The Oral History Manual

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In *The Oral History Manual* Barbara W. Sommer and Mary Kay Quinlan answer nearly any question the budding, or experienced, oral historian could possibly conjure. Their comprehensive but concise volume addresses such issues as project planning and legal and ethical considerations, as well as the preparation of a budget and finding financial support. The authors provide the necessary instruction to tackle the mechanics, technological and otherwise, of conducting interviews. They also address the labors that must follow after the interview has been conducted: processing and preservation. The suggestions will function for the audio preservationist as well as the individual set on video recording.

*The Oral History Manual* should prove of interest and value to all readers of the *Annals of Iowa*. Many manuals of style and technique exist, but this is perhaps the most straightforward, easy-to-use, and readily available one on the market. The authors provide useful forms and credible guidelines for a variety of projects. Their timely suggestions for publicizing and funding projects should find a ready audience, particularly in times of bare-bones state and federal budgets. Moreover, given the increasing awareness in primary and secondary schools of the importance of oral history in their curricula, as well as the swelling number of historical societies, private institutions, and individuals interested in the craft of oral preservation, this book should find a place on many a bookshelf.