forty-four years of her career. As director of the OSU Libraries, Butter oversaw a major physical expansion of the campus main branch library, promoted a culture of scholarship and innovation within the organization, and guided OSU Libraries to a position of leadership within the information landscape by transitioning from paper to electronic. During Butter’s tenure as University Librarian, the University Archives and the OSU Press - with Butter serving as director - also came under the umbrella of the OSU Libraries. Her interviews provide personal insight into what it is to lead, and also document the major changes that came about during her years of association with the OSU Libraries.

**MAKE PAGE | VIDEO | ABSTRACT | BIOGRAPHY**

**John ByrneクリオHL History INTERVIEWS**

Life history interviews conducted by Chris Petersen.
January - February 2014

John Byrne (b. 1926) has made indelible impact on Oregon State University through an association that has spanned over five decades. Byrne arrived in Corvallis in 1969 as Director of the Oregon State Student’s Maternal Health Program. Over his career, Byrne assumed many roles in the Oregon State University life including Professor, Dean of Research and Grad Studies, and President of the Oregon State University. As President of the OSU Board of Trustees, Byrne served as President from 1983-1995, a time during which he worked to modernize university operations amidst a critical budget shortfall caused by significant reductions in state funding for higher education. The Byrne biography interviews focus on the entirety of his life, from his childhood in Long Island to his graduate studies at USC and on to his tenure at Oregon State and with OSU.

**MAKE PAGE | VIDEO | ABSTRACT | BIOGRAPHY**

**Carolyn GallivanクリオHL History INTERVIEWS**

Life history interviews conducted by Mike Dicicco.
August 6, 2015

Carolyn Gallivan (b. 1942) graduated from OSU in 1964 with a degree in Chemical Engineering and moved directly into a career at Chevron that spanned some forty years. Over the course of that time, Gallivan worked as a research engineer, technical analyst and business manager. She is also the president of Chevron Oil Bahrain. Gallivan also served as the chief executive at Chevron Corporation and President of the AIA PacifiCor. She continues to be very actively involved with the OSU Foundation, the OSU College of Engineering, and the OSU Board of Trustees, of which she has been a member and was chairman since her creation. The interview focuses on her undergraduate years at Corvallis, her long and varied career at Chevron, and her more recent activities with the alumnae association.

**MAKE PAGE | VIDEO | ABSTRACT | BIOGRAPHY**
The OH 150 Portal: Recycled Code!


Title
Ralph I. Gifford Photographs (P 218-002)

Dates
circa 1910s - 1947 (inclusive)
1935-1947 (bulk)

Creator
Gifford, Ralph I.

Summary
The Ralph I. Gifford Photographs consist of images taken by Gifford throughout Oregon, primarily during the 1930s and 1940s. The photographs depict many Oregon landscapes and scenes, including the Oregon Coast, Cooper Lake, Mount Hood, the Willamette Mountains, and the Snake River Canyon. The collection includes numerous images of sport fishing as well as several photographs of Native Americans. Ralph Gifford was the son of Benjamin A. Gifford and took over his father's Portland photography business around 1920. In 1936, Ralph became the first photographer of the newly established Travel and Information Department of the Oregon State Highway Department, a position he held until his death in 1947.

Quantity
2.5 cubic feet, including 2089 photographs (17 boxes, including 2 oversize boxes, and 1 map folder)

Restrictions on Access
Collection is open for research.

Oregon State University Libraries, University Archives
121 The Valley Library
Oregon State University
Corvallis, OR 97331-4511
Phone: 541-737-2165
Email: archives@oregonstate.edu
Web: http://osulibrary.oregonstate.edu/archives

Finding aid prepared by Lawrence A. Landis, updated by Elizabeth Stievens, 2011.

Transcript

Janice Dilg: So, today is August 4th, 2014. I'm here with Dr. Knute Buehler at his campaign headquarters in Bend, Oregon. My name is Janice Dilg and this is part of the Oregon State University oral history project. Good afternoon.

Knute Buehler: Good afternoon.

JD: So, I think it seems always kind of fitting to begin a little at the beginning. If you would just talk briefly about where you're from and you're growing up, and perhaps what you were interested in and liked to do in your early years.

KB: Yeah, well I have deep, deep Oregon roots. I grew up in Roseburg. I graduated from Roseburg High, and then from there on to Oregon State, so I have that connection with the state, certainly. So, my decision to go to Oregon State certainly was easy based on that.

JD: And what was it about Oregon State University that attracted you? There are other universities within the borders.

KB: That's right. Well, I think it was that unique combination of a great location in Corvallis—I had a brother who went there, so I felt comfortable at Oregon State, spent quite a bit of time with him, which was really nice of him to show me around when I—because I'm eight years younger than him, so showing your little brother around college is not always the most, the first choice of a big brother, but he was good about that. And then I played baseball at Oregon State, so you know the top-rated baseball program certainly was an attraction, and then high quality academics in the subjects I was interested in, and that was mainly microbiology at that time.

