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*The American Indian Oral History Manual* offers a clear, succinct, and practical approach to guide and encourage the collection of American Indian oral history
by Indigenous peoples themselves. Building on previous work conducted for the Native American Veteran History Project, it was tested at two Great Plains states workshops (South Dakota and Nebraska) attended by representatives from tribal colleges and veteran interest groups.

The authors bring a great deal of expertise to the table in producing this useful text. Charles Trimble, an enrolled member of the Oglala Sioux tribe, has a distinguished record of involvement in Indigenous issues, including service as director of the National Congress of American Indians, as a board member with the Nebraska State Historical Society, and an appointment to the American Folk Life Center Board of Trustees at the Library of Congress. Coauthors Barbara Sommers, a founder of the Minnesota Oral History Association, and Mary Kay Quinlan, editor of the Oral History Association Newsletter, also authored The Oral History Manual (2002).

What makes the collection of American Indian oral history both unique and challenging? This question is addressed in the opening chapter, which provides an overview of both the history and specific factors that define American Indian oral history. The authors point to the cultural contexts in which the collection of oral history must take place as well as with the type and related protocols that must obtain for different types of Indigenous oral texts.

Crucially, ethical guidelines are discussed in the second chapter. The authors clearly indicate they will not address some of the more stringent requirements that follow federal funding for such projects. They do discuss the role of institutional review boards and the legalities of signed consent in the context of tribal communities. Moreover, they outline the best practices related to record keeping and point to the need for training and careful narrator selection.

Noting that community outreach is an integral part of oral history projects, the authors cover project planning and provide a range of practical information about equipment and budgets. In a world of ever-changing technology, the authors provide very good general guidelines for the specifications required of equipment to produce archival-quality materials.

Central to all oral history work is the interview. The authors cover interview preparation, the interview itself, and interview processing, all with enough detail to provide good training for the uninitiated. Particularly noteworthy are the cross-cultural considerations that must be considered in relation to collecting American Indian oral history. The text portion of the manual concludes with a presentation of a number of ways in which such oral history material may be used for community benefit, a point often missed in other guides.

Strong appendices provide the manual’s readers and users with sample forms for oral history activities (i.e., consent, interview, and artifact inventory forms) and with the most recently crafted Oral History Association Guidelines. Susan D. Penfield, Documenting Endangered Languages Program, National Science Foundation.