Enhancing oral history through linked data

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ENHANCING ORAL HISTORY THROUGH LINKED DATA

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May 4 Collection

Kent State Shootings: Oral Histories

The Kent State Shootings Oral Histories project collects and provides access to personal accounts of the May 4, 1970, shootings and their aftermath. Founded in 1990 by Sandra Perlman Hale, the Project continues to record oral histories, including many eyewitness accounts, from a wide variety of viewpoints. The narrators are Kent State faculty, alumni, staff, and administrators, residents of the city of Kent, National Guardsmen, police, hospital personnel, and other persons whose lives were affected by these historic events.

Basic Search

Browse Collection

- by Subject
- by Narrators' Roles
- by Narrators' Names

The Oral Histories project is conducted by Kent State University Libraries' Department of Special Collections and Archives and follows the standards of the Oral History Association. If you are interested in recording an oral history, please contact Lael Hughes-Watkins, University Archivist, for details.

The Department of Special Collections has also collected personal narratives and commentaries that were submitted in writing. These written statements are collected in Box 104 of the May 4 Collection, and the full text of most is available online.

* Limited search functionality
* 90% of oral histories have completed transcriptions
**Chuck Ayers Oral History**

| Narrator(s): | Ayers, Chuck (Charles W.) |
| Date of interview: | 2007-08-16 |

**Description:**
A former editorial cartoonist for the Akron Beacon Journal, now one of the authors of the comic strip Crankshaft, Ayers relates his memories from when he was an undergraduate student at Kent State University from 1966-1971. Ayers interprets what happened on May 4, 1970, as well as events that occurred both leading up and following the shootings. He discusses several photographs he took on those early days in May, his role as an eyewitness for the Beacon Journal, and being interviewed by the FBI.

**Length of interview:** 132 minutes

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*Keyword search only*
*Transcription is on separate HTML page (non-searchable)*
Chuck Ayers Oral History
Recorded on August 16, 2007
Interviewed and Transcribed by Craig Simpson

[Interviewer]: Good morning. My name is Craig Simpson. The date is August 16, 2007. We are conducting an interview today for the May 4 Oral History Project, and could you please state your name?

[Chuck Ayers]: My name is Chuck Ayers.

[Interviewer]: And where were you born?

[Chuck Ayers]: Akron, Ohio.

[Interviewer]: What years did you go to Kent State?

[Chuck Ayers]: I started Kent in the Fall of '65. I graduated in March of '71.

[Interviewer]: What made you decide to go to Kent State?

[Chuck Ayers]: The art department. The program here was always very good, and I had gone to a high school in Akron with a very strong art program. It was actually involved with the vocational education there in their program. Today it's in magnet arts programs in the schools. But I've always been interested in art. I actually spent a year at Akron University because, when I graduated, I didn't have any money. [laughs] I put myself through school. I worked my way through school. So I spent a year at Akron U before I transferred here to Kent.

[Interviewer]: So you were still an undergraduate in 1970?
MOVING FORWARD-

* Google Open Refine
* Apply Linked Data to the record and transcription
* Migrate platforms
MOVING FORWARD...

* Open Calais
* Select the desired connections
**CHALLENGES**

* Interface  
* Training

**BENEFITS**

* Open up previously “closed” digital collections to a broader audience  
* Better user experience  
* Finding connections within your content, no matter the size and scope

* Interface  
* Training
THANKS!

QUESTIONS/COMMENTS
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