Clubs, Conferences, Books, (CDs!) and the Internet: Information Sources for Handhelds Users
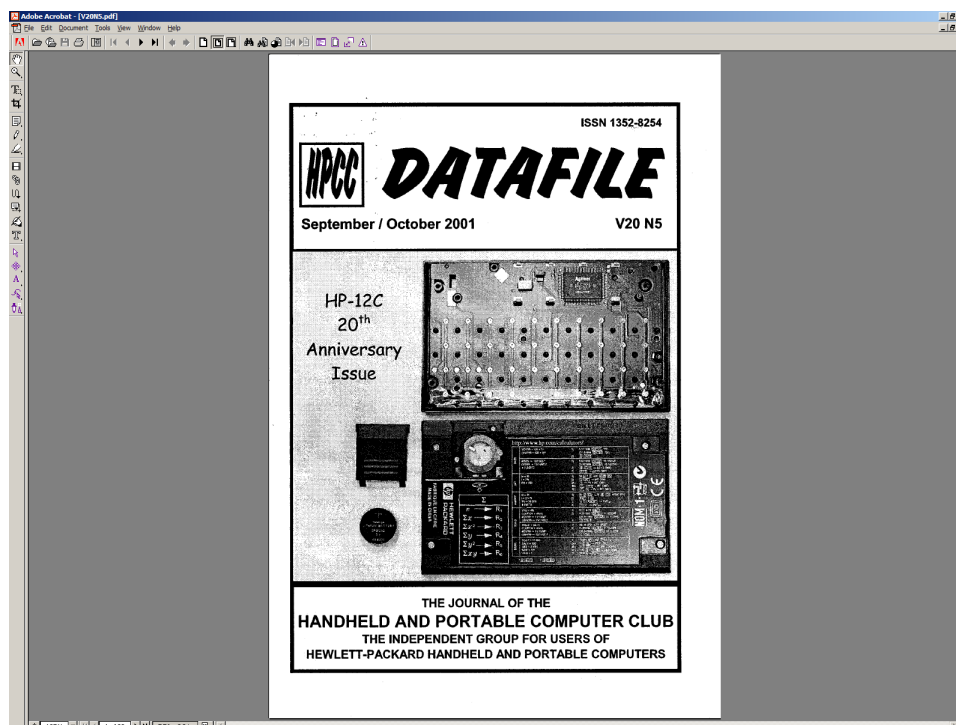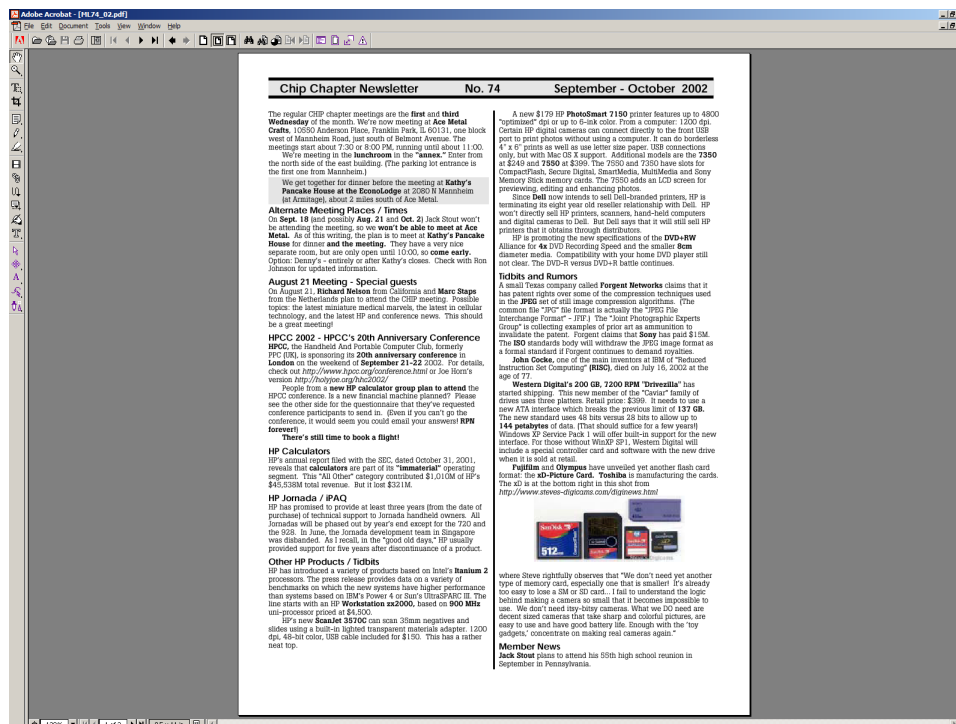
Jake Schwartz

