Considerations for Remote Oral History Interviewing

START HERE!

Is it possible to conduct an in-person interview, or is a remote interview the best choice?

Remote Interview

In-person

How do you want to connect?

STEP 1: Take inventory of technological access and preferences of both the narrator and interviewer.

Do all participants have access to a computer/tablet with a webcam and microphone?

Yes

No

Do the participants have access to high-speed internet?

Yes

No

Do the participants have access to a phone?

Yes

No

Do any participants have a preference for recording audio or video?

Yes

No

Audio only

Video interview

Audio record/video connect

Remote

Cell Phone

Video

Landline

Yes, but...

Is the narrator comfortable with using internet-based technology?

Yes

No

Have you been proactive in making the interview space accessible?

Yes

No

Are there restrictions to where the recording/digital file can be captured/housed?

Yes

No

Have you looked through "Special Considerations"?

Yes

No

How do you want to record? **

Option 1: Landline Phone

- No extra cost:
  - o FreeConferenceCall.com
  - o Speaker phone with recorder

- Extra cost:
  - o JK Audio Broadcast Host
  - o JK Audio QuickTap

Considerations:
- Think about microphone differential and how the recording will sound different between connections

Option 2: Cell Phone

- No extra cost:
  - o Rev.com [CASE STUDY]
  - o FreeConferenceCall.com
  - o Google Voice
  - o Automatic Call Recorder Pro

- Extra cost:
  - o TapeA Call Pro
  - o JK Audio CellTap4

Considerations:
- If recording via web connection vs. phone connection, see Option 3

Option 3: Web Based

- No extra cost:
  - o Zoom (40 min max)
  - o Cleanfeed, Zencast

- Extra cost:
  - o Zoom [CASE STUDY]
  - o Skype
  - o TheirStory
  - o Webex
  - o Squadcast
  - o Zencast [CASE STUDY]
  - o Cleanfeed

Considerations:
- Quality depends on internet connection and access to equipment like webcams, external lighting, and microphones

Additional Considerations:
- o Archival Considerations
- o Compressed vs. Uncompressed
- o Cloud vs. Local File Capture
- o Backup Recording
- o Virtual vs. Physical Signature

DON'T FORGET!
- Need of Edit/convert form

** Suggested recording platforms and hardware mentioned in this document were drawn from the personal experiences of oral historians. It is by no means exhaustive, nor should any suggestion contained therein be considered an official endorsement by the Oral History Association.