Guide to the Software History Center records

Creator: Software History Center
Dates: 1967-2007, bulk 1997-2005
Extent: 5 linear feet, 4 record cartons
Collection number: X3408.2006
Catalog number: 102762353
Collection processed by: Adrienne Harling, October 2016
Finding aid prepared by: Adrienne Harling and Sara Chabino Lott, November 2016
Sponsor: Processing of this collection was made possible through generous funding from the Computer History Museum's Software Industry Special Interest Group.

Abstract
The Software History Center was a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization focused on the business history of software companies; initial focus was on mainframe software companies, but extended to minicomputer software companies and personal computer software companies. The organization was independent from 2000 until 2005, when it became associated with the Computer History Museum. During this period, it received funding from the Alfred P Sloan Foundation to initiate the IT Corporate Histories Project. This collection includes records about the development and operation of the organization, documentation of its major projects, and historical texts collected by its founders, Luanne Johnson and Burton Grad.

Administrative Information

Access Restrictions
The collection is open for research.

Publication Rights
The Computer History Museum (CHM) can only claim physical ownership of the collection. Copyright restrictions may apply and users are responsible for satisfying any claims of the copyright holder. Requests for copying and permission to publish, quote, or reproduce any portion of the Computer History Museum's collection must be obtained jointly from both the copyright holder (if applicable) and the Computer History Museum as owner of the material.

Languages
Collection materials entirely in English.

Preferred Citation
[Identification of Item], [Date], Software History Center records, Lot X3408.2006, Box [#], Folder [#], Catalog [#], Computer History Museum.

Immediate Source of Acquisition
Gift of the Software History Center, 2005.

Repository
Computer History Museum
1401 N. Shoreline Blvd.
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www.computerhistory.org

Biographical/Historical Note
The Software History Center was founded by Luanne Johnson and Burt Grad in 2000. Both Johnson and Grad worked in the software industry during its early development. Johnson founded Argonaut Information Systems, a company that produced payroll and personnel software, in 1971. She ran this company for 15 years, before taking a position in 1986 as executive director at the Association of Data Processing Service Organizations (ADAPSO). She later served as the president of this organization, which was renamed as the Information Technology Association of America (ITAA). Grad worked at both General Electric and IBM during his early career, where he was involved with programming and software development for mainframe computers, primarily focused on automation for businesses. While at IBM, Grad was involved in the Unbundling Task Force which announced the development of separately priced

software in 1969. He went on to start his own consulting firm in 1978, Burton Grad Associates, Inc., providing a variety of services to software companies.

Both Johnson and Grad had a special interest in preserving the history of the software industry they had been a part of, particularly the pre-PC software industry in which hundreds of software companies thrived prior to the advent of the personal computer. They felt that this history, often overlooked, was at risk and deserved lasting recognition. Johnson and Grad created a 401c(3) non-profit, obtained seed money from a number of private individuals and foundations, and established clear goals and strategies to accomplish the core mission of the organization. This mission was to preserve "information about the companies, people, products, and events that shaped the evolution of the industry." This effort was focused on business history, or how companies identified markets and created successful business models to succeed in those markets, in addition to the history of software technology that was already the focus of other history preservation efforts.

All sectors of the software and services industry were included in the scope, including batch and remote processing companies, software products companies, software professional services companies, and systems integrators/VARS. Primarily an education and outreach organization, the Software History Center sought to 1) identify, preserve, and provide access to existing documentation of early software industry history, 2) create, preserve, and provide access to new documentation capturing knowledge of people with industry experience and perspective, and 3) encourage use of these materials by researchers.

With these goals in mind, the Software History Center completed several projects supported by funders and collaborators including (but not limited to) the Smithsonian Institution, the Alfred P. Sloan Foundation, and the Charles Babbage Institute. These projects included:

- *"One for the History Books" Workshop* - In September 2000, in conjunction with the Charles Babbage Institute Conference on Unbundling, The Software History Center held a workshop titled "One for the History Books" in which 30 conference participants provided interviews. These interviews were transcribed and made into a booklet for distribution.
- *ADAPSO Reunion.* The Software History Center organized an ADAPSO reunion in 2002. At this reunion, fifteen people provided interviews that were transcribed.
- *IEEE Annals Special Issue.* The Software History Center organized the contribution of articles for a special issue of the IEEE Annals of the History of Computing (Volume 24 Number 1 January-March 2002). This issue was focused on the start of the software products industry in the 1960s.
- *Software History Center Website and Information Technology Corporate Histories Project.* The Software History Center initially built a website containing information about early software companies. Building on this effort, in 2004, the Software History Center collaborated with the Charles Babbage Institute and Computer History Museum to start and manage the Information Technology Corporate Histories Project (ITCHP), focused on enhancing the use of the Internet as a leading source

for valuable historic information about selected companies in the information technology field.

