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## **Alexander Street indexes 2,300 oral history collections – makes list available free online**

**(December 17, 2003 – Alexandria, VA)** Oral histories contain rare and personal insights into everything from human rights abuses during apartheid in South Africa to life as a Japanese American after the attack on Pearl Harbor. Yet, trapped on cassettes and hidden in corners of the Internet, the personal stories of millions of people have been largely inaccessible to the scholars who need them most. Alexander Street Press is bringing oral history to the forefront of research with an index of English-language collections, *Oral History Online*.

With 2,300 collections already identified, and more to come, *Oral History Online* will contain details of untold value for the study of politics, women and gender, race relations, labor, immigrants, health and medicine, history, and more. At launch, the index will include direct links to more than 2,000 video files, 1,000 audio files, and 10,000 to 20,000 pages of full text. Given the nature of oral histories, much of the material has been fugitive and hard-to-find. *Oral History Online* will provide a single point of access to these collections, and give researchers deeper reach into the narrations with Alexander Street's award-winning *Semantic Indexing™*. Nine different index fields, including narrator's age, race, occupation, place of interview, historical event discussed, and more, will give users the power to now examine issues very specifically – for example, the perceptions of African-American women over 50 from Spokane, Washington on the assassination of Martin Luther King, Jr.

In anticipation of the launch of *Oral History Online* in early 2004, Alexander Street invites oral historians, librarians, and scholars in every discipline to view the growing list of collections. The list, which includes live links to the repository Websites, is freely available at <http://alexanderstreet.com>. Registering a collection with the index is also free at the Alexander Street Website.

*Oral History Online* is available for individual and institutional subscription early in early 2004. The A guided tour and a form to request free trials are online at <http://alexanderstreet.com>. To arrange review access to *Oral History Online*, please contact Jennifer Heffelfinger, Manager, Marketing and Public Relations, at (800) 889-5937 ext. 5, or [jheffelfinger@alexanderstreet.com](mailto:jheffelfinger@alexanderstreet.com).

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Alexander Street Press, L.L.C., is an academic publisher of electronic full-text databases in the humanities and social sciences. Founded in June 2000, the company publishes collections in history, literature, women's studies, sociology, ethnic and diversity studies, popular culture, film studies, the arts, and other areas. Alexander Street Press is located in Alexandria, Virginia.

**Editors:** For additional information on Alexander Street Press and its products, please contact Eileen Lawrence, Vice President, Sales and Marketing, 800-889-5937, email [lawrence@alexanderstreet.com](mailto:lawrence@alexanderstreet.com), or visit <http://alexanderstreet.com>.

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