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Introduction
This poster presents research in progress considering how oral history projects are, or are not, presented on the websites of public libraries who host them and attendant issues. A study of 38 public library websites has prompted a focus on these questions:

• What are best practices for sharing oral histories online?
• What are the ethical considerations when sharing oral histories online?
• What accessibility issues exist related to oral histories online? What are public libraries doing to address them?

Key takeaways
• Without a best practices guide tailored to oral histories online, follow web accessibility guidelines and provide at least some transcription and some audio online
• Ensure those who need to access your collection can learn about the collection online — limiting that information to in-person visitors limits exposure and discourages use of collection
• Plan for changing media and practice due diligence in securing permission to share online; remember that the interviewer and subject share copyright

Emerging Trends and Issues
• 7 libraries surveyed did not share their collections online – because of format problems, insufficient releases, etc.
  • Understanding the community and potential benefits and harms is vital
• Many oral histories were recorded before the Internet existed; release forms for those could not have anticipated the Internet’s existence. Modular and customizable forms can mitigate this issue going forward, but how can it be addressed in the present?

What’s Next?
• Continuing research at Syracuse University this fall
• Creating a directory of public library oral history projects online
• Creating a comprehensive set of ethics and accessibility guidelines for sharing oral histories online

References: shorturl.at/ghxW6
Learn more about the iSchool Public Libraries Initiative: shorturl.at/oqERZ