FCoP Collections and Software Inventory Worksheet - Living Computers: Museum + Labs
August - September 2018

What was the scope or focus of your inventory?
(Did you limit your spot inventory to one kind of software, or to a certain type of software dependent material? How did you determine how many records might provide a healthy spot check - and help to identify gaps and other patterns?)

LCM+L inventoried software applications related to the four emulators -- ContrAlto, DPS-8/M Multics, sIMLAC, and Xerox Star.

I had several people looking in different ways. I am not confident in the completeness of the inventory. There is probably more Alto software than we can list, while other systems have very little.

List all of the data sources you referenced or searched to complete your inventory?

- \\aefiles internal server holding software packages
- LCM+L internal catalog
- Bitsavers.org computing archive for Xerox Alto
- Wikipedia on Alto and Star
- Josh Dersch, LCM+L engineer
- http://bitsavers.org/bits/Xerox/Alto/disk_images/
    - → many of these are disk images which I haven't figured out how to look at
- Manuals:
    - Xerox Alto
        - Xerox Palo Alto Research Center (September 1978) *Alto user's handbook*
        - SIL, Analyze, Gobble, Build: Reference manual (February 1981)
        - Levin, Roy (April 1979) Field guide to Alto-Land: or Exploring the Ethernet with Mouse and Keyboard
        - Ramshaw, Lyle (1983) The Briefing Blurb: Exploring the Ethernet with Mouse and Keyboard
        - Jerome, Suzan (March 1978) Bravo course outline
        - Ludolph, Frank (June 1978) The Alto User's Primer
        - Alto Subsystems (April 29, 1978)
        - Brotz, Douglas K. (May 1981) Laurel Manual
        - Mitchell, James G. (April 1979) Mesa language manual
    - Xerox Dandelion 8010/1108
        - Interpress electronic printing standard: Version 3.0 (January 1986)
        - Pilot programmer's manual: Version 8.0, Xerox Development Environment (March 1982)

- - - ■ Xerox development environment product overview: Revision 3.0 (February 21, 1984)
      - ■ Xerox network systems architecture general information manual (april 1985)
      - ■ Introduction to Xerox network systems (April 1985)
      - ■ Authentication protocol (April 1984)
      - ■ Mesa language manual: Version 5.0 (April 1979)
    - ○ Multics
      - ■ Organick, Elliott I. (1980) The Multics System: An examination of its structure
  - ●

Did you encounter difficulties locating software that you knew was stored in your collections?

Multics is an operating system. Our catalog has no individual software applications for this OS. More research must be done.

Xerox Star is also an operating system. Josh Dersch, who is writing the emulator at LCM+L, is out until the end of the month. He tells me that the "office" program, ViewPoint, will be important. XDE and Cedar, if we can find it, will also be interesting.

Some of the software is on disk packs, or images, or on bitsavers.org, or perhaps even at CHM. I have references, but so not have all of the software images gathered together in one place yet.

Did you encounter anything unexpected in your collections and software inventory that would be useful in the context of emulation, sharing, etc.

Was it difficult to determine the use and access restrictions associated with the software that you identified in your inventory?

We haven't examined copyright for these items. There may be hobbyist licenses, but more work needs to be done.

Was it difficult to determine the dependencies associated with collections and software objects that you identified in your inventory?

These are pretty simple applications and packages that require just the emulator / original environment in which to run. We haven't found any other dependencies, yet.

Did this process raise any questions internally regarding policies, requirements and local user constituencies?

Some more general internal questions about our software preservation work that has come to the fore from discussions around this one project.
- LCM+L software strategies for the future
- What resources are we going to allot to our ongoing software preservation efforts?
- Upcoming grant writer position at LCM+L -- how will FCoP effect upcoming projects?
- We need to prioritize our software preservation projects -- by system and carrier
- We need written policies about our software preservation efforts -- requirements based on volatility of carrier, upcoming engineering projects, and what is needed for exhibits
- We need to start comparing what we make copies of to what is available at archive.org and bitsavers.org, so as not to duplicate efforts