First Time Using Computers

Gail: And you talked a little bit about your school literacies…just shifting a little bit…do you remember when you were introduced to computers, and was it at home, was it in the school?

Kris: Well, I learned to use computers about the same time you did, so it was 1983 and I was working as a work study student in the journalism department. My major was journalism and I had been the editor of my school paper when I was in high school and so I was really very thankful to have this 20-hour a week job. I had to work myself through school and I was um the assistant to the department secretary, and so around that time they had the VT 100 machines and you could do email on those machines and email was just still so new in '83 that I was excited that I could kind-of you know um send an email to send a report to somebody on campus that needed to have a report…

Gail: Wow..and that was…that was…they did not have lines…ah…they did not have screens editors…

Kris: No they had lines…the line editor and I just… you know… and even when I went to Purdue in '89 they still had….

Gail: oh yes …still line editors…

Kris: They had those in the labs I can't remember what the program was but…

Gail: VM…VM

Kris: oh.. VX

Gail: ah VF 4s…

Kris: Yeah Yeah.

Gail: and yeah because there was the linguist that used to take us up at Purdue to his lab and he would let us use…

Kris: Oh Victor Raskin…

Gail: Yes…yes…exactly…he would let us…

Kris: (laughs) We have a shared history; that's probably why they paired us together in some ways…but no um…so I would type on an IBM Selectric and that was and those were pretty much the technologies. I remember getting a type writer at home when I was around sixteen so that I could type my papers so typing in um college for this position and even for um you know my studies wasn't… wasn't a difficult thing though ironically in high school I took a typing class and got a D, and my father laughed about that because I had 5 A's and a D. (laughs).

Gail: Yeah…you know it's probably not so unusual that you and I you know were introduced to computers about the same time since you know as I've said that's when computers came out. I mean the Mac actually…the first Mac was in 1983 although I didn't use the… not the Mac the first ah… yeah

the first Macintosh…the Apple was out there before that actually Macintosh wasn't until…yeah…PC's yeah?

Kris: The journalism department um they had Sanyos…they had Sanyo personal computers and it was the five and a quarter inch disk where the program was Wordstar…and so in getting my first computer my mother did buy me um…a Sanyo.