Clubs

U.S.
- Orange County, California (CHHU/PPC)
- Chicago-area (CHIP) group (www.chip.chicago.il.us)
- Philadelphia-area (PAHHC) (www.magpage.com/~jakes/pahhc.htm)
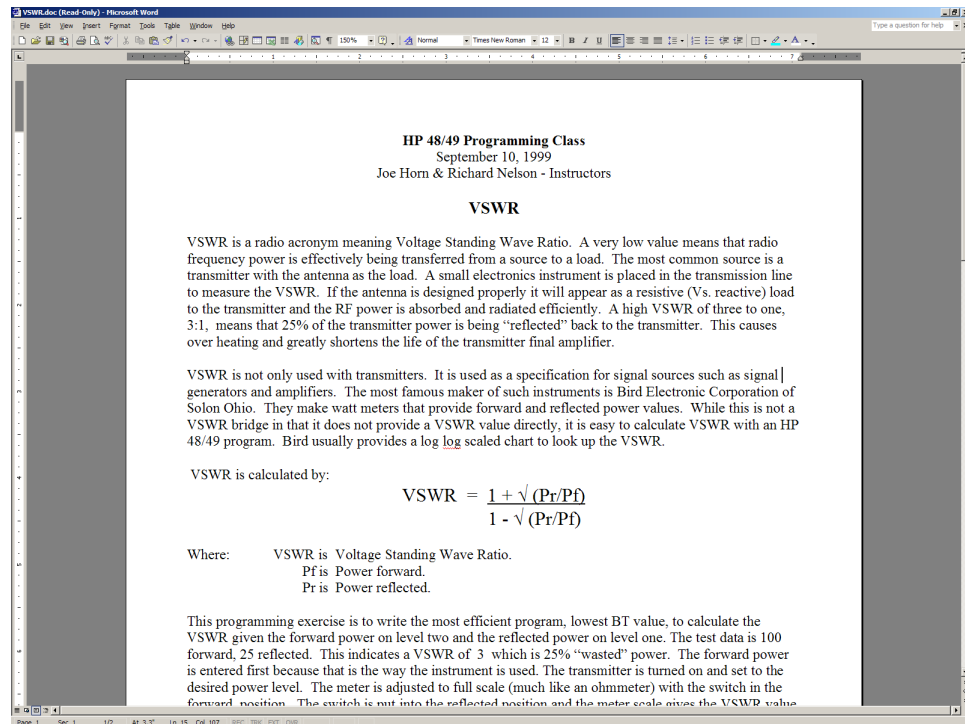- Richard Nelson's and Joseph Horn's HP48 Programming Class Notes (see HHC2000/2001 CD)

Europe
- HPCC (UK) (www.hpcc.org)
- PCX (Belgium)
- Paris group (France)
- Prompt (Netherlands)
- Others?

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Chip Chapter Newsletter   **No. 74**   **September - October 2002**

The regular CHIP chapter meetings are the **first** and **third Wednesday** of the month. We're now meeting at **Ace Metal Crafts**, 10650 Anderson Place, Franklin Park, IL 60131, one block west of Mannheim Road, just south of Belmont Avenue. The meetings start about 7:30 or 8:00 PM, running until about 11:00.

We're meeting in the **lunchroom** in the **"annex."** Enter from the north side of the east building. (The parking lot entrance is the first one from Mannheim.)

We get together for dinner before the meeting at **Kathy's Pancake House at the EconoLodge** at 2080 N Mannheim (at Armitage), about 2 miles south of Ace Metal.

Alternate Meeting Places / Times
On **Sept. 18** (and possibly **Aug. 21** and **Oct. 2**) Jack Stout won't be attending the meeting, so we **won't be able to meet at Ace Metal.** As of this writing, the plan is to meet at **Kathy's Pancake House** for dinner **and the meeting.** They have a very nice separate room, but are only open until 10:00, so **come early.** Option: Denny's - entirely or after Kathy's closes. Check with Ron Johnson for updated information.

August 21 Meeting - Special guests
On August 21, **Richard Nelson** from California and **Marc Staps** from the Netherlands plan to attend the CHIP meeting. Possible topics: the latest miniature medical marvels, the latest in cellular technology, and the latest HP and conference news. This should be a great meeting!

HPCC 2002 - HPCC's 20th Anniversary Conference
HPCC, the Handheld And Portable Computer Club, formerly PPC (UK), is sponsoring its **20th anniversary conference** in **London** on the weekend of **September 21-22** 2002. For details, check out http://www.hpcc.org/conference.html or Joe Horn's version http://holyjoe.org/hhc2002/

People from a **new HP calculator group plan to attend** the HPCC conference. Is a new financial machine planned? Please see the other side for the questionnaire that they've requested conference participants to send in. (Even if you can't go the conference, it would seem you could email your answers! **RPN forever!**)

There's still time to book a flight!

HP Calculators
HP's annual report filed with the SEC, dated October 31, 2001, reveals that **calculators** are part of its **"Immaterial"** operating segment. This "All Other" category contributed $1,010M of HP's $45,538M total revenue. But it lost $321M.

HP Jornada / iPAQ
HP has promised to provide at least three years (from the date of purchase) of technical support to Jornada handheld owners. All Jornadas will be phased out by year's end except for the 720 and the 928. In June, the Jornada development team in Singapore was disbanded. As I recall, in the "good old days," HP usually provided support for five years after discontinuance of a product.

Other HP Products / Tidbits
HP has introduced a variety of products based on Intel's **Itanium 2** processors. The press release provides data on a variety of benchmarks on which the new systems have higher performance than systems based on IBM's Power 4 or Sun's UltraSPARC III. The line starts with an HP **Workstation zx2000**, based on **900 MHz** uni-processor priced at $4,500.

HP's new **ScanJet 3570C** can scan 35mm negatives and slides using a built-in lighted transparent materials adapter. 1200 dpi, 48-bit color, USB cable included for $150. This has a rather neat top.

