



Smithsonian
National Museum of American History
Kenneth E. Behring Center

Guide to the Conference on Federal Government Involvement in Electronic Computing Documentation

NMAH.AC.1298

NMAH Staff

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Collection Overview

Repository:	Archives Center, National Museum of American History
Title:	Conference on Federal Government Involvement in Electronic Computing Documentation
Identifier:	NMAH.AC.1298
Date:	1976-1979
Extent:	1 Cubic foot (1 box)
Creator:	National Museum of History and Technology
Language:	English
Summary:	Papers and recordings relating to a conference held at the National Museum of History and Technology (now called the National Museum of American History) on October 23, 1978. The Conference was a joint effort by the Smithsonian, the Washington, D.C. chapter of the Association for Computing Machinery, the Washington, D.C. chapter of the Data Processing Management Association, and the Washington, D.C. chapter of the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers. The collection includes: a program signed by participants; photographs taken at the conference; planning documents such as invitations to speakers to participate and responses to them, proposed guest lists, proposed agendas, press releases, minutes of the planning committee for the Conference; documents relating to budgeting for the conference; and audiocassette and reel-to-reel tapes of the conference.

Administrative Information

Acquisition Information

Immediate source of acquisition unknown.

Provenance

Transferred to the Archives Center from the Division of Medicine and Science, National Museum of American History, in 2012.

Processing Information

Collection is unprocessed.

Preferred Citation

Conference on Federal Involvement in Electronic Computing Prior to 1954 Records, 1976-1979, Archives Center, National Museum of American History.

Restrictions

Collection open for research on site by appointment. Unprotected photographs must be handled with gloves.

Conditions Governing Use

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Biographical / Historical

The concept for this conference was developed by Sol Rosenthal and Bill LaPlante, both considered pioneers in the field of computing. The conference was planned to honor the upcoming 20th anniversary of the Washington chapter of the Association for Computing Machinery in 1979. An additional impetus was the awareness that many of the original members of the chapter were at advanced ages, and the fear that early computer history would become lost if not recorded. A committee was formed with Rosenthal and Smithsonian Curator Uta Merzbach as chairs, a program was developed, and speakers and participants invited. The conference, held on October 23, 1978 was considered very successful as participants provided a wealth of historical detail. Notable participants include Grace Murray Hopper, former NASA astronaut Michael Collins, and Jacob Rabinow, among others.

Scope and Contents

This collection is currently unprocessed.

Arrangement

1 series

Names and Subject Terms

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

Subjects:

Computers -- History
Conferences -- Washington (D.C.)

Types of Materials:

Audiocassettes
Audiotapes
Budgets
Minutes
Photographs -- 1970-1980

Press releases
Programs

Names:

Association for Computing Machinery.
Collins, Michael, 1930-
Data Processing Management Association
Hopper, Grace Murray, 1906-
Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers
Medicine and Science, Division of, (NMAH, SI)
Merzbach, Uta C., 1933-
Rabinow, Jacob, 1910-
Rosenthal, Solomon