



Smithsonian Institution Archives

Joint Committee on Archives of Science
and Technology Records, 1978-1984

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Collection Overview

Repository:	Smithsonian Institution Archives, Washington, D.C., osiaref@si.edu
Title:	Joint Committee on Archives of Science and Technology Records
Identifier:	Accession 99-120
Date:	1978-1984
Extent:	1.5 cu. ft. (1 record storage box) (1 document box)
Creator::	History of Science Society
Language:	English

Administrative Information

Preferred Citation

Smithsonian Institution Archives, Accession 99-120, History of Science Society, Joint Committee on Archives of Science and Technology Records

Historical Note

Concern for the documentation of modern science in the United States dates from the Conference on Science Manuscripts held in Washington in May 1960, supported by a grant from the National Science Foundation to the History of Science Society (HSS). Other notable events of the 1960s were the establishment of the American Institute of Physics Center for the History of Physics (1960) and the work of the project on sources for the history of quantum physics (1961-1966). A number of events in the mid to late 1970s indicated a resurgence of interest in documentary questions including the development of strong archival programs in institutions such as the Massachusetts Institute of Technology.

In 1978, three professional groups - the History of Science Society (HSS), the Society for the History of Technology (SHOT), and the Society of American Archivists (SAA) appointed representatives to a body that took the title of Joint Committee on Archives of Science and Technology (JCAST). The committee received a planning grant from the National Historical Publications and Records Commission (NHPRC), and when a further grant from NHPRC was received beginning in 1981, the Association of Records Managers and Administrators (ARMA) joined the sponsoring societies.

A particularly significant aspect of JCAST and its activities was its success in bringing together the concerns of archivists and historians in a constructive evaluation of contemporary archival problems. Further, the methodologies the committee identified as well as some of its specific findings have value beyond science and technology.

The committee prepared a series of position papers on a variety of archival issues that drew on the resources and expertise of its members. Then, after four years of activity that included issuance of a preliminary report in May 1980, JCAST issued a final report, "Understanding Progress as Process: Documentation of the History of Post-War Science and Technology in the United States." *

Committee members included: Joan Warnow-Blewett, Center for History of Physics at the American Institute of Physics (Chair) (SAA); David Allison, Naval Research Laboratory (SHOT); David Bearman (HSS); Maynard Brichford, University of Illinois Archives (SAA); John Clayton, University of Delaware Archives (ARMA); Clark A. Elliott, Harvard University Archives (HSS); Robert Friedel, Center for History of Electrical Engineering (SHOT); Brooke Hindle, NMAH, Smithsonian (SHOT); Ann Campbell, Society of American Archivists; Sharon Gibbs, Center for Polar & Scientific Archives (HSS); David H. McCurdy, (ARMA); Alan Negus (ARMA); Helen Slotkin, MIT Archives (SAA); Richard Williams (SHOT).

*Adapted from: "Joint Committee on Archives of Science and Technology (JCAST): Summary from the Final Report," by Clark A. Elliott, 1984.

Introduction

These records were created and maintained by Joan Warnow-Blewett in her duties as chair of the Joint Committee on Archives of Science and Technology (JCAST) from 1978 through 1984. They were kept in the archives of the Niels Bohr Library at the American Institute of Physics after the project was completed until April 1999. The records of the Discipline History Centers Meeting (1981-1982) were created and maintained by Clark Elliott at Harvard University Archives until January 1997 when he transferred them to the Niels Bohr Library to be integrated with the other JCAST Records. In April 1999 all of the JCAST records were transferred to the Smithsonian Institution Archives (SIA) to become part of the official records of the History of Science Society.

Descriptive Entry

This accession consists of the files of the Joint Committee on Archives of Science and Technology (JCAST). JCAST was comprised of three professional organizations - the History of Science Society (HSS), the Society for the History of Technology, and the Society of American Archivists. These records were created and maintained by Joan Warnow-Blewett, Chair of JCAST, and the American Institute of Physics (AIP) Archivist Emeritus. Per the request of HSS, these records were transferred from AIP and made part of the HSS collections at SIA. Materials include correspondence, notes, meeting minutes, grant proposals, reports, guidelines, position papers, outlines, and schedules.

Names and Subject Terms

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

Subjects:

Professional associations
Science -- History

Types of Materials:

Manuscripts

Names:

American Institute of Physics
Joint Committee on Archives of Science and Technology (U.S.)

Society for the History of Technology
Society of American Archivists
Warnow-Blewett, Joan, 1931-

Container Listing

Box 1

Box 1 of 2	1st and 2nd Proposals, 1978-1980
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Box 1 of 2	Grant 79-67 - Committee Correspondence, 1979-1980
Box 1 of 2	Grant 79-67 - Bearman Correspondence, 1979-1980
Box 1 of 2	Grant 79-67 - Hackman Correspondence, 1980-1981
Box 1 of 2	Grant 79-67 - Meeting, April 1979
Box 1 of 2	Grant 79-67 - Treasurer Correspondence, 1980
Box 1 of 2	Grant 79-67 - Preliminary Report Drafts, 1979-1980
Box 1 of 2	Grant 79-67 - Subcommittee Report, 1979
Box 1 of 2	Grant 79-67 - Financial and Narrative Reports, 1981
Box 1 of 2	Preliminary Report, 1980
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Box 1 of 2	NHPRC Letter and Response regarding 2nd Grant Period
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Box 1 of 2	Requests for Reports, 1981-1982
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Box 1 of 2	HSS Treasury, 1981-1983
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Box 1 of 2	Parent Societies, 1981-1983
Box 1 of 2	Background Materials

Box 1 of 2	Appraisal Guidelines
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Box 1 of 2	Influence List
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Box 2 of 2	Meeting, Airlie House, May 1982
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Box 2 of 2	Meetings with Discipline Centers, 1981-1982
Box 2 of 2	Discipline Centers Meeting - Final Report, 1982
Box 2 of 2	Discipline Centers Meeting - Invitation and Agenda, 1981
Box 2 of 2	Discipline Centers Meeting - Correspondence, 1981
Box 2 of 2	Discipline Centers Meeting - Correspondence on Report, 1981
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Box 2 of 2	Discipline Centers - Members Questionnaire, 1981
Box 2 of 2	Discipline Centers - Questionnaire to Centers, 1982
Box 2 of 2	Discipline Centers - Report on Questionnaires, 1982

Box 2 of 2

Discipline Centers - Response to Science letter, 1982