

ANNUAL REPORT

of the ACM History Committee

For the Period: July 1, 2023 - June 30, 2024

Submitted by Barbara Boucher Owens, chair

Version: August 30, 2024

Executive summary

- **Turing Awardee History Project:** The Turing Award website includes complete biographies for all winners through 2022, lacking only the biography for the 2023 awardee. The oral histories of all recent interviewees are in the pipeline. In FY 2024 we will continue to plan for new interviews and to cross-license some pre-existing oral histories.
- **ACM Key Award Winners Video Series Project:** This project has completed the 144 interviews included in the first two phases of the project, along with an additional 21 interviews from awardees who agreed to be interviewed. Transcripts and edited videos are being compiled and completed, ready for ACM HQ to manage posting on individual webpages and in the ACM Digital Library.
- **History and Archiving Fellowships program:** We received a total of fourteen fellowship project proposals. Five submissions were selected for awards.
- **Heritage Project:** The new ACM Digital Library series, *Heritage Insights*, is nearly ready to launch and is expected to appear before the end of CY2024. The first set of materials in this series are based on the *Capturing Hidden ACM Heritage Seminar*, held in September 2022. Next steps are to plan for future issues in the *Heritage Insights* series, to further develop the Heritage website as a resource for SIGs / other ACM entities, and to plan for one or more workshops.
- **India Technology Leaders Video Project:** The project has collected four video interviews with one technology leader and is now collecting a set of retrospective interviews about the life and work of a second pioneer, who passed away before he could be interviewed.
- **Outreach and Publicity:** The HC uses its website (history.acm.org) as a key tool for outreach and publicity. We are striving to work closely with ACM HQ to support them in promoting history-related information.
- **Curriculum:** This new subcommittee was established after noticing that drafts of the most recent Computing Curricula description were short on elements related to history. We had effective input on the last versions of Computing Curricula 2023 and are planning to become directly involved in curriculum work in the future. We are also developing ideas for instigating and sharing instructional materials relating to computing history.
- **Secretariat:** This subcommittee supports the important work of the HC by capturing meeting minutes, assembling the annual report, orienting new committee members to the HC's workings, and ensuring that our shared workspace is up-to-date and reasonably organized.
- **Future desires and concerns:**
 - Dealing with the post-pandemic impact on budget and projects, including travel.
 - Progress with our goal of diversity and global participation in all HC projects.

- Continued planning and support for permanent archival storage of content in all media (written, audio, video), particularly digital, striving for a well-understood process from capture to secure storage.
- Ensuring a routine for archiving for ACM's own websites and social media.
- Receiving regularly scheduled complete financial reports so we can better monitor the Committee's use of funds, particularly for tracking expenditures of our Fellowship recipients.
- A well defined process for ensuring up-to-date information appears on the ACM website regarding the Committee's on-going projects, including ACM's history page.
- Traffic data / access information for web pages (similar to the information that is readily available for the videos on YouTube).
- FTP access for Turing project-related web pages to allow direct access.
- Continuing progress in our collaborations with ACM Headquarters for policies, access, and dark storage needed for Committee projects.
- Gathering lessons learned from SIG history projects, for example debriefing SIGGRAPH members about lessons learned from their work for SIGGRAPH's 50th anniversary celebration.
- Quantifying the value-added for ACM of the various HC projects and proposals.

1. **BASIC INFORMATION**

1.1 **Membership**

Barbara Boucher Owens, Chair, Southwestern University, joined December 2015

Members, in reverse chronological order of joining

Mara Mills, New York University, joining April 2024

Andrew Meade McGee, Smithsonian Institute, joining November 2023

John V. Tucker, Swansea University, joining July 2023

Jonathan Grudin, Microsoft and University of Washington, joined June 2023

Troy K. Astarte, Swansea University, joined September 2021

David C. Brock, Computer History Museum, joined May 2019

Sachin N. Maheshwari, IIT Delhi, joined July 2018

Jeffrey Yost, Charles Babbage Institute, joined July 2018

Vicki L. Almstrum, Texas State University, joined December 2015

Kim Tracy, Rose-Hulman Institute of Technology, joined October 2014

Carol Hutchins, Courant Institute Library, joined February 2005.

Members who rotated off during report year

ac Loup, WSU Extension, joined September 2021, left June 2024

Mary Whitton, Univ. of North Carolina Chapel Hill (retired), joined May 2010, left August 2023

1.2 **Purpose**

The History Committee fosters collection, preservation, and interpretation of the history of the ACM and its role in the development of computing. To this end, the Committee provides

guidance within the Association and carries out activities independently and in collaboration with other groups.

