

# **HCLE First Quarter 2015 Progress Report**

Welcome to the first quarter of 2015 HCLE report. We share many of these news items via our outlets ([wiki](#), [blog](#), [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), [LinkedIn](#)) and collect them here for your and our convenience.

Our staff of 1.3 FTEs, several volunteers and many outside collaborators reached the following milestones in the first few months of 2015.

- The catalog database is operable although currently only available to staff and selected volunteers.
- The metadata research is completed for now and will allow us to select a superset of information on each item in the collection that will work with the three dominant museum industry and search engine standards.
- We have significant new collaborators:
  - The [Henry Ford Museum](#), the museum that recently acquired an Apple 1
  - California Digital Library's [Online Archive of California](#) will become a new way for people to access the HCLE digital repository through standard search engines
  - [Special Interest Group for Computers, Information & Society](#)
- LO\*OP Center's Apple 1 and II have improved insurance and security.

With these accomplishments (and with the appropriate funding) HCLE should be able to produce a proof of concept in 2015. Subsequent to the proof of concept will be the major tasks of digitizing and curating the collection, and designing the virtual museum interface. Those tasks may not be completed in 2015, but significant progress is possible.

We also are saddened and must pass along the news that Richard Karpinski, one of HCLE's and LO\*OP Center's champions, passed away. His constant good cheer, constructive comments and incessant nitpicking will be missed. All these efforts were appreciated.

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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- **LO\*OP Center**

- 40 year anniversary
  - LO\*OP Center is celebrating forty years as a charitable institution. As the world has changed, LO\*OP Center has changed. From operating a storefront computer center (1975-1978), to publishing books, to now creating a virtual museum, LO\*OP Center has demonstrated persistence and adaptability from inside one of the greatest changes in civilization. And, there's always more work to do.
- Apple 1
  - The prominent artifact in LO\*OP Center's collection is #1 Apple 1 that was given to Liza Loop by Steve Wozniak decades ago in 1976. Woz has been nice enough to provide a provenance letter in support of an appraisal of the computer. Jeremy Norman appraised the Apple 1, as well as the subsequent gift, #10 Apple II, a possibly pre-production board. The artifacts are being transferred to more secure storage as part of proper stewardship of such historic items. Insurance is being arranged for the Apple 1 and the Apple II.
- Death of board member Richard Karpinski
  - We are saddened by the passing of one of LO\*OP Center's board members, champions, and self-appointed nitpickers, [Richard Karpinski](#). His partner, Deirdre McGrath, will continue her role as board member.
- Open Educated Systems migration
  - Open Educated Systems, a LO\*OP Center project that advocates for advances in education, moved its wiki and web presence from wikispaces because wikispaces narrowed the definition of allowable wikis on its site. It will probably reappear on the MediaWiki platform. Alex Rollin is porting the information.
- Nicola Demonte
  - Nicola Demonte is the newest LO\*OP Center board nominee. Welcome! New points of view are appreciated.

- **Fundraising**

- *HCLE currently relies on general operating funds provided by LO\*OP Center, Inc. Future sustainability requires additional underwriting from individuals, members, foundations and government agencies. At present there are no plans to generate revenue through fees to access the Virtual Museum.*

- Mellon/CLIR

- The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation has awarded the Council on Library and Information Resources ([CLIR](#)) funds to create a national competition in 2015 to digitize and provide access to collections of rare or unique content
- HCLE aims to submit an initial proposal by April 30, 2015 for approximately \$100,000.
- The funds will be used to scan, digitize, and catalog approximately 100 shelf-feet of documents from the LO\*OP Center Collection.
- The work will be done in coordination with Internet Archive, Online Archive of California, and various other scholars and institutions.
- Letters of support from academics, researchers, and scholars for the work and access to the collection will be appreciated to support this and other funding proposals.

- CiviCRM

- We continue to develop CiviCRM to support our fundraising efforts. The CLIR proposal is the first to be tracked by an internal app called CiviCampaign.

