Libraries, Long Lives, and ... Louis L'Amour? Oklahoma 100 Year Life Oral History Project

Project Overview

The Oklahoma 100 Year Life Oral History Project is a collaboration between the Oklahoma Oral History Research Program at the OSU Library and the OSU College of Human Sciences. Through this project, the historical memories and legacies of Oklahoma's oldest living citizens are being preserved. Participants share personal history, favorite memories of persons, places, and events and some offer advice for iving a long, long life. From having a positive attitude to singing a happy song each morning to continuing to read and stay active, these centenarians are not only living history repositories but shining role models for all. Interview transcripts and other materials are made available online. Since launching the project website in March 2014, transcripts have received 545 page views in CONTENTdm through May 2015.



Interview Information

Females=43 Males = 32
Care Facility=15
Independent Living= 18
Home with Spouse=4
Home with child=19
Home alone=19

Cognitive Tests

Potential participants are screened prior to being selected for interviews. They are tested on recall capability, temporal knowledge, and awareness of location.









Library Service to Centenarians

Large print books
Diverse genres (especially Westerns)
Books on tape – with machines
Home delivery of materials
Longer check out times
Computer options
Word games, puzzles and brain teasers
Newspapers and newspaper readers



Challenges/Factors Involved with Interviewing Replace In your and the second se

Hearing/vision Mobility Endurance

Preferred Reading

The Bible
Newspapers
Fiction
Magazines

Cookbooks
History
Biographies
Romance

Replicating this Project in your Community

Ask - there are more Centenarians than you think

Contact caregivers – inquire about mental status and experiences

Meet in advance and consider conducting a cognitive test



Advice

What advice would you give someone who wants to live one hundred years?

Read the comics and read the Bible.... (LH)

So what do you plan to do next?

Listen to books and keep breathing.... (VT)

Do you read much?

I'm a fairly good patron of our library.

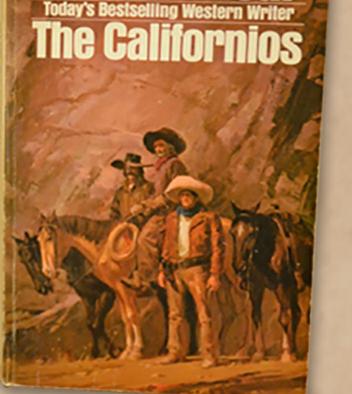
I don't go to the public library. That requires transportation, and then you have to take the books back by a schedule. (BB)

I read a lot – almost anything I can get my hands on. [I get a box of books every month from a reader's service.] (EY)

Our Workstation



Books



Louis L'Amour

I've got about one hundred Louis L'Amour books in there. I've read them twice. My brother has read them, my friend has read them and I'm on my third time. (GC)

Louis L'Amour...I only have probably a hundred of the books. (WL)

The primary one is Westerns with Louis L'Amour and Zane Grey. (BB)

I like them Westerns. I'm an old cowboy gal.
(GG)





Tanya Finchum

Juliana Nykolaiszyn

Transcripts available at: www.library.okstate.edu/oralhistory/100