

Editorial Note 34/2014

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Welcome to Volume 34 (2014) of the *Oral History Forum d'histoire orale*. The journal is undergoing some major changes as it approaches its 40th anniversary.

As *Forum's* new editor, I'm humbled to step into the role that was so ably filled by Alexander Freund, Nolan Reilly, and Kristina Llewellyn (and, more recently, Patrice Milewski) these past several years. Their dedicated work as *Forum* editors transformed the journal. The first issue of *Forum* was produced in 1975-76. In its first decade, it primarily published papers presented at conferences organized by the Canadian Oral History Association. While the journal moved to peer-reviewed articles in the 1990s, fewer oral history conferences were organized in Canada during that time. At the request of those present at an oral history conference organized by Alex and Nolan in 2005 (the first such held in Canada in about ten years), they were asked to assume the editorship of *Forum*.¹ Alex and Nolan revived the journal as an electronic publication in 2008 (it had not produced an issue since 2005). They secured a new home for the journal at Athabaska University Press, and produced a keyword-searchable online archive of all past issues. With the technical assistance of Kathy Killoh and Sergiy Kozakov of AUP, *Forum* is now an open access e-journal.

I am pleased to welcome Angela Schippers as the new Book Review Editor for *Oral History Forum d'histoire orale*. Angela is the administrative assistant to the Oral History Centre (<http://www.oralhistorycentre.ca/>) and has a wealth of oral history experience. Interested in reviewing oral history-related books, websites, performances, movies? Please email a.schippers@uwinnipeg.ca.

An editorial board is in the process of being formed for the journal. A combination of seasoned and new scholars, of those inside and outside of academia, will help shape the future of the journal. Keep your eye on the [About the Journal](#) page for updates.

Readers, please submit items for possible publication – anything from articles for peer-review to letters to the editor! Reader-contributors should feel free to imagine and explore the possibilities that exist with an online publication, and submit items that take advantage of the audio, visual, and hyperlink capabilities of *Forum*. ALL readers should see themselves as potential contributors, since the journal is not the exclusive domain of university-based academics. Independent oral historians, teachers, community members, and

¹ Alexander Freund, "Oral History and Online Publishing: Establishing and Managing the *Oral History Forum d'histoire orale*," *Words and Silences* 6 no. 1 (2011), 12-13.

activists should see the *Forum* as a place to bring their ideas, notices, and research.

For those who are new to *Forum*, each volume is opened on 1 January and closed on 31 December. Contributions are published as soon as they have passed the editorial process, allowing for speedy publication. As well, thematic Special Issues are produced regularly. In addition to peer-reviewed articles, *Forum* aims to publish teaching resources, course outlines and syllabi; short think, discussion, and opinion pieces; works of art emerging from oral history (visual art, play scripts, poetry, fiction); annotated transcripts; audio tours; works in progress; conference reports; and other items. Let me know what you'd like to see!

Forthcoming Special Issues include one on Human Rights, guest edited by Michael Kilburn (Endicott Center for Oral History). Alexander von Plato (founder of German oral history journal *BIOS*) is editing a special issue on Canada's role in Germany's reunification. And special issues are being considered on food history, the history of sexuality, and religious history.

Finally, I ask that readers consider supporting the journal financially, either by donation or by becoming members of the Canadian Oral History Association (<http://www.canoha.ca>). As explained in previous editorial notes, there are many excellent reasons for becoming a member of COHA:

- COHA and *Forum* need members and subscribers for our application to SSHRC for journal funding.
- While funding allows us to make *Forum* open access, a solid base of membership fees allows us to develop both COHA and *Forum*, for example by sponsoring national meetings or the translation of oral history articles.
- If COHA wants to participate in public discussions about the role of oral history in Canadian society, this can only be accomplished with a strong membership behind us.
- Oral history is a social movement to democratize history. Large organizations in Argentina, Australia, Brazil, Mexico, New Zealand, Spain, the United Kingdom, and the United States as well as a strong international associations (IOHA) demonstrate this as much as the rapidly growing organizations in the Czech Republic, Italy, Japan, Poland, Russia, and many other countries around the world. Canadians can best be part of this movement if we have a strong association, build networks, and connect more systematically to global oral history networks.

Next year is the 40th anniversary of *Oral History Forum d'histoire orale*. Help us celebrate!

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