How to Conduct and Record an Oral History Using a Video Camera



ORAL HISTORY HOW-TO GUIDES

WHY IS THIS IMPORTANT? Much of communication is nonverbal. Video can greatly enrich an oral history by capturing more of what the narrator is communicating.

WHAT TO KNOW. A video camera, tripod, and external microphone (or digital audio recorder) are needed. If possible, do not rely on a camera's onboard microphone.

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

 Oral History - Methodologies and Sources by the Duke University Library

START



Choose a quiet location with good lighting to film the oral history. Set up the camera so the narrator can be clearly seen. Having the oral historian in view is not as important.

BATTERY. Ensure the camera battery is fully charged or a reliable power supply is available.



3

STORAGE. Confirm that a video file between 100 to 120 GB—approximately one hour of raw video—can be adequately stored.



2

MICROPHONE. Ensure the microphone (or digital recorder) is receiving a quality audio signal, is not peaking too high, and is set to the correct volume level.



4

SUBMISSION. Consider how the files will be submitted. Submit the files.







The oral history is successfully recorded using the video camera. All information has been entered into WebCat, and the completed oral history and accompanying video files are sent to the Church History Department.



HAVE QUESTIONS OR NEED HELP? Speak with your manager and refer to page 6 of the Oral Histories guide.