

Week 2 Readings (1/21): A Short History of Computing

This activity is designed to give you a better understanding of where your encounter with hands-on digital history fits into the history of computing. Please read the following collection of materials for discussion in class and post your reading reflection to the Toolkit. You are not required to address every item—some may resonate with you more than others—but do read each of the required items and be sure to mention specific pieces and authors in your post. The .pdf files are also on paper reserve at the Clemons Library Circulation Desk for photocopying.

Required

Howard Rheingold, Chapter 1, "The Computer Revolution Hasn't Happened Yet," and Chapter 10, "The New Old Boys from ARPAnet," from *Tools for Thought: The History and Future of Mind-Expanding Technology* (New York: Simon & Schuster/Prentice Hall, 1985, reprint, Cambridge, MA: The MIT Press, 2000), 13-24, 205-31.

John Naughton, Chapter 15, "Liftoff," from *A Brief History of the Future: From Radio Days to Internet Years in a Lifetime* (Woodstock, NY: Overlook Press, 2000), 229-52.

Tim Berners-Lee, Chapter 1, "Enquire Within upon Everything," Chapter 12, "Mind to Mind," and Chapter 14, "Weaving the Web," from *Weaving the Web: The Original Design and Ultimate Destiny of the World Wide Web by Its Inventor* (New York: HarperCollins, 1999), 1-6; 157-75; 199-209.

Timelines & Terminology

Robert X. Cringely, "History of the Computer" timeline, from *Triumph of the Nerds: The Rise of Accidental Empires* (PBS, 1996).
<<http://www.pbs.org/nerds/timeline/index.html>>

James Gillies & Robert Cailliau, "Timeline," from *How the Web was Born: The Story of the World Wide Web* (Oxford, ENG: Oxford University Press, 2000), 310-21.

Tim Berners-Lee, "Glossary," from *Weaving the Web: The Original Design and Ultimate Destiny of the World Wide Web by Its Inventor* (New York: HarperCollins, 1999), 211-19.

Recommended

Robert X. Cringely, "Guess the Computer" challenge game, from *Triumph of the Nerds: The Rise of Accidental Empires* (PBS, 1996).

<<http://www.pbs.org/nerds/game.html>>

_____, "The Television Program Transcripts: Part I," from *Triumph of the Nerds: The Rise of Accidental Empires* (PBS, 1996).

<<http://www.pbs.org/nerds/part1.html>>

_____, "The Television Program Transcripts: Part II," from *Triumph of the Nerds: The Rise of Accidental Empires* (PBS, 1996).

<<http://www.pbs.org/nerds/part2.html>>

_____, "The Television Program Transcripts: Part III," from *Triumph of the Nerds: The Rise of Accidental Empires* (PBS, 1996).

<<http://www.pbs.org/nerds/part3.html>>