retroTECH Collection Development Policy

Mission Statement

retroTECH is a Georgia Tech Library program in which the campus community can create the future by exploring the past. With the emerging retroTECH Lab as a home base, students, faculty, staff, alumni, researchers, and community partners engage in hands-on research, DIY peer-to-peer digital archiving, experiential learning, and outreach around the evolution of technology.

Collection Development Policy

The vision for the retroTECH Lab entails a highly curated combination of classic, vintage hardware and software and modern tools for digital archiving and emulation, all designed to be accessed and used. retroTECH aims to inspire a cultural mindset that emphasizes the importance of personal archives, open access to digital heritage, and long-term thinking.

Archivists from the Georgia Institute of Technology Archives, in consultation with the retroTECH Team, evaluate hardware, software, and other materials offered to retroTECH according to the following criteria, listed in order of priority:

- Experiential learning value
    - Can the material be used for hands-on learning, teaching, and research?
- Uniqueness
    - Are members of the Georgia Tech community unlikely to have access to the material outside of the retroTECH Lab?
- Relevance to the Georgia Tech community
    - Was the material developed, used, or studied at Georgia Tech or in the region?
    - Was the material developed, used, or studied by Georgia Tech faculty, staff, alumni, or regional community members?
- Relevance to the history of technology
    - Does the material reflect communities, innovations, and aspects of technology history that have been overlooked previously?
    - Does the material embody an important moment in the evolution of technology?

Due to space restrictions, the Archives cannot accept everything retroTECH is offered, nor can the Archives make guarantees about preservation or exhibition of materials.

If you're interested in donating materials to retroTECH, please contact the Georgia Tech Archives: archives@library.gatech.edu **or (404) 894-4586.** If the materials fit within the retroTECH Collection Development Policy or the Georgia Tech Archives Collection Development Policy, we will arrange for you to complete the retroTECH Donation Agreement Form and transfer the materials.

Equipment and hardware of particular interest to retroTECH

- Vintage personal computers (Apple, Atari, IBM, etc.)
- Small vintage enterprise systems and minicomputers (IBM, DEC, HP, AT&T, etc.)
- Vintage hardware used in computing at Georgia Tech, in Atlanta, or the Southeast
- Vintage video game consoles
- Vintage portable and mobile devices
- Small televisions from the 1960s - 1980s
- 5.25" and 8" floppy drives and disks
- Examples of analog computing

Software of particular interest to retroTECH

- retroTECH is interested in collecting a wide variety of vintage and current application and system software, including but not limited to:
  - Operating systems
  - Software developed at Georgia Tech, in Atlanta, or the Southeast
  - Software developed by Georgia Tech alumni
  - Computer programming software
  - Computer-aided manufacturing and drawing software
  - Computer and video games
  - Productivity software (word processors, spreadsheet software, etc.)
  - Multimedia and graphics software
  - Communication and networking tools and software