Research Not Needing Review by the IRB

University approval is necessary if the proposed research meets any of these conditions:

1. The research is sponsored by the University

2. The research is conducted by or under the direction of any University employee or agent (for example, faculty member, researcher, or student) in connection with his / her other institutional responsibilities, no matter where the research is conducted

3. The research is conducted by or under the direction of any University employee or agent (for example, faculty member, researcher, or student) using any University property or facility

4. The research involves the use of the University's nonpublic information to identify or contact human research subjects or prospective subjects to provide data for the research

5. The research involves the use of the University's students, employees, or facilities.

Use of certain data doesn't need UCAIHS review and approval. This includes (a) public use data, and (b) de-identified data not derived from other research projects.

Oral History Research

Oral history projects that are considered research need UCAIHS approval. However the NYU IRB issued the following clarifications:

Oral history activities, such as open ended interviews, that ONLY document a specific historical event or the experiences of individuals without an intent to draw conclusions or generalize findings would NOT constitute "research."

Example: An oral history video recording of interviews with holocaust survivors is created for viewing in the Holocaust Museum. The creation of the video tape does NOT intend to draw conclusions, inform policy, or generalize findings. The sole purpose is to create a historical record of specific personal events and experiences related to the Holocaust and provide a venue for Holocaust survivors to tell their stories.

Systematic investigations involving open-ended interviews that are designed to develop or contribute to generalizable knowledge (e.g., designed to draw conclusions, inform policy, or generalize findings) WOULD constitute "research."

Example: An open ended interview of surviving Gulf War veterans to document their experiences and to draw conclusions about their experiences, inform policy, or generalize findings.

Oral historians and qualitative investigators may want to create archives for the purpose of providing a resource for others to do research. Since the intent of the archive is to create a repository of information for other investigators to conduct research as defined by 45 CFR part 46, the creation of such an archive WOULD constitute research under 45 CFR part 46.
Example: Open ended interviews are conducted with surviving Negro League Baseball players in order to create an archive for future research. The creation of such an archive would constitute research under 45 CFR part 46 since the intent is to collect data for future research.