1.3 Subcommittees and roles

- Turing Project oversight — Brock [chair], two contractors (Corry and Haigh)
- Budget and Finances — Brock [chair], Astarte, one advisor (Mary Whitton)
- History and Archiving Fellowships program — Tracy [chair], Brock, Whitton, Yost
- Heritage Project — Almstrum [chair], Loup, Grudin, McGee
- ACM Key Award Winners Video Series Project — Hutchins [chair], one contractor (House)
- CEOHP Heritage exemplar — Almstrum, Owens
- India Technology Leaders Video Project — Maheshwari [chair], Hutchins
- Outreach and Publicity— Hutchins [chair], Almstrum, Tracy
- Secretariat — Almstrum [chair], Astarte
- Curriculum—Tucker [chair], Almstrum, Owens, Tracy, one advisor (Brett Becker)
- SGB Representative — Tracy

1.4 Dates of committee meetings

One face-to-face meeting, February 28, 2024, at ACM HQ in New York City.

12 teleconferences using Zoom:

7/18/2023, 8/15/2023, 9/19/2023, 10/17/2023, 11/21/2023, 12/19/2023, 1/16/2024,
2/16/2024, 3/15/2024, 4/19/2024, 5/17/2024, 6/21/2024

No additional meetings were planned or canceled.

2. PROJECT SUMMARY

DEVELOPMENT FUND SPECIAL PROJECTS (1)

ACM Key Award Winners Video Series

- Phase I approved mid-October 2018, three years, \$336,000, Goal: 72 interviews. Interviewing began April 2019; 72 interviews completed by April 2022. All 72 Phase I interviews have been initially transcribed; editing and approval from interviewees is underway, with 20 fully approved and 5 submitted to ACM headquarters for publication.
- Phase II approved June 2021, an additional three years (2022–2024) for \$336,000. Goal: 72 additional interviews to be completed by end of calendar year 2024. As of June 30, 2023, 65 interviews and 51 transcripts had been completed. Editing and approval from interviewees is underway.
- A total of 165 interviews had been completed by the end of June, 2024 (including 21 additional interviews on top of the planned 144 from Phase I and II). The budgetary shortfall was funded in part by leftover funds in the ACM HC general budget, and the Project Manager has donated the remainder to ACM. 144 transcripts are completed and final editing and approval from interviewees is underway.

- Funds spent through 6/30/2024: Phase I \$324,000; Phase II \$366,000.
- Completion of tasks: Phase I was completed by the end of CY 2023; Phase II tasks will be completed by the end of CY 2024, with submission of completed videos and transcripts during first half of CY2025.

ONGOING COMMITTEE BUDGET FUNDED PROJECTS (5)

Turing Project

- The subcommittee and the HC as a whole adopted a plan for the Turing Project in FY24 to be directed by an external contractor (Tom Haigh) and overseen within the HC by David Brock. Haigh will be operationally responsible for the project with Brock providing expenditure approvals and strategic guidance where needed.
- The Turing Award website is current with all biographies through 2022, missing only the most recent awardee for 2023.
- Lampson, Thompson, and Ullman were interviewed this year and their interviews are being processed by the Computer History Museum.
- The oral histories of all recent interviewees are in the pipeline, with Pearl nearly at publication, and Aho and Hanrahan close behind.
- Responsible Person: Tom Haigh, contracted director; Brock, oversight.
- Start Date: FY 2016 as a special development project; FY 2021 changed to an ongoing Committee project.
- Status: Ongoing
- Funds Budgeted: FY23 \$26,000 FY24 \$42,000
- Funds Spent: FY23 \$26,000

ACM Heritage Project

- We have nearly completed the steps needed to publish the first issue of the new *Heritage Insights* series in the ACM DL. The first “issue” will be a follow up to the Heritage seminar, *Capturing Hidden ACM Heritage*, held September 30–October 1, 2022. The selections will include presentations about a variety of projects from groups such as ACM-W Europe, SIGGRAPH, SIGCSE, SIGCOMM, the ACM/IEEE Supercomputer Conference, the Software Heritage Initiative, and the ACM History Committee. The material will also include opening comments from Yannis Ioannidis, the ACM president, and Vicki Hanson, CEO of ACM.
- The work with *Heritage Insights* as a follow-up to the seminar is allowing us to collaborate with DL staff in creating a clear description of the work flow and deliverables for this type of publication (which includes recordings and transcripts).
- The Heritage website (<https://heritage.acm.org>) is present, but not yet built up with resources useful to SIGs and other groups conducting history-related projects. Ensuring this site is more complete is a priority for the coming FY.

