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Council on
Library and
Information
Resources

UNHIDING THE NISEI
VETERAN NARRATIVE:
FASTER ACCESS OR
PERFECT METADATA?



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NATIONAL EDUCATION CENTER

OUR MISSION

To educate and inspire character and equality through the virtue and valor of our World War II American veterans of Japanese ancestry.

NATIONAL DIGITAL ARCHIVES OF JAPANESE AMERICAN MILITARY SERVICE (NDAJAMS)

- Five Cultural Heritage contributors
- 1,300 oral histories and 1,500 manuscript and photographic records
- Omeka hosted platform (Omeka.net)
- Dublin Core



ORAL HISTORY METADATA SYNCHRONIZER (OHMS)

Doug Boyd Ph.D., director
Louise B. Nunn Center for Oral History, University of Kentucky Libraries

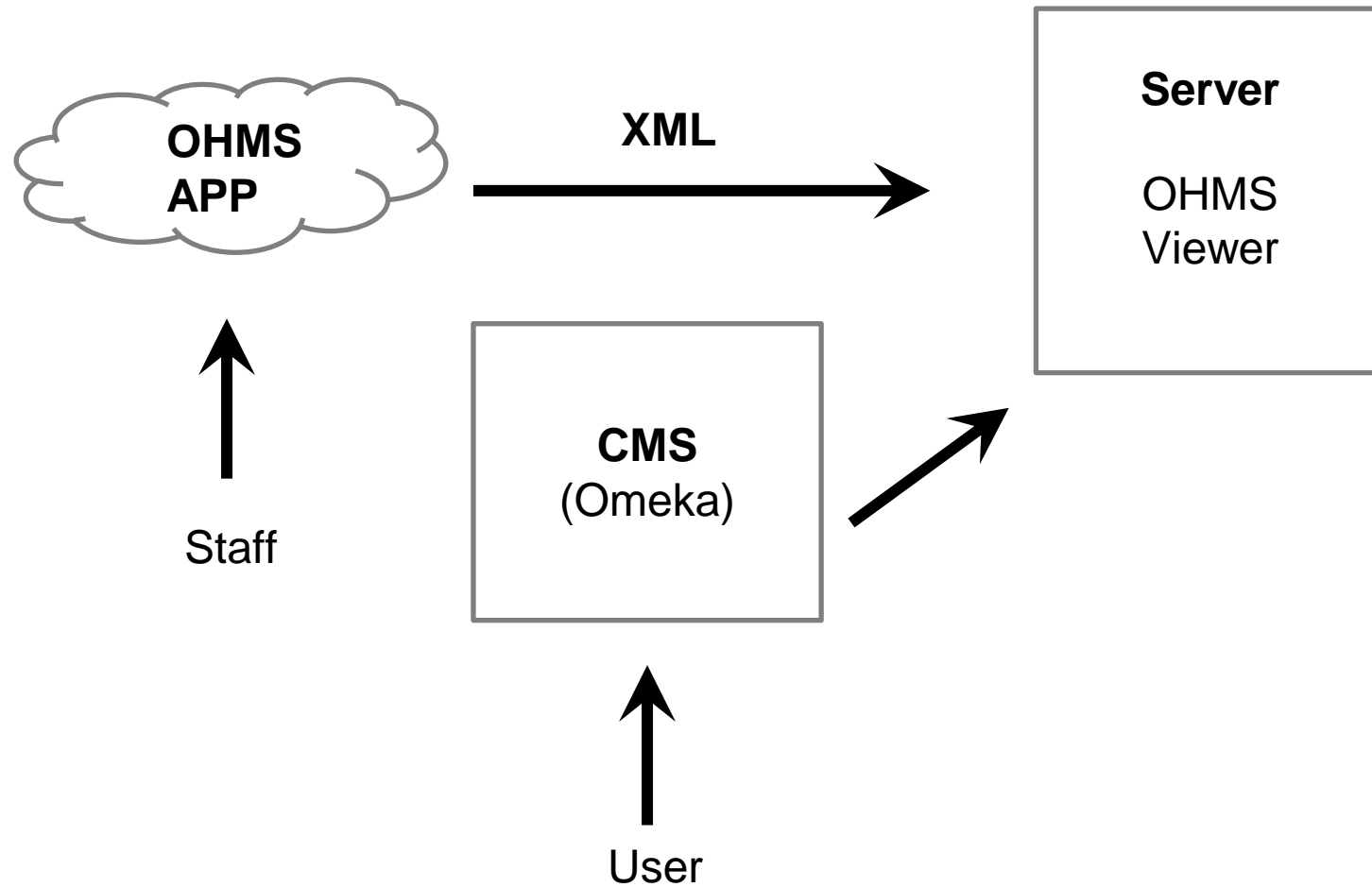
www.oralhistoryonline.org
<http://ohda.matrix.msu.edu/>

OHMS: A SYSTEM, NOT A REPOSITORY

Indexing applies CONCEPTS to the oral history interview transitions, providing users with a descriptive search and browse framework at the segment level (OHMS “Getting Started” documentation, V 2.1.19, 2014).

