

COMPUTATION LABORATORY/COMPUTER CENTER

Papers, 1949-1962
(Predominantly, 1953-1958)

4 Linear Feet
8 Boxes

Accession Number 328

The Wayne Computation Laboratory was one of the first large scale computer laboratories in the United States. The Laboratory was organized in 1949 through the Industrial Mathematics Society (IMS) as a joint effort between the University and local industry. Dr. Arvid W. Jacobson, first president of the IMS, was selected as its first director.

The Computation Laboratory performed three basic functions. The first was to provide service to industry and business. In this capacity the Laboratory worked on many problems such as gear ratios and payroll accounts. The second function was academic research and the Laboratory was used in a wide variety of projects. The third function was to provide training in computer operations, which helped meet the constant demand for trained personnel. In addition to graduate programs, the Laboratory also offered numerous workshops and seminars in which employees of government, business and industry participated.

Starting with a 1930 Bush Differential Analyzer donated by the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, the Laboratory did its first work on engineering problems for automobile industry. In order to increase the Laboratory's capacity, an Administrative Advisory Committee was formed in 1951 to solicit funds for a new computer. By the end of 1952, they had raised over \$300,000 from nearly 25 local companies. A Unitized Digital Electronic Computer (UDEEC) was purchased from the Burroughs Corporation and it went into operation in December of 1953. The ever increasing use of the Laboratory led to the purchase of an IBM 650 computer in the spring of 1956, and additional equipment was acquired in 1960.

Late in 1958, Dr. Jacobson left the directorship of the Laboratory and Dr. Walter Hoffman was named as his successor. In November of 1958, the Wayne State University Board of Governors decided that all commercial work at the Laboratory should be discontinued and the main emphasis put on academic research. The Laboratory was transferred from the College of Liberal Arts and placed under the direction of the Vice President for Studies and Research. The name was also changed to the Computer Center. The Center provided equal access for students and faculty and enjoyed an ever increasing use of its facilities. This led to a request to the National Science Foundation in 1961 for funds to purchase an IBM 7070 computer. The grant was approved and in 1962 the Center moved from its old location on the fourth floor of Old Main to the Administrative Services Building.

Important subjects covered in the collection are:

Early training programs in computer operations, 1953-1957
Growth of computers in business and industry, 1950-1958
Industrial Mathematics Society, 1958-1959
National Science Institutes for High School Teachers, 1958-1959
University of Illinois Committee on School Mathematics project,
1958-1960

Among the correspondents are: (an index to the location of these letters
will be found on the last page of the
guide)

Max Beberman
John S. Coleman
David Henry

Contents
8 Manuscript Boxes

Series I, Box 1

The office files of Dr. Arvid W. Jacobson containing correspondence and reports for the period 1949-1958. The materials document Dr. Jacobson's activities regarding the operation and expansion of the Laboratory.

Series II, Box 2, Box 3 (folders 1-7)

The office files of Dr. Walter Hoffman containing correspondence, memos and reports for the years 1953-1962. Particularly well documented are Dr. Hoffman's involvement with secondary school mathematics curriculum reform.

Series III, Box 3 (folders 8-35), Boxes 4-6

The office files predominantly of the Computation Laboratory and also of the Computer Center containing correspondence, clippings, memos, newsletters, log books and reports for the years 1953-1962. The Administrative Advisory Committee and the Laboratory's work on industrial problems are well-documented.

Series IV, Box 7

Files relating to the training programs offered by the Laboratory between 1953 and 1959. The bulk of the material covers the various summer workshops and seminars and includes class outlines and lectures.

Series V, Box 8 Closed

Personnel and student educational records for the years 1949-1959.

Series I
Box 1

Correspondence and reports covering the activities of Dr. Arvid W. Jacobson, first director of the Computation Laboratory, between 1949 and 1958. The materials relate to Dr. Jacobson's early efforts to recruit personnel, the establishment of training programs, the growth of computer technology and the rise of the Laboratory to a position of leadership in the computer field. Dr. Jacobson's correspondence is arranged chronologically and covers the period between May 24, 1949 and September 10, 1958. All other files are arranged alphabetically by subject and chronologically within each folder.