In 2005, the Software History Center became associated with the Computer History Museum and formed the Software Business History Committee, later called the Software Industry Special Interest Group (SI SIG), which continues to serve the original mission of the Software History Center today.

Scope and Content of the Collection
This collection contains documentation of the Software History Center from its origins to its ending as an independent non-profit organization. Dates span from 1967-2007, with most materials created between 1997-2005. Administrative records include documentation of the legal formation and dissolution of the organization, operational income, expense, and tax records, records pertaining to the visioning and planning of the organization, communication with funders and collaborators, and professionally produced promotional materials about the purpose and accomplishments of the center. The collection also includes records from the implementation of several of the Software History Center's major projects. These include manuscripts of articles that were published in a special issue of the IEEE Annals of the History of Computing, transcripts of oral history interviews of software industry experts, and significant materials regarding the planning and implementation of an ADAPSO reunion that the Software History Center hosted in 2002. Many historical texts are also included in the collection, the bulk of which are publications of ADAPSO and IBM.

Arrangement
The collection is arranged into 3 series:
  Series 1, Administrative records, 1969-2007, bulk 1997-2005
  Series 2, Projects, 1997-2004
  Series 3, Historic texts, 1945-1997, bulk 1985-1992

Indexing Terms
Computer Software Industry—United States—History
Software History Center
ADAPSO Reunion (2002: Washington, D.C.)

Related Collections at CHM
The Software History Center was very involved with obtaining oral histories and organizing pioneer meetings to obtain information for the Charles Babbage Institute and the Computer History Museum. Please search "Software History Center" in the Oral History section of the Museum's online catalog.

Collection Contents
Series 1, Administrative records, 1969-2007, bulk 1997-2005
This series contains legal and financial records of the Software History Center, as well as documentation of its conception and planning, communication with funders and collaborators, and informational and promotional materials about its vision, mission, and accomplishments.

Legal records pertain primarily to the initial incorporation of the Software History Center and its ultimate association with the Computer History Museum. Financial records include documentation of income, expenses, and taxes. Documentation of the operations of the Software History Center are included in board meeting minutes, correspondence between the founders of the organization and other interested parties, and records from strategic planning efforts. Correspondence with and information about potential collaborators are also included in this series. This series is arranged by subject and/or like materials.

Series 2, Projects, 1997-2004
This series contains documentation about four of the Software History Center's major projects. There are drafts of manuscripts, correspondence, and supporting materials relating to articles for a special issue of IEEE Annals of the History of Computing focused on early software industry history. There are interview transcripts, correspondence, planning documents and presentation materials related to the "One for the History Books" workshop that the Computer History Museum hosted at the 2000 Charles Babbage Institute Conference on Unbundling. There are materials about the original Software History Center website, and extensive records about the planning of the ADAPSO reunion that the Software History Center organized as well as the oral history interviews that were collected during that reunion. This series is arranged by project.

Series 3, Historic texts, 1967-1997, bulk 1985-1992
This series primarily contains technical and industry reports published by ADAPSO (ITAA) and International Business Machines Corporation (IBM). It is arranged by publisher.

	Catalog Number	**Title**	**Date**
		Folder List	
		Administrative records	
Box 1	102762249	Incorporation correspondence	1999-2000
Box 1	102762250	Software History Center corporate records	2000-2002; 2004
Box 1	102762251	Software History Center, Inc. name reservation	2000
Box 1	102762252	California form 199 / 2000	2000-2001
Box 1	102762253	Form 990 / 2000	2000
Box 1	102762254	Calif form 199 / 2001	2001
Box 1	102762255	Form 990 / 2001	2001
Box 1	102762256	EIN	2000
Box 1	102762257	Statement of information (domestic nonprofit corporation)	2002
Box 1	102762258	Taxes / federal tax-exempt status	2000
Box 1	102762259	1099 filings	2002
Box 1	102762260	Taxes / CA tax-exempt status	2000
Box 1	102762261	Tax returns & supporting materials	2000-2002
Box 1	102762262	Tax returns	2003-2005
Box 1	102762266	Income	2002
Box 1	102762267	Grad loans	2001
Box 1	102762268	Financials	2004
Box 1	102762275	Board meetings & minutes	2000-2003
Box 1	102762276	Strategic planning meeting, May 2003	2001-2003
Box 1	102762278	Early correspondence	1997-2002

