

CHAPTER 7 Interview Projects

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There are several notable interview projects on the Internet pioneers around the world. We would like to introduce the following interview projects in this chapter;

Asia Internet History Project
Charles Babbage Institute, University of Minnesota, USA
Computer History Museum, USA
Internet Hall of Fame, Internet Society
Oral History of Internet, Cyberlabs, China
Who is Who in the Internet World, Spain

1. Asia Internet History Project

Asia Internet History Project have been working on writing Internet history from Asian perspective since 2011. The project has been interviewing Internet pioneers in Asia and the world. It is also collecting interview videos of additional Asian Internet pioneers. The current interview video list consists of around 60 interviews. They are accessible at the project website; InternetHistory.asia/interview.

2. Charles Babbage Institute, University of Minnesota

Charles Babbage website, cbi.umn.edu has the following description in its homepage.

“WELCOME TO THE CHARLES BABBAGE INSTITUTE

The Charles Babbage Institute's (CBI) mission is to facilitate, foster, and conduct research to advance understanding of computing, information, and culture. We fulfill this mission through synergistic programs of curating and continuously expanding the leading global archives on computing and society, and running an interdisciplinary history research center. The CBI hosts major conferences/symposia and smaller workshops, engages in sponsored research, publishes scholarly books and articles, conducts oral histories, provides editorial leadership, manages fellowship and grant programs, has public history programming, and contributes to education on campus and beyond. We are a partnership of (and supported by) the [Program in the History of Science, Technology, and Medicine](#), [College of Science and Engineering](#); and [Archives and Special Collections](#), [University Libraries](#). Further critical support is from the [Friends of CBI](#).

ABOUT THE CBI ARCHIVES

The CBI Archives collects, preserves and provides access to rich archival collections and rare publications documenting the history of technology, from the era of tabulators and electromechanical calculators in the period prior to World War II, through the development of the electronic digital computer, mainframes, mini and microcomputers, software and networking. Oral histories, photographs, journal and serial publications and a reference library complement the archival and special collections holdings.

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Collections

Archives services and how to use the collections

- *Archives & Manuscripts*

CBI archival collections include the papers of prominent companies, individuals, professional associations as well as key government agencies.

- *Oral Histories* (including *List of Interviewees*)

CBI's Oral History Collection contains over 300 research-grade oral history interviews, in both print and digital format, relating to the history of computing.

- *Photographs/Videos/Digital Collections*

*A portion of CBI's archival and published collections is available online in digital format. Some of these materials were originally in print and have been digitized; others originated digitally. Photographs and a few videos from our Burroughs Corporation Records, Control Data Corporation Records, and Association for Computing Machinery collections have been digitized. Another way to locate photographs is by searching through the finding aids for our archival collections. The *Burroughs Corporation Records* and the *Control Data Corporation Records* are both collections that have a large number of photographs."*

Charles Babbage Institute is the oldest archive on Internet and related pioneers with over 300 interviews in audio. The video interviews are not available in general. The Institute also archive many printing materials additionally.

3. Computer History Museum, Mountain View, California

Internet History Program of Computer History Museum website, computerhistory.org has the following paragraphs;

"Today seven billion of us live, work, and play online. Companies and governments are making decisions that will shape the flow of information for generations to come. Yet few know how we got here, or what we might learn from earlier systems. The Internet History Program tells those stories.

From MP3 to broken dreams of a "world brain," the Internet History Program explores our connected world through events, publications, and a comprehensive series of physical and online exhibits. The program adds to the CHM's leading collection of networking and mobile materials to carry those stories forward to new generations.

Launched in 2009, the program grew out of the original Web History Project (1996) and Center (2005)."

"Marc Weber started the Computer History Museum's Internet History Program as Founding Curator and developed the Web, Networking, and Mobile galleries of the Museum's permanent exhibit "Revolution: The First 2000 Years of Computing".