A new $179 HP **PhotoSmart 7150** printer features up to 4800 "optimized" dpi or up to 6-ink color. From a computer: 1200 dpi. Certain HP digital cameras can connect directly to the front USB port to print photos without using a computer. It can do borderless 4" x 6" prints as well as use letter size paper. USB connections only, but with Mac OS X support. Additional models are the **7350** at $249 and **7550** at $399. The 7550 and 7350 have slots for CompactFlash, Secure Digital, SmartMedia, MultiMedia and Sony Memory Stick memory cards. The 7550 adds an LCD screen for previewing, editing and enhancing photos.

Since **Dell** now intends to sell Dell-branded printers, HP is terminating its eight year old reseller relationship with Dell. HP won't directly sell HP printers, scanners, hand-held computers and digital cameras to Dell. But Dell says that it will still sell HP printers that it obtains through distributors.

HP is promoting the new specifications of the **DVD+RW** Alliance for **4x** DVD Recording Speed and the smaller **8cm** diameter media. Compatibility with your home DVD player still not clear. The DVD-R versus DVD+R battle continues.

Tidbits and Rumors
A small Texas company called **Forgent Networks** claims that it has patent rights over some of the compression techniques used in the **JPEG** set of still image compression algorithms. (The common file "JPG" file format is actually the "JPEG File Interchange Format" - JFIF.) The "Joint Photographic Experts Group" is collecting examples of prior art as ammunition to invalidate the patent. Forgent claims that **Sony** has paid $15M. The **ISO** standards body will withdraw the JPEG image format as a formal standard if Forgent continues to demand royalties.

John Cocke, one of the main inventors at IBM of "Reduced Instruction Set Computing" **(RISC)**, died on July 16, 2002 at the age of 77.

Western Digital's 200 GB, 7,200 RPM "Drivezilla" has started shipping. This new member of the "Caviar" family of drives uses three platters. Retail price: $399. It needs to use a new ATA interface which breaks the previous limit of **137 GB.** The new standard uses 48 bits versus 28 bits to allow up to **144 petabytes** of data. (That should suffice for a few years!) Windows XP Service Pack 1 will offer built-in support for the new interface. For those without WinXP SP1, Western Digital will include a special controller card and software with the new drive when it is sold at retail.

Fujifilm and **Olympus** have unveiled yet another flash card format: the **xD-Picture Card. Toshiba** is manufacturing the cards. The xD is at the bottom right in this shot from http://www.steves-digicams.com/diginews.html

where Steve rightfully observes that "We don't need yet another type of memory card, especially one that is smaller! It's already too easy to lose a SM or SD card... I fail to understand the logic behind making a camera so small that it becomes impossible to use. We don't need itsy-bitsy cameras. What we DO need are decent sized cameras that take sharp and colorful pictures, are easy to use and have good battery life. Enough with the 'toy gadgets,' concentrate on making real cameras again."

Member News
Jack Stout plans to attend his 55th high school reunion in September in Pennsylvania.

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HPCC DATAFILE

September / October 2001   **V20 N5**

HP-12C
20th
Anniversary
Issue

THE JOURNAL OF THE
HANDHELD AND PORTABLE COMPUTER CLUB
THE INDEPENDENT GROUP FOR USERS OF
HEWLETT-PACKARD HANDHELD AND PORTABLE COMPUTERS

VSWR.doc (Read-Only) - Microsoft Word

HP 48/49 Programming Class
September 10, 1999
Joe Horn & Richard Nelson - Instructors

VSWR

VSWR is a radio acronym meaning Voltage Standing Wave Ratio. A very low value means that radio frequency power is effectively being transferred from a source to a load. The most common source is a transmitter with the antenna as the load. A small electronics instrument is placed in the transmission line to measure the VSWR. If the antenna is designed properly it will appear as a resistive (Vs. reactive) load to the transmitter and the RF power is absorbed and radiated efficiently. A high VSWR of three to one, 3:1, means that 25% of the transmitter power is being "reflected" back to the transmitter. This causes over heating and greatly shortens the life of the transmitter final amplifier.

VSWR is not only used with transmitters. It is used as a specification for signal sources such as signal generators and amplifiers. The most famous maker of such instruments is Bird Electronic Corporation of Solon Ohio. They make watt meters that provide forward and reflected power values. While this is not a VSWR bridge in that it does not provide a VSWR value directly, it is easy to calculate VSWR with an HP 48/49 program. Bird usually provides a log log scaled chart to look up the VSWR.

VSWR is calculated by:

$$VSWR \ = \ \frac{1 + \sqrt{(Pr/Pf)}}{1 - \sqrt{(Pr/Pf)}}$$

Where: VSWR is Voltage Standing Wave Ratio.
          Pf is Power forward.
          Pr is Power reflected.