- The exemplar website for the Computing Educators Oral History Project (<https://ceohp.heritage.acm.org>) is up-to-date. We plan to develop a strategy for adding interviews and continued work toward having the CEOHP interviews archived at CBI. We will also explore whether it is possible to include these interviews in the ACM DL.
- Responsible Person: Almstrum, Grudin, Loup
- Start Date: April 2017
- Status: Ongoing
- Funds Budgeted: \$24,000
- Funds Spent: \$5,732
 - \$3,245 in support of a fifth Fellowship for CY2024
 - \$2,487 to support a member's participation at SIGGRAPH
 - Work for *Heritage Insights* in process, to be drawn during FY2024

History and Archiving Fellowship 2024 Awards

- The purpose of the Fellowship program is to encourage research on topics related to ACM History and to support building collections of historically important documents and artifacts.
- Each year the Committee aims to award a small number of research fellowships for up to \$4,000 per award. The ACM Heritage Project also provides additional support for relevant projects.
- The Committee website includes a page with information about prior awardees, projects, and results, as well as an example of a successful fellowship proposal. (history.acm.org/projects-and-initiatives/fellowship-for-the-advancement-of-acm-history)
- In March 2024, five of fourteen proposals were selected to receive Fellowship awards:
 - Amelia Acker, University of Texas at Austin, *From Data Archives to Social Science Computing: Tracing the Development of ACM SIGSOC to SIGCHI, 1969-1982*
 - Jacob Bruggeman, Johns Hopkins University, *Securing the System: Computer Hackers, Professional Experts, and Political Order, 1963-2013*
 - Sam Franz, University of Pennsylvania, *From Computing Centers to Computer Science: The Political Economy of American Universities and the Rise of Computing, 1930-1990*
 - Alain Tchana, Grenoble INP – LIG Laboratory, *The history of Computer Science in Africa: The pioneers and their impact*
 - Devin Kennedy, University of Wisconsin, *The 1984 ACM 'Risks to the Public' Statement*
- Recipients were notified in April 2024; they normally spend the funds within a year of being notified.
- Start Date: Call for submissions was issued in November 2023.
- Responsible Person: Tracy
- Status: Ongoing (annual project)
- Funds Budgeted: \$16,000
- Funds Spent: \$19,245 (\$3,245 transferred from Heritage budget line)

ACM India Technology Leaders Video Project

- The original objectives of this project were to record interviews with three iconic figures who laid the foundation of the information technology industry, computer science education, and computer science research in India during the 1960s and 1970s. The project objectives evolved after it was initiated because two of the targeted leaders passed away. The project will now include direct interviews with one of the original three individuals. For one of the two leaders who passed away, one was eliminated as an interviewee because sufficient materials already exist about his contributions. For the third leader, the project will collect retrospective interviews about him, collected from individuals intimately familiar with his work.
- Responsible Person: Maheshwari
- Start date: June 2019
- Status: To be completed during CY2025.
- Funds Budgeted: \$2,500
- Funds Spent: \$0 (payment procedures causing significant delays)

Outreach and Publicity

- The Committee strives to coordinate effectively with ACM HQ regarding outreach efforts.
- The History Committee's primary website (history.acm.org) is stable and updated regularly.
- In an effort to support HC presence at relevant conferences and meetings, this year we approved covering a member's attendance at the SIGGRAPH conference.
- The Committee uses Google Drive as a shared storage resource (HC Operations), the ACM listserv for communications, and an ACM Zoom account for its monthly meetings.
- Responsible Person: Hutchins, Tracy.
- Start Date: Ongoing.
- Status: Ongoing.
- Funds Budgeted: \$0
- Funds Spent: (\$2,487, included in Heritage budget line)

3. PLANS

3.1 Projects that will be completed or terminated in the coming year

- The initial phases of the Key Awards Project are nearly complete, with new work planned for the coming FY.
- ACM India Technology Leaders Video Project will conclude in the coming CY.

