



Guide to the Larry A. Summers Papers, 1981-1985 — 124.5557

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English

Describing Archives: A Content Standard

Brian Sutton-Smith Library and Archives of Play at The Strong

The Strong

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Summary Information

Repository:	Brian Sutton-Smith Library and Archives of Play at The Strong
Creator:	Atari, Inc. Home Computer Division
Creator:	Atari, Inc.
Creator:	Summers, Larry A.
Creator:	Packet Technologies Inc.
Title:	Larry A. Summers papers
ID:	124.5557
ID [aspace_uri]:	/repositories/3/resources/331
Date [inclusive]:	1981-1984
Physical Description:	0.2 Linear Feet (1 folder)
Language of the Material:	English
Mixed Materials [box]:	Individual Manuscripts Box 6
[folder]:	10
Abstract:	The Larry A. Summer papers include materials related to Larry Summers' work on electronic games for Atari and Packet Technologies in the 1980s. The materials date from 1981 to 1985 and include a newspaper article, a letter of recommendation, a manuscript, a program manual, a newsletter, and graphics print outs.

Preferred Citation

Larry A. Summers papers, Brian Sutton-Smith Library and Archives of Play at The Strong.

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Biographical Note

Larry A. Summers worked at Atari in the early 1980s in the Games Design Research Group under Chris Crawford. Summers and Crawford created the game *Excalibur*, about King Arthur's court, which was published by Atari Program Exchange. Crawford designed *Excalibur*, and Summers was the programming project leader. In 1982, Summers and Crawford were laid off by Atari and eventually went to work for Packet Technologies Inc. At Packet, Summers created the unpublished game "Arabian Adventures."

Summers' games were made with the creative aspects of game design, rather than revenue, at the forefront. Crawford expressed his support for Summers in a recommendation letter which characterized him by his optimism, sense of professional duty and good design.

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Collection Scope and Content Note

The Larry A. Summer papers document Larry Summers' career as a programmer of electronic games for Atari and Packet Technologies in the 1980s. The materials date from 1981 to 1985 and consist of text and printed material. The papers are arranged chronologically.

The material includes an internal Atari publication, volume 1 number 4, *Atari 81: Facilities*; a photocopy of a 1982 article in the *San Jose Mercury*, "2 games programmers meet unemployment head-on," by Evelyn Richards; a 1983 program manual for *Excaliber* published by Atari Program Exchange; a letter of recommendation for Larry Summers written by Chris Crawford circa 1984; Functional Specifications for the "Arabian Adventures" by Larry A. Summers, revised 1985 January 20; and undated color printouts of game graphics, likely from Arabian Adventures.

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System of Arrangement

The papers are arranged in chronological order.

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The Larry Summers papers were donated to The Strong in September 2024 as a gift from Kay Savetz. The papers were accessioned by The Strong under object ID 124.5557. The papers were received from Kay Savetz in one envelope.

Processed by

Laura Boland, January 2025.

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Controlled Access Headings

- Games -- Video & Electronic

- Video games
- Video games -- Design
- Video games -- Development
- Video games industry
- Crawford, Chris