

Evaluation for Mississippi Oral History Project Implementation Grant

Using the grantee's completed project materials and final report as your guide, please answer the following questions about the project in narrative form (3-4 pages in length):

Implementation of Plan

- Did the project accomplish the goals set out in its plan? If not, what aspects needed improvement?
- How were existing historical materials utilized by the project? If there were previous oral history materials available, how were they used in order to avoid duplication?
- What new topics or previously unknown information was uncovered by the project?

Interviewer Skills

- Did the interviewer(s) appear knowledgeable about the subject matter?
- Did the interviewer(s) follow proper interview procedures? Did they:
 - Include an introductory identifying statement on the tape?
 - Ask open-ended questions?
 - Limit their speaking on the tape?
 - Thoroughly explore the research topic with each interviewee?
 - Follow proper ethical and legal guidelines (such as turning off the recorder when requested)
- Was the interviewer sensitive to the perspective of the interviewee? Did they introduce personal bias during interviews?

Technical Quality of Recordings

Describe the quality of the recordings completed for the project, with attention paid to the following aspects:

- Recording level: Can the interview be heard clearly without turning playback volume all the way up? Does the recording distort at any point?

- Quality of the recorded voice: Is the interviewee's voice clear and natural sounding? Can it be heard easily?
- Background noise: Is there excessive background noise on the recording that makes it difficult to listen to the interview?
- Are there any other components to the recordings that would limit their use in future projects (such as radio programs, museum exhibits, websites, or others)?
- Were good quality cassettes (or other type of tape or disc, depending on the recording format) used on the project? Have the cassettes been properly labeled and maintained (recording tabs removed and stored in boxes)?
- If video recording was done as part of the project, was it of appropriate quality? Please comment on the quality of the lighting, composition, camera work, and the audio track.

Participation

- How was the larger community involved with the project, either through the interview process or the public program?
- Was a wide range of individuals interviewed for the project? What groups (gender, age, ethnicity, or other) were under-represented in the project?

Project Management

- Did the project personnel gather and process all the necessary paperwork, including release forms, bio sheets, tape logs and other items?
- Were project personnel (both paid consultants and local volunteers) utilized effectively?

Future Impact

- What is the potential for future use of the materials by the local community? by academic scholars or outside researchers?
- What topics uncovered by this project should be followed up on by local or state-level led projects?