



Sound recordings in Special Collections

Andrew MacGregor, May 2018

QG HCOL009 [www.abdn.ac.uk/special-collections/documents/guides/gqhcol009.pdf]

The Wolfson Reading Room

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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** ([MS 3620](#)) 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.

For further project information see:

www.abdn.ac.uk/special-collections/oral-history-378.php.

Lives in the Oil Industry ([MS 3769](#)) 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.

For further project information, see:

www.abdn.ac.uk/oillives/.

The online catalogue is available at:

www.abdn.ac.uk/special-collections/search-catalogues/catalogues-60.php.

Access to material

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.**

You must not copy or transcribe any part or the whole of any sound recording without permission from Special Collections and the holder of any relevant copyrights. You must comply with current UK copyright legislation and ensure that any information obtained from our unpublished collections relating to living individuals is used in accordance with the principles of the Data Protection Act, 1998.

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