

## **East Midlands Oral History Archive**

Information Sheet  
#10

How to publish  
oral history

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This sheet will  
explain:

- Why publishing oral history material can be valuable.
  - What you will need to consider.
  - Where to get advice.
  - Potential publishers to contact.
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## **East Midlands Oral History Archive**

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# **How to publish oral history**

## **Why publish?**

In your attic or garage, you may have some oral history tapes that haven't seen the light of day since they were collected. Or you may be planning an oral history project and are considering what to do with it once the interviews are finished. You may already have plans to stage a small local exhibition, and to deposit tapes and transcripts in your local library and with the East Midlands Oral History Archive. Such activities will enable many people to access the material, but a publication may make it even more widely available. Publishing can also increase interest and support for future projects, perhaps inspiring other potential interviewees to share their memories.

## **What format?**

Oral histories can be published in a variety of formats including transcripts, books, journal articles, or exhibitions. If you want a more innovative approach you could dramatise the material into a play or novel. Or how about electronic publishing? CD-ROMs can incorporate edited extracts with a wide variety of other archival material such as photos, maps and sound. The Internet is another option (see Information Sheet #11 'Publishing on the Internet'). When choosing a format you will need to consider which is most suited to the historical sources available, the audiences you are aiming at, the time and expertise of those involved, and of course, the financial costs.

## **Consider the following:**

- Why do you want to publish?
- What themes will you focus on?
- Look at existing publications. What will make yours different and innovative?
- Who are your target audiences?
- Do you have any funding?
- How will you place the oral histories within their historical background?
- How much will it cost?
- Where is the funding coming from?
- How long will the publication be?
- What photographs and other images will you want to include?
- When do you expect it to be completed? Be realistic!
- How will it be publicised and launched?

**See Information Sheet 13 for advice on possible sources of funding**

## Getting advice

### Remember!

If you're going to use any material from other sources such as local studies books or archival documents, consult your librarian or archivist about copyright status.

Your local library, community centre, adult education organisation or even local bookshop may be able to help you with suitable contacts. If not, find addresses from suitable publications in your local studies library.

Your local library or adult education institute may offer courses on writing and getting published. Your library should be able to put you in touch with a regional Literature Officer for advice about grants and workshops for writers.

Two useful guides for those working from the UK (and available in most public libraries) are *The Writers' Handbook*; and the *Writers' and Artists' Yearbook*.

There are innumerable books on how to write and get published, but one aimed specifically at local history is: Bob Trubshaw, 1999, *How to write and publish local history*. Heart of Albion Press. ISBN 1 872883 33 8.

## Potential book publishers

The Association of Little Presses provide information on printing houses. 25 St Benedict's Close, Church Lane, London SW17 9NX. Email: [asslp@geocities.com](mailto:asslp@geocities.com);

Web page: <http://www.geocities.com/Athens/Oracle/7911/index.html>

The Federation of Worker Writers & Community Publishers helps writers' groups and publishers to share skills and work with communities. FWWCP, 67 The Boulevard, Tunstall, Stoke-on-Trent ST6 6BD, UK. E-mail: [fwwcp@cwcom.net](mailto:fwwcp@cwcom.net); Web page: <http://www.fwwcp.mcmail.com/>

The *Local History Magazine* publishes local history articles. Their Local History Press produces local history books for societies and individuals. LHP, 3 Devonshire Promenade, Lenton, Nottingham NG7 2DS. Tel: 0115-9706473. E-mail: [editors@local-history.co.uk](mailto:editors@local-history.co.uk). Web page: <http://www.local-history.co.uk/home.html>

Heart of Albion Press publish local history books on the East Midlands. Email: [albion@indigogroup.co.uk](mailto:albion@indigogroup.co.uk). Web page: <http://www.indigogroup.co.uk/albion/index.htm>

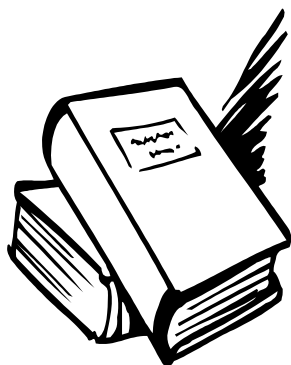
The Village and Family History Project help publish short-run books. VFHP, 52 Grove Street, Wantage, OX12 7AA. Tel: 01235-765230. Email: [laasquith@brookes.ac.uk](mailto:laasquith@brookes.ac.uk). Website: <http://writingmemories.co.uk>

## Or how about publishing a short article?

*Local Historian*. editor: Dr. Alan Crosby, 77 Wellington Street, Preston, PR1 8TQ.

*Oral History*, c/o Dept of Sociology, University of Essex, Wivenhoe Park, Colchester, Essex, CO4 3SQ.

Approach your local newspaper or county magazine and look for other suitable magazines and journals in your local library.



The East Midlands Oral History Archive will consider short articles for its newsletter or website. Contact Tristram Hooley at the EMOHA address overleaf for details.