

East Midlands Oral History Archive

Information Sheet
#8

Oral History and
the Internet

This sheet will
explain:

- What oral history resources are available on the internet.
- What program to use to listen to oral history clips that you find on the internet.

East Midlands Oral History Archive

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Where can I find oral history on the Internet?

There is a vast amount of history related material on the Internet. Some of this material contains some oral history, but there is less that is strictly oral history. While there are British sites that are very good, some of the American sites are also interesting and you will miss a lot of excellent material if you don't have a look at the work which has been done around the world. A good place to start might be <http://www.humbul.ac.uk/vts/history/> which contains information about techniques and tools for historians using the Internet. Each site you visit will usually contain 'links' to other sites, and by following these you will pick up most of the major sites.

Listening to sound

Having found an oral history site you may want to listen to some of the audio clips that are often available. To do this it is not enough to simply click on the appropriate button, you must also have the correct software. Generally, audio clips from oral history sites use a **RealOne** (sometimes called a Real Audio player or a RealPlayer). Increasingly popular however are various formats like wvf, wav or MP3 which can all be played using the **Windows Media Player** (which all PCs should already have).

Download

RealOne

<http://www.real.com/realone/index.html>

Windows Media Player (Mac)

http://www.microsoft.com/mac/products/mediaplayer/mediaplayer_default.asp

Although downloading these programs is fairly simple and free, it may take up to 20-30 mins depending on the speed of your connection to the internet. Audio clips can also take a while to download. **Don't forget to turn on your loudspeakers!**

Useful sites

The following may be of particular interest:

<http://www.bl.uk/collections/sound-archive/nsa.html> - the British Library Sound Archive homepage. As well as useful information about the various collections they hold, this site also has sound clips and, via the 'Listen' link, a link to the Real Audio homepage where there is a free download available.

<http://www.oralhistory.org.uk/> - useful information about how to do oral history, copyright and ethics, and most other issues related to oral history.

<http://www.ioha.fgv.br/> - the International Oral History Association homepage has excellent links to oral history projects in Britain and across the globe.

<http://www2.h-net.msu.edu/~oralhist/> - a site for scholars and professionals active in studies related to oral history.



Leicester

The following are a few websites that contain oral history, or links to oral history, relating to Leicestershire and Rutland.



<http://www.le.ac.uk/emoha> - the East Midlands Oral History Archive site. Links to many other oral history sites.

<http://westworld.dmu.ac.uk/fmp/web/highfields/mainmenu.html> - a history of the Highfields area of Leicester.

<http://www.harboro.ndirect.co.uk/Index.htm> - Market Harborough in WW1.

<http://www.leicesterresearch.co.uk/> - Stephen Butt's site with lots of history. You can use the links off this site to find other relevant sites.

<http://www.wartimeleicestershire.com/> - Leicester in WW2.

<http://www.suite101.com/welcome.cfm/leicestershire> - general history and 'what's on' guide.

<http://www.le.ac.uk/sociology/ethnic/research/life.html> - University of Leicester 'ethnic elders' site

The UK



<http://www.bbc.co.uk/education/20cvox/index.shtml> - the BBC 20th Century Vox site. You can download RealPlayer from this site. Some of the audio clips are from Rutland people.

<http://www.southampton.gov.uk/leisure/oralhistory/index.html> - Southampton.

<http://www.livingarchive.org.uk/> - Milton Keynes.

<http://www.museum-london.org.uk/MOLsite/menu.htm> - memories of the blitz in London.

<http://www.eastside.ndirect.co.uk/pages/easthome.html> - the East End of London.

<http://www.iwm.org.uk/collections/sound.htm> - the Imperial War Museum collections.

<http://www.sol.co.uk/s/sote/> - a WEA Scotland project.

The rest of the world

<http://spanky.osc.cuny.edu/~ashp/> - the American Social History Project

<http://historymatters.gmu.edu/> - excellent general history site which includes oral history. Part of the American Social History Project.

<http://www.amol.org.au/goldenthreads/> - oral histories of the Chinese in New South Wales 1850-1950.

The International Oral History Association website will provide you with links to oral history projects across the world.