

Van Snyder donation:

= **Box 12 – Fortran standards CRISIS during transition from Fortran 77 to Fortran 90** (April 1978 to May 1991) with Aug 1988 Compromise.

> Includes copies of official F77 and F90 standards.

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The Van Snyder Donation (CHM A2016.5316) consists of drafts prepared for Fortran standardization by US committee ANSI X3J3 and by International committee ISO WG5 in the process of upgrading Fortran 77 to Fortran 90. This was perhaps the most important upgrade in Fortran language history.

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The “theme” of the Van Snyder Donation collection is the SURVIVAL of the development process for Fortran 90, in spite of a CRISIS that was resolved at a meeting of the International committee WG5 in Paris, 1988.

(One committee member wrote to me): “1988 was the key year in which IBM & Co. switched from obstruction to cooperation (probably realising that that was what the market was demanding) ...”]

WG5 prepared a draft called “Fortran 88” for X3J3 to use in continuing development toward the final Fortran 90 standard.

This “Fortran 88” document was distributed to X3J3 as a “pre-meeting” document for X3J3 meeting 110 in NOV 1988.

Fortran Forum (Vol 8, No 1, Serial No 20, Jan 1989) published a transcription of an “informal report” by John Reid concerning the SEP 1888 WG5 meeting (in Paris) and the X3J3 response at its NOV 1988 meeting.

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Some of these documents were “internal” drafts for use by X3J3 and WG5.

Four of the donated documents were public (external to the two committees). These are:

- 1: The Fortran 77 Standard (from 1978, designated as “ANSI x3.9-1978 and ISO 1539-1980”);
- 2 and 3: X3J3 Documents 104 and 112, released as the first and second Draft Standards for public comment in JUN 1987 and JUN 1989 – I have bound these together, along with a “Summary of Changes” from 104 to 112 (prepared by X3J3), and an excerpt from Michael Metcalf’s summary of the CRISIS and its SOLUTION;
- 4: The “final” document (labeled as ANSI X3J3 Doc 118 and ISO WG5 Doc 692) submitted in for final processing by ANSI and ISO, and approved (possibly with minor edits) in May 1991 as Fortran 90.