

*FÉMINISER LE NUMÉRIQUE,
NUMÉRISER LES FEMMES ?
L'informatique au risque de l'ordre
masculin des technologies.*

Benjamin G. Thierry



*Penser la recherche en informatique comme
pouvant être située, multidisciplinaire et genrée*

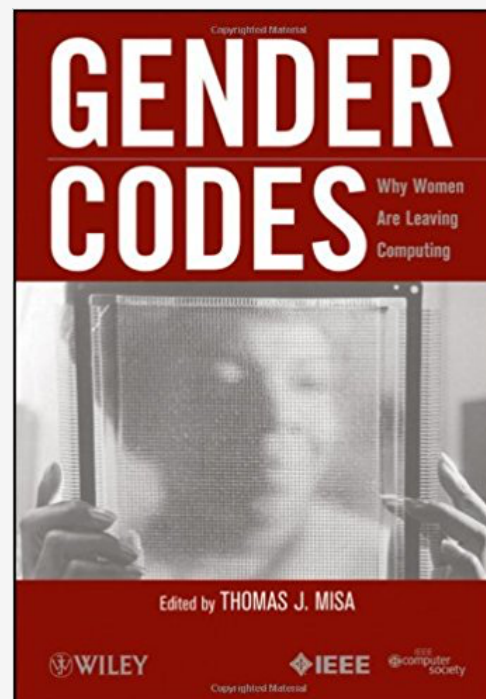
MSH Nord 23/01/2018

Une histoire des femmes dans le numérique ou une histoire du numérique au prisme du *féminin* ?

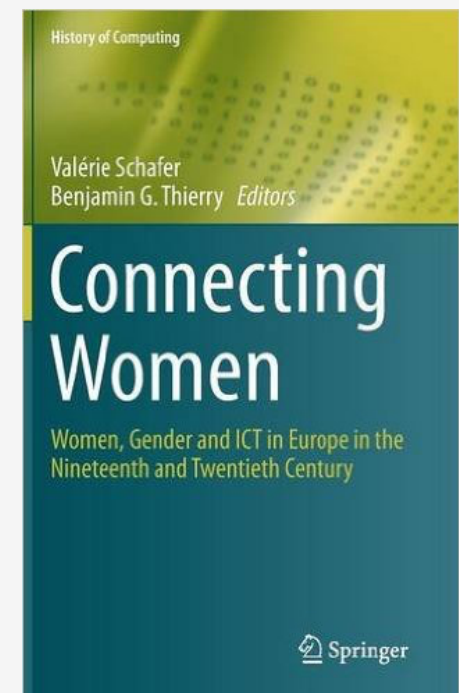
- Les femmes, un *sujet récent* pour l'historien de l'informatique.
- Une histoire qui éclaire nos *catégories d'analyse* (« qu'est-ce que l'informatique ? » ; « que signifie programmer ? »)
- Un moyen de passer d'une *histoire technique des techniques « masculine par défaut »* à une *histoire culturelle globale*.
- Occasion de penser l'action d'un groupe minoritaire.



2010



2010



2017



1. Naissance des femmes à l'informatique : les « Eniac girls »

Betty Jean Jennings et Fran Bilas sur le principal panneau de contrôle de l'Eniac (archives of the ARL Technical Library)

« *Women pioneered computer programming. Then men took their industry over.* » (<https://timeline.com/women-pioneered-computer-programming-then-men-took-their-industry-over-c2959b822523>)

« *Women invented the field. Then men pushed them out of it.* » (<https://techtalentcharter.co.uk/brief-history-women-computing/>)

Femmes constituent dès l'origine un groupe :

- *Minoritaire ;*
- *Dépourvu de pouvoir ;*
- *Rapidement « invisibilisé ».*



Josh O'Connor Follow
(@jaochu) — TV & video producer, writer on history, business, civil rights, technology and science, and ENnie-award winning game designer.
May 16, 2017 · 5 min read

Women pioneered computer programming. Then men took their industry over.

How "c....."



