Smithsonian
National Museum of American History Kenneth E. Behring Center

Guide to the Computer Standards Collection

NMAH.AC.0310

Craig A. Orr

1999

Table of Contents

Collection Overview

Repository:	Archives Center, National Museum of American History
Title:	Computer Standards Collection
Date:	1958-1979
Identifier:	NMAH.AC.0310
Creator:	International Standards Organization (ISO). Bemer, Robert M.
Source:	National Museum of American History (U.S.). Division of Physical Sciences and Mathematics
Extent:	4.6 Cubic feet (10 boxes)
Language:	English .
Summary:	Papers collected by Robert W. Bemer (1920-2004) during his involvement in setting language and data standards during the early years of the computer industry.

Administrative Information

Acquisition Information

This material was donated to the Smithsonian Institution in June 1979 by the compiler, Robert W. Bemer.

Provenance

Collection transferred to the Archives Center from the Division of Physical Sciences and Mathematics (now Division of Medicine and Science), August 18, 1988.

Processing Information

Processed by Craig A. Orr, archivist.

Preferred Citation

Computer Standards Collection, 1958-1978, Archives Center, National Museum of American History.

Restrictions

Collection is open for research.

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

This collection was put together by Robert W. Bemer during his involvement in setting language and data standards for the early computer industry. He accumulated a collection of material from organizations and individuals relating to computer standards.

Scope and Contents

Correspondence, reports, publications, meeting minutes, and bulletins of standards committees relating to ALGOL, COBOL, and the International Standards Organization (ISO) subcommittee on character sets (ANSI X3L2). The ALGOL records include correspondence to the ALGOL Maintenance Subcommittee (Association for Computing Machinery) and information about the International Algebraic Language, XTRAN source language for FORTRAN, and the SHARE ALGOL 60 translator. The COBOL records (1960-1969) include material from CODASYL, the European Computer Manufacturer's Association, SHARE, and the American Standards Association. The ISO records (1959- 1979) relate exclusively to the standards for data formats and codes and includes material from other standards organizations.

Source

Bruce H. Bruemmer, *Resources for the History of Computing: A Guide to U. S. and Canadian Records* (Minneapolis, MN: Charles Babbage Institute, University of Minnesota, 1987), pp. 30 31.]

Names and Subject Terms

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

Subjects:

ALGOL (Computer program language)
Computer industry -- 1950-1980
Computer programming -- 1950-1980
Computers -- 1950-1980
Computers -- History -- 1950-1980
Computers -- Standards -- 1950-1980
Standardization -- Computers -- 1950-1980

Types of Materials:

Business records -- 1950-2000
Correspondence -- 1950-2000
Minutes
Pamphlets -- 1950-2000
Reports -- 1950-1980

Names:

COBOL (Computer program language).
National Museum of American History (U.S.). Division of Physical Sciences and Mathematics

Container Listing

Box 1	ISO Code -- General History, Volume 1: thru May 1961
Box 2	ISO Code -- General History, Volume 2: thru January 1962
Box 3	ISO Code -- General History, Volume 3: thru September 1962
Box 4	ISO Code -- General History, Volume 4: thru April 1964
Box 5	ISO Code -- General History, Volume 5: thru August 1966
Box 6	ISO Code -- General History, Volume 6: thru April 1972
Box 7	ISO Code -- General History, Volume 7: thru March 1979
Box 8	ALGOL Bulletin: March 1959-August 1961
Box 8	APIC Bulletin: June 1960-October 1964
Box 8	The Globotype Telegraph: A Recording Instrument . . . patented by David Mc. Callum, London: Longman, Brown, Green and Longmans, 1856.
Box 8	Dolotta, T. A., Functional Specifications for Typewriter-LikeTime-Sharing Terminals, reprinted from Computing Surveys, Volume 2, no. 1 (March 1970).
Box 8	Hopper, Grace Murray, Electronic Data-Processing: Techniques, Methods Applications, reprinted from Control Engineering, circa 1956
Box 9	ALGOL (XTRAN) -- History, Volume 1: May 1957- December 1960
Box 9	ALGOL (XTRAN) -- History, Volume 2: December 1960-October 1962
Box 9	ALGOL (XTRAN) -- History, Volume 3: ca. 1960- 1971
Box 10	COBOL--History, Volume 2: September 1960- February 1965
Box 10	COBOL--History, Volume 3: June 1965-June 1967
Box 10	COBOL--History, Volume 4: ca. 1964-1969