

## Call for Abstracts:

### Special Issue: New Perspectives on Computing History (50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Issue)

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**“New Perspectives on Computing History”** is the second of two anniversary issues to celebrate the upcoming 50th anniversary of the *IEEE Annals*. This special issue will focus on where our field is, and where it is heading—materially, methodologically, intellectually, and ideally. To do this, the issue is designed to encourage and platform the voices of newer and upcoming scholars in the field of the history of computing, and aligned disciplines, and ask them to reflect on where the field has been, and where it is going. This issue invites a broad variety of scholars and practitioners to reflect on the past and present of computing’s history, through research-informed short articles (or practice-informed, in the case of practitioners). The envisioned length is roughly 2000-4000 words.

This issue seeks to expand the network of writers beyond just those who have frequently written for the *IEEE Annals* in the past, to ensure that this issue represents our changing field and welcomes in more voices as we embark on our next 50 years. For example, scholars in media studies, information studies, and a range of allied fields (see, for instance, Melissa Villa-Nicholas and Tonia Sutherland) have produced critical scholarship related to the history of computing, while practitioners in other fields (for example, Clarissa Redwine and Meredith Broussard) have written about the computing’s historical and present enmeshment with social, political, and economic change. Essays that touch on issues like these—and beyond—would be welcome in this issue. While historical in nature, in alignment with our journals’ mission, this call for papers also welcomes topics, methods, and fields related to the history of computing, and its likely future.

Some of the topics and methods welcomed for this issue include, but are not limited to:

- Discussions of computing history’s trajectory as viewed through the lens of an individual scholar’s specific research
- Histories of computing that discuss the role of workers, consumers, or activists
- Historical essays that focus on insights we can collectively gain from the changing topics and methods that have been commonly published in the *Annals*
- Historically-minded interventions and reflections from aligned fields like media studies, information studies, and STS
- Historically relevant practitioner contributions related to research or experiential insights from tech fields (e.g. tech worker labor organizers or tech workers participating

in movements to restrain “Big Tech” from enacting specific harms with the software they help write.)

- Histories of hardware and software that are attentive to global, national, and local political and cultural contexts

The goals of this special issue are to platform newer voices in the history of computing (both the up-and-coming authors on whom our future relies, as well as established voices from allied fields who have not published in *Annals* before), and to reflect the changing methodological and topical concerns reflected in the pages of the *IEEE Annals* at 50. As history of computing has increasingly become a popular topic of research for broad publics to consume, this special anniversary issue will aim to be accessible to an audience not only of academic readers and tech practitioners, but also consumers and critics of computing technology as well, from undergraduates taking their first history of technology class, to legislators involved in regulating high tech. This anniversary issue aims to ensure that the celebration of our past is also a springboard into our future, welcoming new voices, ideas, and topics into our pages.

Please send 200–500 word abstracts to the issue editor ([mhicks@virginia.edu](mailto:mhicks@virginia.edu)) for consideration for this issue by **August 1, 2027**. You are also welcome to write with questions at any time before submitting an abstract. Graduate students and recent PhDs are especially encouraged to submit. If your abstract is accepted, full submissions will then be requested (made through Author Portal by **November 1, 2027**). Submissions will be peer reviewed both as essays, for clarity and cogency, as well as research works (where applicable).