Welcome
Our Member Summit adheres to the LYRASIS Code of Conduct. We seek to provide a welcoming, fun, and safe community experience for everyone.

The full text of the code of conduct is available at https://www.lyrasis.org/about/Pages/Code-of-Conduct.aspx.

If you need to report or contact us about a violation, please email Meg Blum.

*This session is being recorded and we will pause the recording during Q&A for open discussion*
Suggestions from the Field

Ideas for Implementing DEI Based on Lessons from Community Projects
Agenda

1. About me

2. About the Louisiana Trans Oral History Project (LaTOHP)

3. LaTOHP as Case Study

4. Discussion
Talking About Community Building
To Diversify Collecting Practices and Library Collections

LaTOHP helps LSU Libraries meet DEI goals by acquiring trans-related oral histories.

What types of community building can other libraries do to collect new and diverse material?
SL Ziegler (they/them)
White Genderqueer/Trans Femme Human
10+ Years in Special Collections Libraries
Stephen Krueger
Bri Watson
Jay Colbert
Emily Drabinski
Erin White

April Hathcock
Tonia Sutherland
Sofia Leung
Jarrett Drake
Dorothy Berry
Fobazi Ettarh
Baharak Yousefi
Louisiana Trans Oral History Project (LaTOHP)

The Louisiana Trans Oral History is a **trans-run, community-focused** initiative to collect, preserve, and promote the voices of Louisiana’s transgender and gender nonconfirming communities.

Launched in May 2020   20+ Interviews   Grant funds in 2021
LaTOHP - Interviews

Interview Transcripts

Thanks to funding from the Louisiana Endowment for the Humanities, we're creating full transcripts of our interviews. Read them!

Interview Process

1. Pre-Interview
2. Interview
3. Transcript review
4. Request permission for website use
5. Offer to donate to the T. Harry Williams Oral History Center
LaTOHP - Outreach

What Does Being Trans in Louisiana Mean to You?

I don't feel this good being trans almost anywhere else in the United States. Living in New Orleans has helped me feel comfortable being and expressing myself authentically. In New Orleans I am happy to be part of a beautiful queer community.

- Cypress Atlas
@TransHistory_La
LouisianaTransOralHistory.org

Finding Words For Us

I did not know the term transgender until probably 1995-96. I knew that things didn't work between mind and body, and I would act on that, in guilt. And there's a lot of religious guilt involved in that. I really did not get online until 1995, when I went to seminary. And that's when I learned the term 'transgender' and started saying, 'Okay, yeah, that's who I am.'

- Danielle Grace
@TransHistory_La
Louisiana Trans Oral History Project
January 2021

Notes for the Future

I think one thing that I'd like someone 30, 60, 90 years in the future to look at is the history of the LGBTQ+ community in the United States. I think it's important to recognize the struggles that we've faced and the progress that we've made.

I hope that people in the future continue to build towards an even better future. At that point, these battles will have been fought and won; there'll be new battles to fight.

And I think that is what it means to be trans in Louisiana. We're going to be pushing to make sure that our community is heard and visible, and that, even in hard times we're going to be there to support each other.

-Peter Marie Jenkins, February 2021
LaTOHP - Events

Louisiana Trans Oral History Project Presents

WITH FUNDING FROM THE LOUISIANA ENDOWMENT FOR THE HUMANITIES

Storytelling and the Preservation of our Trans History: a Community Panel
February 18, 2021
12pm Central

REGISTER: HTTPS://BIT.LY/STORYTELLING-TRANS-HISTORY

Louisiana Trans Oral History Project Presents

Tomorrow's History Is Gonna Be So Queer: A Panel on Queer Oral Histories
Thursday, March 11, 2021
2pm CST

REGISTER: HTTP://BIT.LY/TOMORROWSHISTORY-SOQUEER

Louisiana Trans Oral History Project Presents

History is Big Enough For All Of Us: Using Trans Oral Histories in the Classroom
Thursday, April 8, 2021
10am CST
http://bit.ly/history-is-big-enough
Podcast and Zines

2021 Louisiana Legislative Session

Four Anti-Trans Bills

Part of national effort to attack trans youth

Ugh, Nevermind, I guess We’ll Spend All Our Time Counteracting the Harm of All This Nonsense
As LaTOHP continues to grow, adopt new initiatives and becomes increasingly visible, we’ve assembled an **Advisory Group** and an **Editorial Team**.

- Folks Working in Similar Projects
- Folks Otherwise Active in the Community
- Accountability
LaTOHP, In Short

We do:
- Interviews
- Events
- Outreach

We are:
- Community-Focused
- Responsive
- Accountable

We help:
- LSU Libraries diversity collections
LaTOHP as a Case Study

What Those of Us at Cultural Heritage Institutions Can Learn from This and Other Projects

Offered with respect, appreciation, and an understanding of the reality of your work
Yes, many of us don’t have a lot of say in this, but we can all advocate.

If we want to work with community members, let’s remember academic payment lags are not okay.
Give Space and Support to Staff

When We Benefit From Having Staff Working in Community Projects, Let’s Help Them Out

- Is this/can this be part of tenure/promotion/review?
- Supply time and resources
- Make it clear that it’s valued by the organization
Access

Physical Space

• What flexibility do we have for ID rules

• What do we do when we think an ID doesn’t match the person?

• What training can we give front-facing staff to ensure a non-horrible experience?
Access

Registration

- What if a name changes? What if a gender marker changes?
- Are we asking for gender information? What do you use that for? Do we really need it? Can we explain why?
We Should Have A Plan

For when We’re a Target
And Yes,
We’ll Probably Be a Target

- You might be made an example of
- An individual on your team might be targeted
- How can we communicate to those we’ll need?
Who Are We Accountable To

When it comes to this work?

- How do we build advisory groups? How do we compensate people on these groups?
- How will we act when we’re told we’re not doing well?
And Obviously We Can’t Be Neutral

This is obvious, right?

- Growing body of literature that we never were
- It’s not helpful to pretend we could be
How To Make This Operational

Can We Make Changes That Will Outlast Us?

- Passionate staff come and go
- What happens when everyone who loves these ideas leaves?
- Can community commitments be embedded in policies and staff onboarding?
Let’s Talk
There’s Always
So Much More to Say

SL Ziegler

- Twitter: @ess_ell_zee
- Instagram: @ess_ell_zee
- Website: slziegler.com

Louisiana Trans Oral History Project

- Twitter: @TransHistory_La
- Instagram: @TransHistory_La
- Website: LouisianaTransOralHistory.org
Questions and Discussion

Because Sometimes It’s Helpful

- How best might we prep front-line staff to be sensitive to identification issues?
- How could we create policies and onboarding that operationalizes DEI work?
- What type of work can we do in advance to defend against being a political target?
Thank you!

We’ll automatically move back to the main Zoom room