This programming exercise is to write the most efficient program, lowest BT value, to calculate the VSWR given the forward power on level two and the reflected power on level one. The test data is 100 forward, 25 reflected. This indicates a VSWR of 3 which is 25% "wasted" power. The forward power is entered first because that is the way the instrument is used. The transmitter is turned on and set to the desired power level. The meter is adjusted to full scale (much like an ohmmeter) with the switch in the forward position. The switch is put into the reflected position and the meter scale gives the VSWR value

Conferences

Formal:
- 22 in U.S. between 1979 and 2001
- Several in Europe between 1982 and 2001

Informal:
- 17 in U.S. between 1986 and 1995
- Annual mini-conferences in London

Books / Publications

- ## Recent:
  - Gilberto Urroz' HP49 two-volume set, *Science and Engineering Mathematics with the HP49G* – see www.greatunpublished.com
  - Gene Wright's *Quantitative Analysis For Business* (uses HP10B, 12C and various TI calcs) – see www.rskey.org/gene/hpgene/book.html
  - Wlodek's *A Guide to HP Handheld Calculators and Computers* (issued 1995 – 1999),
  - Marc Staps' *Codenames of HP Handheld Calculators and PDSs: Facts and Speculations*
  - Thaddeus Computing: *Pocket PC* magazine (see www.pocketpcmag.com)
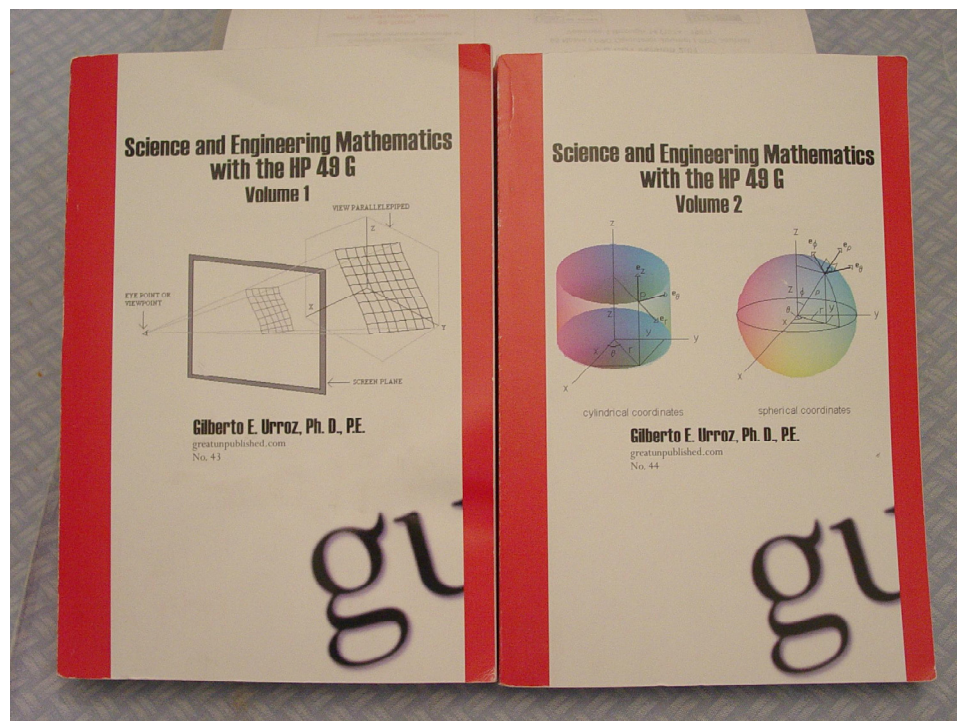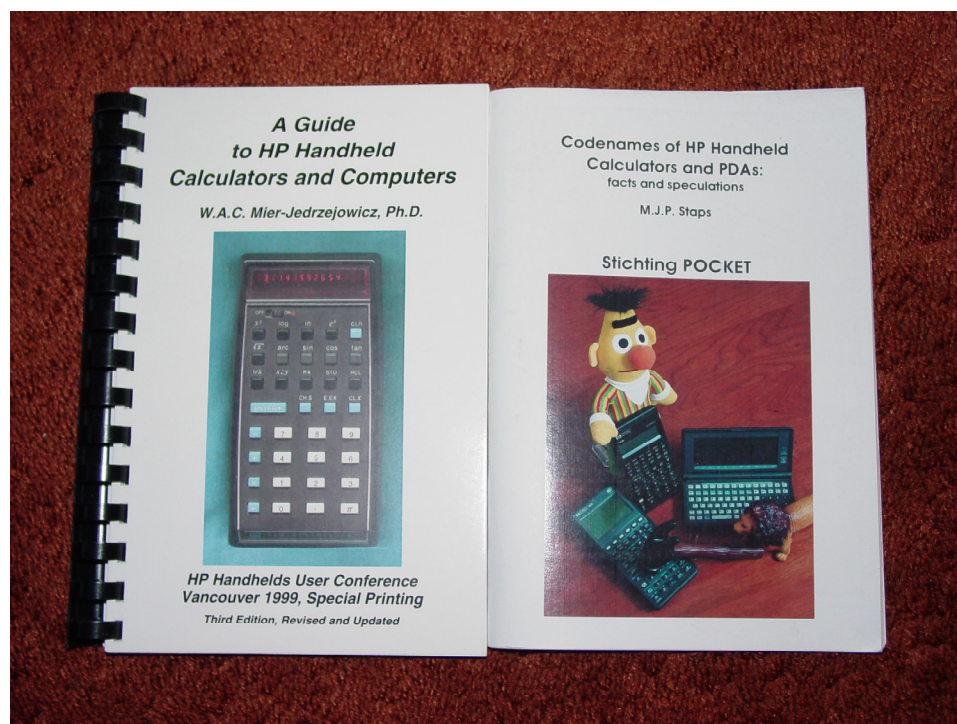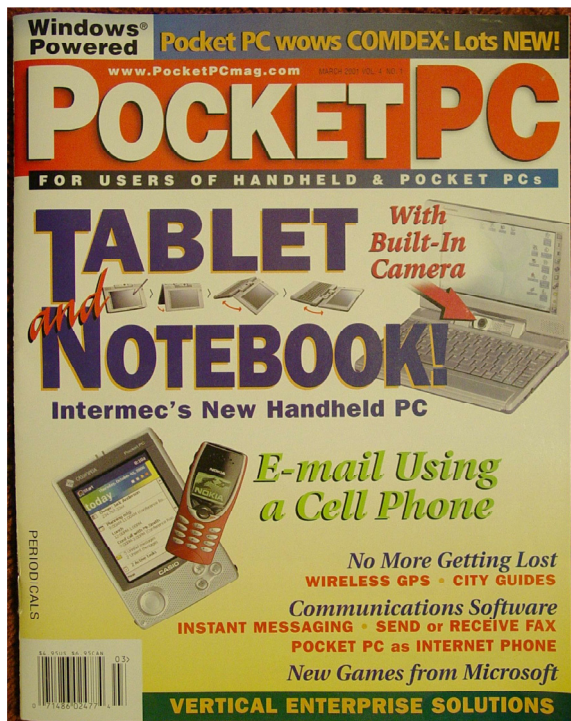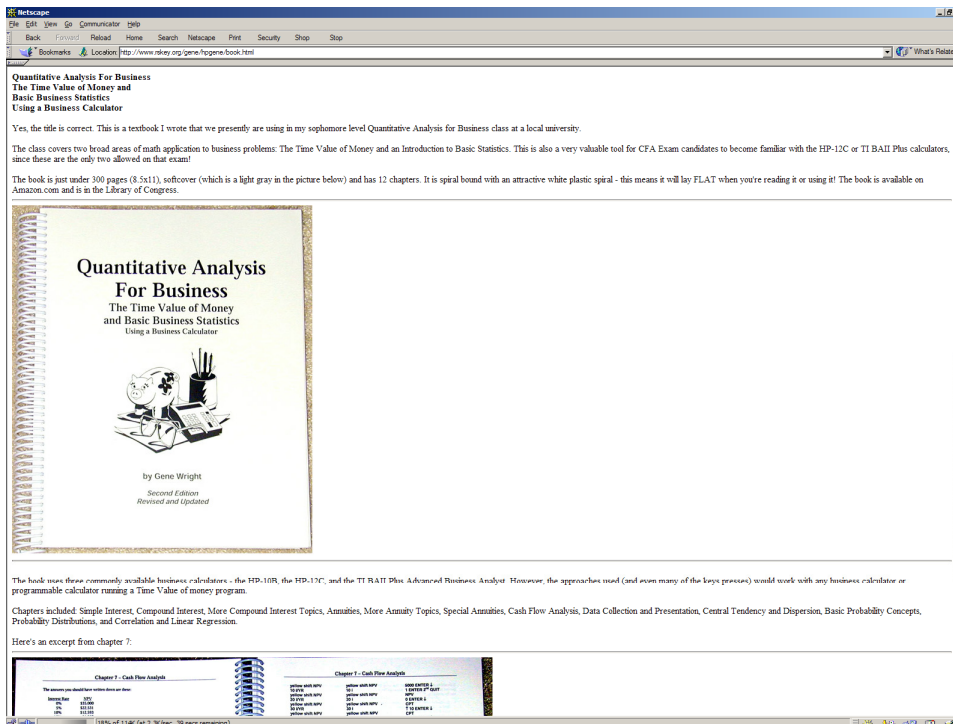
Internet

