Interview ethics

Specific Copyright and Intellectual property issues for interviewees

The Centre for Popular Memory archive (CPM) aims to protect the person being interviewed and the University, through the CPM. To ensure that both parties are protected we have a copyright release form. This allows the interviewee to place whatever restrictions they desire on the use of their interview. For instance they can restrict the use of their name, or other people's names, in broadcast or publication…or they might not want certain places to be named. As interns and through the CPM, we are obliged to honour these restrictions and do so without fail.

The one area that can bring up confusion in the resease form is the sentence stating, "use for publication, the electronic media and the world wide web (www)". This allows the CPM, with the interviewees consent, to use unrestricted parts of the interview as, for instance, quotes in books, in radio programmes, for use in teaching and on the www. You may need to explain what the www. is to interviewees. The World Wide Web is a network of computers connected via the internet (a number of servers, IP adresses and websites) that globally transmits information in the form of webpages and online directories. In other words through the www, one can access information in the form of text, image, video and audio. Because it is a global network this information is available 24 hours a day across the world.

The second area that may need clarity is the sentence around revenue. The CPM is a not for profit resource centre. So far we have never (and probably never will) get revenue from interviews. But if it ever did, that revenue would directly be fed back into the archive in the form of purchasing of backup media (CDs, cassettes etc).

Our primary aim is the gathering, archiving and disseminating, for now and the future, of peoples stories. It is up to the interviewee to decide the methods in which we can disseminate these stories.