



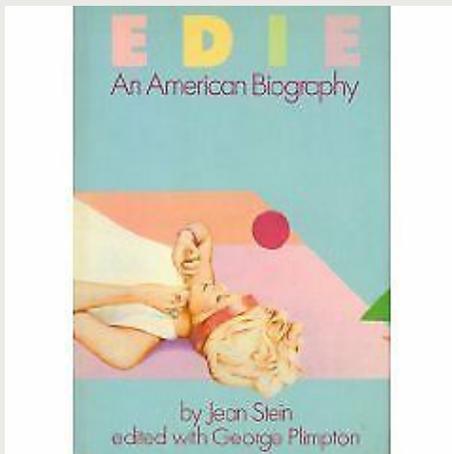
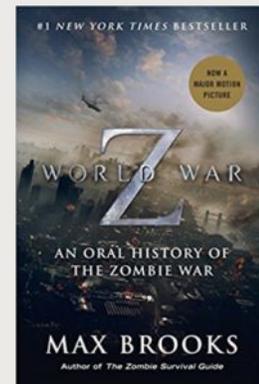
## September 2019

# What is Oral History?

### Director's Column, September 2019

This month, we're exploring the boundaries of oral history. What defines it? What makes it unique? What are its boundaries? What are best practices?

OHC Director Martin Meeker's column ponders these very questions, using the zombie apocalypse as his jumping off point.



### #notoralhistory

The term "oral history" has been used and misused for years. Lately, it's been increasingly misappropriated, leaving the general public with the wrong idea of what it actually is, and what it can do.

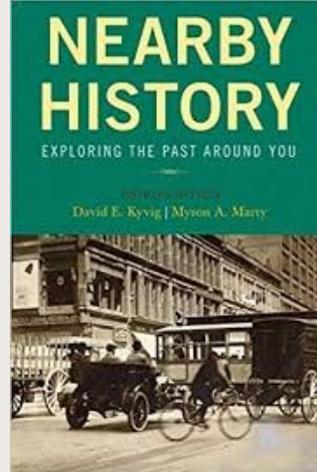
Shanna Farrell discusses how "oral history" has been misused and what's at stake if we don't understand the difference.

### My First Brush With Oral History

Amanda Tewes first encountered oral history in her master's program in history at California State University, Fullerton. She chose the program because it had strong public history training, but she soon discovered the pedagogy included something called "oral history." She had wanted to become a museum curator –

and nothing else – before her first brush with oral history.

Things didn't go according to plan.



## Oral History and the Second Golden Age of Radio?

Paul Burnett muses on the popularity of oral history through the lens of several mainstream examples.

(Anyone remember when Kanye rushed the stage during Taylor Swift's acceptance speech at the VMAs? Spoiler alert: there's an oral history on that.)



Read Paul's thoughts on the growing appetite for oral history.



## The Science and Art of Oral History: My Internship Experience

This past summer, Eleanor Naiman, a rising senior at Swarthmore College majoring in History, worked with Amanda Tewes on the Bay Area Women in Politics Oral History Project. For her internship, Eleanor researched the contributions of women to Bay Area politics and assisted Tewes with her interviews.

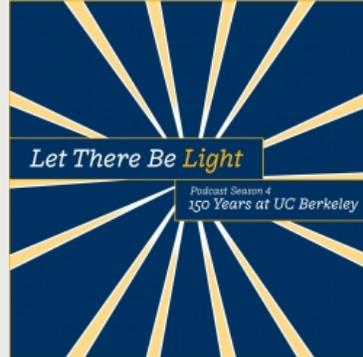
Eleanor reflects on her internship experience with the Oral History Center, and how she learned about what goes into an oral history project.

## Check Out the 4th Season of the Berkeley Remix!

The fourth season of our podcast, **Let There Be Light: 150 Years at UC Berkeley**, is inspired by the University's motto, *Fiat Lux*. Our episodes this season explore issues of identity — where we've

been, who we are now, the powerful impact Berkeley's identity as a public institution has had on student and academic life, and the intertwined history of campus and community.

The three-episode season explores how housing has been on the front lines of the battle for student welfare throughout the University's history; how UC Berkeley created a culture of innovation that made game-changing technologies possible; and how political activism on campus was a motivator for the farm-to-table food scene in the city of Berkeley. All episodes include audio from interviews from the Oral History Center of The Bancroft Library.



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