- Eric Rechlin's www.hpcalc.org site – the de facto HP reference
- HP Museum (Dave Hicks) www.hpmuseum.org
- Warren Furlow's HP41 Site www.hp41.org
- Jean-Yves HP38/39/40/49 materials – www.epita.fr/~avenar_j/hp/calc.html
- Gene Wright "older calculators" web site – www.rskey.org/gene/hpgene/index.html
- Craig Finseth's hpdata materials – www.finseth.com/~fin/hpdata.html
- HPCC (www.hpcc.org) , CHIP (www.chip.chicago.il.us), Thaddeus Computing (www.thaddeus.com), individuals' links
- HP Calculator Emulators for PCs, PDAs: www.epita.fr/~sebc/Emu48 , http://web.jet.es/leobueno/emu48.htm , many others
- New: Full HP48 emulator for Sony Clie running the Palm OS: www.mindspring.com/~hildinger/Power48/index_nn4.html
- Many Others: check the HP48 Web Ring
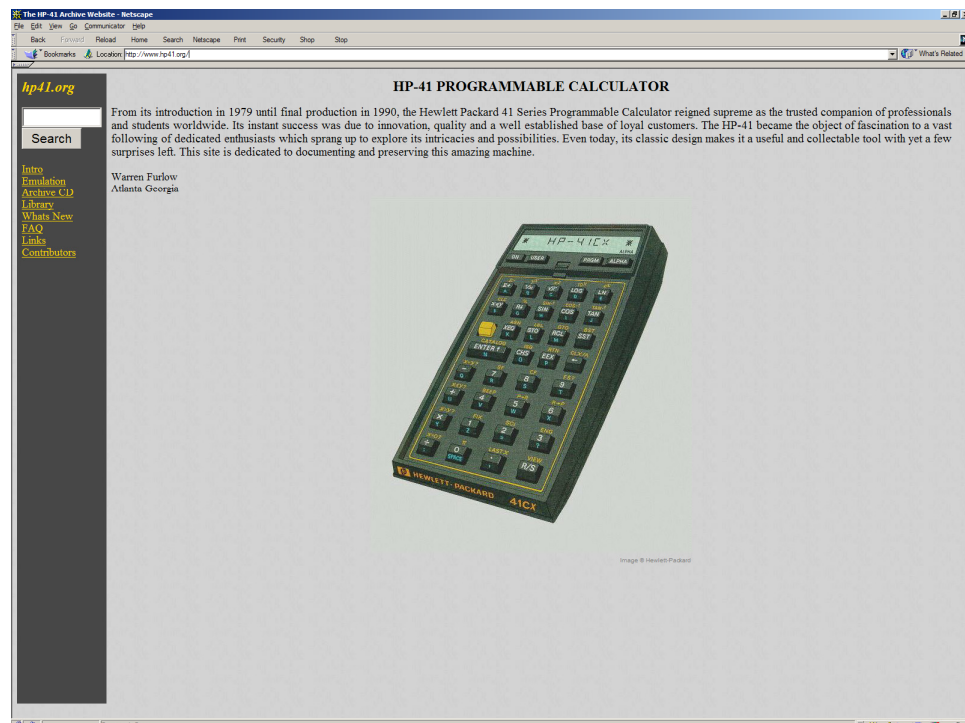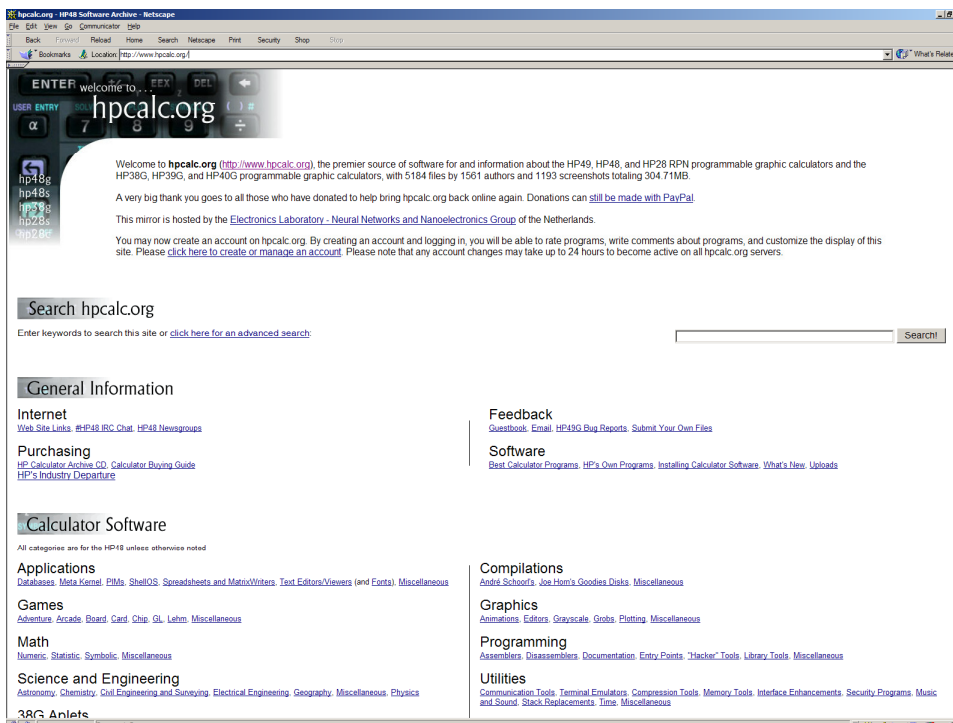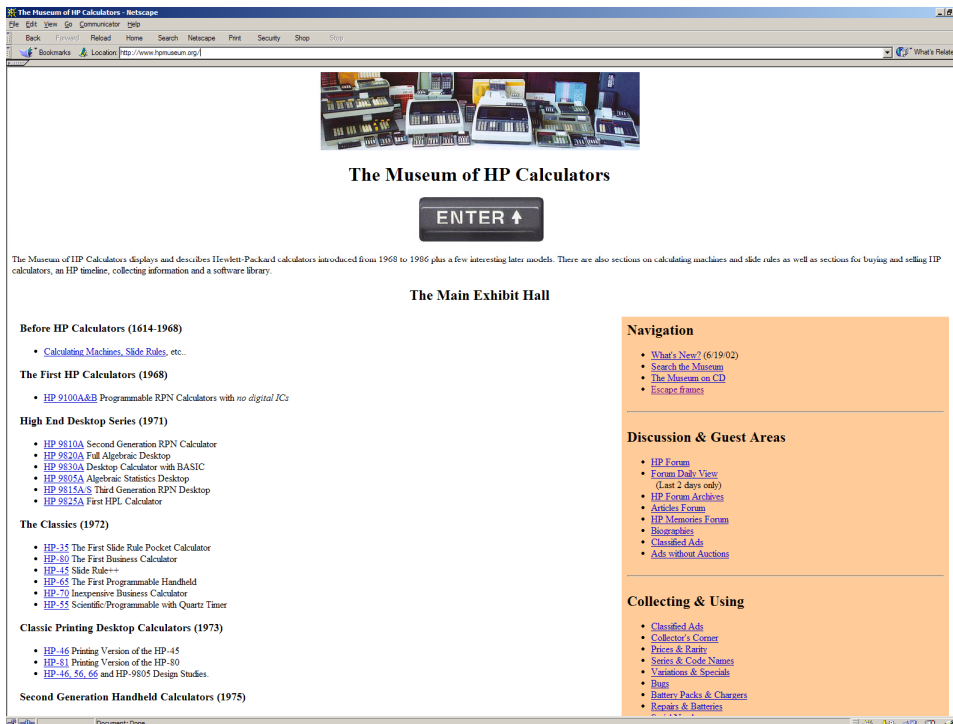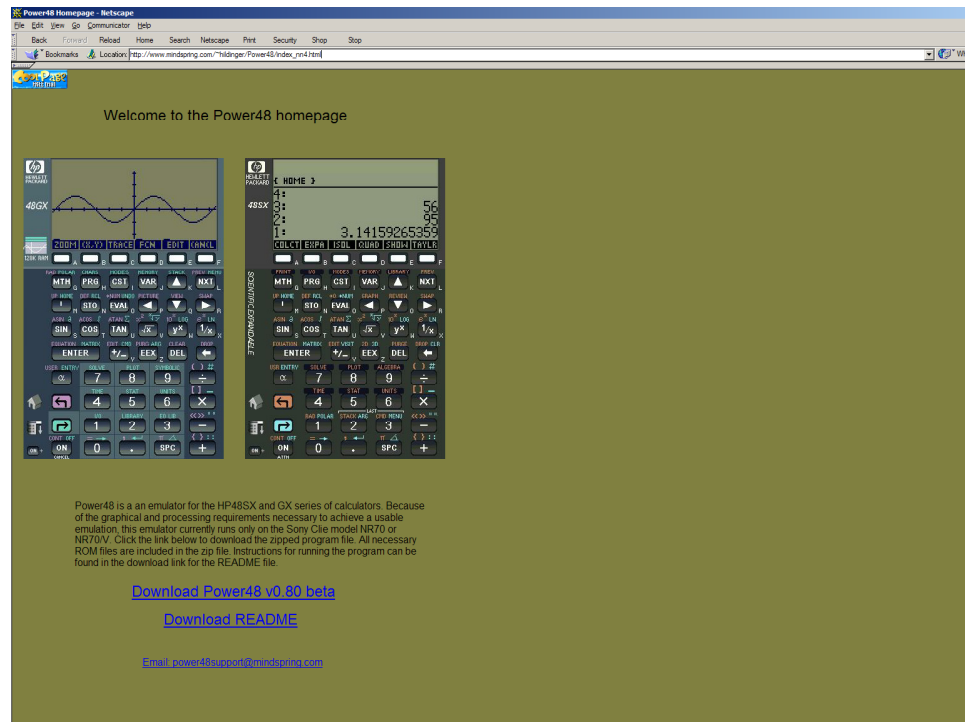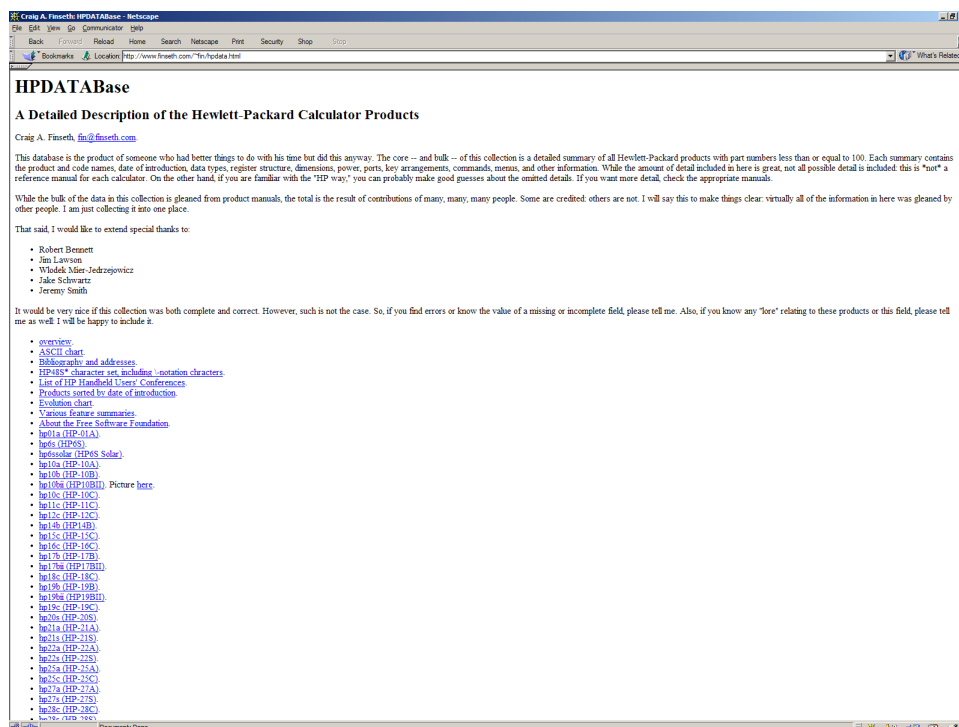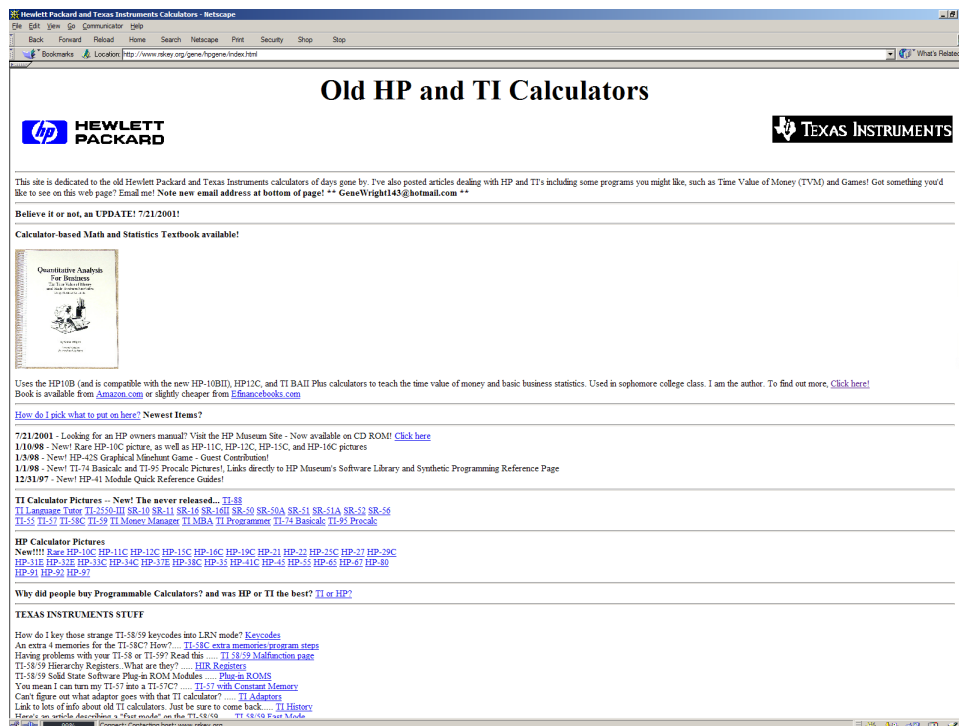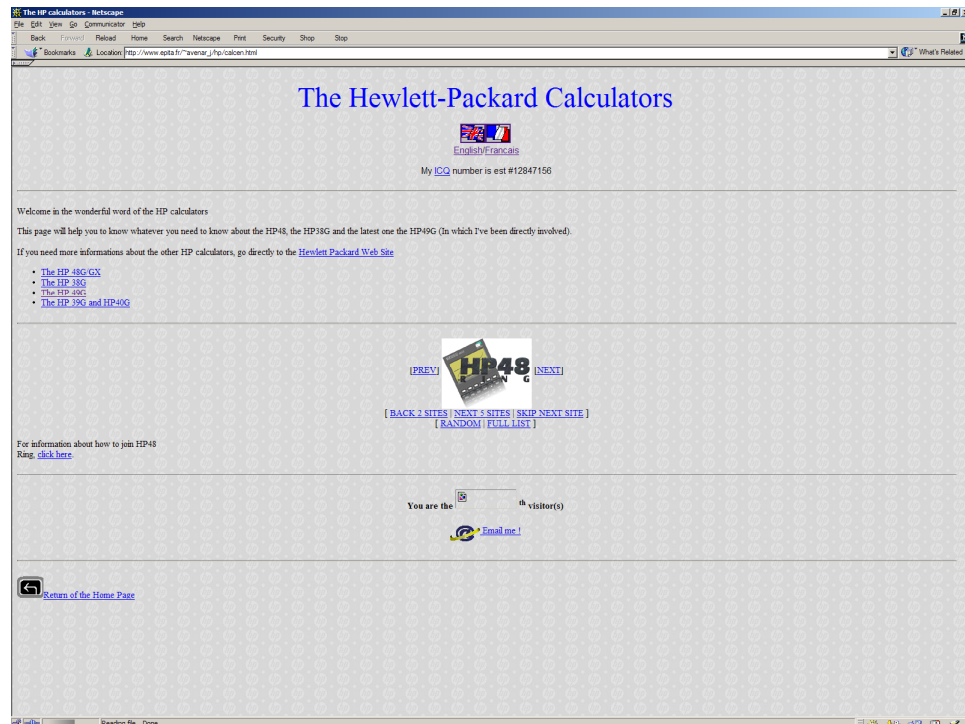
Vendors

- Calcpro (www.calcpro.com)
- International Calculator & Computer (www.internationalcalculator.com)
- Samson Cables (www.samsoncables.com)
- RMS in U.K.

fig. 1 Pocket SMI Menu

fig. 2 Classic SMI Setup Screen

fig. 3 HP 48 Emulator

fig. 4 Classic SMI F-Keys Menu

fig. 5 Graphical Stakeout

fig. 6 Shift Left Keyboard

fig. 7 Shift Right Keyboard

fig. 8 Alpha Keyboard

CDs

- Yellow Software set (www.yellow.de) HP41/28/48 materials, etc.

- Thaddeus Computing series of Palmtop Infobase CDs
  (www.thaddeus.com)

- Dave Hicks' set of manuals and such
  (www.hpmuseum.org/cd/cddesc.htm)

- PPC CD set – now 3 disks w/PPC Journal, HP materials, HPCC
  Datafile (see www.magpage.com/~jakes/ppccdrom.htm)

- Hpcalc.org CD – disadvantage over website: you cannot search