- NEH

- Early in 2014 we learned that our proposal was not accepted by NEH. We continue to evaluate the best use of our resources, including the time and money that we invest in applying for federal, local, corporate, or private grants.

- Vision Club

- Vision Club is a group of financial sponsors willing to invest substantially in HCLEs future. It continues as a way to spread the word and help people become engaged with the process and progress that is HCLE.

- **Operations**

- As HCLE progresses from the present start-up phase into normal operation this section will enlarge.
  - MARC
    - HCLE received its official MARC code. The Library of Congress (LOC) issues such codes to aid organizations in submitting metadata so that the items in their collections are discoverable through LOC searches.

- **Collection**

- *The content of the HCLE Virtual Museum comprises materials collected and preserved by founder-director Liza Loop and currently owned by LO\*OP Center, Inc. Additional items are being donated and related items, owned and hosted online by other individuals and institutions are being referenced in the HCLE catalog.*
  - On-site
    - The Collection is transitioning from non-archival, accumulated boxes and folders to organized files to scanned and digitized images being added to the Catalog and the Digital Repository.
  - Born-Digital Artifacts
    - Some of the born-digital materials, particularly Apple II disks are being collected, cataloged, and shipped to volunteers who will read the information, reformat it for modern media, and return the materials with the files. We thank Mark Pilgrim and Anthony Cociolo of Pratt Institute for their efforts.
  - Stanford and the Liza Loop collection
    - A major effort continues with the trial digitization by Stanford Libraries (under the direction of Henry Lowood) of eight [boxes](#) of documents donated to Stanford in 1988 from the LO\*OP Center collection. These papers are currently accessible only by visiting the Stanford campus. A critical issue continues to be the assurance of adequate access to the materials by scanning and hosting them online. This will permit anyone to find and view them using conventional searches as well as the HCLE Catalog when it goes online.
  - Collection Additions
    - As awareness of HCLE spreads we are receiving offers of artifacts from a wide variety of personal collections. These are great opportunities, and also exercises in restraint because it would be easy to overwhelm our ability to receive, store, inventory, catalog, and preserve the materials.

- **Catalog**

- We're up!

- The [Catalog](#) is now operational and available to HCLE staff and selected volunteers. It is not ready for public launch - yet.
- Liza is using the Catalog as she scans and adds artifacts.
- Volunteer, Stan Crump continues to improve the Catalog's entry process.
- Stan Crump is also improving the ability to properly store and publicly display images.
- Making the Catalog operational is a key, though easily overlooked, accomplishment in HCLE's progress.

- **Metadata**

- *Information about each item is stored in a central database and can be displayed in various formats for scholars, museum staff and visitors. Maintaining a rich set of metadata is essential for locating documents and images as well as understanding their context and significance.*

- Crosswalk

- Intern Svetlana Ushakova completed the majority of the research into the most appropriate metadata for HCLE's Catalog. HCLE has the particular difficulty in ensuring that the same metadata must cover descriptions of software, hardware, stories, publications, hand-written notes, and even the packaging and advertisements of the era. She has created a 'Crosswalk' spreadsheet comparing the proposed HCLE metadata to other industry metadata sets: Modified Dublin Core, MARC, and EADS. It is important to properly define the metadata set early, so artifacts can be fully described, and therefore retrieved when needed.

- Crosswalk automation

- A new volunteer or intern is needed to develop an automated crosswalk application so HCLE's metadata can coordinate with the Online Archive of California (OAC).

- Superset

- The results of Svetlana's and Stan's work is that HCLE's Catalog will probably operate from a superset of metadata based on Dublin Core, MARC, EADS, and HCLE specific fields. Working from a superset allows us to export metadata in each of the formats as necessary, while also enabling the increased specificity that HCLE requires.