The Computer Girls

BY LOIS MANDEL
A trainee gets \$8,000 a year
... a girl "senior systems analyst" gets \$20,000—and up!

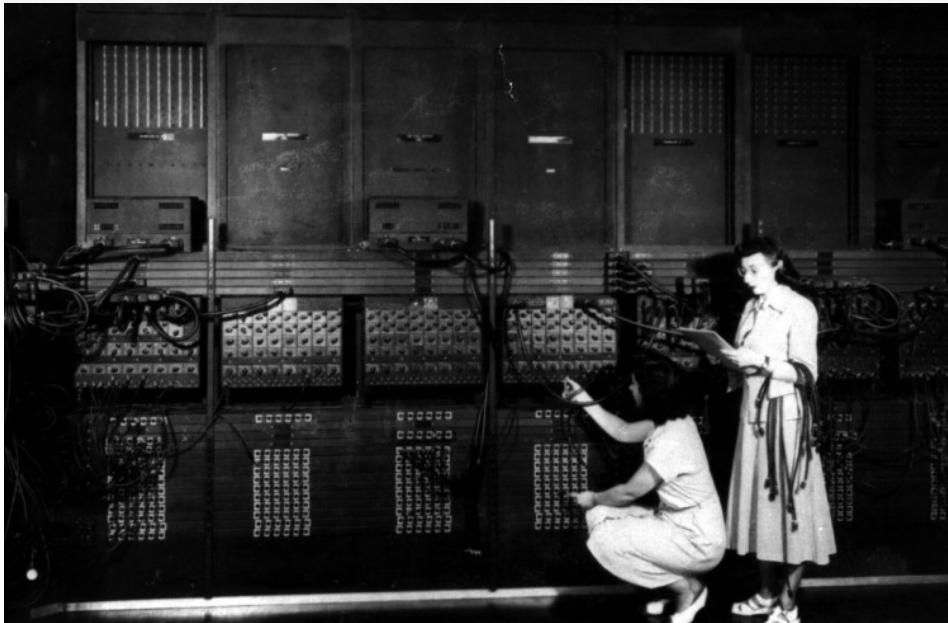
Twenty years ago, a girl could be a secretary, a school teacher . . . maybe a librarian, a social worker or a nurse. If she was really ambitious, she could go into the professions and compete with men . . . usually working harder and longer to earn less pay for the same job. Now have come the big, dazzling computers—and a whole new kind of work for women: programming. Telling the miracle machines what to do and how to do it. Anything from predicting the

computer can solve a problem, and then instruct the machine to do it." "It's just like planning a dinner," explains Dr. Grace Hopper, now a staff scientist in systems programming for Univac. (She helped develop the first electronic digital computer, the Eniac, in 1946.) "You have to plan ahead and schedule everything so it's ready when you need it. Programming requires patience and the ability to handle detail. Women are 'naturals' at computer programming."

A BRIEF HISTORY OF WOMEN IN COMPUTING

Women invented the field. Then men pushed them out of it.