3.2 Important changes or milestones in active projects during the coming year

Turing Project

- During the FY, we voted to outsource the organization and management of the Turing Project to an external Director, Thomas Haigh, with the ACM HC continuing to provide strategic direction and oversight. The other contractor, Corry, will leave the project. The duties of the

director would consolidate managing the Turing Award web pages with the interview management, including overhauling the research area categorization and tagging, organizing ACM storage, and documenting the workflow. The director will be paid a fixed stipend for the role and additional fees for interview labor and travel expenses. Tom Haigh is assuming the responsibilities that Franny Corry had covered, in addition to the ongoing work with the video clip and website oversight.

- The budget for FY 2024 has increased to allow us to interview more of the awardees in order to fill in gaps from the past and to remain current with new awardees.
- Interviews for up to six awardees can be provided by licensing existing CHM interviews, which will help with cases where the health of the awardee precludes a new interview, or the existing interview is of sufficiently high quality. This will also save on expenditure.
- The video clips housed on YouTube continue to enjoy many thousands of views, particularly the educational pieces. Viewership has continued to rise, to about 6,500 a month. The clips received 70K views in FY 2023 and 238K views since the video clips work began in 2020.
- We look forward to seeing the Turing Award Winner webpages evolve toward the same level of functionality that has been achieved for the Key Award Winner pages.
- A related question we discussed during a recent HC meeting is whether there exists a collection of videos from the Turing lectures presented at various conferences over the years.

ACM Key Award Winners Video Series

- This project has completed the 144 interviews included in phases I and II, as well as 21 additional videos, with video interviews and transcripts in process of being submitted to ACM (Bruce Shriver).
- Our original intention was to budget for adding 12 to 16 interviews per year (primarily for new awardees). The HC voted to defer this plan for FY2024 in order to divert that funding to extracting video clips from the original 165 interviews. The strategy of providing interesting video clips extracted from the full interviews has helped increase visits to the Turing Project interviews, so we are excited to use this strategy for the Key Awards Project as well.
- To support the proposal for producing video clips and keep the project on track, Chuck House, the Key Awards Project Manager, will donate 12 to 16 interviews during each of the next two years, after which the project will return to regular HC budgeting.

ACM Heritage Project

- The overall goal of the Heritage work is to provide useful resources for SIGs and other ACM groups, which includes where to place materials, how to share materials with people doing history projects, and options for future training.
- During the coming year, we will resume work with the Heritage website (heritage.acm.org), building it as a gathering place for best practices and ideas that support ACM entities, such as the SIGs, as they plan for and organize their own history work.
- We have made good progress toward the first issue of our new publication series, *Heritage Insights*, which will present material from the Fall 2022 Heritage seminar. Part of our challenge has been to identify and outline the new processes needed to prepare recorded

presentations from a seminar as material for the ACM DL. The subcommittee has received extensive support from Craig Rodkin, ACM's Publications Operations Manager, and has engaged an outside consultant to assist with editing the Zoom video from the seminar so it is ready to add to the DL. The cover design and color scheme for the *Heritage Insights* graphics materials had been prototyped by the end of FY2023 and were awaiting approval.

ACM India Technology Leaders Video Project

- The interviews for Prof. V. Rajaraman have been collected and processed as four interviews. The interviews are not yet posted. (https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Vaidyeswaran_Rajaraman)
- The retrospective interviews about the late Prof. Dutta Majumder are in progress. The interviewers and interviewees have been identified. The interviews will be conducted face to face once we have finalized the process for disbursing funds for expenses related to conducting these interviews. (https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Dwijesh_Dutta_Majumdar)
- At the end of FY 2023, the funds allocated for this project were still untouched but committed. With help from ACM staff, we have made progress in developing the process for disbursing these funds to the recipients in India.

History and Archiving Fellowships

- The project is increasing the funding for fellowships from \$16K to \$20K to allow us to fund five projects at the same level because we have consistently received at least this number of quality proposals over the past few years. We will distribute the call for next year's fellowships during the last 2 months of CY 2024 and select the FY 2024 fellowship winners in March or April, 2025.
- Because many of the proposals resonate with the goals of the ACM Heritage Project, the committee has voted to use funds allocated for the Heritage Project to support relevant proposals and extend the reach of our Fellowships.
- During the open application period for the FY2023 Fellowships, the HC received many questions from prospective candidates about the required "endorsement letter". We explained that the endorsement letter serves as a recommendation and plan to make this clearer in the Fellowship Call for FY2024.
- As an aid to distributing the Fellowship Call to reach more individuals who might be interested in seeking a Fellowship, we are formalizing our distribution strategy to cover a variety of relevant organizations. We continue to explore ideas to encourage more applications from non-traditional applicants and individuals from smaller institutions. To help us better understand how applicants heard about the Fellowship program, we plan to ask applicants to include in their narrative "Where you learned about the Fellowship."

