

Worlds Largest HP Calculator Documentation Library?

Richard J. Nelson 090906

I became an HP calculator enthusiast upon seeing an HP-35A calculator after a friend who worked for HP ordered one of the earliest machines. I described this in detail in my article, *Remembering the HP-35A*⁽¹⁾.

Two years later I started a User's Group which morphed from the HP-65 Users Club to CHHU over a 12 year period. Because of this activity I have known thousands of serious HP Calculator users, and I have known many HP people related to calculator design, sales, marketing, manufacturing, and technical support.

Because of my 37 years of continuous active HP Calculator User Community involvement, including HHCs, I have collected a large number of HP Calculator related documents. These documents include Letters, Photographs, Brochures, Owner's Manuals⁽²⁾, Service Manuals, Programs, Solution Books, Newsletters (HP external and internal⁽³⁾), Magazines, Books, Patents⁽⁴⁾, Magnetic Media, Operating System Dumps, External Reference Specifications, Barcode manuals, and Advertisements.

My HP calculator documentation is not just of my own personal gathering. My documents have come from many sources such as:

- a. Club members continually sending documents to me.
- b. Widow's sent me their spouses document collection.
- c. HP sent me documents as part of their support of the Club.
- d. Third party suppliers sent me information about their products to be reviewed in club publications.
- e. Receiving dealer documents representing EduCALC at many, CESs, Consumer Electronics Shows.
- f. Documents from all calculator manufactures from attending over 40 consecutive CES Shows.
- g. Receiving technical documents as EduCALC's New Product/Technical Support Manager. Many of these were from third party suppliers.
- h. HP sales people sent me their document collections when they either left HP or retired.
- i. HP factory staff members sent me documents they knew were of interest to me.
- j. Book authors often shared with me documents related to their writing/research projects.
- k. One time shipment of over a dozen pallets of HP's Technical Support documents when HP moved from Corvallis to Singapore.
- l. Jim Carter's calculator documents when EduCALC closed its doors in 1998 after more than 20 years.
- m. Duplicate copies of HHC proceedings.

When EduCALC closed I was unemployed, I had to sell my home, and put all this material into storage for ten years⁽⁵⁾. I then shipped it all to Mesa Arizona and unpacked it seeing much of it for the first time.

1. See a detailed article that describes the HP-35A at:

<http://holyjoe.net/hhc2007/Remembering%20The%20HP35A.pdf>

2. An Owner's Manual is the document that provides the calculator owner with all the information needed to use, protect, apply, and service the calculator. HP changed this manual name several times with the 95 different calculators since the HP-35A. See <http://holyjoe.net/hhc2007/HPs%20Calculator%20Manuals.pdf>

3. See appendix C of the article referenced in note 1.

4. See HP Calculator Master Patent List at:

<http://holyjoe.net/hhc2009/HP%20Calculator%20Master%20Patent%20List%20V9.pdf>

5. The ten years of storage in Southern California, and the eventual shipping of the 18,000 pounds to Mesa was an expensive exercise; \$24,000 10 year space rent, and \$ 5,600 shipping.

This article describes my Library. I recently completed the first phase of unpacking and presorting of most of these documents. The next phase will be unpacking the remaining 106 boxes. These contain eight years of HP materials from my AMF office before retiring that were not in storage. When all documents are in one place the serious sorting/organizing may begin.

I converted my dining/living room into a library/living room as shown in figure one. The total space dedicated to HP documentation, including magnetic media, is 26 book cases, 21 of which are shown in the figure. Five stacks are visible with the sixth stack across the back wall. Total shelf space is 477



Fig. 1 – Six shelving stacks for HP Calculator documents.



Fig. 2 – Living room side showing additional book cases.

linear feet. The space on the left has a desk and computer. Figure two shows the living room end with four additional book cases visible. The book case at the far right shows HP catalogs from 1968 to 2000. I have eight duplicate years – 72, 89x2, 90, 92, 93, 96, & 97. I would like to trade for my missing 1999 and 2001 to present.

The HP products represented are all of HP’s calculators, the HP 95, HP 100, & HP 200, and the series 80 products produced by CVD.

The bulk of this documentation and software came from HP’s move to Singapore, k, in the list above. Multiple copies of the manuals are

included in the figure one space of stack one on the left. See close up of one section in figure 3. The multiple copies are not only because of the many engineers who comprised the Technical Support Department (Applications Eng.). Many manuals were revised, and all versions needed to be on hand. HP’s newsletter editor Henry Horn wrote H² on his manuals, for example. Another name legacy HP Users will recognize is Janet Cryer (her maiden name). In addition, some manuals are in other languages such as German, but I have very few foreign language versions.