Des femmes minoritaires et dépourvues de pouvoir

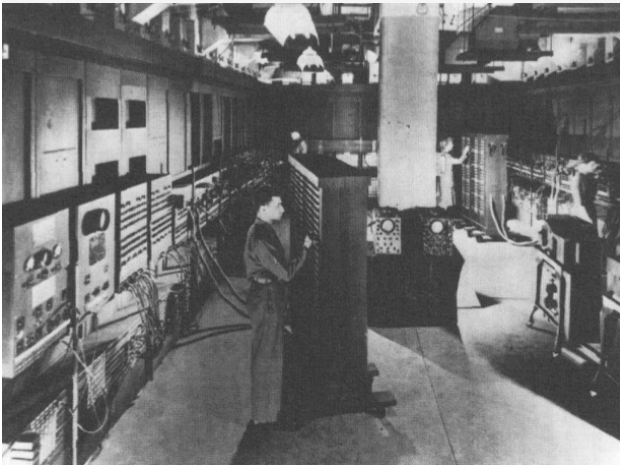


- **Les « Eniac girls » :**
 - Expression sexiste.
 - Francis « Betty » Snyder Holberton, Betty « Jean » Jennings Bartik, Kathleen McNulty Mauchly Antonelli, Marlyn Wescoff Meltzer, Ruth Lichterman Teitelbaum et Frances Bilas Spence.
- **De « Computer girls » à « Operators » sur l'Eniac :**
 - « Naturellement » compétentes et reconnues pour
 - Le paramétrage ;
 - Création d'un espace de compétences spécifique ;
 - Sans reconnaissance, ni position de pouvoir.
- **L'impasse de la lecture par l'analyse d'une technologie genrée :**
 - Software féminin et hardware masculin.

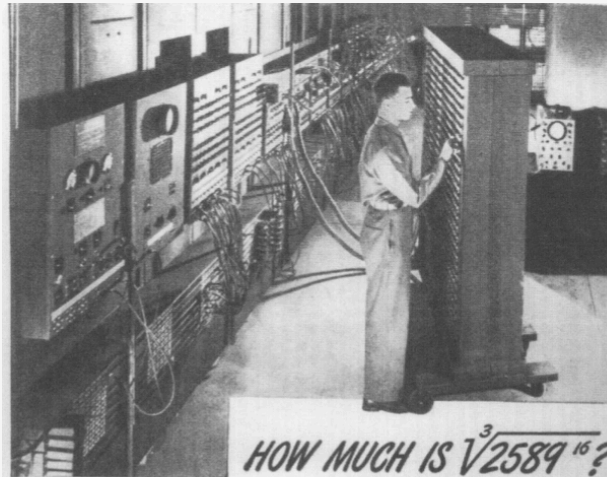
Presper Eckert
John Mauchly
Herman Goldstine

Eniac Girls

À l'ombre du pouvoir viril : l'invisibilisation



Times, Février 1946



HOW MUCH IS $\sqrt[3]{2589}$?

The Army's ENIAC can give you the answer in a fraction of a second!

Think that's a stumper? You should see some of the ENIAC's problems! Brain twisters that if put to paper would run off this page and feet beyond . . . addition, subtraction, multiplication, division—square root, cube root, any root. Solved by an incredibly complex system of circuits operating 18,000 electronic tubes and tipping the scales at 30 tons!

The ENIAC is symbolic of many amazing Army devices with a brilliant future for you! The new Regular Army needs men with aptitude for scientific work, and as one of the first trained in the post-war era, you stand to get in on the ground floor of important jobs

YOUR REGULAR ARMY SERVES THE NATION AND MANKIND IN WAR AND PEACE

212
POPULAR
SCIENCE

which have never before existed. You'll find that an Army career pays off.

The most attractive fields are filling quickly. Get into the swim while the getting's good! 1½, 2 and 3 year enlistments are open in the Regular Army to ambitious young men 18 to 34 (17 with parents' consent) who are otherwise qualified. If you enlist for 3 years, you may choose your own branch of the service, of those still open. Get full details at your nearest Army Recruiting Station.

A GOOD JOB FOR YOU
U. S. Army
CHOOSE THIS
FINE PROFESSION NOW!

Popular Science monthly, octobre 1946



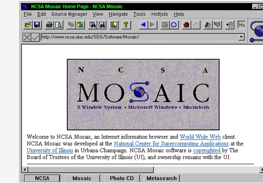
Kathy Kleiman, Jean Bartik, Marlyn Meltzer et Kay Antonelli. Betty Holberton au premier plan. (-1985)



2. *La déferlante masculine sur « l'informatique »*

ENSMENGER Nathan, *The computer boys take over : computers, programmers, and the politics of technical expertise*, The MIT Press, Cambridge, 2010, 255 p.

Des années 1940 à nos jours, les femmes sont restées numériquement minoritaires et de plus en plus « noyées » par l'entrée des hommes dans « l'informatique ».



