



Smithsonian

*National Museum of American History Kenneth E. Behring Center*

## Guide to the Gadil Ashok Innovative Lives Presentation and Interview

NMAH.AC.0647

Alison Oswald

1998

Archives Center, National Museum of American History

P.O. Box 37012

Suite 1100, MRC 601

Washington, D.C. 20013-7012

[archivescenter@si.edu](mailto:archivescenter@si.edu)

<https://americanhistory.si.edu/archives>

# Table of Contents

Collection Overview .....	1
Administrative Information .....	1
Biographical / Historical.....	2
Arrangement.....	2
Scope and Contents.....	2
Names and Subjects .....	2
Container Listing .....	4
Series 1: Original Videos, 1998 April 28.....	4
Series 2: Master Videos, 1998 April 28.....	6
Series 3: Reference Videos, 1998 January 16, 1998 April 28.....	7
Series 4: Photographs and Slides, 1998.....	9

## Collection Overview

<b>Repository:</b>	Archives Center, National Museum of American History
<b>Title:</b>	Ashok Gadgil Innovative Lives Presentation and Interview
<b>Date:</b>	1998 January 16 1998 April 28 1996 - 1996
<b>Identifier:</b>	NMAH.AC.0647
<b>Creator:</b>	Jerome and Dorothy Lemelson Center for the Study of Invention and Innovation. Gadgil, Ashok Berger, Sondra
<b>Extent:</b>	0.5 Cubic feet (5 boxes)
<b>Language:</b>	English .
<b>Summary:</b>	Original, master, and reference videos documenting an Innovative Lives presentation and interview with Ashok Gadgil, inventor of the UV Waterworks disinfectant unit.

---

## Administrative Information

### Acquisition Information

This video presentation and interview was created by the Innovative Lives Program of the Jerome and Dorothy Lemelson Center for the Study of Invention and Innovation on April 28, 1998.

### Provenance

The collection was transferred from the Lemelson Center to the Archives Center on June 2, 1998.

### Separated Materials

UV Water Works Disinfectant unit is located in the Division of Medicine and Science. See accession #: 1998.0158.01.

### Available Formats

Original videos digitized in 2014. See repository for details.

### Processing Information

Processed by Alison Oswald, 2006.

### Preferred Citation

Ashok Gadgil Innovative Lives Presentation and Interview, Archives Center, National Museum of American History, Smithsonian Institution

## Restrictions

Collection is open for research but the original videos are stored off-site and special arrangements must be made to work with it. Contact the Archives Center for information at archivescenter@si.edu or 202-633-3270.

## Conditions Governing Use

Collection items available for reproduction, but the Archives Center makes no guarantees concerning copyright restrictions. Other intellectual property rights may apply. Archives Center cost-recovery and use fees may apply when requesting reproductions.

---

## Biographical / Historical

Ashok Gadgil, was born in India and is a physicist at the Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory in California. Gadgil invented the UV Waterworks, a water purifier that provided reliable, inexpensive water disinfection for the world. The UV Waterworks uses ultraviolet light to kill waterborne pathogens (bacteria, viruses, and molds) and thus purify drinking water. The key to this invention is the effect ultraviolet light has on bacteria and viruses--it triggers the formation of peptide bonds between certain nucleic acids in the pathogens' DNA molecules, which robs them of the ability to reproduce and renders them harmless. Water, powered by gravity, flows down through pipes, passing into a tray where it is exposed to twelve seconds of ultraviolet light before it flows out a spigot. Gadgil used sheet metal, UV lamps, and stainless-steel piping to create this invention.

---

## Scope and Contents

This collection contains original, master, and reference videos, and audio cassettes documenting Ashok Gadgil, inventor of the UV Waterworks, a water purifier.

---

## Arrangement

The collection is divided into four series.

Series 1: Original videos, 1998

Series 2: Master Videos, 1998

Series 3: Reference Videos, 1998

Series 4: Photographs and Slides, 1998

---

## Names and Subject Terms

This collection is indexed in the online catalog of the Smithsonian Institution under the following terms:

Subjects:

- Physicists
- Ultraviolet radiation
- Water -- Bacteriology
- Water -- Purification
- Water -- Ultraviolet treatment

Types of Materials:

Interviews -- 1980-2000  
Oral history -- 1990-2000  
Videotapes -- 1990-2000

Names:

Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory.

