

# Controversy, Code Names and Cultural Memory: Building the Nevada Test Site Oral History Project Digital Library



## Digital Library Creation Process

1. Collaboration and planning with cross-campus groups
2. Editing and creation of Online Document Package
3. Metadata, access points, and standards application
4. Vocabulary lists and quality control
5. Additional files: audio, thumbnails, images
6. Batch uploaded items into CONTENTdm, reviewed and approved items
7. Design and layout of web site and CONTENTdm interface
8. Tested and re-worked with feedback
9. Publicity and outreach to promote collection

## Challenges

- Iterations- multiple versions of documents
- Technical Subject Matter- acronyms, code names requiring research, slang, jargon
- Collaboration- boundaries, roles, and timelines. Distinct cultures across departments
- Diverse Communities- sensitivity to personal nature of the collection and the multiple viewpoints

- Use tools to increase communication: chat, project wiki, and timeline
- Focus on metadata helped to provide multiple search & browse functions to help users navigate complex material
- Be clear about limitations and gently enforce timelines to keep project on track
- Utilize oral history projects to connect to community and promote the specialized skills developed in academic libraries.

- No “best practices” in oral history digitization, where do patterns exist?
- Concurrently developing digital library standards and software; how do we accommodate multiple-format collections?
- Oral history conversion is a resource-heavy project. How can we streamline process?
- Difficult to evaluate usage, usability, and user satisfaction with digital collections. Assessment studies needed.

## Solutions

## Future Research



**Key Staff NTSOHP:** Project Director, Asst. Researcher, 2 graduate students, 40 student researchers

**Key Staff Library:** Digitization Librarian, Application Developer, Digitization Assistant