

Stories Matter

A New Open-Source Database Building Software for Oral History

Montreal, July 6th 2009 –*The Centre for Oral History and Digital Storytelling* in collaboration with *Montreal Life Stories*, is pleased to announce the completion of Phase I of ***Stories Matter***, a new, open-source database building tool created by oral historians for oral historians. In its current state, *Stories Matter* is both Mac and PC-compatible. It allows for the archiving of digital video and audio materials, enabling users to annotate, analyze, evaluate and export materials, as well as tag, index, search, and browse within interviews, sessions, and clips or across entire collections. The software can be downloaded for free at www.stories-matter.com.

Stories Matter fills a critical void for oral historians by offering an alternative to transcription. While Stories Matter may not completely replace transcription, it will undoubtedly compliment transcription due to its ability to allow users to create convenient video and audio clips for research purposes and integrate them into such presentation software as PowerPoint. Furthermore, oral historians will appreciate Stories Matter 's ability to preserve important forms of communication typically lost in transcription, including changes in tone, volume, rhythm, and body language, allowing for more nuanced analysis.

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For more information, please see:

Stories Matter website: <http://stories-matter.com/>

Stories Matter blog: <http://storytelling.concordia.ca/storiesmatter/>

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