

# What is Oral History?

---

<https://oralhistoryaustralia.org.au/guidance/what-is-oral-history/>

Dr. Alexander Freund Co-Director of the University of Winnipeg's Oral History Centre explains the theory, practice and value of oral history.

# Definitions: Oral History

---

“Oral history is a technique for generating and preserving original, historically interesting information— primary source material—from personal recollections through planned recorded interviews.

“This method of interviewing is used to preserve the voices, memories and perspectives of people in history.

“It’s a tool we can all use to engage with and learn from family members, friends, and the people we share space with in an interview that captures their unique history and perspective in their own words. Oral history stems from the tradition of passing information of importance to the family or tribe from one generation to the next.”

(From: Hannah Byrne, “An Introduction to Oral History”, *Smithsonian Institute Archives*, 9 June 2020, <https://siarchives.si.edu/blog/introduction-oral-history>)

# Definitions: Oral History

---

“Oral history is a research methodology embraced by a wide range of practitioners from students and academics to journalists, documentary-makers and podcasters and community-based historians and family historians.

“It involves extended, recorded interviews undertaken for a particular purpose and often with a view to eventual archiving for preservation and public access.

“The oral history interview is a collaboration of both interviewer and interviewee and is based on ethical standards and informed consent.”

(From: “What is Oral History?”, *Oral History Australia*, <https://oralhistoryaustralia.org.au/guidance/what-is-oral-history/>, accessed 4 August 2022)

# Definitions: Oral History

---

“Typically an oral history interview will use a whole-of-life approach, but it may be based on a particular theme or event.

“Its increasing use as a methodology is at least partly due to its appeal as a means of recording and recognising the little-heard voices of society – history ‘from below’.

(From: “What is Oral History?”, *Oral History Australia*, <https://oralhistoryaustralia.org.au/guidance/what-is-oral-history/>, accessed 4 August 2022)

# What is Oral History?

---

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tBtVqS-r1CQ>

(“Introduction to Oral History” by *National Library of Australia (NLA)*)

# Oral History Projects

---

<https://oralhistoryaustralia.org.au/resources/projects>

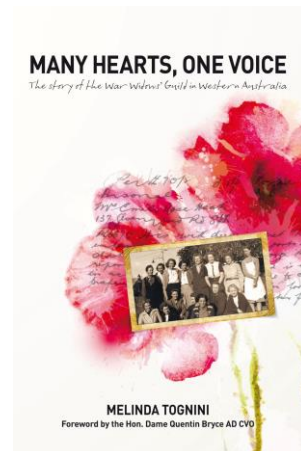
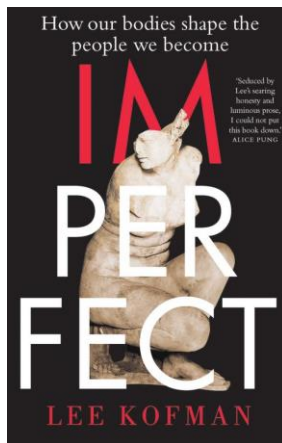
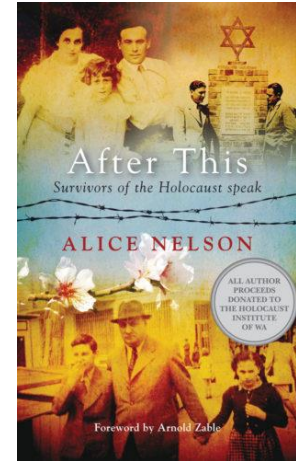
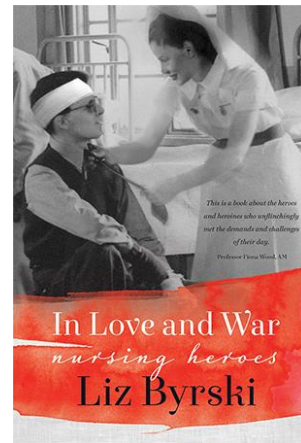
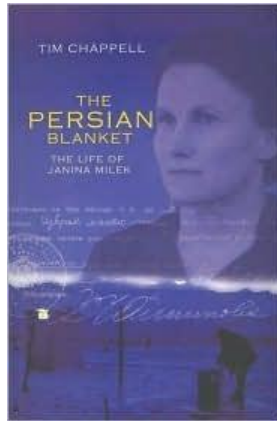
Oral History Association

# Oral History Projects

---

<https://slwa.wa.gov.au/collections/collections/oral-histories>

State Library of Western Australia



# Oral History in Books

Question:

---

Why Oral History?

[Photo by [Tatiana Zanon](#) on [Unsplash](#).]



# Questions:

---

What are the benefits?  
What might be the  
downsides?

[Photo by [Tatiana Zanon](#) on [Unsplash](#).]



## Biography based on Oral History

---

“The Only Girl in the Room”



# Research Logs

---

<https://organizyourfamilyhistory.com/informal-research-log/>

By Janine Adams

# Research Logs

---

<https://organizyourfamilyhistory.com/informal-research-log/>

By Janine Adams

# Coming Up: Week 2

---

- Timeline of Oral History
- Reliability of Memory
- Oral history and oral traditions
- Individual versus collective memory

## **Homework:**

- Readings (as per unit outline)
- Journal Entry #1 (finalise submission agreement for journal entry)