Box 1

- 1-29. Jacobson - Correspondence, May, 1949-September, 1958
30. Jacobson - Proposals, 1956, 1958
31. Jacobson - Computation Laboratory Report, c. 1955
32. Jacobson - Certificate, 1951
33. Remington Rand 1105 - Report, February, 1958
34. Remington Rand 1103 - Reports, 1957, 1958
35. Reports - Computation Laboratory, 1958

Series II
Box 2, Box 3, (folders 1-7)

Correspondence, memos and reports for the period 1953 to 1962, relating to Dr. Walter Hoffman's activities as a professor of mathematics and director of the Computer Center. The bulk of the material pertains to Dr. Hoffman's efforts to update the teaching of mathematics in the public schools through his involvement with the National Science Foundation's Institutes for High School Teachers and the University of Illinois Committee on School Mathematics (UICSM). Also covered are the activities of the Industrial Mathematics Society (IMS) between 1957 and 1959. The files are arranged alphabetically by subject and chronologically within each folder.

Box 2

1. Hoffman - Mathematics Societies, 1953
- 2-3. - Mathematics Department Correspondence, November, 1953 - March, 1956
4. - Computer Center Report, October, 1958
5. - Job Memos, 1958-1959
6. - Conferences, 1959
7. - Miscellaneous, 1958-1960
8. In-Service Education - Report, 1962
9. IBM Institute - Report, 1962
10. - Class Materials, 1962
11. Industrial Mathematics Society - Announcements, 1949, 1958
12. - Minutes, December, 1957 - February, 1958

Box 2 cont.

13. Industrial Mathematics Society - Newsletters, September,
1958 - December, 1959
14. - Manuscript, November 13, 1958
15. - Miscellaneous, 1958
- 16 - 20. Mathematics - Notebook, pages 1-100, 112-155, c. 1961
- 21 - 24. Mathematics Department - Memos, September, 1957 - December, 1959
25. - Math 501 Notes, 1962
26. - Math 501 Exam, 1962
27. National Science Foundation Institutes - Correspondence, 1958-1959
28. National Science Foundation Computer Institute - Summary, 1960
29. National Science Foundation In-Service Institute - Report, July,
1959
30. National Science Foundation Summer Institute - Proposal, 1958
31. National Science Foundation Summer Institute - Class Lists, 1959
32. National Science Foundation Summer Institute - Report, October,
1959
33. National Science Foundation Summer Institute - Test, 1961
34. National Science Foundation Computer Grant - Memo, December 15, 1960
35. Publications - Manuscripts, 1958-1959
36. Publications - Correspondence, 1959-1960

Box 3

1. University of Illinois Committee on School Mathematics - Memos,
1956, 1958-1959
2. University of Illinois Committee on School Mathematics - Reports,
1958
3. University of Illinois Committee on School Mathematics - Ferndale
Schools, 1958-1959
- 4-6. University of Illinois Committee on School Mathematics -
Correspondence, 1958-1959
7. University of Illinois Committee on School Mathematics - Final
Exam, 1960

Series III

Box 3 (folders 8-35), Boxes 4-6

This series contains the general office files of the Computation Laboratory between 1953 and 1960. Among the topics covered are: fund raising activities of the Administrative Advisory Committee (1954-1956), the Laboratory's budget (1953-1958), staff meetings (1956-1958) and work on problems for business and industry (1953-1958). General activities are also documented in the correspondence of E.P. Little (1953-1955) and Hershel Harrison (1954-1958). All correspondence is arranged chronologically. Other materials are arranged alphabetically by subject, and chronologically in each folder. Files of business and industrial contributions (Box 3, folders 32-34) are arranged alphabetically by donor.

Box 3

8. Administrative Advisory Committee - Meetings, 1954-1956

Box 3 cont.

- 9. Administrative Advisory Committee - Letters to Members, 1954-1956
- 10. - Members, c. 1955
- 11. - Correspondence, 1956
- 12. - Letters to Contributors, 1955-1956
- 13 - 14. Contribution Lists, 1955-1956
- 15 - 17. Budget - Financial Reports, 1954-1958
- 18. - Income Analysis, 1954-1955
- 19-20. - Memos, 1953-1958
- 21-23. - Contributions, 1954-1958
- 24. - Miscellaneous, 1954
- 25. Burroughs - Correspondence, 1951-1954
- 26. - Contract, 1954
- 27. Computation Laboratory - Housing, 1953, 1958
- 28. Computation Laboratory - Technical Memos, 1953-1954
- 29. Computation Laboratory - Manuscripts, 1954, c. 1955
- 30. Computation Laboratory - Clippings, 1954-1955
- 31. Computation Laboratory - Organization Memos, 1956
- 32 - 34. Contributions - Correspondence, 1951-1957
- 35. GM Tech Center - memos, 1959

