

StorySite: Giving The Gary Greaves Oral History Digitization Project Geographical Context

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Information Problem

The Gary Greaves Oral History Digitization Project hosted by The University of Washington Libraries Special Collections is available on the web. While complete, this website displays audio interviews by name, not subject. Users may browse the selection, however, the interviews would benefit from a displayed geographical context. The recordings, to be more accessible, need arrangement with filters and controlled vocabulary.

Process

- Audio: deselection, editing (cutting, amplifying, noise reduction), housing
- Website design: wireframes, Google Sites, Omeka
- Metadata: creation, plotting, consolidating
- Interviews and collaboration
- Implementation: coding with Google Maps API v3, Google Fusion Tables, JavaScript, CSS

Outcomes

StorySite features an interactive map that merges oral histories significant to the greater Seattle area with geographical locations. The audio clips appear in a pop out when a visitor clicks on a map icon. These samples are from interviews Gary Greaves held in the late-1980s and early-1990s with local politicians, civil rights activists, and business leaders as they discuss the post-WWII history of Seattle.

StorySite's map will have more than 40 points which will link back to The University of Washington's Gary Greaves Collection where 153 tapes from the collection can be found. Gary Greaves was a local activist who conducted these interviews as part of his research while writing his book *Seattle AD*. The book was unfinished due to his unexpected passing in 2009.

Next Steps

- StorySite will be added to The University of Washington's Special Collections Gary Greaves Oral History Digitization Project website. Users will be able to filter interviews by subject, making navigation and browsing easy.
- Gaps in previous iterations of this project have been discovered throughout the process and addressed.
- Knowledge from oral histories can be shared by answering current tech needs and demand while bringing more attention to The University of Washington Libraries Special Collections!

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