Outreach and Publicity

- We are developing a strategy to support having HC members attend conferences and other events, such as the ACM Banquet, for valuable networking, outreach, and collaboration on HC projects (regardless of whether the travel itself is supported by the HC budget).

- We monitor a variety of social media channels regarding outreach and to find opportunities for communicating about the HC projects.
- Jeff Yost has volunteered to become more involved in promoting HC issues using CBI channels. He actively posts on four different networks.
- The HC website (<https://history.acm.org>), which uses the ACM WordPress theme, provides a public face for HC projects and related information. The HC maintains two additional sites, which are associated with the Heritage Project (<https://heritage.acm.org> and <https://ceohp.heritage.acm.org>).

Secretariat

- Setting up the Secretariat as a subcommittee has been very supportive of the overall work of the HC. This year, the work of the Secretariat has benefited from ensuring there are multiple people taking notes during each HC meeting. We have appreciated Zoom’s automatic transcription and summary features, although we are often amused at the AI interpretation of what has happened during a meeting. The most effective approach to ensuring complete minutes has been to relisten to Zoom recordings.
- The Secretariat serves a key role in ensuring accessibility, as well as in recording decisions and action items for the continued progress of the overall HC.
- The Secretariat also helps ensure that our Google drive workspace, HC Operations, is up-to-date and reasonably organized.

3.3 New projects or programs which are proposed or contemplated

ACM Key Awards project

- The Key Awards project has surpassed the original goals for interviews, collecting a total of 165 interviews. Transcripts and edited videos are being compiled and completed, to be sent to Bruce Shriver at ACM HQ for posting on individual webpages and also in the Digital Library.
- We have three areas of focus over the coming year within the Key Awards project.
 - The Key Award winner web pages are currently rather dry. The prototype of a dynamic **VUE (Visual User Environment)** has been developed. The initial pages feature pictures of the awardees, with easy individual selections that take the user to the awardee’s ACM award page. The VUE offers the ability to group selections by year, by institution, by country, and by organization. The prototype is populated with 250 awardees. Collaboration with ACM’s Information Systems group has led to improvements in the VUE, including smooth integration with the ACM Digital Library. The prototype with the initial dataset will be donated to ACM by the developing company, AstroVirtual Inc. AstroVirtual will provide workshop training for ACM staff so they can continue to populate the VUE with awardees.
 - **Short video clips** from the video interviews appear to aid users considerably compared with sequential searching in a lengthy video. As has been demonstrated since video clips were added to the Turing project, the video clips can increase viewer dwell time and

interest, as well as transforming the information into a more exciting multimedia experience. The video clips for all extant videos will take two years to be completed. We are developing a new development fund request to support the work for these two years. A future plan for the ACM Awardee video clips is to combine information from multiple awardees on a topical basis.

- We are proposing a **Virtual Hall of Fame (VHOF)** prototype, to be created and supplied by AstroVirtual Inc. The vision with the VHOF is to allow the user to “walk through” a museum-like environment to view content (video and audio) explaining accomplishments of the many ACM awardees over the years. This VHOF prototype will provide a platform where HC and ACM personnel can experiment to ascertain the potential value of the idea. The prototype cost is \$50K, to be provided by the Development Fund, and we anticipate that further development may be funded by any of several sources, including award sponsors or other outside sources as well as Development Funds.

The publication series *Heritage Insights*

- The HC’s new publication series, *Heritage Insights*, is slated to be launched in the ACM Digital Library before the end of CY2024. The series is a long-term commitment for the History Committee and an exciting tool for communicating about ACM’s history.
- Project members are working actively with ACM Digital Library staff to set up the production process for including materials from the presentations during the Hidden Heritage seminar that the Committee hosted in September 2022. We are developing new procedures for how to process the materials and present them in the Digital Library.
- In the coming year, after completing the premier issue, we plan to develop one or two more issues of *Heritage Insights*. Ideas for themed issues include a collection of submissions from past Fellowship award winners and a curated collection of key articles from the past that are relevant to the HC’s work.