JD: So, you had already developed some fairly specific interests, or just you knew microbiology broadly and would figure it out from there?

KB: Yeah, exactly. So, I kind of knew science, was interested in science, exactly which direction I didn't know, but I had that interest in microbiology from the very beginning, because of—then genetic engineering was just starting and that's really captivated me when I was a high school student.

JD: So, talk briefly about when you arrived in Corvallis on the OSU campus, kind of what was the campus like at that point in time and what were your interactions with some of the professors and the courses that you took?

KB: Well, I remember the first week I got there, because the baseball team actually shows up a couple of weeks before school starts, which is actually quite nice because no one else is around and you kind of have a free run of the place, which was nice to sort things out as a freshman. It also introduced you to upperclassmen on the baseball team who became good advisors and mentors of things to do and things not to do; classes to take and those types of things. And then we quickly transition from the baseball into the dorms, which is always a great experience, so I was on the fourth floor of McNary Hall, which I don't, not sure if McNary is still a dorm anymore, but—

JD: It's actually part of the Honors College.
The OH 150 Portal: Recycled Code!

Correspondence

72 documents

Letter from Linus Pauling to Arnold Sommerfeld. October 20, 1925.
Pauling writes to inform Sommerfeld of his forthcoming travels to Europe and to discuss the research topics that he has in mind.

Letter from Linus Pauling to the Research Fellowship Board of the National Research Council. December 10, 1925.
Pauling writes to describe his on-going course of research in anticipation of traveling to Europe on a Guggenheim Fellowship.

Letter from Linus Pauling to A.A. Noyes. April 25, 1926.
Pauling writes to update Noyes on his travel experiences, research and scholarly interactions while in Europe on a fellowship.
METS and MODS: Used at OSU for ~15 years

Metadata Encoding and Transmission Standard (METS): Used to encode descriptive, administrative and structural metadata for digital objects

XML schema

Metadata Object Description Schema (MODS): Bibliographic description schema for digital objects

Also an XML schema; analogous to a MARC record for digital objects

In our case, MODS description is nested within METS records
Text Encoding Initiative: A simple xml-based mark-up language used to encode texts

Used at OSU Libraries for many years to prepare texts for presentation on the web.

Also used by OSU Libraries to encode texts for print production.

Easy to learn and well-suited for student work.
Knute Buehler Oral History Interviews
Two life history interviews conducted by Janice Dilg.
August 2014 - August 2015
Location: Multiple locations including Buehler campaign quarters and The Center: Orthopedic and Neurosurgical Care and Research, Bend, Oregon.

Knute Buehler (b. 1964), a native of Roseburg, Oregon, attended Oregon State University from 1982 to 1986, where he played on the baseball team and graduated with a B.S. in Microbiology. Following the completion of his studies at OSU, Buehler was selected as a Rhodes Scholar, the first in OSU history. He completed his Oxford M.A. in Politics and Economics and went on to earn his M.D. from Johns Hopkins University. Buehler now practices as an orthopedic surgeon in Bend, Oregon, and is active in both statewide and national politics. Over two interviews, Buehler discusses his life at OSU, his experiences at Oxford, his medical training and career, and his interest in politics.

Multiple locations including Buehler campaign quarters and The Center: Orthopedic and Neurosurgical Care and Research, Bend, Oregon.

Buehler
"OSU's First Rhodes Scholar" August 4, 2014. Location: Buehler campaign quarters, Bend, Oregon.

Abstracts

"OSU's First Rhodes Scholar" August 4, 2014. Location: Buehler campaign quarters, Bend, Oregon.

Knute Buehler Oral History Interviews

Two life history interviews conducted by Janice Dilg.

August 4 - August 2015

"From Baltimore to Oxford" August 6, 2015. Location: The Center, Oregon and Neurosurgical Care and Research, Bend, Oregon. Watch Video | Download Transcript (PDF)

In his second interview, Buehler provides additional details on his experiences in medical school at a Rhodes Scholar at Oxford, and also the role of the Rhodes Scholar in shaping his career.

The interview concludes with Buehler's thoughts on the power of the Rhodes Scholarship in shaping his life and career, and the lessons he learned from his experience at Oxford that he applies in his work today.
Knute Buehler (b. 1954), a native of Roseburg, Oregon, attended Oregon State University from 1962 to 1966, where he played on the baseball team and graduated with a B.S. in Microbiology. Following the completion of his studies at OSU, Buehler was selected as a Rhodes Scholar, the first in OSU history. He completed his Oxford M.A. in Politics and Economics and went on to earn an M.D. from Johns Hopkins University. Buehler now practices as an orthopedic surgeon in Bend, Oregon, and is active in both statewide and national politics. Over two interviews, Buehler discusses on his life at OSU, his experiences at Oxford, his medical training and career, and his interest in politics.