- **Wiki**

- *This informal web site serves as an online rallying resource for those building the formal Virtual Museum. It will continue to provide a virtual sandbox and conversation pit for staff and volunteers after the museum site is launched.*
  - The [wiki](#) continues to grow as it acts as HCLE's digital loading dock. As time allows we are improving the look and feel by settling on templates, style sheets and a more coherent structure.
    - The proposed wiki organization:
      - Process
      - Exhibits (digital loading dock)
      - Example exhibits
      - Community
    - Existing sections:
      - team pages:
        - around HCLE tasks, e.g. catalog/database
      - exhibit working pages:
        - item collection
        - sample displays
      - administration conversations
      - working groups of collaborators outside HCLE
      - Ed Tech pioneer pages - where each Pioneer is being encouraged to add to their biography
      - General bibliography

- **Virtual Museum Web Site**
  
- *Our 2015 target is to launch a “Proof of Concept” Museum Site by the end of the year.*
  - Topics begun on the wiki will be formalized into curated exhibits for the public
  - New sections proposed:
    - Play It And Learn (PIAL) – where early games, simulations and computer assisted instruction will be available to study and play
    - Professional Simulations – describing the use of computing for training for pilots, doctors, police officers, soldiers, etc

- **Stories**

- *Our stories highlight how folks learned to use computers between 1960 and 1990 and how and what teachers taught with them. We leave documenting the history of the computing industry to others. Our story tellers are not the celebrities of the high tech revolution. They are the unsung heroes who changed the way we teach and learn.*

- HCLE [EdTech Pioneer: our growing list](#)

- We launched a new initiative to contact each HCLE EdTech Pioneer, if possible, asking them to improve their pages, nominate others for the list, and contribute, information, insights, artifacts, introductions and any other resources that HCLE can use.

- The following people were kind enough to be interviewed; and have nominated several other EdTech Pioneers.

- Ann Marion (Vivarium Program Director, et al)
- Dave Brittain (Florida Department of Education, helped found ISTE, et al)

- The following people have been contacted. There have been some improvements to their pages, but the bulk of the material awaits existing links or an interview.

- Keith Acheson
- David Ahl
- Bob Albrecht
- Dennis Allison
- Ernie Anderson
- Bill Atchison
- Ellen Bialo
- Gary Bitter
- Don Bitzer
- Vicki Smith Bigham
- Karen Billings
- Jo Meador
- Paul Hagstrom
- Nelson Hellor

- Liza Loop interview

- Intern Jon Cappella interviewed Liza Loop, partly to capture the stories, partly to demonstrate a prototype of the final format. See blog post ([Interview With Liza Loop by Jon Cappetta](#))

- oral history guidelines

- Oral history guidelines are being established to standardize the information received.

- **Exhibits**

- *Online exhibits will simulate a gallery of objects to wander through, take the visitor on a guided tour or invite hands-on participation.*

- Exhibit development continues, primarily through the recognition of topics.
- New Exhibit topics (existing companies will be contacted for assistance)
  - Games (including the development of Play It And Learn - PIAL, template that encourages play, comparison, and data collection)
    - SimCity
    - Civilization
    - Dungeons & Dragons (D & D)
    - Carmen Sandiego
  - Professional Training Simulations
    - pilot training
    - emergency response training
    - combat training
    - etc.
- Digital Dating working page - because dating was the introduction to the computer for some people.
- We've also begun collecting information about:
  - robotics
  - computer club exchange - USSR-US Kids to Kids project
    - 1986 Novosibirsk Computer Club
  - the Altair
- Vivarium Project
  - The Vivarium Project page and discussion has expanded, thanks to Ann Marion who has also nominated several Pioneers and important contacts.
- Radio Shack
  - While many were laughing or mourning about Radio Shack's bankruptcy, we recognized, thanks to Dave Brittain, that; "Radio Shack was big in computers in the classroom." So, we contacted them to talk about preserving the appropriate pieces of their collection.

- **Outreach**

- *As a new institution, HCLE is making contacts in the worlds of museums, formal education and independent learners — both online and face-2-face.*

- Conferences

- Conferences and seminars are ways for HCLE to stay abreast of current developments and to gain exposure to large, focused audiences. None were attended in the first quarter of 2015 preparations for the annual meeting of the American Alliance of Museums and the annual Museums and the Web conference. Liza will attend both in April.

