

ACM History Committee Meeting Minutes, October 17, 2022

Welcome (Owens)

- Meeting began at 12:00pm EDT /9:00am PDT via Zoom

1. Attendees (Owens)

- Barbara Boucher Owens (chair)
- Vicki Almstrum
- Troy Astarte
- David Brock
- Carol Hutchins
- Roy Levin
- ac Loup
- Erik Rau (by phone for part of the meeting)
- Kim Tracy
- Mary Whitton
- Amanda Wick
- Jeffrey Yost
- Chuck House (guest) — early part of meeting only

Not in attendance

- Sachin Maheshwari

Roy Levin resigned from the History Committee, effective the end of October, so this was his last meeting as a member of the History Committee.

- He was on the committee for 10 years.
- He was recruited by Len Shustek while employed by Microsoft and looking for how to archive interesting bits of software from Microsoft with an organization such as the Computer History Museum.
- Roy emphasized that he remains available for consultations in the future.
- Roy's ACM focus now will be the ACM Award committee, where he is co-chair with John White.
- Troy made an official motion to thank Roy for his hard work. Many seconds.

2. Minutes (Secretariat / Almstrum, Astarte)

- September 19, 2022 minutes
 - o By the beginning of the meeting, only five votes, all to approve. As the the October minutes are completed, there were only six votes, all to approve.
 - o Add to agenda for the November meeting.

3. Follow-up Heritage seminar (Almstrum, Wick, Loop)

- We reviewed the feedback the organizing group received for the seminar content and logistics.
- The seminar was built using a very similar infrastructure to that used by Jeff Yost for his Just Code seminar. Amanda managed the logistics very well. The support she arranged through UMN (Jeff's assistant Melissa, Lindeman Productions) was very helpful. The key tool was the script that she developed to guide everyone throughout the two days, as well as the rehearsal sessions.
- Key outcomes
 - SUPPORT MEETINGS: We plan to hold periodic meetings to encourage networking (both formal and informal), opportunities to highlight guest speakers, and heritage participation at conferences. The proposed name for these meetings, Heritage Huddle, raised concerns about less favorable meanings of the word "huddle" and whether the term would communicate clearly internationally. This is still a work in progress.
 - PUBLICATION ON DL: In a meeting with Wayne Graves and Craig Rodkin (both from the DL team) only a few days earlier, Vicki learned about their ideas for putting the seminar articles in the ACM Digital Library. They visualized a more long-term idea, a collection or series that highlights new articles, reports, and even recordings several times a year. Wayne pointed to the TechBriefs series as an example: <https://dl.acm.org/collections/acm-tech-brief>. Vicki will expand this proposal and report at the next meeting.
 - POST-SEMINAR PUBLICATION PROCESS: We will begin with a summary report that includes abstracts for all of the talks. We will use a system such as EasyChair to support the submission, copyright, and review process. The full articles will be added later; we discussed a schedule that would seek review copies by December and publication in February.

4. New projects / programs from annual report

a. Recruitment

- Deferred.

b. Outreach/Marketing

- Deferred.

c. History of ACM webpage(s)

- Deferred.

d. ACM's overall digital preservation strategy

- Deferred.

5. Brief updates on committee work

a. Budget and Finances (Whitton, Rau)

- Mary reminded everyone via chat that we must discuss the budget process, through email if needed.
- Discussed the process for paying out under our budget.
 - Expect outlays in the near future for both the India project and the Heritage seminar.
 - Roy and Chuck explained that they usually send an email with details directly to Pat Ryan when payments are needed for their respective projects.
 - ACTION ITEM Mary and Erik: Create a step-by-step guideline with current specifics. Include a note that if the current version is older than a year, it should be updated. Erik will start this.

b. Fellowship (Tracy, Whitton)

- Deferred.

c. Turing Awardee History Project (Levin)

- David B. reported that as he prepares to assume the primary oversight role for the Turing Awardee project, he has had good meetings with Tom Haigh, Frannie Corry, and Roy Levin. He has not yet met with David Jefferson.
- During the farewell to Roy, David agreed he will give an overview of the project work.

d. ACM Key Awards Video Series (House)

- Deferred.

e. Global (Maheshwari, Hutchins)

- Sachin was traveling, so did not provide a direct report. We discussed that he needs to begin drawing funds for the India project. Mary and Erik will support him in this process.

f. Heritage Project (Almstrum, Wick, Loup)

- This topic was considered during the seminar follow-up.

g. Outreach (Hutchins)

- Deferred.

h. DEI and accessibility issues

- Barbara brought up concerns related to DEI (Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion) within ACM. For example, the SIGCSE mailing list had an extended and thoughtful

discussion on the review process for the SIGCSE Symposium highlighted issues related to DEI.

- Barbara shared the August 2021 research report, authored by Chris Stevenson, “All the Voices: Doing the Work to Improve Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Throughout ACM” <https://sigcse.org/resources/All%20the%20VoicesFinal.pdf>
- Highlights of comments during the discussion:
 - The History Committee’s mission is to document the history of the ACM. Some of this will be uncomfortable because history can be uncomfortable — e.g., dismantling white supremacy. Surfacing such stories should be an important part of the committee’s work.
 - When we do history, we put on a lens; we must ensure the lens does not exclude parts of history.
 - The History Committee must strive for an atmosphere of supportiveness that lets people join in rather than thinking “they don't care about me”.
 - DEI efforts should fit naturally into the History Committee’s overall work, along the lines of the NC state motto — *Esse Quam Videri*, “To be rather than to seem.”
 - DEI work and reaching out should permeate everything the committee does — it doesn't need to be a separate initiative.
 - A related concern is accessibility, such as blindness. ac mentioned work by the Washington state e-learning committee on accessibility and a colleague who could speak to this.
 - ACM is actively addressing DEI issues reflected in the Turing Award and other ACM awards; for example, relatively few women have been recognized.
 - ac mentioned indigenous history month and suggested ideas for how the committee can highlight and seek input from a variety of voices.
- Suggestion: invite the ACM’s DEI Committee to help the History Committee with training so the committee as a whole builds this lens.

6. Committee membership

- Deferred.

7. Additional business

- After the Heritage seminar, Roy was contacted by a colleague from 40 years ago who wanted help and advice for how to work with past software. The colleague was concerned about software history, in particular an Inner Lisp system. The colleague wanted to identify techniques for reanimating dead software: emulation, portability, etc. The colleague is looking for connections and to interest people in his work. Would like email contact with people he should meet. Should we have an action item to assist with this? Might the information he is seeking become part of the Heritage toolkit?

8. Upcoming meetings

Monday, November 14, 12:00 noon EDT via Zoom

Rescheduled to a week earlier in consideration of scheduling conflicts.

9. Conclusion 1:00 pm EDT