

MGH Hematology Laboratory MUMPS

Records, ca. 1967-1995

AC 66

1 c.f. in 3 containers (reduced from 2 c.f.)

Accession number: 2016-8

Processed: 2016

By Sarah Alger

ACQUISITION: The files were transferred from the office of Rosemary Jaromin in the MGH Hematology Laboratory in Gray Bigelow on May 19, 2016.

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Project History

A computer programming language called Massachusetts General Hospital Utility Multi-Programming System (commonly referred to by its acronym MUMPS) was created by Octo Barnett, MD, and colleagues in the MGH Laboratory of Computer Science in the mid-1960s. This language allowed for the storage and processing of large volumes of medical information, which had not been possible before. This language came to be used worldwide not only in health care but also in finance.

The MGH Hematology Laboratory was said to be one of the first, if not the first, MGH laboratory to be computerized. MUMPS enabled the electronic processing of laboratory tests.

Scope and Content Note

Information regarding the MGH Hematology Laboratory's implementation of the MUMPS system can be found throughout the collection. The collection includes extensive memos, notes and sketches regarding the process of implementing, troubleshooting and improving the system. There are two unrelated sets of handwritten notes; notes in script are by a lab member written during the implementation of MUMPS. Handwritten cursive notes that introduce some items were added to the materials by Rosemary Jaromin, a longtime Hematology Lab member.

Processing Note

Files were removed from binders, and binder clips and paper clips were removed.

Related Collections Note

Researchers interested in further information about MUMPS may consult the biographical file of Octo Barnett, MD, and the Laboratory of Computer Science subject file in the MGH Archives and Special Collections. This paper by Barnett might also be of interest:
http://pdf.aminer.org/000/252/224/history_of_the_development_of_medical_information_systems_at_the.pdf

Folder List

b.1

Series I. Hematology [Notes, tests, etc. of MUMPS system, ca. 1967-1995]

GI and diabetes user manual, 1989-1990
Hematology lab user manual, 1992 [1 of 2]
Hematology lab user manual, 1992 [2 of 2]
Hematology lab user manual, 1992-1997 [1 of 2]
Hematology lab user manual, 1992-1997 [2 of 2]
Memos, reports, 1979-1990
Operations files, 1975-1976
Operations files, 1975-1980

b.2

Operations files, 1975-1984
Operations files, 1975-1987
Operations files, 1978-1980
Operations files, 1979-1982
Process documents, 1975
Reports, results, 1969-1972

b.3

User manual, 1978-1989 [1 of 3]
User manual, 1978-1989 [2 of 3]
User manual, 1978-1989 [3 of 3]
User manual, 1978-1991
Sunquest workplan, 1995