

§3. Complementary Study of Nuclear Fusion Archiving by Means of Oral History

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Introduction

The oral history is an important method in archival studies to supplement the collected materials through interviews with senior scientists who played important roles on early days' nuclear fusion research in Japan. In the course of collecting historical documents, it is noted that some of the records are missing, and the underlying stories are not always clear due to incompleteness of the materials.

Interviews

In this fiscal year, no interview has been conducted, because our efforts had to be put on the preparation of transcriptions of interviews so far conducted.

Three transcriptions were edited and registered as internal documents of NIFS Fusion Science Archives; Dr. Morino, N. on "Participation of industries in the initial stage of fusion research in Japan," Prof. Yamamoto, K. on "History of nuclear fusion research and development in Japan-1" conducted under the collaboration program with The Graduate University for Advanced Studies on "History and Archives of Inter-University Research Institute," and Prof. Yoshikawa Shoichi on "History of nuclear fusion research at PPPL, especially of Prof. Yoshikawa's research" conducted on the occasion of US-Japan Workshop on Archiving of the Early Days' Nuclear Fusion Research in US and Japan. The voice recognition software has been found quite useful in editing the transcriptions from the audio recordings.

An effort is being continued to edit the transcription of the interview with Prof. K. M. Young on "Early days' nuclear fusion research at Plasma Physics Laboratory, Princeton University, and industrial involvement on nuclear fusion research in the United States."

Informed Consent and Deed of Gift for the interview

Although an informal, round-table interview style seems to be appropriate for the purpose of our oral history, it will be important and necessary to exchange written forms between interviewer and interviewee before and after the interview, in order to make clear the agreements on the participation in the interview, conditions for recordings and disclosure of the records, and to reserve the right of interviewee. Drafts of the "Informed Consent" and "Deed of Gift" have been prepared for the interviews to be carried out under the oral history program of NIFS Fusion Science Archives, referring to the existing forms in the US universities. The drafts and our philosophy, on which the

drafts are based, were presented and discussed at the oral history meeting of the Graduate University for Advanced Studies. The following items are included in the forms:

I. Informed Consent:

1. Agreements on the participation in the interview and topics to be asked.
2. Agreement about audio and visual recordings.
3. Either the interviewee may be identified by name, or to remain anonymous.
4. Treatment of the interview recordings when the interviewee has chosen no disclosure of the interview.
5. Treatment of the interview recordings when the interviewee has withdrawn from the program.
6. Treatment of the interview recordings upon completion of the interview.
7. Rights of NIFS when the recordings were transferred to NIFS.
8. Records and the transcript to be kept in NIFS FSA.
9. Others.
10. Date and signatures by the interviewer, the witness, and the interviewee.

II. Deed of Gift:

1. Transfer of the recordings of interview and all of the rights to NIFS for scholarly and educational use. For NIFS to grant a nonexclusive license to make and to authorize others to make any use of the content of those recordings, and others.
2. Expression of the interviewee's wish on the treatment of the recordings in the case of remaining anonymous in the interview or choosing no disclosure of the interview, specifying these restrictions in paragraph 3 below.
3. Restrictions on the foregoing gift and grant.
4. Date and signatures by the interviewer, the witness, and the interviewee.

The drafts of "Informed Consent" and "Deed of Gift" should be authorized by NIFS and applied to the interviews to be conducted.

Future plan

Although the collaborative research on this subject will be over in this fiscal year, we have a plan to extend the interviews toward more persons and subjects, especially focusing on the international collaborations before the formal collaboration program started. We have also an intention to conduct interviews with pioneering researchers on inertial confinement fusion.

We have a plan to present our activities under the title of "Oral histories and transformation in Japan, establishing the National Institute for Fusion Science" at the 2007 Annual Meeting of the Oral History Association to be held at Oakland, US, in October 2007.

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