1950

1960

1970

1980

1990

2000

1965 IBM 360

1976 Fondation d'Apple

1992 NCSA Mosaic

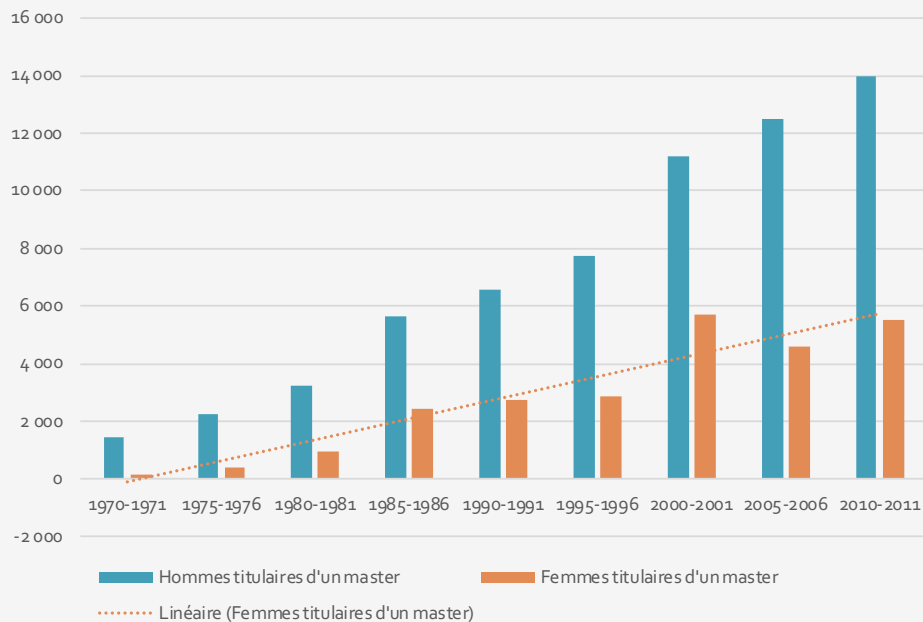
Informatique de recherche et militaire

« Big business »