- Connect users to moments in an interview that correspond to their search results
 - Synchronize audio or video recordings to transcripts
 - Index audio or video allowing text searchability at the segment level

OHMS: A SYSTEM, NOT A REPOSITORY





- ▶ 0:01 - Military Intelligence training at Camp Savage
- ▶ 4:51 - Specialty training at Camp Savage/ Mother as an inspiration
- ▶ 10:52 - Family in relocation camps/Father's arrest, interrogation, and death
- ▶ 17:08 - Being mistaken for a Japanese soldier in New Guinea and the Phillipines
- ▶ 22:13 - Attempting to cave flush Japanese soldiers

TRANSCRIPT INDEX

Search this Index

Keyword

Search

NOBORU KAGAWA ORAL HISTORY INTERVIEW, PART 3 OF 5, JUNE 27, 1998



5:51 - Friend killed in action-- visiting his grave

[Play segment](#)

[Segment link](#)

Partial Transcript:

Segment Synopsis: Discusses a fellow soldier he grew close to and treated as a brother who was killed in **combat**. Discusses visiting his grave in 1946 and writing a letter to his family.

Keywords: camaraderie; **combat**; correspondence; KIA; Killed in Action; Los Angeles

Subjects: Geographic communities--California--Los Angeles World War II World War II--Military service

8:32 - "War is Hell"/ Po Valley Campaign Ohio Mountain -- near hit experience

10:41 - Ohio Mountain/ Sadao Munemori-- Medal of Honor/ **Combat** and witnessing death

15:16 - Marching through towns after Po Valley

17:34 - 442nd Regimental **Combat** Team and 100th Infantry Battalion unit citations and casualties of the war

19:19 - Capturing towns with little resistance/ Acts of desperation/ feeling the war coming to an end

TRANSCRIPT INDEX

Search this Index

combat

Clear

1. 0:00 - First combat experience/ German soldiers at the end of the war
2. 3:42 - Combat experiences and veteran compensation
3. 5:51 - Friend killed in action-- visiting his grave
4. 8:32 - "War is Hell"/ Po Valley Campaign Ohio Mountain -- near hit experience
5. 10:41 - Ohio Mountain/ Sadao Munemori-- Medal of Honor/ Combat and witnessing death
6. 17:34 - 442nd Regimental Combat Team and 100th Infantry Battalion unit citations and casualties of the war

OHMS METADATA ELEMENTS

- Interview level Metadata Fields
 - Most not viewable in OHMS viewer (30 fields)
 - Summary field (abandoned after issues with data management)
- Segment Level Metadata Fields (Indexing)
 - **Time Stamp**
 - **Segment Title**
 - Partial Transcript
 - Segment Synopsis
 - **Keywords** (assign controlled vocabulary)
 - Subjects (assign controlled vocabulary)
 - GPS Coordinates
 - GPS Zoom
 - GPS Description
 - Hyperlink (link to any external resource)
 - Link Description

OHMS METADATA: TRIAL AND ERROR

- Item-level summary field
- Segment-level synopses and subject fields
- Migrating segment level keywords to catalog records

APPROACHES TO “MAPPING” ORAL HISTORIES

- Faster access or perfect metadata
- Meaningful intra-unit access
- Meaningful unit access and discoverability
- Balancing resources and value added

CATALOG VERSUS INDEX OR CATALOG AND INDEX

INDEXING

Quarter

- Y1, Q3
 - Y1, Q1-Q3
- | Files/ | Full interview/ | Hours |
|--------------|-----------------|-----------|
| ■ 242 files/ | 42 interviews/ | 121 hours |
| ■ 516 files/ | 91 interviews/ | 258 hours |

CATALOGING

- Three weeks
- 380 interviews

REFLECTIONS

- Strategic indexing based on project needs and deliverables
- Use cataloging to identify interviews for future indexing
- Use minimum indexing elements to start



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THANK YOU

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