Women in STEM: A Digital Oral History Project

Jace Nixon, mentor Reagan Grimsley
Salmon Library & Departments of Theatre & Engineering Technology

Overview
- Women comprise the major of college students, however they make up a minority of students in STEM majors.

UAH Women to Men Student Ratio
42% vs 58%

- Women in STEM professions are also underrepresented in archival documentation about their experiences.

Case Study: UAH Oral History Archives
- Out of 163 oral history interviews in the UAH collections…

Men to Women Ratio in UAH's Oral History Collection

Men 95.1%
Women 4.9%

QR Code to the interviews

Process
- Women of different professions, experiences, and time in the field were chosen.
- Questions asked covered topics like:
  - Early Childhood interests
  - Research Experience
  - Work Experience
  - Advice for women interested in STEM

Explanation/Conceptual Framework
- Oral histories are a technique used to collect stories of individuals and make them a part of historical records.
- Projects like “Oral Histories of Distinguished Female Leaders” used oral histories to inspire the future generation of women in STEM.

Impact
- People will have permanent access to the interviews in UAH’s digital archives to hear the experiences of women today.
- This study demonstrates the need for the future inclusion of all voices in oral history collections, and encourages other similar projects

References

Acknowledgements
All RCEU projects were sponsored in part by the Alabama Space Grant Consortium, the UAH Office of the President, Office of the Provost, Office of the Vice President for Research and Economic Development, the Deans of the College of Science, the College of Engineering, the College of Arts, Humanities, and Social Sciences, the College of Education, and the College of Nursing. We would also like to thank Drew Adan for his contributions on this project.