ACM History Committee Meeting Minutes, August 17, 2020 (v. 1)

1. Welcome (Owens)
- Meeting began at 11:00am EDT / 8:00am PDT via Zoom

2. Attendees (House)
- Barbara Boucher Owens (chair)
- Vicki Almstrum
- David Brock
- Carol Hutchins
- Roy Levin
- Ursula Martin
- Sachin Maheshwari
- Erik Rau
- Kim Tracy
- Mary Whitton

Guests
- Charles House

Not present
- Bernadette Longo
- Amanda Wick
- Jeffrey Yost

3. Minutes from July meeting (Almstrum)
- Accepted as version 2 after the following corrections:
    - Added the number of interviews that had been completed by May for the ACM Awards project.
    - Corrected the location of the storage Kim had arranged for the annual reports.
    - Corrected name of Jeff Yost's interview subject.
- We discussed the alternative of only sending the link for the minutes in the future. We agreed to try it to see how well that works compared to distributing an attached copy for review and approval.
- NOTE: The June meeting was a discussion meeting only. No minutes for that meeting.

4. Finances (Whitton, Rau)
- Erik believes all of the expenses for FY2020 have now been filed. Nothing new yet for FY2021.

5. Status of Turing update (Levin)

- No real news on the Turing front at the moment.

6. Web work (Tracy, Almstrum, Wick)

- Since our last meeting, Kim has made a number of updates to the history committee website, https://history.acm.org/
  - Added content: projects and initiatives (based on annual report), fellowships (based on Vicki's spreadsheet), and some content for most sections (except "ACM History")
  - Simplified menu structure: WordPress is kind of strange in the way it does menus and submenus, so I simplified it and had sub-pages when needed that aren't in the menus
  - Updated plug-ins and SEO: set up some features such as an automatic indicator of the download file type (Vicki's suggestion), updated all plug-ins and set up SEO so the site can be more easily found
- Question from Barb about the monthly links. Right now those are empty because we are still waiting to obtain the old blog entries from ACM.
- On the project page: Should there be links to the work that has been completed when related work exists, in particular for the Turing project? The challenge is to find the relevant links. Could be good to include links to snippets, for example.
- Other status:
  - Still waiting to hear from ACM IT on moving the old blog entries to the new site
  - Found additional HC annual reports (on the main ACM site) – do we want to post them on our site, too? Put them all on our Google drive (still missing a couple: 2009 and 2013).
- Next steps: Add more workshop history for the prior workshops, older meeting minutes, and ACM History resources (we had such a thing on the old web site)

7. Fellowships and relation to Heritage project

- These discussions were prompted by Mary Whitton's email from 11 August and Erik Rau's email from 5 August.
- Reflections on the task of follow-up to the fellowships:
  - Important to follow up with past award winners. Suggestion: make this follow-up obligation clearer.
  - Suggestion: add to the website an annotated bibliography highlighting work published by past recipients.
- Name and purpose of the fellowship program
  - Mary's "renaming" in the annual report to Fellowship for History and Archival indicates the direction these fellowships have gone. Indicates a need to be deliberate in how we select and award the fellowship winners.
  - Erik brought up the two aspects as preservation (fellowship money) and access (heritage money).

- David: Could call them History Committee fellowships. The description could explain that the fellowship may be used for research on a topic related to the ACM, including projects working to preserve or enhance preservation of items. Could judge proposals based on the greater demand.
  - Good to maintain flexibility. We will monitor the proposals that come in, so there is very little work needed to modify the call.
- For the Heritage portion
  - We discussed the idea of providing consulting expertise for SIGs and other units. NCWIT provides a model for how we might provide consulting services.
  - Vicki reported that her goal is to produce a rough draft of the Heritage white paper by the September meeting.

8. India Oral History update (Maheshwari)
- Sachin reports that the videography of Professor Rajaraman's interview will take place over a number of sessions. Sachine hopes that one or two of the sessions will be completed during the coming month.
- The questionnaire that will be shared with Professor Rajaraman is mostly done.

9. ACM Award Video Series (House)
- We must discuss the web presence for the ACM Award Video Series. Vicki presented ideas for how it could be incorporated into the History Committee structure.
- One potential access path is to have on respective award pages a button that gives access to the relevant interviews.
- Chuck pointed out that consolidating the interviews to a single page will better highlight the project. This would also give a better basis for cross-interview research and comparisons.
- Chuck mentioned a concern. Because this is not an exhaustive process for any single award classification, individuals who are not included in the 72 interviews may wonder why they were not asked.
- Discussed whether ACM has an indexing scheme we should take into consideration.
  - Roy clarified how the ACM search capabilities work currently.
  - Chuck said it could be interesting for future research to have the ability to track where individuals are mentioned across the interviews.
  - David Brock talked about the wish at CHM to have full text search available across their collection of oral histories. Their current hack is to use Google.
  - Chuck mentioned that having this available across all of the interviews could be valuable. Erik responded about this and Roy concurred. (Listen later.)
  - Erik can imagine a short finding aide for each interview, that may be sufficient.
  - The interviews should be archived at CBI, so there is a question of how this will work.
- Bottom line: two separate issues. How to store Chuck's work products and later how to do the cross-indexing work.

10.　Additional business

- Ursula has been thinking about ways to encourage more international activity. One idea is to do the outreach through the SIGs. She and Vicki will discuss this idea for inclusion in the Heritage White paper.
- Mary had shared an offer for donation of a vintage VAX 6000-310 Supercomputer, originally offered to the CS department at UNC. Discussion on the mailing list brought up several ideas, including CHM and the Living Computer Museum in Seattle. David Brock will follow up with the curators to check interest at the CHM. Unfortunately, the Living Computer Museum may be permanently closed.

11.　Upcoming meetings
Monday, September 21, 2020, 11:00 am EDT via Zoom

12.　Conclusion 12:00 pm EDT / 9:00 am PDT