In interview 1, Buehler reflects upon his roots as an Oregonian and his undergraduate experience at Oregon State University. In particular, Buehler discusses his academic experience - including two influential professors - his participation on the OSU baseball team, his hangouts, and campus jobs that he held. From there he notes his time at Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine and his experiences as a Rhodes Scholar at Oxford University.

The remainder of the session is devoted to Buehler's career in medicine and in public service, his continuing connection with OSU, and advice that he would impart upon college students of today.

In his second interview, Buehler provides additional details on his experiences in medical school, as a Rhodes Scholar at Oxford, and as a legislator in the Oregon House.

He begins by describing the value that an OSU degree has brought to his life, and then moves on to a description of his medical training at Johns Hopkins University. In this, Buehler touches upon the poverty and social problems that gripped Baltimore during his time there and the impact that they made upon him as a doctor-in-training. He also discusses his contributions to various community outreach efforts during his tenure at Johns Hopkins, as well as his participation on the medical school's governing council.

The bulk of the session is devoted to Buehler's stint as a Rhodes Scholar at Oxford University. He describes the application process required of potential Rhodes Scholars, including the multiple interviews that he incurred along the way. He also details the significant differences between Oxford's approach to education as compared to his earlier experiences at OSU, and reflects on the far more formal social milieu at Oxford as well.

The interview concludes with Buehler's thoughts on successes that he was a part of during his first session in the Oregon House, his optimism for the development of OSU-Cascades, and his appreciation of OSU as it looks forward to its sesquicentennial.
Knute Carl Buehler was born in 1964 in Roseburg, Oregon, graduating from Roseburg High School in 1982. That year he began his undergraduate tenure at Oregon State University, majoring in Microbiology and walking on to the baseball team as a pitcher. Buehler completed his B.S. in Microbiology in 1986.

Buehler is the first Rhodes Scholar in OSU history. He attended Oxford University for two years, from 1988-1990, studying Politics and Economics, and completing his M.A. degree. Beginning in 1986, Buehler had also been working on his M.D. at the Johns Hopkins School of Medicine - he completed his doctorate in 1991.

As a professional, Buehler has interned in the Department of Surgery at Oregon Health Sciences University and has also served as a resident in orthopedics at OHSU. He is presently an orthopedic surgeon at the Center for Orthopedic and Neurosurgical Care and Research, located in Bend, Oregon.

Buehler has also been actively involved in both statewide and national politics. An advisor to the 1992 Perot presidential campaign, Buehler helped to organize a successful citizen initiative to reform campaign finance law in Oregon and is also a past party nominee for Oregon Secretary of State. In 2014 Buehler was elected to represent the Bend-area’s District 54 in the Oregon House of Representatives.
Janice Dilg: So, today is August 4th, 2014. I’m here with Dr. Knute Buehler at his campaign headquarters in Bend, Oregon. My name is Janice Dilg and this is part of the Oregon State University oral history project. Good afternoon.

Knute Buehler: Good afternoon.

So, I think it seems always kind of fitting to begin a little at the beginning. If you would just talk briefly about where you’re from and you’re growing up, and perhaps what you were interested in and liked to do in your early years.

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And what was it about Oregon State University that attracted you? There are other universities within the borders.

That’s right. Well, I think it was that unique combination of a great location in Corvallis—I had a brother who went there, so I felt comfortable at Oregon State, spent quite a bit of time with him, which was really nice of him to show me around when I was 18—because I’m eight years younger than him, so showing your little brother around college is not always the most first choice of a big brother, but he was good about that. And then I played baseball at Oregon State, so you know the top rated baseball program certainly was an attraction, and then high quality academics in the subjects I was interested in, and that was mainly microbiology at that time.

So, you had already developed some fairly specific interests, or just you knew microbiology broadly and would figure it out from there?

Yeah, exactly. So, I knew I liked science, was interested in science, exactly which direction I didn’t know, but I had an interest in microbiology from the very beginning, because of—then genetic engineering was just starting and that’s really captivated me when I was a high school student.

So, talk briefly about when you arrived in Corvallis on the OSU campus, kind of what was the campus like at that point in time and what were your interactions with some of the professors and the courses that you took?

Well, I remember the first week I got there, because the baseball team actually shows up a couple of weeks before school starts, which is actually quite nice because no one
Extensible Stylesheet Language (XSL): A family of languages used to transform and render XML documents

XSLT: In this case, a collection of rules that interprets METS and TEI records and, with the help of CSS, creates HTML as its output.