Box 4

- 1-3. Hershel Harrison - Correspondence, 1954-1958
- 4. IBM 650 - Correspondence, 1956
- 5-7. IBM 650 - Reports, 1956-1957
- 8. IBM 650 - Installation, 1958
- 9-20. E.P. Little - Correspondence, 1953-1955
- 21-23. Problems - Correspondence, 1954-1958
- 24-25. - Memos, 1953-1958
- 26. - Billing Records, 1954-1958
- 27. - Contracts, 1955-1956
- 28. - Report, 1957
- 29. - Report, 1958
- 30. - Descriptions, 1958
- 31. - Traffic Study, 1958
- 32 - 34. Proceedings - Correspondence, 1954-1955
- 35. - Order Lists, 1955

Box 5

- 1-8. Staff - Job Correspondence, 1949-1960
- 9-11. - Meeting Topics, 1956-1958
- 12. - Laboratory Rosters, 1956-1958
- 13. - Memos, 1958-1960
- 14 - 16. Suplus Equipment - Correspondence, 1957-1958
- 17 - 20. Utilized Digital Electronic Computer - Preview Invitations, 1953
- 21. - Preview Correspondence, 1953
- 22. - Technical Announcements, 1956-1958
- 23. Problem Log Book - Problems 1-52, 1953-1955
- 24. - Problems 136-285, 1957-1959

Box 6

1. Problem Log Book - Problems 53-135, 1955-1957
2. Expense Register, 1959-1960 (Ace. Nu. 328)
3. Expense Register, 1960-1961 (Ace. Nu. 328)

Series IV

Box 7

Files in this series pertain to the training programs offered predominantly by the Computation Laboratory and also the Computer Center between 1952 and 1959. The bulk of the material is concerned with the summer programs offered by the Laboratory as a service to business, industry and government (1953-1957). Also included is correspondence with prospective graduate students (1952-1958), fellowship announcements (1957-1959) and information on the Ordinance Tank Center (OTAC) training course (1957-1958). The files are arranged alphabetically by subject.

Box 7

1. Adult Education - Announcement and Memos, 1959
- 2-3. Conferences - Brochures, 1957-1960
4. Fellowships - Memos, 1957-1959
5. - Announcements, 1959
- 6-9. Graduate Program - Inquiries, 1952-1958
10. Lecture Series - Class Lists, 1954
- 11 - 12. Masters Program - Inquiries, 1957
- 13 - 14. Mathematics 579 - Lecture Outlines, 1956
15. Mathematics Department - Courses, Fall, 1957
16. Ordinance Tank Center - Miscellaneous, 1956 - 1957
17. - Class Materials, c. 1956-1958
18. - Exams, c. 1956-58
19. - Meeting, February, 1958
20. Summer Program - Class List, 1953
21. - Business Applications, 1953
22. - Engineering Applications, 1953
23. - Computer Components, 1953
- 24 - 26. - Class Handouts, 1953
27. - Class Lists, 1954
28. - Class Activities, 1954
29. - Lecture, 1954
30. - Miscellaneous, 1954
31. - Memos, 1955
32. - Class Lists, 1955
33. - Class Lists, 1956
34. - Correspondence, 1956
35. - Courses 1, 2, and 3, 1956
36. - Miscellaneous, 1956
37. - Class Materials, 1957
38. Training Conference - Class Lists, 1954
39. - Correspondence, 1954
40. Workshops and Seminars - Announcements, 1953-1957

Index to Correspondents

Beberman, Max, 3:3, 3:4, 3:5, 3:6, 3:7
Coleman, John S., 3:25
Henry, David, 1:8

Series V
Box 8
Closed

Correspondence, resumes, recommendations and employment applications for the period 1949-1960. Also included are the student registration forms for the 1953 and 1954 summer program.

Box 8

- 1-9. Staff - Correspondence, 1949-1959
- 10-12. - Resumes, 1950-1958
- 13. - Recommendations, 1952-1957
- 14-17. - Pay and Promotion Memos, 1953-1960
- 18. - Employment Forms, 1953, 1955-1956, 1958
- 19. Summer Program - Registration Forms, 1953
- 20. - , 1954