

## Biography/Digital Curation Assignment

For this mid-semester assignment you will be creating content for the *Chicana por mi Raza* Public Website while at the same time learning key skills and practices that will help you complete the Practicum Assignment. This assignment will involve writing a short biography of your subject, choosing a good quote from her interview, choosing an image from her video (for a portrait), and choosing 10-15 images/clips from her archive to accompany your biography. To get a sense of the finished product, you can go to the biography pages on the Chicana por mi Raza website.

1. Choose a woman with both an oral history and an archival collection on Medici *see the list of women who need bio pages*
2. Do some web research to see if you can find any background information on your subject.
3. Create a spreadsheet to catalogue the oral history clips and archival materials you use. *Some of the women already have spreadsheets, so talk to me about this first*
4. Listen to each clip of the of the Oral History, and fill in the spreadsheet (each clip/segment should be entered on a separate line). Make sure that you:
  - a. listen closely paying special attention to key dates, names, events, and organizations
  - b. write brief descriptions of each clip in the “description” column. These should describe the content of that portion of the woman’s interview.
  - c. Choose a few good quotes from the interview that sum up the interviewee’s character, commitments, and/or life trajectory (this will help you when you create the biopage on our website) You might want to write these in the description column or in the notes column.
  - d. include appropriate tags.(See guideline sheet for tagging)
5. Write a two to three paragraph biographical summary. Biographies must be well-written, grammatical, and contain no errors of spelling or fact. Remember, this website is the project’s public face. Submit this text for me to review the week before the due date.
6. Extract a good still from your subject’s video to use as a portrait.
7. Choose 10-15 images and/or clips from your subject’s collection
8. Log in to our drupal site and upload these materials through the drupal interface (see *Working with Drupal* guidelines sheet for detailed instructions)
9. Biographies must be uploaded to our website by **Monday, November 2 at 5:00pm**

10. Be prepared to discuss the woman you chose to write about as well as the process in class on **November 3**. We will take a look at your final product online, so please make sure you complete it by the deadline. Be prepared to discuss the following in detail:

- a. Oral History: Reflect on how the subject's narrative can inform our understanding of the core issues in this class. Your task is to be critical readers: to identify what histories are referenced, reinforced, and/or made in the interview. How does the interview relate to our course films and readings? How does it "fit" into larger historical narratives? If the person was a member of an organization we've read about, or attended a conference, or was at a march/demonstration, include the background details of those events/groups in your analysis. You should also address the process of making history in the interviews - what are the fundamental production decisions made in presenting the interview, and how do those decisions reflect the aims of the CPMR project? Consider the light and sound quality, framing, and other aesthetic choices made by the production crew.
- b. Archival Images/clips: What drew you to the images you chose to display? What story do they tell? How do they illustrate the oral history you chose? What information can you glean from these images? Why did you select the particular clip(s) you curated?
- c. Process: What about the process was most challenging to you? What did the process teach you about translating the "evidence" of history into a narrative format? What challenges/problems might you encounter as you repeat this process with your own interview subject?

### **Resources/Guidelines**

- Working with Drupal
- Cataloguing Guide

*All resources/guidelines can be found on our course site (CANVAS)*

### **List of women:**

1. Nancy de los Santos
2. Martha Cotera
3. Alicia Escalante
4. Gloria Arellanes
5. Barbara Carrasco
6. Anna NietoGomez
7. Carmen Tafolla
8. Modesta Trevino
9. Idali Feliciano
10. Maria Guadiana
11. Rose Marie Roybal
12. Maria Varela (not catalogued)
13. Yolanda Alaniz (not catalogued)