How to Do Research for an Oral History



ORAL HISTORY HOW-TO GUIDES

WHY IS THIS IMPORTANT? To increase productivity, all participants should have the needed background information to prepare for the oral history.

WHAT TO KNOW. Ask the narrators some questions, have them fill out the Pre–Oral History Questionnaire, or use Church data resources to identify dates of Church callings. Information about women in the Church can be more difficult to locate in these resources, so other ways to research female leaders in the area may be needed.

START



Create an outline for the oral history with biographical information and specialized questions included. The completed outline should be provided with sufficient time for the oral historian and the narrator to prepare.

SEARCH. Complete a general search on the member using available data sources. If needed, get key information from the narrator.



3

SEND the outline to the narrator before the oral history.



2 CREATE an outline or adapt an existing outline.



4

FINALIZE the outline and bring it to the oral history.



SUCCESS

The correct biographical information and questions needed to complete an oral history have been compiled. The oral historian is prepared to document both the development of the Church in this area and how the narrator contributed to that development.



HAVE QUESTIONS OR NEED HELP? Speak with your manager and refer to page 4–5 of the *Oral Histories* guide.