

CHEMICAL HERITAGE FOUNDATION

ROBERT M. HAYES

Transcript of an Interview  
Conducted by

Colin B. Burke

at

Los Angeles, California

on  
26 February 2001

(With Subsequent Corrections and Additions)

CHEMICAL HERITAGE FOUNDATION  
Oral History Program  
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Robert Mayo Hayes, interview by Colin B. Burke at Los Angeles, California, 26 February 2001 (Philadelphia: Chemical Heritage Foundation, Oral History Transcript # 0217).

ROBERT M. HAYES

1926 Born in New York, New York on 3 December

Education

1947 B.A., mathematics, University of California at Los Angeles  
1949 M.A., mathematics, University of California at Los Angeles  
1952 Ph.D., mathematics, University of California at Los Angeles

Professional Experience

1949-1952 National Bureau of Standards  
Mathematician

1952-1954 Hughes Aircraft Corporation  
Technical Staff Member

1954-1955 National Cash Register Company  
Applications Division

1955-1960 Magnavox Corporation  
Head of the Business Systems Group

1959-1960 American University  
Visiting Lecturer

1960-1962 Advanced Information Systems, Incorporated  
President

1960-1962 University of Washington  
Visiting Lecturer

1960-1963 Electrada, Incorporated  
Vice-President and Research Director

1954-1964 University of California at Los Angeles  
Adjunct Lecturer  
1964 Professor, School of Library Services  
1965-1970 Director, Institute for Library Research

1974-1989	Dean, Graduate School of Library Service, School of Library and Information Science
1969-1973	Becker and Hayes, Incorporated Vice-President
1993-1996	Vice President
1970	University of Illinois Windsor Lecturer
1979	White House Conference on Libraries and Information Sciences Advisory Council Member
1979, 1993	University of New South Wales Visiting Professor
1987, 1994	Japanese Universities Visiting Professor
1989	Loughborough University Visiting Professor
1990	Online Computer Library Center, Incorporated Consultant
1994	Khazar University Visiting Professor

#### Honors

1971	Best Information Science Book Award, ASIS
1985	Beta Phi Mu Award, American Library Association
1986	Professional Achievement Award, UCLA Alumni Association
1990	First Tezak Award, University of Zagreb, Croatia
1993	Award of Merit, American Library Association

## ABSTRACT

Robert M. Hayes begins the interview with a discussion of his father's and his stepfather's affect on his life. He describes how he traveled frequently because of his stepfather's acting career, attending over sixteen different high schools before receiving his diploma. Hayes graduated from UCLA in 1947 with a B.A. in mathematics, and afterwards was drafted into the Navy. He recounts his acceptance into the Navy's V-12 program, and the courses he took for that program at the University of Colorado at Boulder. After the War, Hayes returned to UCLA, where he earned his M.A. in mathematics in 1949, and his Ph.D. in mathematics in 1952. While earning his Ph.D., Hayes worked on information science at the National Bureau of Standards. In 1952, he decided to move into industry, and was hired at Hughes Aircraft. He describes his work at Hughes, where he programmed a computer to fly an airplane. Further, he recounts his teaching responsibilities in UCLA's University-extension program, which he continued in parallel with his experiences at Hughes. In 1954, Hayes began working at the National Cash Register Company, and a year later he moved to Magnavox Research Labs. He discusses the important developments in information storage and retrieval at Magnavox, such as the Minicard and the Magnacard systems, and his realization that his efforts at Magnavox could be taught to students. Eventually, Hayes was teaching at locations all over the United States, including American University, the University of Washington, and Wright Patterson Air Force Base. In 1960, Hayes was invited to join the Electrada Corporation, which he did, as vice-president. Hayes relates how, soon after joining Electrada, he and John Postley created Advanced Information Systems as a subsidiary of Electrada. Hayes also explains why he became a fulltime professor at UCLA at that time, and discusses his roles in the formation of the School of Library Service and the Institute for Library Research. In 1969, Joseph Becker and Robert Hayes started Becker and Hayes Incorporated, with the purpose of creating an interlibrary network for the State of Washington. Hayes discusses the obstacles he and Becker overcame to accomplish that task, and goes on to recount his work with NCLIS and the SILC system. Hayes concludes the interview with his interpretation of the relationship between information science and library science, and the importance of libraries and librarians.

## INTERVIEWER

Colin B. Burke had recently retired from the history department at the University of Maryland at Baltimore County and held a research fellowship at Yale University when he came to CHF. He spent his residency working on his book on the history of computer-based scientific information systems and related government policies, from the 1950s through the early 1990s. He received his Ph.D. from Washington University in St. Louis and currently serves as Associate Professor Emeritus at the University of Maryland. He also served as a Fulbright Scholar in Poland and as a Scholar-in-Residence at the National Security Agency.

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4. Robert M. Hayes. *A System for Inter-library Communication (SILC)*. {Washington: Association of Research Libraries, 1974}; Robert M. Hayes. *A Final Report on a Study of a System for Inter-library Communication (SILC)*. (Los Angeles: Becker and Hayes, 1974).
5. *Public Sector-Private Sector Task Force Report*. (National Commission on Libraries and Information Science, 1982).

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