

Guidelines for Writing Memoirs, Reminiscences and Anecdotes

Background:

Oral histories

For some time, the Society has been recording and transcribing Oral Histories from those who worked on LEO computers. We are very anxious not to lose out on archiving your valuable memories. If you are willing to be interviewed for an oral history, please let us know and we will make the necessary arrangements. Once recorded, your interview will be transcribed and edited (for any need for clarification etc.) and once approved by you will become part of our archive of LEO oral histories.

Written reminiscences

Some members might prefer to write their memories down. Sometimes they have anecdotes they wish to describe rather than a whole career. In 2016, we collected a miscellany of short reminiscences and published a little book 'LEO Remembered'. This was republished in 2022 – with double the number of articles. We received some excellent reviews. (The book is available to buy from us.)

Reading other people's memories may spark off memories of your own which you would like to share.

As part of the LEO Heritage Project the LEO Computers Society would like to collect written accounts from members about their career and association with computing and, of course, LEO. These can take the form of biographical sketches to shorter reminiscences of life with LEO or of specific anecdotes about particular events which have stuck in the mind. All such writings after undergoing an editing review would be made available to the LEO Heritage project and placed in the heritage archive.

In addition, our newsletter 'LEO Matters' regularly publishes written reminiscences. We welcome your contributions.

Notes:

- Please, even for the shortest anecdote, provide essential personal data defining yourself, relevant dates and your roles in LEO.
- Ensure that if you name other people a reader would understand both that person's relationship to you and their role, if any, in LEO.
- If you use technical terms, for example: 'Kimball tag reader', make sure they are adequately explained.
- We really love collecting photos – so if you have any from your LEO time, please do let us share them.

Writing these accounts, whether long or short, can be fun and reopen memories. They will help future historians and students learn how what we take for granted today emerged to make this the Information Age.

Please contact Secretary@leo-computers.org.uk if you would like to discuss this further.

Frank Land & Hilary Caminer 11 April 2017, Updated by Hilary Caminer 16th March 2025