BRIEF AND YET BOUNTIFUL: THE HISTORY OF COMPUTING, WHY DO STUDENTS NEED IT?

ABSTRACT

This paper argues that a separate history of computing course at the upper division of a liberal arts computer science program is necessary and helpful. The study of the history of computing will provide correct and insightful perspectives for students as to how technology and science have evolved into what it is today. It is also likely that students will be enthused and consequently make greater contributions to the discipline. Students will have the opportunity to learn not to make the same mistakes that their predecessors made, and avoid the detours that our predecessors took. This paper also provides a brief research summary on how the subject is being dealt with today.