Other publication efforts

- An on-going goal of the HC is to help bring history alive for a wide array of uses.
- One goal is to consider the video clips created from the Turing Project and the Key Awards Project in order to find ways to mix and match in order to create thematic comparison stories for broader educational interest. This could highlight awardee themes (e.g. initial inspiration for a CS career, epiphanies during a career, perspective on gender bias, or other thematic issues). This in turn invites creation of composite YouTube “stories,” each of which could incorporate ideas from several oral history interviews.
- Another area we are exploring is the possibility of one or more monographs, most likely targeted for the History of Computing category of ACM Books, where Tom Misa is the Area Editor.

Recruitment

- The HC continues to consider new members who will enhance global presence and representativeness. One strategy is to expand our list of potential venues for recruiting

committee members to organizations such as SIGCIS and SHOT. Another strategy is to seek leaders from industry who are interested in history.

- The HC is building an advisory board of individuals on whom the HC can call for advice as needed. Some of these advisors will be former HC members. We are developing a formal definition of the role, with the goal of making clear what we are asking of our advisors.
- A new area that has come to our attention is the need to provide all committee members with appointment letters for committee members. The HC needs to formalize this process and document it so it is a part of our regular procedures.

Outreach and Publicity

- The Committee is building an internal spreadsheet of the communication networks we use to publicize programs such as the Fellowships and workshops.
- We recognize the importance of retaining the part of ACM's history that is represented in social media, such as tweets, toots, and other posts. We have started to discuss this topic with ACM HQ in order to establish appropriate practices as soon as possible.
- To help connect the History Committee to relevant posts, we want to promote use of a hashtag such as #ACMHistory.

Curriculum

- Several members of the HC have professional interests in computing education. A good summary of the HC stance is that history should be incorporated in at least a light-weight manner for all topics of the curriculum.
- The HC entered the discussion of the draft version of the Computing Curriculum 2023 process, with particular interest in how the roles of history and heritage were represented. We reviewed and responded to the beta version of the draft (March 2023), at which point history was explicitly included as a topic in the section on Society, Ethics and Professionalism (SEP).
- Brett A. Becker, University College Dublin, Ireland, was a member of the ACM/IEEE/AAAI Curriculum Committee and chaired the working group for the SEP section. The HC invited Brett to attend an HC meeting, where he summarized the situation and actively welcomed the interest of the HC. We shared suggestions for the gamma version (August 2023), some of which were included in the final draft (January 2024). Brett has now agreed to be an advisor for the HC.
- Our engagement with the process for the most recent Computing Curriculum has helped us expand our vision for historical work in the area of computing education, including:
 - Creating ready-to-use historical lectures, demos, etc. for teachers of modern computing topics.
 - Holding workshops and convening working groups to uncover and share historical case studies as modern teaching tools.
 - Becoming involved with the next Curriculum Committee earlier in the process.

History of ACM webpage

- The ACM history page, acm.org/about-acm/acm-history, is attributed to the History Committee, but no one on the committee has had a role in its content. The current page describes the present state of ACM as a whole; only the “Introduction” section, about 20% of the document, addresses ACM’s history. A good overall history of ACM must take into account how the ACM participated in larger trends: social, intellectual, business. It should also consider the relationship between ACM as a core institutionalizing force, its broader SIG community with their own distinct identities, and the individuals whose work is facilitated by ACM.
- The HC wants to develop a plan for updating this page to better reflect the page goals. Meetings with ACM staff have been productive towards allowing HC access to edit this material.
- The HC has also discussed the idea of a timeline that can grow over time and capture various elements of ACM’s history. The timeline can provide a visual representation of ACM’s history.

ACM’s overall digital preservation strategy

- The Committee continues to collaborate with ACM HQ about work that is in place or underway with respect to digital preservation. The goal is an effective process for working with ACM in order to preserve these important materials.
- The digital preservation strategy must include the needs of ACM organizational units. All SIGs have materials that must be preserved and many SIGs have the will to carry this through. One goal of the Heritage Project is to provide consistent support to SIGs and committees in this regard.
- A key part of this strategy is the role of institutional repositories where ACM materials will eventually be housed. The Charles Babbage Institute (CBI) is a key partner, although we understand the agreement with CBI is due for review and renewal.
- We would like to develop a white paper in collaboration with ACM to develop templates and guidelines to clearly describe the process for projects from the HC and other ACM organizational units.
- We have noted that the digital preservation strategy will be somewhat related to the new open publication policy.