Marc pioneered Web history as a topic starting in early 1995. His initial investigations as a journalist became the Web History Project, which assembled the first archive of early Web materials and interviewed over 80 key figures with crucial help from the Web's main inventor Sir Tim Berners Lee and colleagues.

Marc and co-founder Kevin Hughes brought together most core Web and hypertext pioneers at the 1997 international Web conference with the first Web History events plus a major temporary exhibit. Other large events co-organized by Marc include a follow up program at the 2007 international Web conference, and a panel on the 30th anniversary of when the ARPANET became the Internet.”

The number of interviews is several hundred, and the detail information including the list could be found in the Computer History Museum website, computerhistory.org.

4. Internet Hall of Fame, Internet Society

“The Internet Hall of Fame is a global recognition program started in 2012 by the Internet Society. It honors individuals who have contributed significantly to the Internet’s inception, evolution, and global growth. The Internet Hall of Fame recognizes the visionaries and pioneers responsible for significant improvements in Internet connectivity, key technical contributions, and advancements that promoted the Internet’s use. In its fifth year, this program has gained recognition within the Internet community and beyond. It fills a void by honoring some of the world’s most influential engineers, evangelists, and entrepreneurs” according to Action Plan published by Internet Society in 2020 [Internet 2020]. There are over 100 inductees now. There are short interviews on all inductees with brief biography [Internet 2020b].

5. Oral History of the Internet, China

Cyberlabs.org has the webpage, http://cyberlabs.org/ohi_details, which has the introduction on Oral History of the Internet (OHI) Project with the following introduction;

“To celebrate the first 50 years of the Internet, CyberLabs has launched the Oral History of the Internet (OHI), recording and preserving the personal narratives of global Internet Pioneers’ extraordinary contribution to the internet development. By 2019, OHI should have interviewed 500 Internet Pioneers around the world. A 50-episode TV series, documentaries and books will be produced based on the video interviews. The OHI, which started first in China in 2007, has interviewed nearly 200 Internet Pioneers who mostly come from Asia, Europe and the United States. The OHI will also go to interview those from Africa, Mid-East and Oceania.

The mission of OHI: Recording the first 50 years of the internet so to embrace its next 50 years.

The OHI will thus build a virtual monument that is committed to documenting personal narratives from the Internet Pioneers who have made extraordinary contributions to the development of the internet around the world. OHI was launched by CyberLabs, a think tank devoted to recording and preserving the internet history, which has started the project first in

China since 2007. As the internet is facilitating unprecedented, multi-faceted interactions around the world, OHI goes global by video recording oral testimonies from the worldwide Internet Pioneers about their extraordinary contributions to the development of the internet in their own countries or fields.”

Oral History of Internet Project interviewed the following and more Internet pioneers around the world;

China	64
Asia	28
Europe	21
USA	50
Africa	N/A
Latin America	N/A

Oral History of Internet Project is publishing biographies of ten or more Internet pioneers from China and the rest of the world now.

6. Who is Who in the Internet World (WiWiW), Spain

Andreu Veà stated “What is?” in WiWiW.org website as follows;

“Its goal is to leave a digital-recorded register of the ideas which lead the main internet pioneers to made the Net as we know it today. Rejecting other than primary-sourced histories from the founders, and deployers. This idea started as a hobby during the field work of Dr. Andreu Veà’s doctoral thesis. After more than ten years of interviewing Internet Pioneers, impelled by Dr. Vint Cerf’s interest on the project, he quit his job when he was invited by Stanford University where he is an Internet Research Scholar since early 2003. The WiWiW Project is privately funded and backed up by a continuously growing research group from several places (Palo Alto, Barcelona, Madrid, San Francisco, Washington, Oakland, Valencia, Vienna, etc.).”

Andreu Veà interviewed more than 140 internet pioneers around the world for WiWiW Project, and published the book, “Como Creamos internet” in Spanish. The title in English means “How we create the internet”. The book has not been translated to English or other languages yet.

References

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