
Guide to the Jeff Rulifson papers

Finding aid prepared by Bo Doub, Kim Hayden, and Sara Chabino Lott.

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Computer History Museum

1401 N. Shoreline Blvd.

Mountain View, CA, 94043

(650) 810-1010

research@computerhistory.org

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Language of Material: English

Physical Description: 5.0 Linear feet4 record cartons

Date (bulk): Bulk, 1961-1985

Date (inclusive): 1956-1997

Abstract: The Jeff Rulifson papers contain materials that document Rulifson's career as a computer scientist working on projects such as artificial intelligence, NLS (oN-Line Systems), and office information systems at Stanford Research Institute's Augmentation Research Center, Xerox PARC, ROLM Corporation, Syntelligence, Inc., and Sun Microsystems. The records span 1956 through 1997, with the bulk of the collection being from 1961 to 1985. Materials include technical papers and reports, videotape, correspondence, articles, memos, presentations, computer and programming manuals, and administrative papers.

creator: Rulifson, Jeff

Processing Information

Collection processed by Bo Doub and Kim Hayden, 2015.

Access Restrictions

The collection is open for research.

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Preferred Citation

[Identification of Item], [Date], Jeff Rulifson papers, Lot X6502.2012, Box [#], Folder [#], Catalog [#], Computer History Museum.

Immediate Source of Acquisition

Gift of Jeff Rulifson, 2011.

Biographical/Historical Note

Johns "Jeff" Rulifson was born August 20, 1941, in Bellefontaine, Ohio. He began his career working in the computer operations department of Boeing from 1960 to 1963. He then worked at the Computer Center of the University of Washington from 1963 to 1965, and earned his BS in mathematics from the university in 1966.

Rulifson went on to work for the Stanford Research Institute (SRI) Augmentation Research Center from 1966 through 1973. At SRI, Rulifson was instrumental in the research of artificial intelligence programming languages, specifically focusing on question-answering systems. He was also the lead programmer for their pioneering collaborative computing system NLS (oN-Line System). In 1968, Rulifson represented SRI in the ARPANET network working group, a consortium of computer scientists who worked together to implement the ARPANET, the networking technology that was the basis for today's internet.

Rulifson left SRI in 1973 and went to work at Xerox PARC, where he was manager of the office research group, which developed autonomous, distributed office information systems (OIS). In 1980, he began working for ROLM Corporation as an engineering manager, and in 1985 he moved to Syntelligence, where he was the manager of banking products. In 1987, Rulifson joined Sun Microsystems, which was purchased by Oracle in 2010, as the director of VLSI Research, a position he still holds. Rulifson held chairman of the board positions at the Doug Engelbart Institute from 1995 to 2014, and the Open Group from 2001 to 2003.

In 1990, Rulifson won the Association for Computing Machinery (ACM) Software Systems award for his work on NLS, along with co-developers Doug Engelbart and Bill English. He became an ACM fellow in 1994.

Scope and Content of the Collection

The Jeff Rulifson papers contain materials collected by Rulifson during his time at Stanford Research Institute's Augmentation Research Center, Xerox PARC, ROLM Corporation, Syntelligence, Inc., and Sun Microsystems. The records span 1956 through 1997 with the bulk of the collection being from 1961 to 1985. The materials from Rulifson's work at SRI ARC includes reports, notes, and videos related to his work on the QA4 artificial intelligence programming language and

NLS (oN-Line System), and writings and video footage of his colleague at SRI ARC, Doug Engelbart. Rulifson's records from Xerox PARC document his work as manager of the Office Research Group, where they conducted studies on office procedures and information flow in order to develop Office Information Systems (OIS) like OfficeTalk. At ROLM, Syntelligence, and Sun Microsystems, Rulifson's job responsibilities were more administrative and managerial, and the materials he collected reflect this change in responsibilities. Out of these last three positions, the collection contains a much larger amount of material from ROLM than from Syntelligence or Sun Microsystems. The collection also contains manuals from the 1950s and 1960s primarily for IBM and UNIVAC systems.

Arrangement

The collection is arranged into 4 series:

Series 1, SRI ARC records, 1961-1997, bulk 1966-1973

Series 2, Xerox PARC records, 1967-1982

Series 3, ROLM, Syntelligence, and Sun Microsystems records, 1981-1992

Series 4, Manuals, 1956-1969

Related Collections at CHM

SRI ARC/NIC records, Lot X3578.2006, Computer History Museum

Related Collections at Other Repositories

Douglas Engelbart Symposia Records (SC0561). Dept. of Special Collections and University Archives, Stanford University Libraries, Stanford, Calif.

