The Southern Life Histories Collection (SLHC) was part of the Federal Writers’ Project, which began in the 1930s as a part of the Works Progress Administration (WPA) following the Great Depression. The WPA was an organization intended to create more jobs for individuals in the United States after unemployment surged following the period of economic downturn. The Federal Writers Project focused on the description and documentation of life in the United States. The SLHC was the group of these papers that focused predominantly on the lives of individuals living in the Southern United States. These papers are housed in the UNC-Chapel Hill Southern Historical Collection at Wilson Library. Our research focuses on text analysis and metadata analysis of a collection of life histories from the SLHC. We find that our sample of the collection serves as evidence of the presence of work and labor experiences as a significant part of life during the Great Depression era.