**NCHCW 627: Final Year Projects and Publishing Horizons**
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**Introduction to Audacity**

**Audacity**

Audacity is a free, easy-to-use, multi-track audio editor and one of the more popular free audio editors used for creating podcasts. It can be used with Windows, Mac, Linux, and most other operating systems.

**Audacity 101**

- Click on the red button to record your track!
- To edit out sections of your recording, just select the part of your track you want to remove, then hit "delete" on your keyboard.
- You can split tracks by selecting the point in the clip you wish to divide, then go to Edit > Clip Boundaries > Split.
- You can move tracks by dragging and dropping them with your mouse.
- Save your project by going to File > Save Project > Save Project (or Save Project As, if you are just creating your podcast project).
- Finished? Export your project before sharing your recording! Go to File > Export > Export as an MP3.

**Helpful Videos and Sources:**

Audacity for Beginners: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DJhIlsLH32I
Audacity for Podcasting: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xl-WDjWrTtk

**Key Terms**

- **Track**: a single audio channel or stream.
- **Multi-track:** an audio recording or channel with more than one track or recording of sound. Another term for this is "multimedia."
- **Clipping**: splitting audio into separate sections or making "clips."
- **Waveform**: the curve within a track showing the volume and duration of individual sounds.
- **Mixing:** the process of audio production, or mixing tracks of recordings, music, and other desired media.

- **MP3 File:** the most general audio file format. Others include .wav, .mp4, etc.

## Tips for Getting Started on Your Oral Histories
- Develop a detailed script first and indicate when specific types of audio and media should be included.
- Involve multiple voices through interviews. One person talking without interacting with another person or media is probably not interesting.
- Read the script out loud to practice so the recording sounds natural. You want it to sound like a dialogue, rather than you reading off a script.

## Tips for Audio Recording
- Start recording well in **advance** and do several **takes**
  - The original recorded audio is often much longer than the actual podcast episode.
  - Do not record everything at once! Break your script into segments that you can record several takes individually.
  - **Editing often takes much longer than the actual recording!**
- Find a quiet space to do any audio recording
- Use headphones or microphones to capture your audio
- Reserve space at the Digital Media Commons in Snell Library for professional studios and equipment!

## Fair Use, Copyright, and Public Domain Resources
Here are some resources for finding creative commons and public domain media. Don't forget to provide credit!
- Free Music Archive: https://freemusicarchive.org/
- BBC Sound Effects: https://sound-effects.bbcrewind.co.uk
- Internet Archive Audio library: https://archive.org/details/audio
- Partners in Rhyme: https://www.partnersinrhyme.com/pir/PIRsfx.shtml
- The Public Domain Review: https://publicdomainreview.org/collections/
- Musopen: https://musopen.org/
- CC Mixter: http://ccmixter.org/
- Creative Commons Search: https://search.creativecommons.org/
- Free sound effects : https://freesound.org/browse/

For more information:

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Digital Teaching Integration Initiative
Office Hours: http://bit.ly/diti-office-hours

- Copyright and Primary Sources:
  http://www.loc.gov/teachers/usingprimarysources/copyright.html
- Fair use guidelines: https://www.lib.purdue.edu/uco/CopyrightBasics/fair_use.html
- Fair Use Handout:
  https://github.com/NULabNortheastern/digitalassignmentshowcase/blob/master/mapping/nieves-storymap-publichistory-fall2021/HTML%20Template.txt