The Maverick Veterans Voices Project: Lessons Learned, So Far

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Project: Beginnings

- **Origin Story**
  - Idea from Dr. Kim Van Noort, Associate Dean, College of Liberal Arts (January 2013)
  - Oral History interviews
    - Military veterans
    - UTA alumni, staff, faculty & community members
    - Any military campaign, any time period
  - Inspiration: *From Combat to Kentucky*
    - OH Project at the Nunn Center for Oral History, University of Kentucky Libraries
From Combat to Kentucky

From Combat to Kentucky
Interviews with student veterans
Louie B. Nunn Center for Oral History, University of Kentucky Libraries

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From Combat to Kentucky (C2KY)
The Louie B. Nunn Center for Oral History at the University of Kentucky Libraries
C2KY is an ongoing oral history project that documents Kentucky’s student veterans and their individual experiences during the Iraq and Afghanistan Wars. Interviews will focus on each veteran’s military experience as well as their transition back into civilian life, particularly into higher education.

If you are interested in participating, please complete the interview Information Form.
Project: Beginnings

- Collaboration
  - Meetings b/w COLA & Libraries
  - Resulted in a White Paper by Rafia Mirza, Melissa Gonzales, and Kris Swenson

- White Paper
  - Mission Statement
  - Web Design
  - Oral History interview logistics
  - Equipment needed
Project: Beginnings

- Interviews (video)
  - February/April 2013: 12 total
  - WWII to present
- Proof of Concept
  - Created a preview video
  - Presented to President Spaniolo & received “proof of concept” funds
Project: Proving the Concept

- Low-key marketing efforts
  - Mostly for development purposes
  - Locate and invite interviewees
  - Flyers, articles, local channel interviews...
  - Booth at UTA ROTC flag ceremony
    - 15 interested interviewees

- Official Project Team Developed
  - Dr. Van Noort heading marketing/development
  - Library: Project planning, interviews, web interface design, preservation/storage management
OHMS

- Oral History in the Digital Age
  - [http://ohda.matrix.msu.edu/](http://ohda.matrix.msu.edu/)
  - Resource for OH projects, both audio & video
  - Product of an Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS) National Leadership grant

- Oral History Metadata Synchronizer (OHMS)
  - Open source, web-based system that allows users to search for specific terms within recorded oral history interviews.
Project: Where We Are Now

- Transcribing first set of interviews
  - Using professional transcriptionist

- Working groups
  - Project plan
    - Documenting resources, timeline, processes
    - Tracking
  - Metadata
    - Front end/administrative metadata exists
    - Additional metadata to be derived from transcriptions

- Web development
  - Web site to go live February 2014
  - To include transcripts (pdf), video clips (full interviews archived and available)
  - May include links to external sources (campaigns, geographic locations, etc.)
Project: Future Directions

- Project has proven to be scalable
- Funding
  - Equipment for on-site interviews
  - Creating on-campus space for interviews
  - Fellowships, interns, project manager
- Future University partnerships
  - Faculty teaching and research
  - Student involvement
    - Learning oral history and transcription skills
- Future Community partnerships
  - Funding!
  - Veterans groups
  - ?
Lessons Learned So Far

- We don’t always have control
  - Schedules change, technology goes wonky
- Plans will change
  - Organizational priorities shift
- Everything takes longer. Everything
  - Emphasis on *Everything*
- Patience, persistence and humor (in large doses) are critical
- Always remember why we’re doing the project
MavVets Preview Video

MavVets Voices Project
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