### Introduction to **Archives and Oral History**



Virginia Ferris Special Collections Research Center

**NC STATE** University Libraries

How do we know history?



#### **Archives and primary sources**

Records of the past give us evidence of what has come before us.

#### What are archives?

Any collection of documents, materials, or records of historical interest, that hold continuing value to future researchers, and that give documentary evidence of past events.

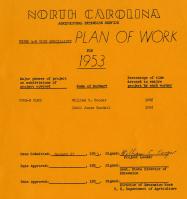
#### **Archives and Special Collections at NC State**

- Agricultural Innovations
- Animal Rights and Welfare
- Architecture and Design
- Computer Simulation
- Engineering
- Entomology
- Environmental Justice
- Forestry and Environmental Sciences
- · History of Computing
- Landscape Architecture

- North Carolina State University History
- Plant and Crop Sciences
- <u>Textiles</u>
- Veterinary Medicine
- Zoological Health

#### Archives and Special Collections at NC State





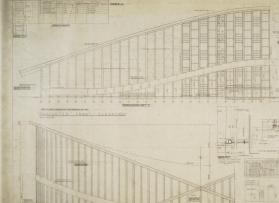




Why not be an Engineer?

- 1. Head lines This morning's N+O-READ
  Cooley Weaver will -
- 2 Every year for part ten years the Same topic 14nov to get more per farm incine ?
- 3. All kinds of suggestions some good some made in despution -
- 4 no South about the Problem Reing Here
- 5. Maybe we haven't faced it realistically





What is oral history?



#### **Oral history**

- Stories about things that happened in the past
- Spoken by someone who experienced or witnessed them
- Preserved and shared for others to learn and understand in the future

Why does oral history matter?



### Oral history helps bring a personal, firsthand understanding of history.

Personal stories give us an intimate view of how events of the past and present have impacted individuals.

### Oral history helps complete our understanding of the past

Not all history is documented or archived.

### Oral history creates a medium for all voices to be part of history.

Creating a more diverse and inclusive understanding of our past and present.

## Example: Irwin Holmes

One of the first four African American undergraduate students to enroll at NC State University in 1956.





# COMPUTER SIMULATION ARCHIVE CHRONICLING COMPUTER SIMULATION PIONEERS



















### Oral history in the archives

Giving stories to an archive makes them accessible for researchers for generations to come.





### Thank you!



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