**Choosing Equipment:**

* **Some useful websites and tips for choosing recorders and other equipment related to oral history:**
  + Baylor: <http://www.baylor.edu/content/services/document.php/66424.pdf>
    - Baylor also has a good glossary of technology terms to help you know what some of the jargon means: <http://www.baylor.edu/content/services/document.php/79809.pdf>
  + Oral History in the Digital Age: [www.ohda/matrix.msu.edu](http://www.ohda/matrix.msu.edu)
  + The Audio Field Recording Equipment Guide: [www.vermontfolklifecenter.org/archive/res\_audioequip\_retired.shtml](http://www.vermontfolklifecenter.org/archive/res_audioequip_retired.shtml)
  + H-Oralhist furnishes a searchable archive of topics, including equipment:

<http://www2.h-net.msu.edu/~oralhist/>

* **Basics for a recorder:**
  + Get a digital, not tape, recorder
  + Lightweight
  + Can record in either MP3 or WAV
  + Can record at least at 120KPS
  + Has a external light letting you know the power is on
  + Has a screen that lets you know how much memory is left
  + Can use both batteries and a power cord.
  + Has internal/eternal memory card that can somehow enable transfer to a computer
    - External cards are easiest to transfer, but can get expensive;
    - Internal memory cards only require a USB cord, but those can get lost easily and memory capacity can be limited (usually up to ten hours though—and that’s a lot)
* To microphone or not?
  + Microphones appropriate for recording oral history interviews should be *condenser types* (not dynamic types). Condenser microphones require a power source (called phantom power) supplied either by the recorder device (referred to as phantom power) or a separate battery. For the most secure and least noisy input, select a microphone with a balanced XLR connection, not a stereo mini-plug connection. See Baylor glossary for help with terms, but essentially you want a microphone that has some kick, but can be easily supplied with power. Dynamic microphones, which can simply just be attachments to a recorder, are not good for picking up individual voices. They are most often used for theatrical productions were you want to capture all the dialogue on stage.