

has usually consisted of two permanent half-time employees and two or three student typists working on an hourly basis. The transcribing of the tapes was considered to be an integral part of the Project in order to facilitate indexing and to render the contents of the tapes accessible to researchers. Typescripts of the verbal portions of each tape have been prepared in duplicate, the original copies to be bound into volumes in book form, and the carbon copies to be filed loosely in pamphlet boxes. Most researchers will probably prefer to work mainly with the typescripts for they are easy to handle and can be scanned quickly. Considering the nature of oral testimony, it is important for a researcher to examine a testimony in its entirety because informants, speaking spontaneously and without rigorous prior organization of their information, tend to spread out their testimony on any one subject throughout an interview or series of interviews. Working with typescripts is thus essential for conveniently locating desired materials and for ascertaining the context of a testimony. However the original tapes will be preserved and will be accessible to researchers who want to consult them. There are a number of reasons why a researcher may wish to hear at least a portion of some of the tapes. He may want to check on the accuracy of the transcription, or ascertain for himself the informant's degree of skill in the English language, or check the field worker's style of interviewing, or simply enjoy the experience of hearing an Indian tell his story in his own words.

The experience of the Oklahoma Project has been that the task of transcribing is vital to the building of the type of oral history collection judged to be of most use to scholars, and cannot be lightly dismissed