

## ORAL HISTORY WORKSHOP

By Dr. Lye Soo Choon and Mark Wong, Oral History Centre, National Archives of Singapore

### Workshop Details

Oral history is an excellent methodology to record the memories of individuals for a variety of documentation projects. One suggested use for audiovisual archivists is an oral history programme that systematically records the donors, creators, producers, and others with intimate first-hand knowledge of the audiovisual records in your collection.

This two-day workshop provides a theoretical and practical foundation to conducting oral history. It explains the oft-used but misunderstood term “oral history” and explains the reasons why it has grown to become an important methodology from the second half of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. It provides a practical guide to designing an oral history project, interview techniques, use of equipment, documentation, preservation, transcribing and editing. There will be a hands-on session on drafting interview outlines and the conduct of a “live” mock interview where participants can apply what they have learnt in the workshop.

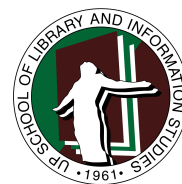
### Trainers Profile



Dr. Lye Soo Choon is a senior oral history specialist with the Oral History Centre of National Archives of Singapore. She has more than ten years of professional experience in conducting interviews and specialises in themes such as community histories, education, the Japanese occupation, the Chinese literary scene, Chinese clan associations, and the performing and visual arts. Dr. Lye has conducted talks and workshops on oral history methodology for institutions of higher learning, overseas archives, schools, government agencies and grassroots organisations. She represented the National Archives in training the Tianjin Archives, Wuxi Archives, Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region Archives, Xinjiang Uyghur Autonomous Region Archives and Yunnan Provincial Archives, helping these institutions to kick start their oral history programmes. Dr. Lye is the consultant for Georgetown World Heritage Incorporated’s “Cherita Lebu Chulia” and “Cherita Georgetown” oral history projects and the Honorary Consultant of Cui Yongyuan Centre for Oral History, Beijing, China.

#### SEAPAVAA Secretariat

c/o UP School of Library and Information Studies  
3/F, Gonzales Hall, UP Main Library, UP Diliman, Quezon City  
1101 Metro Manila, Philippines  
Tel no: (+632) 981 8500 loc. 2869 - 71  
Email: [secretariat@seapavaa.net](mailto:secretariat@seapavaa.net)  
Web: <http://www.seapavaa.net> / <http://www.seapavaaconference.com>





Mark Wong has been working at the Oral History Centre, National Archives of Singapore, as an oral history specialist since the end of 2009. He has conducted oral history interviews on topics such as the Japanese occupation of Singapore, education, and the performing arts. He has also trained schools and other groups on oral history methodology. Wong has been involved in the research, writing, and management of many of the Archives' exhibitions and publications, including such titles as *The Papers of Lee Kuan Yew*, *Nanqiao Jigong: The Extraordinary Story of Nanyang Drivers and Mechanics Who Returned to China During the Sino-Japanese War*, and *Law of the Land*, a permanent exhibition at National Gallery Singapore featuring highlights of Singapore's key constitutional documents. He has presented at the annual conference of the Oral History Society, UK (2013), the Southeast Asia-Pacific Audio Visual Archive Association Conference (2015), and the International Oral History Association Conference (2016). Wong presently sits on the council of the International Oral History Association as the regional representative for Asia.

### About Oral History Centre

The Oral History Centre (OHC) was established in 1979. It is mandated to record, preserve and disseminate the history of Singapore through oral history methodology. This is done through the interviewing of individuals who have served prominently as leaders and innovators in their field of work, as well as individuals who were eyewitnesses or participants in historical events affecting Singapore. Interviews are made available for public consultation, subject to the agreement of interviewees. OHC also promotes the use of oral history through workshops, exhibitions and publications.

#### SEAPAVAA Secretariat

c/o UP School of Library and Information Studies  
3/F, Gonzales Hall, UP Main Library, UP Diliman, Quezon City  
1101 Metro Manila, Philippines  
Tel no: (+632) 981 8500 loc. 2869 - 71  
Email: [secretariat@seapavaa.net](mailto:secretariat@seapavaa.net)  
Web: <http://www.seapavaa.net> / <http://www.seapavaaconference.com>