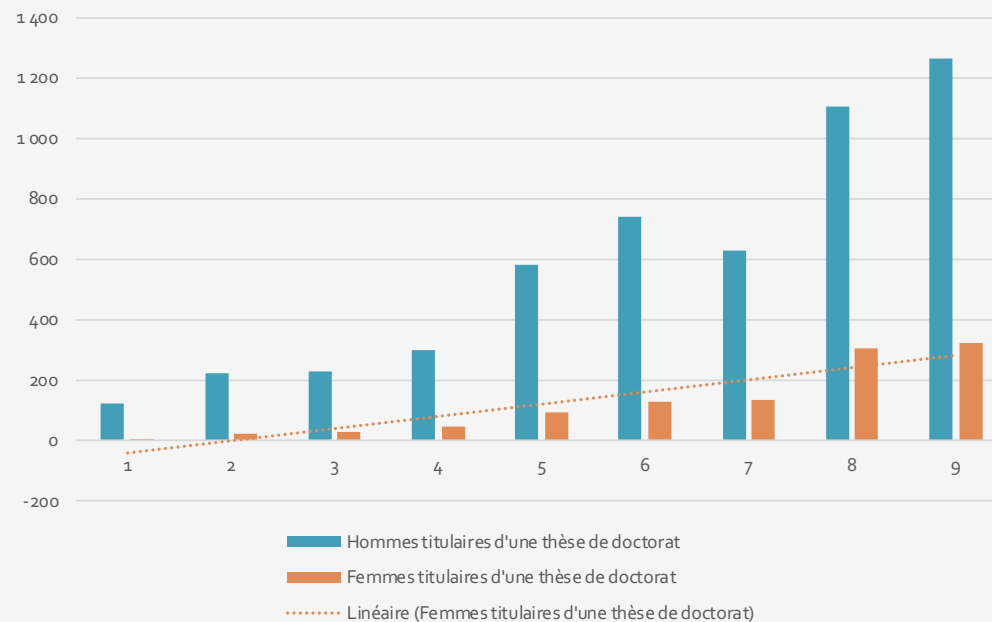
Règne de la micro

Ère de la multitude

Obtention du Master degree

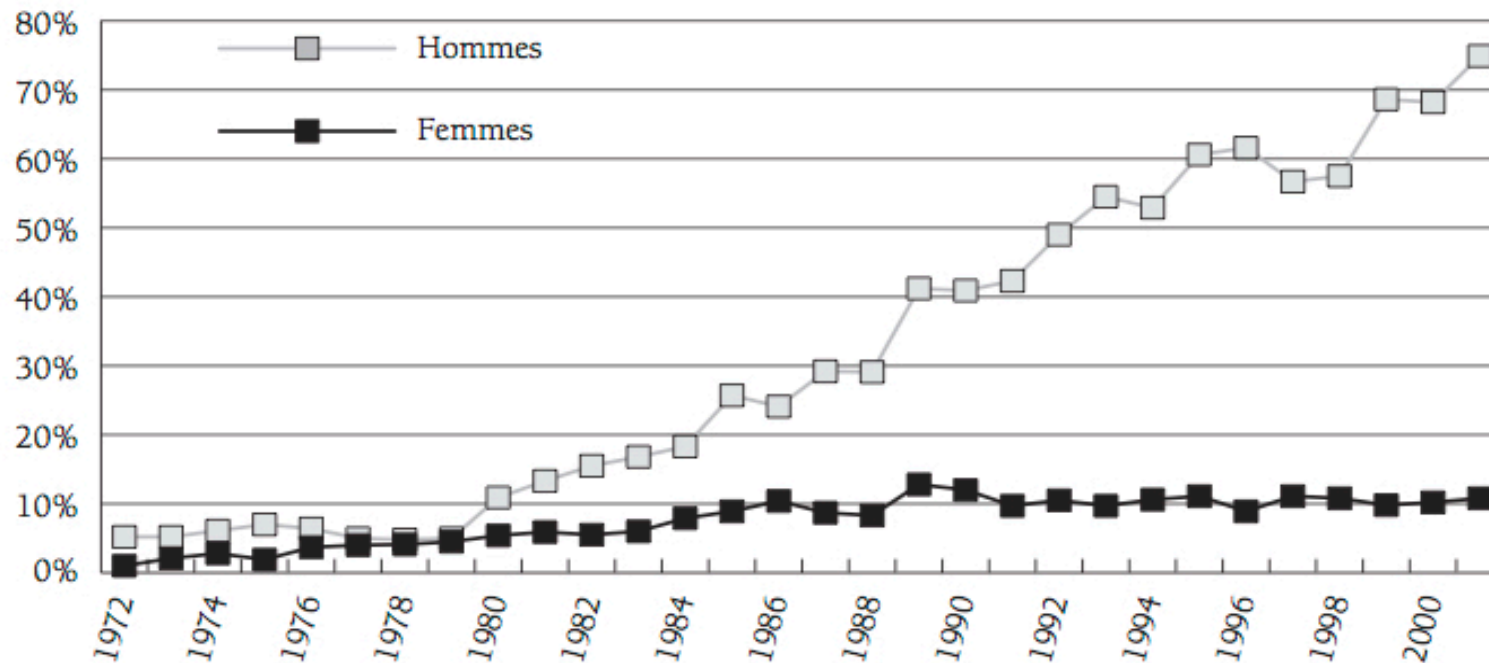


Obtention du Doctorat



Rapport hommes/femmes dans l'obtention du master et du doctorat en computer sciences (1970-2011)
 SOURCE: U.S. Department of Education, National Center for Education Statistics, Higher Education General Information Survey (HEGIS)

Graphique II. – Nombre d'étudiants (étudiantes) dans l'option informatique *



* Sur dix grandes écoles préparant au diplôme d'ingénieurs avec option informatique.

COLLET Isabelle, La disparition des filles dans les études d'informatique : les conséquences d'un changement de représentation, in *Carrefours de l'éducation*, vol. 17, n°1, 2004, p. 42-56.

