

## THE UK DYSLEXIA ARCHIVE

### WELCOME!



The UK Dyslexia Archive is a new project at the University of Oxford, creating the first comprehensive history of dyslexia in the UK.



The main component of the archive will be interviews with major actors in dyslexia's history – from policymakers to practitioners, researchers to teachers.



Based at St John's College, Oxford, the project team is Profs. William Whyte, Maggie Snowling, Kate Nation, and Dr. Philip Kirby. We're lucky to have Denise Cripps, Prof. Robert Evans and Dr. Steve Chinn as project advisors, too.



The project runs across history and psychology, and is based in the Faculty of History. It is funded by the John Fell Fund and the Wellcome Trust.

### THANKS TO OUR CONTRIBUTORS SO FAR...

To date, the project has conducted in-depth interviews with 14 dyslexia professionals: Helen Arkell, Lynette Bradley, Steve Chinn, Ann Cooke, Uta Frith, Daphne Hamilton-Fairley, Jocelyn Hardwick, Elaine Miles, Sandhya Naidoo, Jim Rose, Maggie Snowling, Mike Thomson, Mary Warnock and Bill Watkins.

Our sincerest thanks to all of them for being the first contributors to the archive.

### WHAT ELSE ARE WE COLLECTING?

Oral histories will form the basis of the archive, but we're also interested in photographs, documents and other physical materials related to dyslexia.

We've already collected several volumes of case notes from the Word Blind Centre and the late Bevé Hornsby, which offer a fascinating insight into how dyslexia was thought about in years past. We're in the early stages of cataloguing these so they can be made available to others.

### WHAT WILL THE ARCHIVE DO?

In the first instance, the Archive will be used for publications around the project by the team – in academic outlets, as well as popular media like magazines.

Our first publication will be a feature article on the history of dyslexia in the popular history magazine, *History Today*, at the end of this year. This will highlight the pioneering role of women in the history of dyslexia research and provision.

In future publications, amongst other themes, we intend to focus on how dyslexia advocacy slowly but surely changed the policy landscape, ultimately leading to dyslexia's recognition by government; the precise role of private schools in the earliest provision for dyslexic pupils; and how the everyday experience of people with dyslexia has changed across the decades, since its first identification as 'word blindness' in the late 1800s.

At the end of the project, the oral histories and other resources collected by the project will be deposited in an archive at the University of Oxford and made available to other researchers interested in this area.

### GET IN TOUCH!

We've designed this newsletter to keep contributors up-to-date with the latest project developments. We're also keen to hear from anyone with an interest in or experience of dyslexia, so if you're reading this and would like to contribute to the Archive – whether documents, photographs or simply your thoughts – please get in touch!