

Sound recordings in Special Collections

September 2021

QG HCOL009

The Wolfson Reading Room

Special Collections Centre

The Sir Duncan Rice Library
University of Aberdeen
Bedford Road
Aberdeen
AB24 3AA

Special Collections recognises the importance of oral history and other sound recordings. As interest in using these resources increases, we hope this factsheet serves as an introductory guide to the sources and assistance we offer.

Holdings

The University has two major collections of oral history recordings: **MS 3620 University of Aberdeen's Oral History Archive** and **MS 3769 Lives in the Oil Industry**. Other collections may also contain some sound recordings.

The University of Aberdeen **Oral History Archive** began in 1985 as part of the Aberdeen University Quincentenary Project. Interviews with former students, staff and other individuals connected with the University were originally intended to aid historians working on monographs commemorating the University's Quincentenary, which was celebrated in 1995.

The considerable historical value of these first interviews has encouraged the University to extend the project beyond this date. The archive now contains nearly 200 interviews with over 170 individuals connected with the University.

Transcripts of the interviews are available for consultation via the catalogue whilst the recordings themselves are available via the Reading Room.

Lives in the Oil Industry is a collaboration between the British Library's National Life Story Collection and the University of Aberdeen.

The project collected the experiences of those who had first-hand experience of the North Sea Oil and Gas industry in the twentieth century. Interviews were conducted with people employed in virtually all aspects of the industry, and some of the family members of the workers. The objective was to document the personal perspective of one of the United Kingdom's most important industries, its impact nationally and the effect on the lives of those connected to it.

There are almost 200 interviews totalling approximately 800 hours of recordings. No transcripts exist for these interviews.

Summaries of the interviews are available for consultation via the catalogue whilst the recordings themselves are available via the Reading Room.

Access to material

Please search our online catalogues to identify items.

Some interviews and their transcripts or summaries are under restricted access or are closed at the interviewees' request. Please contact the Reading Room staff for more information if the recording you wish to use is subject to restrictions.

The Reading Room will provide headphones and other equipment required to listen to the recordings. **Please do not use your own personal equipment.**

Advance notice

To help you make the most of your visit and so that we can ensure material is available for you, please contact us in advance of your visit. We will be happy to advise further on accessibility and availability of specific materials.