Subjects and Indexing Terms

Engelbart, D. C., (Douglas Carl), 1925-

International Business Machines

ROLM Corporation

Stanford Research Institute. Augmentation Research Center

Sun Microsystems

Syntelligence, Inc.

Xerox PARC (Firm)

Univac computer

SRI ARC records, Series 1, Bulk, 1966-1973 1961-1997

Language of Material: English

Series Scope and Content

This series contains reports, notes, and videos that document Rulifson's work at Stanford Research Institute's Augmentation Research Center from 1966 through 1973. A large part of this series consists of notes and reports about the QA4 artificial intelligence programming language that Rulifson, Jan Derksen and Richard Waldingerat developed. There is also a large amount of material on NLS (oN-Line System), which Rulifson helped design and develop. One folder contains reports and articles written by Doug Engelbart. There is also one carton of Sony videotape reels, one of which is labeled as a recording of Engelbart giving a presentation to the Stanford Electrical Engineering Conference around 1970. This series is arranged alphabetically by folder title.

102734175 **NLS (oN-Line System) 1966-1969**

102734170 **Notes undated**

102734173 **QA4 and artificial intelligence programming 1967-1973**

102734174 **Reports by Douglas Engelbart 1961-1962; 1997**

102734160 **Videotape reels ca. 1970**

Xerox PARC records, Series 2, 1967-1982**Language of Material:** English**Series Scope and Content**

This series contains technical papers, correspondence, program descriptions, presentation materials, and manuals collected during Rulifson's time at Xerox PARC from 1973 to 1980. Rulifson worked as the manager of the Office Research Group, conducting research and studies on office procedures and information flow in order to develop Office Information Systems (OIS). Much of this series is comprised of the methodologies and results of these research projects. Another significant part of this series is the description, specifications, and program listings behind one such OIS called OfficeTalk. OfficeTalk was a project to design a language for expressing typical office procedures so that these procedures could be performed with the aid of a computer system. It was designed to enable office workers to write simple computer programs to perform useful activities such as file organization, sending and receiving documents, and tracing lost forms. This series is arranged alphabetically by folder title.

102734172 **OfficeTalk 1975-1977**102734167 **Presentation at the Diebold Research Program conference 1979**102734168 **Studies of office procedures and information flow 1975-1979**102734171 **Xerox PARC manuals 1976-1978**102734169 **Xerox PARC projects, program descriptions, papers, and articles 1967-1982****ROLM, Syntelligence, and Sun Microsystems records, Series 3, 1981-1992****Language of Material:** English**Series Scope and Content**

This series contains business records, correspondence, technical papers, and notes that Rulifson collected while at ROLM, Syntelligence, and Sun Microsystems Laboratories of Sun Microsystems between 1981 and 1992. The bulk of the records in this series are from Rulifson's time as an engineering manager at ROLM from 1980 to 1985. Most of these records relate to performance reviews of departments or specific employees. There is also a significant amount of material about management philosophies at ROLM — one written by Rulifson. And there are notes and records from ROLM-sponsored courses that Rulifson attended on topics such as interviewing job candidates and influence management. The Syntelligence records are similar to the ROLM records and the Sun Microsystems records are primarily comprised of a paper on Sun Microsystems and the UNIX operating system. This series is arranged chronologically.

102734178 **ROLM Corporation 1981-1984**102734177 **Syntelligence, Inc. ca. 1987**102734176 **Sun Microsystems, Inc. ca. 1992****Manuals, Series 4, 1956-1969****Scope and Content of the Collection**

This series contains information and programming and reference manuals for computer systems and programming languages from 1956 to 1969. The bulk of the series is made up of IBM and UNIVAC manuals for several computer systems, including the IBM 360, 650, 1401, and 700/7000 series, and the UNIVAC 80, 1103, and 1107. There are also manuals from Burroughs, Scientific Data Systems (SDS), and Philco, plus programming manuals for Fortran, ALGOL, and COBOL. This series is arranged alphabetically by folder title.

102734166 **A Philco Multiprocessing System 1965**102655318 **ALGOL and COBOL 1962-1963**102734163 **Burroughs Corporation 1961-1966**102734164 **International Business Machines Corporation (IBM) 1957-1966**102734165 **Scientific Data Systems (SDS) 1964-1969**102655321 **UNIVAC 1956-1963**