STAFF

William B. Pickett, *Co-Founder, Historian*

Dr. Pickett is a senior professor of history at Rose-Hulman Institute of Technology. He has been a Fulbright professor in Japan and is the author of numerous books and articles on American political and diplomatic history and the history of technology. He has taught courses about the historical impact of the Web, and in 2004 he initiated and was co-chair of a conference called "The World Wide Web at Ten: The Dream and the Reality" commemorating the 10th anniversary of the commercial Web.

Marc Weber, *Co-Founder, Collections and Communications Specialist*

Mr. Weber is an award-winning journalist and technology writer, and co-founder of Arcady Press. He was the first person to research the Web's origins as a historical topic, starting in 1995. He co-founded the World Wide Web History Project in 1996 with the assistance of Sir Tim Berners-Lee and many other Web pioneers. Mr. Weber and the Project members interviewed all main sources and assembled the largest archive of early Web historical material to date. He and Kevin Hughes organized the first Web History Day and Exhibit for the 6th International World Wide Web Conference of 1997.

Kevin Hughes, *Digital Architecture Advisor*

As a pioneering Web designer and programmer, Mr. Hughes established many of the conventions we now take for granted with his sites for Honolulu Community College, CommerceNet, and later Commerce One and many others. He is one of the six members of the World Wide Web Hall of Fame, which includes Sir Berners-Lee. He was a co-founder of the Web History Project and co-organizer with Marc Weber of the 1997 Web History Day. He is the designer of Footsteps, the digital library architecture that when completed will allow people to both browse and contribute to the Web History Center's collections.

Barbara J. Mullen, *Archival Coordinator*

Ms. Mullen, after many years managing niche projects in the insurance industry, served as project manager, archival coordinator, and editorial assistant to Dr. Pickett in writing and publishing a history of Rose-Hulman Institute of Technology. She joined the staff of Rose-Hulman Ventures in 2000. She is the founder of a not-for-profit organization, Ministry for Clergy Families.

REGIONAL REPRESENTATIVES

Robert Cailliau, *European Coordinator, France*
Founding Web pioneer at CERN.

Jenny Raggett, *Representative, United Kingdom*
Writer on HTML and the Web.

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- **Marc Weber**
- **Bebo White**

WHC TEAM

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  Co-Founder, Historian

*Marc Weber
  Co-Founder, Collections and Communications Specialist

*Robert Cailliau
  European Coordinator
  Founding Web Pioneer at CERN

*Jean-Francois Groff
  Web Tools Expert
  Web Pioneer at CERN

*Bebo White
  Webologist
  Web Pioneer at Stanford Linear Accelerator Center

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  Center for History and New Media,
  George Mason University

*Kevin Hughes
  Digital Architecture Advisor
  Web pioneer in site design, CommerceNet, ChipIn

*Jenny Raggett
  UK Representative
  Pioneering HTML book author

*Marty Tenenbaum
  Web Pioneer in e-Commerce
  Chairman and Founder, CommerceNet

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*Donald Kennedy
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  President Emeritus, Stanford University

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WEB HISTORY ⊕ CENTER

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www.webhistory.org

The World Wide Web History Center

KNOW THE PAST. INVENT THE FUTURE.

PURPOSE

The Web History Center (WHC) is a non-profit educational organization to make public the history of the World Wide Web and preserve it for posterity. It will:
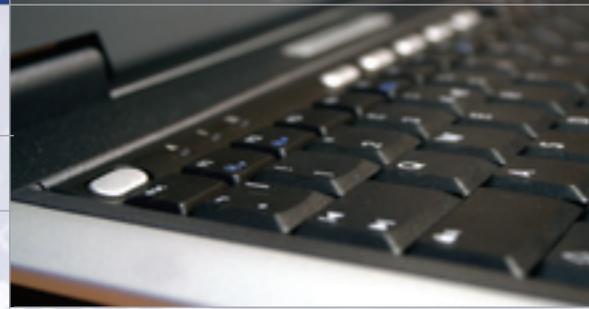
- Spearhead an urgent campaign to help *save critical historic materials* which are at risk—and to put programs in place to safeguard the record of the Web's ongoing development

- Serve as the coordinating body for *Web History Center Members*. These already include many pioneers in the Web's development, both people and companies, as well as leading institutions in the history of technology field

- Provide a means of *public access* to the Web's history for scholars, the press, authors, and all who are interested, through a shared digital library of historical materials, and also through events, exhibits, and educational programs

www.webhistory.org

WHY IT MATTERS

In just a decade the vast growth of the Web has utterly transformed the ways that most of us use and store information, perhaps as completely as the printing press did starting half a millennium ago. The process continues, with no end in sight.

Yet many of the records of this historic transformation—and the little known 75-year history of brilliant innovation that led to it—are disappearing. Every day thousands of pages and untold bytes of irreplaceable source material are lost. Software programs that blazed trails in the science of handling information deteriorate on old disks and tapes without backups. New Web professionals are often unaware of prior achievements in their own field, and the resulting ignorance can slow innovation.

Since 1995 interest in various aspects of Web history has gathered momentum, and this has led to some important successes in saving portions of our digital heritage. These include the preservation work of the former Web History Project and especially that of some of the world-class institutions now becoming Web History Center members (see reverse).

But until now, no single entity has been tracking or tying together those independent efforts. There has been no clearinghouse for information for either archivists or the public, no coordinated preservation initiative, and no easy access to the materials already preserved.

By addressing these unmet needs, the WHC will save significant amounts of at-risk materials. Because the main role of the WHC will be to *facilitate* the preservation of materials by existing institutions rather than duplicate their efforts, from the outset it will have a permanent, tangible impact on how much of the history of our digital heritage is available to future generations.

WHO WE ARE

The Web History Center is assembling on one team some of the people and institutions most qualified to record the Web's history. The core organization will include individuals and resources from the ten-year-old Web History Project, from Rose-Hulman Institute of Technology, and from the group that originally developed the Web at CERN (European Organization for Nuclear Research) including its co-founder Robert Cailliau. The Web History Center uses the domain "www.webhistory.org", one of the best-known in this field. It was registered by the Web History Project in 1996 and has a consistent search engine ranking at or near the top for "Web history".

Major Activities

- A one-time, five-to-eight year drive to preserve the main records of the Web's history through the present
- An ongoing program to record the continuing history of the Web as it unfolds
- Multiple routes for public access and input, including the open version of the Web history digital archive, educational programs, exhibits, and events such as the upcoming 2007 Web History Day

Sustainability and Evaluation

The WHC is developing a sustainability plan based on income from grants and gifts, corporate memberships, advertising, and possibly other means of self-support.

The Center is developing an evaluation program with clearly measurable objectives and outcomes, to be assessed at regular intervals using a number of metrics.

Locations

The WHC has its main activities hosted at the Computer History Museum in the San Francisco Bay Area and at Rose-Hulman Institute of Technology in Terre Haute, Indiana with representatives near Geneva, Switzerland and near Bath in the United Kingdom.

"The good thing about digital media is that you can save everything. The bad thing about digital media is that you can lose everything"

– Brewster Kahle,
pioneer, founder of The Internet Archive