

A Guide for Conducting Oral Histories

The Equipment

With the quality of home video equipment today, most everyone has access to the basic equipment needed to capture oral histories on tape. The following sections of this guide will go into further detail on lighting, sound, and setting, but to start here are two lists of equipment.

The basic list shows you what little resources are needed in interviewing; the second list is the ideal.

Basic Equipment

- ◆ Camcorder with on camera microphone (VHS, 8mm, HI8, or DV tape format)
- ◆ A good medium weight Tripod
- ◆ Black, gray, dark blue cloth or paper for backdrop



Advanced Equipment

- ◆ Camera
- ◆ Soft box (main) light
- ◆ Back light
- ◆ Colored Gels
- ◆ Light stands
- ◆ Dimmers for lighting
- ◆ Extension cords
- ◆ Black Backdrops
- ◆ Stands for Backdrop
- ◆ Microphones
- ◆ Microphone stands
- ◆ Audio cables/Connectors
- ◆ Backup equipment
- ◆ Tacks/Pins/Duct Tape
- ◆ Scanner for still photos
- ◆ Digital camera for memorabilia