Pas de spécificité « informaticienne » :

« In her 1989 report to the National Science Foundation, 'Women and Computer Science' Nancy Leveson, associate professor of information and computer science at the University of California at Irvine, reports that **in 1986 women earned only 12% of computer science doctorates compared to 30% of all doctorates awarded to women in the sciences**. Leveson notes, however, that this includes the social sciences and psychology, which have percentages as high as 32 to 50. But the breakout for other fields is as follows: **physical sciences (16,4%), math (16.6%), electrical engineering (4.9%), and other engineering ranges from 0.8% for aeronautical to 13.9% for industrial.** »

FRENKEL Karen, Women in computing, in *Communications of the ACM*, vol. 33, n°11, novembre 1990, p. 34-47.

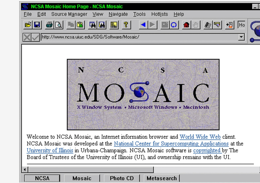
3. L'informatique comme « culture technique virile »

iMac For Men



iMac For woman





1950

1960

1970

1980

1990

2000

Informatique de recherche et militaire
/
Informatique comme culture technique minoritaire
/
Assimilation à un travail de bureau

« Big business »
/
Montée en reconnaissance
/
Valeurs d'agôn capitalistique

Règne de la micro
/
Socialisations masculines pré-professionnelles

Ère de la multitude

La
« naturalisation »
des qualités
féminines

Cosmopolitan (1967)

Publicité Burrough (1960)

ENSMENGER Nathan, *The computer boys take over : computers, programmers, and the politics of technical expertise*, The MIT Press, Cambridge, 2010, 255 p.



The Computer Girls

BY LOIS MANDEL

A trainee gets \$8,000 a year ... a girl "senior systems analyst" gets \$20,000—and up! Maybe it's time to investigate...

Ann Richardson, IBM systems engineer, designs a bridge via computer. Above (left) she checks her facts with fellow systems engineer, Marvin V. Fuchs. Right, she feeds facts into the computer. Below, Ann demonstrates on a viewing screen how her facts designed the bridge, and makes changes with a "light pen."

Twenty years ago, a girl could be a secretary, a school teacher ... maybe a librarian, a social worker or a nurse. If she was really ambitious, she could go into the professions and compete with men ... usually working harder and longer to earn less pay for the same job.

Now have come the big, dazzling computers—and a whole new kind of work for women: programming. Telling the miracle machines what to do and how to do it. Anything from predicting the weather to sending out billing notices from the local department store.

And if it doesn't sound like woman's work—well, it just is. ("I had this idea I'd be standing at a big machine and pressing buttons all day long," says a girl who programs for a Los Angeles bank. I couldn't have been further off the track. I figure out how the

computer can solve a problem, and then instruct the machine to do it."

"It's just like planning a dinner," explains Dr. Grace Hooper, now a staff scientist in systems programming for Univac. (She helped develop the first electronic digital computer, the Eniac, in 1946.) "You have to plan ahead and schedule everything so it's ready when you need it. Programming requires patience and the ability to handle detail. Women are 'naturals' at computer programming."

What she's talking about is *aptitude*—the one most important quality a girl needs to become a programmer. She also needs a keen, logical mind. And if that zeroes out the old Billie Burke-Gracie Allen image of femininity, it's about time, because this is the age of the Computer Girls. There are twenty thousand of them in the United (cont. on page 54)



Photos by Henry Grossman. Dress by Gino Chiolo.

52



Assessor Donald S. Hatten, left, with County Auditor Mrs. Julia Deigh is at the Burroughs keyboard.

BURROUGHS F-2500 COMPUTERS TRIM TAX-BILLING TIME 60% FOR CLACKAMAS COUNTY, OREGON

The scene: Clackamas County courthouse, Oregon City, Oregon. **The jobs:** tax billing, tax collection posting, tax distribution, real and personal property assessment calculation. **The problem:** an increasing work load and fixed time limitations. **The equipment:** three Burroughs F-2500 Computers. **The results,** in the words of County Assessor Donald S. Hatten: "The computers have greatly strengthened our existing system, and were installed without disrupting our established routines. They're saving us 90% on calculating and processing real property reappraisals ... and they've cut our tax billing time 60%."