HP produced a vast array of solution booklets, applications books, and User’s Library programs. One example is the largest of these series; the HP67/97 User’s Library Solutions booklets as shown in figure four. There were 40 titles or groups of approximately a dozen programs listed and documented in these booklets. Even with the Internet as a resource these booklets still offer information only known to the specialists in a particular field. Table 1 lists



Fig. 3 – Partial view of owner’s manual section.

the titles. Some of these booklets had a second booklet containing the bar code listings of the programs.



The top booklet of each title has the number of table 1 marked in the upper right corner. With so many titles the covers were not intended to be unique and an artistic generic cover with some color variation was used.

When all of these booklets are put on the shelf the space required is seven feet. They may be seen on the top four shelves of the end book case in figure one. According to my notes these booklets were sent to me during an HP house cleaning in December of 1986 long before the big pallet shipment.

Fig. 4 – Complete set of HP-67/97 User’s Library Solutions booklets. I mentioned that there were several series of program books. Once a set of RPN programs were written they could easily be adapted to a new model. Figure five shows a representative sample of additional books that make up their own series. The HP-41C series booklets are yet to be sorted, but they comprise a stack of about four feet.

Table 1 – HP-67/97 Solution Booklet Titles

1. Aeronautical Engineering	15. Earth Sciences	29. Options/Technical stock Analysis
2. Aircraft Operation	16. EE (LAB)	30. Photo Dark Room
3. Anesthesia	17. Energy Conservation	31. Physics
4. Antennas	18. Forestry	32. Portfolio Management/Bonds & Notes
5. Astrology	19. Games	33. Pulmonary
6. Avigation	20. Games of Chance	34. Real Estate Investment
7. Beams And Columns	21. Geometry	35. Reliability / QA
8. Butterworth & Chebyshev filters	22. High-level Math	36. Small Business
9. Biology	23. Home Construction Estimating	37. Space Science
10. Calendars	24. Home Management	38. Taxes, 1979 Taxes
11. Cardiac	25. Industrial Engineering	39. Test Statistics
12. Chemistry	26. Marketing / Sales	40. Thermal And Transport Science
13. Gogo-Surveying	27. Medical Practitioner	
14. Control systems	28. Optics	

The small booklets on the left of figure five are 4-5/8” x 6-3/4” in size, and I have nearly 11 feet of these. While the ones shown in the figure are part of a series, HP produced two booklets dedicated to the general subject of RPN – for scientific models and finance models. If I receive requests for them I will add the scientific version – 1978 to 1980 – to the HHC 2009 Conference proceedings. They are quite nice and there are no books that describe HP’s RPN available these days.

When time allows – after the Conference – I will continue to unpack and sort these and make a listing of them for the next revision of this document.

Do you need a hard copy of an HP Calculator manual? Some are very difficult to get. The HP-16C and HP-70A are manuals that are less common. If you need an HP Calculator document send me an email at the address on the next page.



Fig. 5 – Solution booklets and application booklets supporting the HP-34C, HP-18C, HP-27S, HP-19C, HP-33E, HP-33C, HP-19C, and HP-29C in addition to the HP-41C. There are other series.

I will donate some HP-41 documents and add them to the Door Prize list in about a week.

Once I am completely unpacked, organized and inventoried I will be in a better position to decide what I should do with the duplicates. I will update this document as I get organized.

One very important bit of information that we all need is a list of HP Calculator documents that are not presently available on the Internet. Eventually I, or someone, will be able to scan these and make them available. There is, however, a lot of information in my library. Does anyone else have a comparable HP Calculator Documentation collection? Jake Schwartz suggests, “You ask who might have a comparable HP calc documentation collection, and the only two people I can think of who might come close is Warren Furlow (of www.hp41.org) and Matthias Wehrli in Switzerland (who does www.hp-collection.org over there).” I look forward to comments from the HP Calculator User Community on how to best preserve and share this library.

X <> Y,

Richard J. Nelson

rjnelsoncf@cox.net

September 6, 2009

In addition to the documents described above I have 45 boxes of well over 100,000 loose sheets of HP-65 Users Club, PPC, and CHHU letters and notes stored in my laundry room. Approximately 1/3rd of these are in marked folders. Most of the PPC materials were trashed by Emmett Ingram when he took legal control of PPC. This is the best I could do to save a bit of HP User Community Calculator history. Figure six shows some of these documents.



Fig. 6 – Boxes of loose sheets and files. The bottom two rows are ream paper boxes and the sheets are stacked side by side so they approximate 5,000 pieces of paper each. There are 45 total boxes at the moment. This will take a great deal of time to sort through.