

CWU Students Record Oral Histories During Paid Internship

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Partnerships and Funding

CWU Archives and Special Collections was fortunate to partner with the CWU Anthropology Department and the Roslyn Ronald Cle Elum Heritage Club to help preserve the diverse history and culture of upper Kittitas County. With funds from the State of Washington, CWU Archives purchased a camera, microphone, lights and tripods to conduct oral history interviews of longtime residents of the area. The funding also provided paid internships for students who helped conduct and record the interviews.

Student Learning, Equity and Accessibility

The interviewees were an older rural population from diverse backgrounds. Student interns practiced impartial interviewing techniques and gained insight through listening. Paid internships are more equitable than non-paid internships, as some students require income to pursue education.



Wes Craven Video Interview



Babs Ballard Video Interview

Learning by Doing

Learning took place in the field and in the processing room of the CWU Archives instead of in the traditional classroom. The student interns explored how to conduct oral history interviews by first observing actual interviews and later by conducting interviews themselves. Interns edited the transcripts, corrected closed captions.

Additional experience was gained as they learned to process and describe donated archival collections. The project resulted in multiple published interviews within CWU's Scholar Works, as well as the intake of several archive donations, including one large collection from Ethel Cravens Sweet.

Impact of Oral Histories

The 32 posted interviews have had 1,073 views since August of 2022. The data regarding views was collected from ScholarWorks and is collected and reported annually. The student interns were from Anthropology, History and Museum Studies.

https://digitalcommons.cwu.edu/rrcehc_interviews/



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