

collection. An index to the collection of tapes and typescripts was judged to be essential to the efficient use of the collection. Most of the testimony in the collection is spontaneous and free-flowing, according to the train of thought of the informant, and not rigidly categorized or separated by topics. Elderly informants, in particular, tend to digress, and though a digression may in itself be of interest, the end result often is that references to a particular person or event are scattered throughout the interview. The completed index should facilitate the locating of materials on a desired subject, and also pull most of the scattered references to one subject together. Index categories were worked out by Project administrators, including Dr. Bittle and Dr. Gibson, and include ethnological categories as well as categories generally found to be useful by historians. The index listings will include personal and place names, tribal names, and subject headings of at least three levels of generality. The indexing personnel have been mostly graduate students and their work has been performed in one of the offices of the Western History Collections under the supervision of Dr. Gibson and his Assistant Curator, Mr. Jack Haley.

Nature and Size of the Oral History Collection

The need for a kind of Indian history utilizing the kind of documents provided by oral testimony from Indian people has increased greatly the past few years. The decade of the '70's seems to be a time when Indian people, like members of other minority groups, are expending much energy in examining their social situation with respect to the larger society. Like other minorities, Indians are largely ignored in conventional treatments of American history and in school texts. The Indian occupation of