---

## Container Listing

### Series 1: Original Videos, 1998 April 28

#### 16 Videocassettes (BetacamSP)

Box 1 (Series 1), Video OV 647.1	Innovative Lives Presentation, 1998
Box 1 (Series 1), Video OV 647.2	Innovative Lives Presentation, 1998
Box 1 (Series 1), Video OV 647.3	Innovative Lives Presentation, 1998
Box 1 (Series 1), Video OV 647.4	Innovative Lives Presentation, 1998
Box 1 (Series 1), Video OV 647.5	Innovative Lives Presentation, 1998
Box 1 (Series 1), Video OV 647.6	Innovative Lives Presentation, 1998
Box 1 (Series 1), Video OV 647.7	Innovative Lives Presentation, 1998
Box 1 (Series 1), Video OV 647.8	Innovative Lives Presentation, 1998
Box 1 (Series 1), Video OV 647.9	Innovative Lives Presentation, 1998
Box 2 (Series 1), Video OV 647.10	Innovative Lives Presentation, 1998
Box 2 (Series 1), Video OV 647.11	Innovative Lives Presentation, 1998
Box 1 (Series 1), Video OV 647.12	Innovative Lives Presentation, 1998
Box 2 (Series 1), Video OV 647.13	Innovative Lives Presentation, 1998
Box 2 (Series 1), Video OV 647.14	Ashok Gadgil Interview, 1998 January 16

Box 2 (Series 1),  
Video OV 647.15

Ashok Gadgil Interview, 1998 January 16

Box 2 (Series 1),  
Video OV 647.16

Ashok Gadgil Interview, 1998 January 16

*[Return to Table of Contents](#)*

## Series 2: Master Videos, 1998 April 28

### 7 Videocassettes (BetacamSP)

Box 1 (Series 2), Video MV 647.1	Innovative Lives Presentation, 1998
Box 1 (Series 2), Video MV 647.2	Innovative Lives Presentation, 1998
Box 1 (Series 2), Video MV 647.3	Innovative Lives Presentation, 1998
Box 1 (Series 2), Video MV 647.4	Innovative Lives Presentation, 1998
Box 2 (Series 2), Video MV 647.5	Innovative Lives Presentation, 1998
Box 2 (Series 2), Video MV 647.6	Innovative Lives Presentation, 1998
Box 2 (Series 2), Video MV 647.7	Innovative Lives Presentation, 1998

[Return to Table of Contents](#)



## Series 3: Reference Videos, 1998 January 16, 1998 April 28

## Subseries 3.1: Copy, Set One, 1998 - 1998

## 8 Videocassettes (VHS)

Box 5, Video RV      Ashok Gadgil Interview, (Interview by Helen Weiss), 1998 January 16  
647.1A

Box 4, Video RV      Innovative Lives Presentation, 1998 January 16  
647.1      Notes:      Total Running Time: 60:00  
Donation ceremony of the UV Waterworks by Ashok Gagil to the national Museum of American History. Introductory remarks by John Fleckner, Associate Director of the Lemelson Center

Box 4, Video RV      Innovative Lives Presentation, 1998  
647.2      Notes:      Total Running Time: 60:00  
Post donation ceremony interview and Innovative Lives Presentation.

Box 4, Video RV      Innovative Lives Presentation, 1998  
647.3

Box 4, Video RV      Innovative Lives Presentation, 1998  
647.4

Box 4, Video RV      Innovative Lives Presentation, 1998  
647.5

Box 4, Video RV      Innovative Lives Presentation, 1998  
647.6

Box 4, Video RV      Innovative Lives Presentation, 1998  
647.7

## Subseries 3.2: Copy, Set Two, 1996 - 1996, 1998 - 1998

## 8 Videocassettes (VHS)

Box 4, Video RV      Innovative Lives Presentation, 1998  
647.1

Box 4, Video RV      Innovative Lives Presentation, 1998  
647.2

Box 4, Video RV      Innovative Lives Presentation, 1998  
647.3

Box 4, Video RV  
647.4                      Innovative Lives Presentation, 1998

Box 4, Video RV  
647.5                      Innovative Lives Presentation, 1998

Box 5, Video RV  
647.6                      Innovative Lives Presentation, 1998

Box 5, Video RV  
647.7                      Innovative Lives Presentation, 1998

Box 5, Video RV  
647.8                      UV Waterworks Compilation reel, 1998  
Notes:                      Total Running Time: 12 minutes  
                                    KRON-TV (NBC) Newscenter 4, San Francisco, February, 13,  
                                    1996  
                                    Headline News, June 5, 1996  
                                    KRON-TV (NBC) Newscenter 4, San Francisco, June 4, 1996  
                                    Discover Magazine, Beyond Tomorrow, undated

---

*[Return to Table of Contents](#)*

## Series 4: Photographs and Slides, 1998

Box 5, Folder 1-2      [Innovative Lives Presentation, 1998](#)  
2 Electronic discs (CD)

Box 5, Folder 3      [UV Waterworks donation ceremony, 1998](#)  
1 Electronic discs (CD)

*[Return to Table of Contents](#)*