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?

Did you ask...?

In-person

Remote Interview

How do you want to connect?

Yes

Do the participants have access to high speed internet?

No

Yes, but...

Do the participants have access to a phone?

No

No

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

Yes

Yes

All participants have access to a computer/tablet with a webcam and microphone.

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

No

Consider Option 2 or 3

Video interview

Audio record/ video connect

If web connected, consider...

Landline

Consider Option 1

Call Phone

Consider Option 2

No remote recording options; consider in-person interview

No

Yes

No

No

Yes

Yes

Yes

Yes

Does the interview contain sensitive information or require an elevated level of security?

Or

Have you been proactive in making the interview space accessible?

Or

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

Have you looked through "Special Considerations?"

Video - Zoom (40 min max)
Audio - Cleanfeed, Zencast

Extra cost:
- Video: Zoom
- Audio: Cleanfeed, Zencast

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

Option 1: Landline Phone

No extra cost:
- Rev.com
- FreeConferenceCall.com
- Google Voice
- Automatic Call Recorder Pro

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

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

Option 2: Cell Phone

No extra cost:
- TapeACall Pro
- JK Audio CallTap

Extra cost:
- [CASE STUDY]

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

Option 3: Web Based

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

Extra cost:
- Video: Zoom
- Audio: Squaddcast

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

Additional Considerations:
- Archival Considerations
- Compressed vs. Uncompressed
- Cloud vs. Local File Capture
- Backup Recording

DON'T FORGET!
- Scope of gift/consent form
- Virtual vs. Physical Signature

** 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.