

Team Two Project Design Statement
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PROJECT NAME.

Evolution or Revolution: Reflecting on Public Librarianship, 1980-2010

SPONSORING INSTITUTION.

San Jose State University - School of Library and Information Sciences

PROJECT GOALS.

Primary.

To fulfill the requirements for completion of a Team Oral History Project in LIBR 284 Oral History Seminar.

Secondary.

This project endeavors to chronicle the diverse experiences of public library staff and patrons from 1980 to 2010 by means of collecting personal narratives to demonstrate the changing nature of public libraries.

DURATION.

Fall semester 2010

NUMBER OF NARRATORS.

14. We will conduct one 60-90 minute audio interview with each narrator.

ON WHAT BASIS ARE NARRATORS CHOSEN.

Each group member shared his or her thoughts on potential narrators via Google docs. Some group members listed more than one potential narrator and together, the group narrowed the selection based on the best sample to cover our topics regarding changes in public library services over the last thirty years. Once decided on our fourteen narrators, the group contacted their respective choices to secure his or her agreement to participate in this class project. In a few instances, narrators declined or were unavailable and a second choice was made.

HISTORICAL FOCUS.

This Oral History Project will explore the personal experiences of library staff and patrons over the last three decades. Through face-to-face interviews, we will explore the historical questions: How have changes in library technology and demographics affected the way public libraries perform their basic functions? How have budgetary challenges modified the way public libraries bring services to their communities?

TOPICS COVERED IN INTERVIEWS.

- Social role of public libraries in business and community
- Library patron expectations and experience
- Emerging technologies
- Library sciences education
- Economic challenges

SOURCES FOR HISTORICAL RESEARCH.

Peer reviewed journals; professional journals; mainstream media; meta-analysis; census data; print; governmental publications and statistical reports; customer service surveys; library strategic plans; internal development documents; SJSU databases; theses; usage statistics; library timelines.

FINAL DISPOSITION OF INTERVIEWS.

This is a class project, and interviews will not go into a repository.

ADDITIONAL ACCESS TO INTERVIEWS.

Access restricted to students only.

DATE SUBMITTED.

9/30/2010

DATE REVISED: