



UNIVERSITÀ
DEGLI STUDI
FIRENZE

Public History of Education: studies and research in schools and libraries

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Introduction

The aim of the research is to investigate **Public History** and its relationship with the **History of education**. Experiences of Public History can be developed in connection with the historical-educational field through the involvement of different subjects and to support the meeting between the academy and social memory. A new partnership to enhance the past and to promote the critical understanding of the present.

Two projects:

Ricordi tra le mura. Storie di insegnamento e formazione a Lucca (Comune di Lucca)

The project in collaboration with the municipality of Lucca and the students of Liceo Paladini aims to recover testimonies and **teacher's memories**: a path for connecting different generations and for promoting common reflection on the teaching profession in the Lucca area.



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ORAL HISTORY - AUTOBIOGRAPHY - PHOTOGRAPHY

Madeleine in Biblioteca (Biblioteca Agorà Lucca)

The project in collaboration with the Lucca Civic Library aims to recover people's **reading memories** from childhood to adulthood. Focused on important informal learning, the project involves:

- 1) The website (www.madeleineinbiblioteca.it), a digital space to return the collected testimonies to the community.
- 2) Workshops realized with the oral sources to reflect on the history of reading using the historical narratives of non-specialists



Sources and methodology

PUBLIC HISTORY

Public history is the application of historical skills and methods outside of academia to connect the scholars with the public of non-specialists. The aim of this approach is to enhance the importance of "thinking historically" and to involve the public in the construction of the historical narrative

DIGITAL HISTORY Digital History is an approach to examining and representing the past that works with the new communication technologies helping to collect, interpret, and share historical materials and narratives.

PHOTOGRAPHY Photography represents a historical source rich in meaning and also useful in the historical-educational field

ORAL HISTORY AND AUTOBIOGRAPHY Oral sources and autobiographies opens new ways to enrich the historical research and allow us to understand the people's ideas and behaviors who often remain silent.



Objectives and Expected Results

- 1) to apply Public History methods to less-explored fields such as the history of reading and school.
- 2) to investigate through oral sources and autobiography the history of the school, libraries and reading
- 3) to promote a dialogue between the scholars and the public of non-specialists to enhance the importance of "thinking historically" for the whole community, including learning places such as schools and libraries

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