

Folklife is an extension of and often alternate term for the subject of folklore. However, folklife tends to recognize that the study of folklore goes beyond the oral genres to include all aspects of everyday life including material culture (craft, vernacular architecture, and so forth). In the United States, American folklife is the term often used in the title of research-based folklife festivals presenting the full range of familial, ethnic, occupational, religious, and regional traditional cultures including such expressions as architecture, drama, pageantry, music, dance, storytelling, crafts, costume, foodways, holidays, life-cycle rituals, and occupational skills. American folklife also includes the study of belief systems, including folk religion, folk medicine, and popular beliefs. These traditions are generally maintained without benefit of formal instruction or institutional direction.