- Online Museum Working Group

- The [Online Museum Working Group](#) (OMWG) continues, with the main focus being the draft of a suggested change to the congressional funding limitations of IMLS's ([Institute of Museum and Libraries Services](#)). Currently, a strict reading of the funding legislation does not allow for IMLS funding of virtual museums. IMLS recognizes the need for a change, and has asked Liza Loop to convey the Working Group to draft appropriate revisions. The issue comes down to finding a consensus definition and criteria that distinguish a museum from just another web-based photo album.

- Eight people attended a breakfast roundtable discussion at the Museums and the Web conference ([MW2015](#)).

- Social Media

- We have been reasonably successful at engaging other professionals by commenting on and sharing posts and publications found on social media. Though informal, these contacts have expanded our network and produced opportunities for collaborations, funding, and increased visibility.

- Social Media Traffic Report

	1/1/2014	12/29/2014	3/28/2015	
		4		
Facebook	59	91	92	
Twitter	67	271	294	
Wordpress	18	42	43	
Wikispaces	12	41	42	

- HCLE Blog
  - We continue to post to our blog about activities, insights, and developments. Stories about games and the HCLE Pioneers have generated significant traffic because they are shared to avid gamers and the Pioneers' networks.
    - [HCLE Fourth Quarter 2014 Progress Report](#)
    - [Oregon Trail Progress](#)
    - [Professional Simulations - Not Playing Around](#)
    - [Paul Hagstrom's Story](#)
    - [David Brittain' Story](#)
    - [Request To Academic And Independent Scholars](#)
    - [Interview With Liza Loop by Jon Cappetta](#)
    - [Museums Showcase Attitudes and Beliefs as Well as Objects](#)
    - [HCLE Is Unique: Please Prove Us Wrong](#)
  - We've recognized that #EdTechHistory may be an effective hashtag for emphasizing what distinguishes HCLE's mission from most #EdTech efforts.

- **People/Volunteers**

- *We are a community of builders, researchers, educators, learners and enthusiasts. We aim to recognize each person who contributes to HCLE.*
  - Svetlana Ushakova
    - Svetlana has completed the majority of the research into the most appropriate metadata for HCLE's Catalog.
  - Stan Crump
    - Stan continues to improve the Catalog's entry process.
    - Stan is also improving the ability to properly store and publicly display images.
  - Jon Cappetta
    - Jon conducted an extensive interview of Liza as a model of how to conduct interviews and as a way to chronicle a more comprehensive story for our resident Pioneer.
  - Interns
    - A high school in the Guerneville area may help find a student intern for a specific HCLE task such as porting the HCLE wiki from wikispaces to mediawiki.
  - Volunteer manager
    - We have identified a potential volunteer manager with the purpose of enabling greater public participation in the production of our virtual museum.

- **Collaborations**

- *HCLE is such a small organization that it must join with more established partners to accomplish its mission. Happily, we are finding willing colleagues.*

- Henry Ford Museum

- A prime collaborative effort for the quarter was with the Henry Ford Museum, the museum that recently acquired an Apple 1. Kristen Gallerneaux, the curator of Apple 1, and Liza have been discussing ways to work together. Liza had a very productive visit the museum after attending the Museums and the Web conference in April and will report via a blog post shortly.

- OAC/CDL

- HCLE applied to be a Contributing Institution in the Online Archive of California ([OAC](#)). Being a member will provides finding aids that make the digitized HCLE collection easily discoverable via major web search engines.

- SHOT SIGCIS

- HCLE joined the Special Interest Group for Computers, Information & Society, which is part of the Society for the History Of Technology.

- **Administration**

- *Even virtual organizations must attend to the tasks that make them “real” within the surrounding social and governmental context.*

- Program Review

- A Program Review was conducted to verify and affirm that HCLE is working on the critical tasks within the resource constraints.

- Finances

- Financial reporting and taxes are being handled in an appropriate fashion under the guidance of outside professionals.

- Newsletters

- We continue the production of these quarterly newsletters, partly to spread the word about our progress, and partly to capture and preserve the history of this history museum.

- Backups

- They may be dull, but backups are a high priority for a virtual museum.

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