No HTML is ever encoded for any of our projects. All of our HTML is a product of XML, XSL, and CSS.
XSL Transformation/XSL Formatting Objects

XSL-FO: The flavor of XSL used by us to create PDFs.

All PDFs are generated as a result of the batch command line process that we run to generate HTML as well. E.g. -- it all happens at once and all as a result of a single command line process.

XSL is extremely powerful but it requires specialized expertise. This requirement is the biggest hindrance to wider adoption of the OH 150 platform across institutions.
Affiliation/Theme Tagging: Custom XML

<person id="buehler">
  <name>Buehler, Knute</name>
  <affiliation>Alumni</affiliation>
  <affiliation>Alumni - 1980s</affiliation>
  <affiliation>College of Science</affiliation>
  <theme>International Studies</theme>
  <theme>Microbiology</theme>
  <theme>Public Service</theme>
</person>

<person id="burnett">
  <name>Burnett, Margaret</name>
  <affiliation>College of Engineering</affiliation>
  <affiliation>Distinguished Professors</affiliation>
  <affiliation>Faculty</affiliation>
  <theme>Computer Science</theme>
  <theme>Women - Advancement of</theme>
</person>

<person id="butcher">
  <name>Butcher, Karyle</name>
  <affiliation>Faculty - Emeritus</affiliation>
  <affiliation>Libraries and Press</affiliation>
</person>

Knute Buehler Oral History Interviews
Two life history interviews conducted by Janice Dilg.
August 2014 - August 2015
Knute Buehler (b. 1964), a native of Roseburg, Oregon, attended Oregon State University and graduated with a B.S. in Microbiology. Following the Rhodes Scholar, the first in OSU history. He completed his Oxford M.A. from Johns Hopkins University. Buehler now practices as an orthopedic surgeon. Over two interviews, Buehler discusses his life at OSU and his interest in politics.

Main Page | Video | Abstract | Biography

Darrell Callahan Oral History Interview
Life history interview conducted by Mike Dicianna.
August 6, 2015
Darrell Callahan (b. 1942) graduated from OSU in 1964 with a degree in chemistry that spanned some forty years. Over the course of that time, Callahan manager and executive. At one time the president of Chevron Oil Field Equipment Company as well as the succeeding company that he helped very actively involved with the OSU Foundation, the OSU College of Engineering. His interview focuses on his career and involvement with the OSU Foundation.
mp3 Download

Upon transcription, all interviews are presented on this website and may be browsed through an A-Z list or explored by interviewee affiliation or theme. In addition, interview transcripts are presented alongside each video in downloadable PDF format and audio .mp3 files of every session are freely available for download via this link.

OSU President Ed Ray gave four interviews for the project, as did President Emeritus John Byrne. President Emeritus Paul Rivers was interviewed for an additional four interviews in the last few months of his presidency. In July 2014, OSU’s Cooperatives and the University of Oregon’s College of Education conducted the interviews. The collection features interviews with more than 200 Oregon State University professors, members of the OSU Board of Trustees, and distinguished Oregonians. 

The collection features interviews with more than 200 Oregon State University professors, members of the OSU Board of Trustees, and distinguished Oregonians. 

The collection features interviews with more than 200 Oregon State University professors, members of the OSU Board of Trustees, and distinguished Oregonians.
Preservation

Not great!

So far, following a poor man’s LOCKSS (Lots of Copies Keep Stuff Safe) protocol

.mp3 derivative on department file share

.mpg derivative and raw files (.mts and .wav) on library preservation share

Department and preservation servers are two different RAID arrays physically located right next to each other...
Access video provided by OSU MediaSpace

Likely a third server located in the same room as the above two

All raw files as well as Word transcript files uploaded to Box

My personal account, so issues there

Print everything out? ...considering it...

Hopefully getting better!

Library testing Archivematica as a preservation solution for all of its digital content
Assessing the OH 150 Platform

Pro

Achieved all of our design objectives

Did so using mostly recycled code

A platform with which we are very experienced and quite comfortable, so efficient locally

Also used for a second smaller oral history project that is currently online
Assessing the OH 150 Platform

Con

Would be at least somewhat difficult to implement elsewhere

METS template is fairly easy to master

TEI encoding is trivial

XSL components are much trickier, though OSU’s code could likely be tweaked by someone with rudimentary knowledge of XSL

Requires custom CSS & graphic design from project to project

Requires a media host
The Future of Oral History at OSU

In the process of implementing the Oral History Metadata Synchronizer

Web-based metadata editor developed at the University of Kentucky

Enables indexing as an alternative to full transcription

OHMS metadata objects exported out of OHMS editor and displayed within a CMS (Omeka, in our case)

Far less flexible or customizable than OH 150, but much more extensible
Thank You!

<p><hi rend="bold">Chris Petersen:</hi> Any questions?</p>