	Catalog Number	**Title**	**Date**
		Administrative records	
Box 1	102762279	Proposals	1997
Box 1	102762280	Collection / retention	2001-2003
Box 1,2	102762281	Aricles & anecdotes submitted	1989
Box 2	102762282	Hagley museum / archive	1989; 2001
Box 2	102762283	IBM archive	1969; 2001
Box 2	102762284	Smithsonian	2001
Box 2	102762285	Charles Babbage Foundation	1998; 2002
Box 2	102762286	Charles Babbage Institute	2001; 2003-2004
Box 2	102762288	Proposal to Charles Babbage Foundation	2003-2004
Box 2	102762289	Sloan contract	2003
Box 2	102762290	Sloan press release	2004
Box 2	102762291	Interim report to Sloan	2005
Box 2	102762292	Project extension	2006
Box 2	102762293	Final report to Sloan	2007
Box 2	102762294	Sloan proposal	2003
Box 2	102762295	Additional companies to research	1973
Box 2	102762296	Aquisition by Computer History Museum / dissolution of Software History Center	2005
Box 2	102762297	Acquisition by Computer History Museum	2002-2004
Box 2	102762299	Software History Center / Computer History Museum merger discussions / actions	2003-2005

	Catalog Number	Title	Date
		Administrative records	
Box 2	102762300	Software History Center brochure	undated
Box 2	102762301	Software History Center / Computer History Museum packet	1985; 1991; 1994; 1996; 1998; 2001-2004
Box 2	102762302	Loose / miscellaneous	1990; 2002; 2004
		Projects	
Box 2	102762303	ADAPSO and the service bureau industry, 1961-1968	2004
Box 2	102762304	Haigh research	2001-2004
Box 2	102762306	IEEE	2002
Box 2	102762307	IEEE Annals	2001-2002
Box 3	102762308	Charles Babbage Institute conference / unbundling	2000-2001
Box 3	102762309	The Software History Center "One for the history books" workshop transcript	2000
Box 3	102762310	September 2000 meeting attendees & program	2000
Box 3	102762311	Sept 2000 meeting / transcript	2000
Box 3	102762312	Photographs - Sept 2000 conference	2000
Box 3	102762313	Website	1997-2002
Box 3	102762314	Website agreements BGAI / Software History Center	1997-1998
Box 3	102762315	ADAPSO reunion handouts packet	2002
Box 3	102762316	ADAPSO reunion transcript style notes	2002
Box 3	102762317	ADAPSO reunion transcript editing / formatting notes	2003
Box 3	102762318	ADAPSO reunion transcript glossary	2003

	Catalog Number	**Title**	**Date**
		Projects	
Box 3	102762319	ADAPSO reunion workshop attendee lists & notes	2002
Box 3	102762320	ADAPSO reunion transcript ITAA ok on logo use	2003
Box 3	102762321	ADAPSO reunion attendees	2002
Box 3	102762322	Oral history photos / ADAPSO reunion photos	2002-2003
Box 3	102762323	ADAPSO reunion book	2003
Box 3	102762324	ADAPSO meeting handouts & photos	2002
Box 3	102762325	ADAPSO reunion planning	2002
Box 3	102762326	ADAPSO reunion plenary presentation workshop and oral history transcriptions	2002
Box 3	102762327	ADAPSO reunion meeting anecdotes	2002
Box 3	102762328	ADAPSO reunion - workshops	2002
Box 3	102762329	ADAPSO reunion book plenary sessions workshops 1-5	2002
Box 3	102762330	ADAPSO reunion workshop 6-10	2002
Box 3	102762331	Oral history interviews - 14 oral history transcripts	2002-2003
Box 4	102762332	Oral history interviews	2002
Box	102775924	Martin Campbell-Kelly and Larry Schoenberg at ADAPSO reunion	2002
Box	102775925	Burt Grad and Luanne Johnson at ADAPSO reunion	2002

	Catalog Number	**Title**	**Date**
		Historic texts	
Box 4	102762334	Fulfilling the computer's promise : the history of informatics 1962-1982 volume 1	1985
Box 4	102762335	IBM alumni directory	1997-05
Box 4	102762336	SAA...a guide for evaluating applications	1989
Box 4	102762337	Applications and abstracts	1978
Box 4	102762338	Atlas of applications volumes 1 and 2	1973; 1974
Box 4	102762339	Operations research books	1967
Box 4	102762340	Management science at work : a bibliography covering all enterprises, all functions, and all techniques	1971
Box 4	102762341	An introduction to modelling using mixed integer programming	1971
Box 4	102762342	Outlines of statistical techniques, applications, and programs for industry, engineering science	1967
Box 4	102762343	Linear programming technical reports	undated
Box 4	102762344	The technology of quality : evolution vs revolution	1992
Box 4	102762345	Computer viruses publications	1989; 1990
Box 4	102762346	Co-operative processing	1989
Box 4	102762347	Software development technology	1986
Box 4	102762348	Portable software products	1988
Box 4	102762349	Report on computer connectivity	1987
Box 4	102762350	Preparing software for export	1991
Box 4	102762351	Graphical user interfaces	1990