

Dealing with the Past Oral History/Historical Memory Projects/Websites

This non-comprehensive list contains some of oral history, historical memory projects we know and have been working with. There are obviously many more and we are happy to get more ideas and examples.

Memoria Abierta, Argentina (e/sp):

Memoria Abierta is on the one hand a network of Argentinean Human Rights organizations working towards a collective memory of Argentina's recent past. Memoria Abierta runs a Documentary Heritage program and created oral history archives, photographic archives and a Topography of Memory program. They produce educational and dissemination material, training workshops and a on-line archives with maps, photos, films and documents on the time of the military dictatorship in Argentina. They also work at a policy level on issues such as archives and access to them, public use of places that are emblematic for their use during the illegal repression, and the fundamental dilemmas that will arise when it comes time to design a museum: www.memoriaabierta.org.ar (e.g. www.memoriaabierta.org.ar/vestigios/index.php; www.memoriaabierta.org.ar/materiales/astarsa/)

Conflict Archive on the Internet – CAIN, Northern Ireland (e):

On-line digital Archive of source materials and information on the topics of victims, survivors and commemoration in Northern Ireland by the University of Ulster. A team of researchers based at the Magee campus of the university documented the developments that have taken place in this subject area since 1997. Information that was collected during the project was made available through the existing CAIN (Conflict Archive on the INternet) Web site: <http://cain.ulst.ac.uk/> (e.g. <http://cain.ulst.ac.uk/victims/humanface/alpha/A.html>)

Documenta, Croatia (Croatian/e):

Documenta – the Centre for Dealing with the Past had been created by several Croatian NGOs with the attempt to encourage the process of dealing with the past and establishing factual truth about the war. The project “Unveiling Personal Memories on War and Detention” is intended to create a collection of video-recorded testimonies on a wide range of war experiences in Croatia proposes the use of oral history as a method to collect and open up individual memories on past traumatic events from a wide range of perspectives, including those of minorities, victims, women, war veterans: <http://www.documenta.hr/en/snimanje-osobnih-sje%C4%87anja-na-rat-metodom-usmene-povijesti.html>

European Memories of the Gulag, Europe/France (f/e/ru/po):

Virtual museum with testimonies of people who have been in labour camps and special settlements of the Soviet gulag. With support from Radio France Internationale (RFI), a research team of European anthropologists, geographers, historians and sociologists set out to find archival documents, survivors' testimonies, objects and personal documents relating to the deportation to the Soviet Union of citizens of the Central and East European countries annexed, occupied or “liberated” by the Soviets during or after the Second World War. The recorded memories are combined with biographical rooms, maps and timelines: <http://museum.gulagmemories.eu/en/home/homepage>

Jasenovac Memorial, Croatia (Croatian, Serbian, e):

The Jasenovac Memorial Area Collection of the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum contains thousands of artifacts: documents, photographs, maps, film, textiles, transcripts, testimony, and personal objects. A collection of some of those items—ranging from a recipe book written by a starving Stara Gradiška camp inmate to shackles found at Jasenovac—and related materials from the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum's archives: <http://www.ushmm.org/exhibition/jasenovac/>

Remembering and Narrating Conflict, Canada (e/sp):

Remembering and Narrating Conflict offers resource materials for those working on storytelling, historical clarification, documentation truth telling, and memory work initiatives in different regions of the world. These resources began as a project of the Colombian Historical Memory Group (Grupo de Memoria Historica), which was created in 2005 as part of the National Reconciliation and Reparations Commission. Thirty-three memory workers in twenty countries (across four continents) read and commented on an initial English translation and adaptation of the toolkit. <http://reconstructinghistoricalmemory.com/>

South African History Archive - SAHA, South Africa (e):

SAHA is an independent human rights archive dedicated to documenting and providing access to archival holdings that relate to past and contemporary struggles for justice in South Africa. SAHA's archival collections are largely made up of documents, posters, photographs, ephemera and oral histories donated to SAHA by individuals and organizations involved in past and ongoing struggles for justice in South Africa: http://www.saha.org.za/publications/forgotten_voices_in_the_present.htm

United States Holocaust Memorial Museum on-line collections, USA (e; parts in other languages):

The USHMM has numerous on-line exhibitions on issues related to the holocaust and antisemitism, containing oral testimonies, animated maps, documents etc: <http://www.ushmm.org/museum/exhibit/online/>

Zochrot, Israel-Palestine (heb/ar/e):

Zochrot, an Israeli/Palestinian NGO, collects oral histories from Palestinian refugees who witnessed and survived the Nakba of 1948 and of Jewish fighters who participated in the 1948 war and who agreed to share their memories from that time: <http://zochrot.org/en>

Kosovo Memory Book, Kosovo (engl / kos/

The Kosovo Memory Book is a monument to the victims of war crimes (civilians, the wounded and prisoners of war), persons killed in battle (soldiers) and those who were forcibly disappeared in Kosovo in the period January 1 1998 – December 2000 during the armed conflict between the Serbian police and the Yugoslav Army on the one hand, and the Kosovo Liberation Army on the other. http://www.kosovskaknjigapamcenja.org/?page_id=29&lang=de

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