Clackamas is one of many counties helped to new accounting efficiency by Burroughs office automation equipment. For details, action—and results—call our nearby branch now. Or write Burroughs Corporation, Detroit 24, Michigan.



Burroughs Corporation

"SEE" BURROUGHS / it's automatic and fast processing action!

THE AMERICAN CITY • September 1960

275

La longue histoire des « cultures techniques viriles »

- Socialisation précoce et domestique ;
- Liens forts avec le professionnel.
- *Agôn* (ἀγών) placé au cœur des pratiques.

**RADIO
AMATEUR
NEWS**
REG. U.S. PAT. OFF.

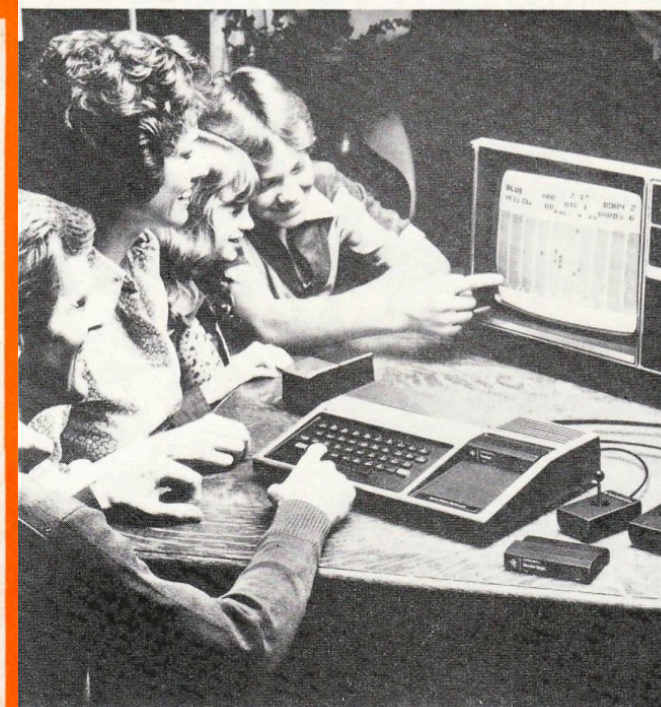
20 Cents
APRIL
1920

Over 100 Illustrations
Edited by H. GERNSBACK

A MODERN
RADIOPHONE



"THE 100% WIRELESS MAGAZINE"



Texas Instrument (1979)

Voir HARING Kristen, *Ham radio's technical culture*, MIT press, Cambridge, 2007, 220 p.

En guise de conclusion et d'amorce aux discussions de cette journée :

- Les femmes ont depuis l'origine de « l'informatique » été **mises à l'écart du pouvoir** en dépit de quelques grandes figures.
- L'évolution de l'informatique dans la société s'est accompagnée d'une **déferlante masculine dans les formations et l'emploi**.
- L'informatique participe au travers de certaines de ses valeurs des « **cultures techniques viriles** ».
- **Quelle voie emprunter entre changement et soumission aux valeurs d'une « culture technique virile » ?**



Marissa Mayer ex-Google, ex-Yahoo

La fosse aux "bro" : des anciens de la tech racontent "l'enfer" de la Silicon Valley

Partager 424 Twitter Partager in Partager 20



© Studio Graphique France Media Monde | Le "bro" est un mâle, blanc, qui croit qu'il est encore dans une confrérie d'université alors qu'il travaille pour certaines des plus puissantes entreprises du monde.

Texte par Sébastien SEIBT [Suivre](#)

Dernière modification : 14/03/2017

Deux anciens leaders de la tech mondiale ont détaillé, durant le festival de l'innovation SXSW, à Austin, les dérives de la Silicon Valley. Ils décrivent cette "culture bro", qui consiste à vivre comme des "frères" dans un esprit ultra compétitif.

Article de 2017 sur la « culture bro »