Citizen Science, Hobbyists, and Makers

Are we ignoring those that ‘Made’ Computer Science?

Simon Harper - SIGWEB
Citizen Science?

Astronomy – Galaxy Zoo & American Association of Variable Star Observers;
Ecology – GLOBE at Night & Citclops;
Biology – EyeWire & Cell Slider; and
Zooology – BugGuide.Net & The Audubon Society’s Christmas Bird Count; and
Space – SETI Live & NASA’s International Space Apps Challenge.
Hobbyists

- Amateur Astronomy Equipment;
- Amateur Radio Electronics;
- Small Scientific Sensors;
- Secchi App; and,
- DeepSea Challenger.

New Technology

- San Francisco project;
- The WildLab;
- iNaturalist; and
- Project Noah
What about Computer Scientists?

- Mostly Observational;
- Human Sensors;
- Citizens as a Resource;
- Are they Equal Partners;
- CompSci seems more ‘active’;
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History

HomeBrew – Birthplace of Apple;

367 Addison Avenue – Birthplace of HP;

MIT Tech Rail Club – Birthplace of Open Source; and

Whole Earth Catalog – CS and Counter Culture.
CS Resurgence in the ‘Makers’

- Makers build ‘stuff’;
- Often technical, often involves software and hardware;
- Often devices; and often,
- Using complex technical equipment.
Other Organisations

- Earthwatch Institute;
- Zooniverse;
- Informal Science;
- International Society of Genetic Genealogy;
- Citizen Science Alliance; and
- Make / Maker Fare / Maker Spaces.
Do We Exclude?

‘ACM, the world’s largest educational and scientific computing society, delivers resources that advance computing as a science and a profession. ACM provides the computing field’s premier Digital Library and serves its members and the computing profession with leading-edge publications, conferences, and career resources.’
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**Text Mining Gives Us:**
Computing; ACM; Profession; and Resources.
Our Message...

‘ACM is widely recognised as the premier membership organisation for computing professionals, delivering resources that advance computing as a science and a profession; enable professional development; and promote policies and research that benefit society.’
What Can We Bring?

- Recognition;
- Scholarly Support;
- TechPacs and Training;
- Events Hosting and Sponsorship; and again
- RECOGNITION.
Questions

Love NOT Money

Are we ignoring an important group?
If so, what should we do next?