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RADIO STORIES AND OTHER STORIES: AN EVENING WITH IRA GLASS

A USC Libraries Exploration

Felicia Palsson

To build on your learning experience at [Radio Stories and Other Stories: An Evening with Ira Glass](#), the USC Libraries present a selection of personal stories, memoirs, and cultural essays that investigate the meaning of everyday life in America. To discover more American stories and learn about the cultural significance of storytelling, view the slideshow and browse the featured print and online resources at the USC Libraries.

How to Discover American Stories at the USC Libraries



Featured Books

USC Libraries' collections contain numerous personal narratives, memoirs, stories and anecdotes, as well as essays and other works that investigate cultural questions about life in America. Explore this [annotated bibliography](#), which includes titles from the slideshow.

Featured Journals



American Quarterly

American Quarterly represents innovative interdisciplinary scholarship that engages with key issues in American Studies. The journal publishes essays that examine American societies and cultures, past and present, in global and local contexts. This includes work that contributes to our understanding of the United States in its diversity, its relations with its hemispheric neighbors, and its impact on world politics and culture. Through the publication of reviews of books, exhibitions, and diverse media, the journal seeks to make available the broad range of emergent approaches to American Studies.

(Description from Project MUSE)



Journal of American Studies

Journal of American Studies seeks to critique and interrogate the notion of "America", pursuing this through international perspectives on the history, literature, politics and culture of the United States. This quarterly journal publishes original peer-reviewed research and analysis by established and emerging scholars throughout the world, considering US history, politics, literature, institutions, economics, film, popular culture, geography, sociology and related subjects in domestic, continental, hemispheric, and global contexts. ...The journal is intended not only for students and scholars, but also for general readers with an interest in the United States. (Description from Cambridge Journals Online)



Oral History Review

The Oral History Review, the official publication of the Oral History Association since 1973, explores the recording, transcribing, and preserving of conversations with people who have participated in important political, cultural, and economic social developments in modern times. Articles, book and film reviews, and bibliographies deal with the authentication of human experience and research findings in oral history. This journal considers a broad spectrum of different social groups, cultures, and countries through the use of interviews, songs, photos, diagrams, and storytelling. (Description from JSTOR)

Featured Database

America: History & Life (Click [here](#) for a 3-minute demo video on how to use this database.)

Featured Web Sites

American Life in Poetry - <http://www.americanlifeinpoetry.org/>

Browse the archive and discover poems, written by contemporary American poets of all ages, describing unique moments or aspects of their lives. You may be surprised to find poetry about subjects such as: the roof of a house, bananas, or a fight between a mother and her teenage daughter.

American Memory Project (Library of Congress) - <http://memory.loc.gov/ammem/index.html>

"...provides free and open access through the Internet to written and spoken words, sound recordings, still and moving images, prints, maps, and sheet music that document the American experience."

International Storytelling Center - <http://www.storytellingcenter.com/index.htm>

"We have told stories since the beginning of time. They are the narratives of life, spanning the centuries and connecting the generations. They are the vessels in which we carry our history and traditions, our values and lessons for living, our hopes and dreams."

The New Americans - <http://www.pbs.org/independentlens/newamericans/>

This is a fun way to see what life is like for immigrants who decide to make this country their home. Hear their stories, see their pictures, experience their journey in their own words.

Pew Internet & American Life project - <http://www.pewinternet.org/>

"The Pew Internet & American Life Project produces reports that explore the impact of the internet on families, communities, work and home, daily life, education, health care, and civic and political life."

Roper Center iPOLL Databank - http://www.ropercenter.uconn.edu/data_access/ipoll/ipoll.html

This database contains U.S. opinion poll data. Check out some of the surveys that represent you, "America." Note: iPOLL is a question-level index, so searching is done across the wording of individual questions.

StoryCorps - <http://www.storycorps.net/>

This unique project allows us to listen to intimate, often revealing interviews - about life - and anyone can create one. It's everyday people, sharing the life stories of their friends and family.

USC Web Sites Featured in the Slideshow:

USC Digital Archive - <http://digarc.usc.edu/>

USC Shoah Foundation - <http://www.usc.edu/schools/college/vhi/>

Testimonies -

"The Shoah Foundation archive contains videotaped eyewitness accounts of events before, during, and after the Holocaust. Interviewees include Jewish survivors, homosexuals, Jehovah's Witnesses, Sinti-Roma, and war crimes trial participants with testimonies ranging in length from 2 hours to 18 hours."

USC Special Collections (including oral histories) - <http://www.usc.edu/libraries/archives/arc/libraries/>

If you have any questions or comments about these resources or need help with research, please contact instruction and reference librarian Felicia Palsson at fpalsson@usc.edu.

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