

HCLE Winter 2018 Progress Report

Welcome to the winter quarter of 2018 HCLE progress report. Our Founder and Vision Keeper, Liza Loop, has been working for her Northern California neighbors who suffered great losses in the October 2017 fires. This has delayed some of our HCLE work.

We share many of the news items collected below via our outlets ([wiki](#), [blog](#), [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), [LinkedIn](#), and [reddit](#)) and repeat them here for your and our convenience.

Our staff of 1.6 FTEs, volunteers and outside collaborators reached the following milestones in the winter (January through March) of 2018.

- Outreach
 - Work began with Computer History Museum
- Catalog
 - Improved functionality and content
- Operations
 - Design Document update
- Wiki
 - Current host closing, begin search for new host

Please pass our news along, especially if you know someone else who will want to contribute money, know-how, artifacts, stories, or connections. Even by glancing at what we've done, you're helping make HCLE happen as you pass along the story. Thank you.

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- Collection
 - A temporary staff member, Bridget Kittell, helped organize about 10% to 20% of the Collection items that have not been digitized or catalogued.
 - A variety of digitization processes are being considered to expedite the scanning of the Collection. Each has advantages and disadvantages (cost, time, error rate, resolution, metadata, access). Possibilities being considered are:
 - off-site services (Internet Archive - possibly pro bono, particularly for videos and software),
 - off-site institutions (Stanford, etc.),
 - off-site HCLE staff operations,
 - on-site HCLE staff operations (as normal),
 - and on-site HCLE staff operations with more sophisticated equipment
 - David Brock, curator at the Computer History Museum, met with Liza Loop to discuss collaborating. The initial work will focus on period Apple photos and documents related to the reference manual for the VisiCalc program that HCLE founder, Liza Loop, wrote while employed by VisiCalc publisher, Personal

Software (later known as VisiCorp) “Exploring the Microcomputer Learning Environment”.

- Richard Wenn from Far West Labs - WestEd. This US federally funded research organization has pioneered in supporting computing in schools since the late 1970s and published HCLE Catalog Item 2976, “Exploring the Microcomputer Learning Environment” by Liza Loop and Paul Christenson in November, 1980. Richard donated 5 boxes of material. Also of interest within this collection are publications from the EPIE Institute (Educational Products Information Exchange).
 - Liza Loop has spent several days at the Special Collections Department of Stanford Libraries scanning selected pieces from the Liza Loop Collection.
- **Catalog**
 - Staff and volunteers worked on improving the Catalog Maintenance System’s compatibility with Chrome/Chromebooks, and bug fixes.
 - Data entry includes filing new artifacts as well as filling fields like “blog URL”, improving descriptions, and clarifying the use of existing and candidate fields.
 - **People/Volunteers**
 - In addition to the various volunteers and staff members mentioned throughout this newsletter, we are considering recruiting a “business analyst” to complete the details of our Salesforce database.
 - **Outreach**
 - Science Technology Studies released a call for papers. Liza Loop submitted a paper which was subsequently not accepted. Provisionally titled: **Teaching, Learning and Computers: How we missed our 1970s image**, the paper chronicles visions of the impact of computing on education published between 1960 and 1975. We may publish excerpts from this paper on our blog.
 - Discussions continue about improving our social media marketing.
 - Blog posts published:
 - [HCLE Autumn 2017 Progress Report](#)
 - [A Glance at Early EdTech a la DEC](#)
 - [Visualizing School: Then, Now, When?](#)
 - [Dawn of Computer Conferencing – Murray Turoff and the Delphi Method](#)

Social Media Traffic Report

	1/1/2014	12/31/2016	12/31/2017	3/31/2018
Facebook	59	171	187	189
Twitter	67	493	543	536

Wordpress	18	50	55	55
Wikispaces	12	69	74	74

- Wiki
 - The [HCLE wiki](#) continues to act as a communications center and as a digital loading dock.
 - Unfortunately, our wiki provider, wikispaces, is closing this summer which means we must find a new host for the wiki. The task is complicated by the need to also define a new wiki architecture because wikispaces' design was unique and proprietary. Leading candidates are Wikimedia (ala Wikipedia), Google Docs/Sites, and PBWorks. This is expected to be a large effort because our wiki has grown considerably in the last few years. Contractors are investigating the candidates with a focus on porting to Wikimedia.

- Exhibits
 - Despite the imminent closure of the wiki, background information for exhibits continues to be collected on the wiki.
 - The search continues for a copy of History Channel's History's Lost and Found, episode 47, containing an interview with Steve Wozniak and Liza Loop. Any help is appreciated.

- Operations
 - The Design Document for the Virtual Museum was revised, particularly with finer distinctions of the appearance and operation of the landing page, "the Lobby". More graphical depictions were added.
 - We are considering rewording the mission of the museum. The intent and goals remain the same, but more concise and active wording is being tested.
 - Now that the bulk of the preliminary Salesforce work is completed, the volunteers have moved on to other projects. We thank them for their efforts. Seat licenses were freed up as a result.
 - Work on the Salesforce database continues with merging duplicate accounts, and establishing hierarchical connections between accounts and contacts.