Frequently Asked Questions

Usage Rights and Copyright

1) **For what projects can I provide whole or partial copies of testimony videos to affiliated individuals?**

2) **To whom can I provide whole or partial copies of testimony videos?**

3) **What projects of affiliated individuals require additional licensing from the Institute?**

4) **Can I provide whole or partial copies of testimony videos to unaffiliated individuals?**

5) **What if an unaffiliated researcher cannot visit an institution with access to the VHA and requests research copies of testimonies instead?**

6) **What if a family member of an interviewee requests a copy of a relative’s testimony, or what if an interviewee wants a copy of her/his own testimony?**

7) **Can affiliated individuals at my institution place video clips on the internet?**

8) **Can researchers (affiliated or unaffiliated) quote briefly from testimonies in their publications?**

9) **What if a researcher wants to quote extensively from or include transcriptions of testimonies in their publications?**

10) **Can a researcher make an audio recording of whole or partial testimonies for research purposes?**

11) **Does the Institute charge a fee for creating a license agreement?**
The Visual History Archive user interface has been developed to search and view testimonies. It does not enable an end-user to download the testimony videos onto a computer. However, video files can be copied from your local video server.

Copying or downloading video files is permitted under the license agreement as long as certain stipulations are kept in mind. Intended to answer some common questions, this document is meant to provide further guidance to staff at your sites.

1) For what projects can I provide whole or partial copies of testimony videos to affiliated individuals?

In general, users should be accessing the video files through the Visual History Archive interface. Whole or partial copies of testimony videos can be copied from your local cache for education-related projects on-site and off-site, including but not limited to:

a) classroom instruction  d) educational exhibits
b) educational programs  e) academic conferences
c) student assignments  f) development of teaching tools

If you are unsure of whether testimony videos can be provided to an individual, please contact Douglas Ballman at the Institute by email at dougb@usc.edu or by phone at 213.740.6046 for assistance.

2) To whom can I provide whole or partial copies of testimony videos?

You can provide whole or partial copies of testimony videos from the MPEG1 video files on your local cache to individuals affiliated with your institution:

a) students
b) faculty
c) staff
d) any users (e.g. affiliated researchers) authorized by the institution to access the institution’s network

3) What projects of affiliated individuals require additional licensing from the Institute?

In general, any project which incorporates video or transcripts that is meant for broad public consumption requires additional licensing from the Institute. For example:

a) documentaries (for public broadcast or distribution)
b) web exhibits (for the public internet)
c) educational products (for public distribution)
d) publication of transcripts or extensive quotations (which go beyond Fair Use or Fair Practice doctrines)
4) Can I provide whole or partial copies of testimony videos to unaffiliated individuals?

No. Please direct such individuals or organizations to contact Douglas Ballman at the Institute by email at dougb@usc.edu or by phone at 213.740.6046.

5) What if an unaffiliated researcher cannot visit an institution with access to the VHA and requests research copies of testimonies instead?

Please know that the Institute does not make research copies of testimonies for individual researchers and does not permit institutions with access to the VHA to make research copies for unaffiliated researchers. Unaffiliated researchers must go to an institution with access to the VHA to research the archive.

6) What if a family member of an interviewee requests a copy of a relative’s testimony, or what if an interviewee wants a copy of her/his own testimony?

Please direct family members and interviewees who request copies of testimonies to visit our website at http://college.usc.edu/vhi/testimonyservices.php for instructions or to contact the Institute directly by email at vhi-web@usc.edu or by phone at 213.740.6001. The Institute currently has a process in place to handle these requests.

7) Can affiliated individuals at my institution place video clips on the internet?

Special permission is required for placing video clips on the public internet. Please contact Douglas Ballman at the Institute by email at dougb@usc.edu or by phone at 213.740.6046 for assistance.

Staff, faculty, and/or students at your institution can place clips on your institution’s internal websites, as long as the clips are only accessible by affiliated users on your institution’s private network.

8) Can researchers (affiliated or unaffiliated) quote briefly from testimonies in their publications?

Yes, as long as the quotes fall within Fair Use or Fair Practice doctrines and the testimonies are cited as their sources according to regular citation standards.

The USC Shoah Foundation Institute recommends that authors follow their preferred citation standard but include the following at a minimum:

1) Interviewee’s name: last name, first name
2) "Videotaped interview by the University of Southern California Shoah Foundation Institute for Visual History and Education"
3) Interview code ######
9) **What if a researcher wants to quote extensively from or include transcriptions of testimonies in their publications?**

This may go beyond Fair Use or Fair Practice doctrines and thus may require special permission from the Institute. Please direct the researcher to contact Douglas Ballman at the Institute by email at dougb@usc.edu or by phone at 213.740.6046 for assistance.

10) **Can a researcher make an audio recording of whole or partial testimonies for research purposes?**

Yes, while viewing testimonies in the VHA, researchers may make audio recordings to aid their research (e.g., to aid the creation of transcripts). However, the audio recordings cannot be shared publicly in any form—the audio recordings are for research purposes only.

If a researcher wants to incorporate audio recordings or transcriptions made from the audio recordings into a project for public consumption, a separate license must be obtained from the Institute. Please direct the researcher to contact Douglas Ballman at the Institute by email at dougb@usc.edu or by phone at 213.740.6046 for assistance.

11) **Does the Institute charge a fee for creating a license agreement?**

No. We do however charge for costs associated with providing video footage to requesters.