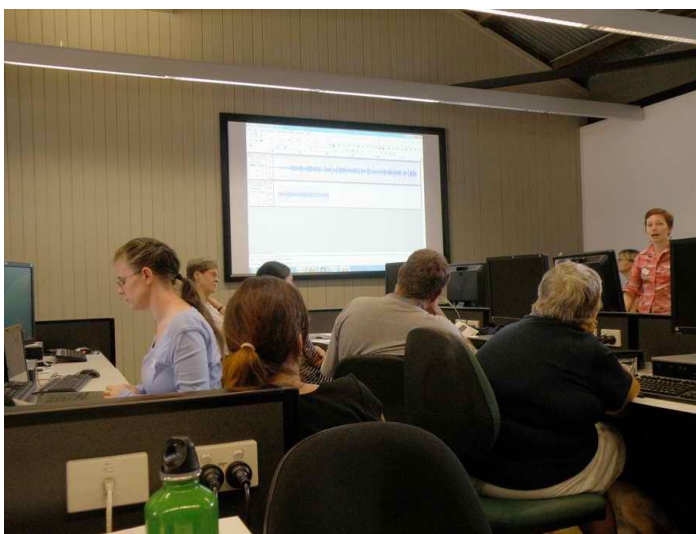


2 April 2011 Workshop



We had a good attendance at our April workshop which covered recording using the recording equipment, introduction to sound program Audacity, file management, editing and transcribing using Express Scribe software. It is good to see the variety of oral history projects people who come to our workshops are doing. We had someone who is interviewing former politicians; another has an exhibition featuring her stories at the Museum of Brisbane; someone from a regional area collecting stories from her community; someone from a suburban library who would like to get local people involved in recording stories; volunteers from military museums who will be collecting some interesting and important stories; someone who is working on the history of her church; students who are working on projects related to their studies; a resident of a retirement village who will have a wealth of stories in her immediate area. These are samples of the myriad of applications for which oral history is used.

The workshop was held in a computer lab at Queensland University of Technology at Kelvin Grove. The class was divided into pairs so they could practise interviewing using the equipment provided or their own equipment. The interviews were then uploaded to the computers to practise sound editing using the free software Audacity. Unfortunately, there were technical glitches with some of the computers and participants had to share the ones that were working.



After lunch the participants were shown best practice in managing the files for their project, particularly when managing a large project. Good organisation of files will ensure that all steps are taken with each interview so that nothing is forgotten. Depending on the project, it is often best to transcribe the whole interview so that it can be searched in the future by the interviewer and other people researching the interviews. There is a trend now, mainly because of cost, not to transcribe fully but to have a summary of key points of the interview. There are some who may not transcribe at all. Express Scribe is another free software program which is a good tool for the oral history interviewer.

There was some good feedback about the workshop, verbally on the day and later by email. They had a good overview in how to use Audacity and Express Scribe. They would like to have had more time practising on the recorders and using Audacity. As we were using the computer lab, it cut down on interaction within the group to some extent, as oral historians like to meet each other and compare notes. All feedback is gratefully received so that OHAA can take that on board when designing future workshops.