

## TEI and Oral History Ontology

Mei Mei Wu

GLIS, NTNU

E-mail: meiwu@ntnu.edu.tw

Oral history is a special genre of human memory and a significant research area in digital humanity. It grows vigorously in the last two decades in British, U.S., Hong Kong, Singapore, Japan and many other geographical areas in the world. The subjects of oral history cover almost all areas, political (228 Oral History Collection, Taiwan), medical (AMMP Oral History Collection, NLM, US), arts (Oral History Archives of Japanese Art, Japan), cultural and everyday life (Hong Kong Archives Society, Hong Kong). Yet the proper tools to present as well as to analyze oral history are the major concern of the oral history researchers. For example, Davis (2015)<sup>1</sup> compares three tools, OHMS, TEI, and YouTube for synchronizing oral history text and speech, and suggests that TEI supports “custom-made or heavily customized CMS” but takes a significant amount of time encoding. Considering the ontology of oral history, according to Sabharwal (2015, p. 37) TEI standard not only highlights structure, but also presents an ontology within a text by “proper mapping, corresponds to specific fields in Dublin Core, MARC, or other metadata schemata.” TEI seems to be a promising tool in identifying a prototype of oral history ontology. The current research intends to characterize such ontology in oral history by applying TEI to an oral history publication *Jiang Fu Cong Oral Memoirs*. A tentative list of labels as well as the problems identified will be proposed by such a practice.

---

<sup>1</sup> Davis, R. (2015). “Synchronizing oral history text and speech: A tools overview.” *Behavioral & Social Sciences Librarian* 34.4: 234-238. Web <http://www.tandfonline.com/doi/full/10.1080/01639269.2015.1098790> (subscription required).