Notion of a “super index” for interviews

- We have discussed the idea of a master repository of oral histories. Oral history material is held at a variety of distinct repositories, including SIGCHI, the supercomputing recordings, CEOHP, the Turing Award series, and the Key Award series. We envision a single general cross-index with alternatives for how to tie together information about a particular person across the various museums and repositories.
- We acknowledge that an important challenge in this process will be to navigate copyright permissions.

- The approach to using stats and traceability with publications in the DL suggests creating something similar for interviews.

ACM volunteer recognition project

- ACM CEO, Vicki Hanson, has initiated a project to highlight the many volunteers who have contributed to ACM over the years. The ACM website currently includes a page about the past presidents: acm.org/about-acm/past-presidents; the new project will include other types of volunteers, with the dual purpose of giving recognition and improving community understanding about the large number of people it takes to keep ACM running.
- ACM has good digital records for about the past 20 years about people in key volunteer roles. She is seeking assistance from the HC to figure out where to obtain information from earlier years, as well as strategies and tasks.
- The plan is to start with the ACM elected officers, SIG chairs, SGB chairs, executive committees, editors-in-chief, councils, and conference chairs, initially about the past 20 years, then expand to other types of volunteers and further back in time.
- For presenting the information, they are looking at creating tabular lists, with a simple landing page, then different categories of people.

3.4 Committee diversity

- During FY 2023, the HC had a total of 14 members, with the following composition related to diversity:
 - Five identify as female, two identify as non-binary, and the remaining seven identify as male.
 - Two are relatively early in their careers, five are mid career, and seven are late career, near retirement, or retired.
 - The geographic distribution includes three international members (U.K. and India) and representative geographical coverage across North America.
 - Eleven members are academics, one works as a librarian in a university institute, three work in museums or historical institutes, and at least three have spent some part of their careers in industry.
 - The HC has strong connections to SIGPLAN, SIGCSE, SIGCOMM, SIGCHI, SIGGRAPH, and SIGACCESS as well as to ABET / CSAB and the ACM/IEEE/AAAI Curriculum Committee.
 - We seek better representation outside of North America, as well as ways to broaden ethnic representation.
 - Two of these 14 members left the HC during FY 2023.

4. DIVERSITY, EQUITY, & INCLUSION + ACCESSIBILITY

- The Committee has a strong commitment to Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Accessibility. Several current Committee members are active in efforts related to DEIA issues outside of ACM.

- The HC’s mission is to document the history of the ACM. We are sensitive to the fact that some of this may be uncomfortable because history can be uncomfortable (e.g., if the personal opinions of an award winner turn out to be controversial). Surfacing such stories is an important part of the committee’s work. We acknowledge it is vital to include all parts of history in order to be deliberately supportive and encouraging so people join in rather than feeling excluded.
- Among the HC’s on-going goals
 - Identify potential new members from underrepresented groups and locations.
 - Consider accessibility issues for all documents it produces, including PDF documents, images, etc., as well as on the three HC websites.
 - Align our efforts with those carried out by other ACM entities in order to better coordinate efforts. To that end, the HC continues to welcome ACM’s CEO, Vicki Hanson, to attend regular HC meetings and discuss relevant issues, including ACM activities related to Accessibility and the work of the DEI Council.
- For HC members unable to attend meetings, either on-line or in person, it is vital to ensure that they can still participate and catch up on the business. This requires careful attention to the technology we use to meet, record, and transcribe. New Zoom capabilities, such as AI-generated meeting summaries and transcription, have been helpful in this regard.

5. COMMENTS

Things we are excited about:

- **Video clips from the Turing Awardee project** continue to prove useful for attracting visits to the clips and the Turing Award website.
- We are excited as the ***Heritage Insights series*** moves forward. As an on-going deliverable for the HC, we believe this series will help us coordinate and recognize history efforts throughout ACM.
- We were pleased with the **success of the F2F meeting** and the opportunity to meet with staff members at ACM HQ in New York City.
- The new **HC Advisory Board** is a valuable resource for the HC, providing a pool of advisors willing to help with various projects. Our goal is to build a diverse group of advisors and to formalize existing ad-hoc relationships with external experts who support the HC’s visions and goals.
- We have made progress with **institutionalizing the HC / ACM relationships with CBI / CHM** to ensure that those endure beyond the involvement of specific individuals. ACM currently has no memoranda of understanding (MOU) with either CBI or CHM, which has led to some minor difficulties regarding ownership and copyright of materials from shared ventures.
- The new **History of ACM Volunteers** project (initiated by CEO Vicki Hanson) is exciting and offers good opportunities for collaboration with the HC.
- We have started to discuss **affiliated activities**, projects that might not be directly related to the history of ACM, yet beneficial to the HC’s mission. We anticipate that affiliated projects would be given the right to use the HC logo to show that the HC is a supporting entity. The

