

Minutes for SCC meeting of November 16, 2005

by Michael L Powell

Attending

Jonathan Cheyer	Dave Gustavson	Bernard Peuto
Mike Cochran	Sellam Ismail	Michael Powell
Lee Courtney	Paula Jabloner	Fritz Schneider
Elizabeth Feinler	Harvey Lehtman	Bill Selmeier
Bob Fraley	Paul McJones	Kirsten Tashev
Henry M. Gladney	Jim McClure	John Toole
Kathe Gust	Randall Neff	Mike Walton
Phil Gust	Paula Newman	

New attendees

We introduced new attendees:

Elizabeth “Jake” Feinler
Harvey Lehtman
Paula Jabloner (Computer History Museum Archivist)

Greenstone/infrastructure

Henry Gladney led a discussion of infrastructure for software collections. We are ready to install Greenstone at the CHM, and need to get some content in order to try it out. John Toole said we need to get a timeline for evaluating and deciding which system to use within six months and expect to stick with that choice for 3-5 years.

Inmagic, the current system <http://www.inmagic.com>, seems to be running out of steam. Will look at 3 systems: Greenstone <http://www.greenstone.org>, Fedora (from Cornell) <http://www.fedora.info>, and one other.

Need to consider the capabilities, support requirements, and interface. There are also metadata issues, but as yet there is no consensus in the industry.

Cyber1 and Controlfreaks

Mike Cochran reported that he had approached Controlfreaks about possibly working together. They were not interested in close cooperation (didn't see an upside for them), but they are willing to let the SCC use their data.

Bernard suggested we use them as a test case for handling software as well as addressing the legal issues. Controlfreaks has obtained some rights to the software, but it is unclear how they would transfer them to the CHM.

Mike then showed a demo of PLATO at cyber1.org. PLATO runs on a CDC computer emulator running NOS, the CDC operating system. The emulator runs on a PC running Linux. The PC runs it faster than the original hardware, but you can slow down the user interface to get the feel of the system as it ran.

There are currently over 700 members, about half of which are former users of the original PLATO. They use the PLATO system itself to collect and record historical

information about the system, its users and what they did with it.

MediaWiki

Mike Walton reported that new wiki software <http://www.mediawiki.org> has been set up at the CHM. It will be used by other groups as well. The URL for the SCC area is: <http://www.computerhistory.org/collections/scc>. We need to try it out and see how to use it for collecting software as well as documents and discussions.

He will also be installing Greenstone, and will send email to the list telling where it is and how to use it.

FORTRAN, HOPL

Paul reported that he uploaded a video from the 25th anniversary of FORTRAN in 1982 to the SCC site.

<http://community.computerhistory.org/scc/projects/FORTRAN/video/FORTRAN-1982.wmv>

He is contacting Michael Mahoney about the History of Programming Languages Conference June 2007 in San Diego <http://www.acm.org/sigs/sigplan/hopl> about possible collaboration or some SCC activity associated with the conference.

APL

Lee Courtney talked about APL/360 for DOS. He has source code and possibly some videos.

NLS/Augment

They have a complete demo. There are two clients, one Java-based, and one that uses VAT (Video Audio Tool).

They have been looking into the legal issues. So far, they have not found any patents (so it appears no one has claimed patents to the system). Want to find a version with known rights. They hope to have a version to demo for the SCC meeting in January.

Jeff Rulifson has a set of notes for the demo. Sun Microsystems has scanned a set of NLS documents into PDF files.

Possible SCC projects

Henry Gladney distributed a list of possible projects for the SCC to pursue.

Sellam Ismail

Sellam reported that cataloging is proceeding for the software the museum currently has (in physical artifacts in the collection). It takes 5-10 minutes per object to catalog it.

Sellam also informed us that he will be leaving his position at the CHM to pursue other opportunities.