

VENN DIAGRAMS

Venn diagrams were introduced in 1880 by Jon Venn (1834–1923) in a paper entitled "*On the Diagrammatic and Mechanical Representation of Propositions and Reasonings*" in the "Philosophical Magazine and Journal of Science", about the different ways to represent propositions, concepts, ideas or information by diagrams.

A Venn diagram is constructed with a collection of simple closed curves drawn in a plane. The principle of these diagrams is that classes or similar sets of information may be represented by regions within the curves, such that in relation to one another all the possible logical relations of these classes or sets of information can be indicated in the same diagram. Venn diagrams normally comprise overlapping circles, the simplest being two circles. The interior of the circle symbolically represents the elements or sets of information, while the exterior represents elements that are not members of the set.

For your oral history information compiled on the worksheet, the information inside the circle is the history experienced and related by that one individual. The second circle would be the history experienced and related by another individual. The overlapping area or intersection of the two circles would then be the historical facts common to the two individuals. Shapes other than circles can be employed and more than two circles or shapes can be used, to demonstrate more data elements.