HC (and ACM) would not be directly responsible for affiliated projects, either financially or organizationally. One example of a project we are considering as an affiliated project is the Dartmouth Conference Anniversary to be held in 2026 (home.dartmouth.edu/about/artificial-intelligence-ai-coined-dartmouth). Another example of a potential affiliated project is the documentary “Computing: The Human Experience,” being driven by Grady Booch (computingthehumanexperience.com/).

- The HC was excited by the activities associated with the **ACM 75th celebrations**. We want to ensure that deliverables such as the historical videos written by Pat Ryan are documented as key parts of ACM History.

Things we are concerned about:

- **Systematic, permanent, and dark archiving of historical materials**, including current on-going work. We have been discussing with ACM staff the strategy for long term preservation of historical materials. ACM staff, in collaboration with the HC and others, must develop a workflow for storage, file structuring, and cataloging materials, such as those from oral history interviews.
- HC experience with **support from ACM** is improving.
 - One area of concern relates to budget. We are working toward a good process for international payments, clear information regarding tax implications, and additional guidance for Fellowship payments (with one goal being to have funding go directly to applicants).
 - We have made progress in ensuring that ACM volunteer forms used for travel expense reimbursement are available in the appropriate folder of our HC Operations drive; using these forms helps ensure expenses are posted in the correct category.
 - We continue to work with ACM staff to improve IT concerns and establish workable processes.
- **Addressing the global arena**, both in terms of outreach and HC membership. We continue to discuss how to increase involvement by industry members and individuals from outside of the USA, with the goal of diverse representation both on the HC and within ACM as a whole.
- **Curriculum coverage of history issues**. We realized during the development process that the new ACM/IEEE-CS/AAAI Computer Science Curricula 2023 included very little related to history. We are taking action to become more involved in the future, in part by establishing a Curriculum subcommittee.
- We are excited at progress with the new *Heritage Insights* series, but the **editorial and publication process** (e.g., copyright release) have been tricky to develop and navigate.

APPENDIX

Address list of all committee members, subcommittee or subunit chairs and members, and other persons responsible for projects during FY 2023.

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Responsibility within the Committee: Secretariat subcommittee, Budget subcommittee

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Responsibility within the Committee: Heritage Project sub-committee, ACM Key Awards Video Project subcommittee, Outreach and Publicity subcommittee

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Responsibility within the Committee: Heritage Project subcommittee, meeting minutes, History and Archiving Fellowships subcommittee

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Responsibility within the Committee: India Technology Leaders Video Project subcommittee (main responsibility for carrying out the project)

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Responsibility within the Committee: New member (November 2023), Heritage Project subcommittee

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Responsibility within the Committee: New member (April 2024)

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Responsibility within the Committee: Chair

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Responsibility within the Committee: SGB representative, History and Archiving
Fellowships program subcommittee, Outreach and Publicity subcommittee

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Responsibility within the Committee: Curriculum subcommittee chair

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Responsibility within the Committee: History and Archiving Fellowships
subcommittee; advisory as a longtime professional historian of
science/technology/medicine with specialty in history of computing,
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between HC committee and Charles Babbage Institute. Liaison to the
broader history of tech and IT communities of SHOT and SIGCIS.

Name: Mary Whitton

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Responsibility within the Committee: Budget/Finance subcommittee, History and
Archiving Fellowships subcommittee, ACM Key Awards Video Series
subcommittee, Liaison to SIGGRAPH history activities. (Mary is chair of
SIGGRAPH history committee.)

Non-member participants

The following are ex-officio non-voting participants in the History Committee.

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Responsibility within the Committee: Turing Award oral history outreach & administration.

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Responsibility within the Committee: Editor-in-chief of the Turing Award website. Consults with the committee regarding the Turing Award website, including enhancements and developing new profiles. Provides professional historical expertise as needed in an advisory capacity.

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Responsibility within the Committee: Project manager for the ACM Key Award Winners Video Series.