

the secret history of women in coding

The Secret History of Women in Coding

the secret history of women in coding is a fascinating journey that often goes unnoticed in the broader narrative of technology and computer science. While today's tech industry is frequently portrayed as male-dominated, the reality is that women were instrumental in the early days of programming and computing. Their contributions laid the foundation for much of the technology we take for granted now, yet their stories have largely been hidden or overshadowed. Let's dive into this compelling history and uncover the remarkable role women played in shaping the digital world.

Early Beginnings: Women as Pioneers in Computing

In the earliest days of computing, the concept of a "programmer" was very different from what we imagine today. The first computers were massive, complex machines that required intricate manual operation. Interestingly, many of these early "computers" were actually women who performed calculations by hand or operated mechanical devices.

The Human Computers of the 19th and Early 20th Century

Before electronic computers existed, groups of women known as "human computers" were hired to perform complex mathematical calculations. For example, at NASA's predecessor, NACA (National Advisory Committee for Aeronautics), women like Katherine Johnson, Dorothy Vaughan, and Mary Jackson calculated trajectories and flight paths crucial for space missions. Their work was vital for the success of the Mercury and Apollo programs.

These women used slide rules, adding machines, and early calculators to crunch numbers with astounding accuracy. They were often the unsung heroes behind the scenes, proving that women had both the talent and the determination to excel in technical fields.

The Dawn of Programming: Women Writing the First Code

When electronic computers came into being during and after World War II, women quickly became the first programmers. The secret history of women in coding includes some of the most influential figures who wrote the very first software programs.

Ada Lovelace: The First Programmer

Often heralded as the world's first computer programmer, Ada Lovelace was a 19th-century mathematician who worked with Charles Babbage on his Analytical Engine—a mechanical general-purpose computer. Ada's notes included what is considered the first algorithm intended to be processed by a machine, making her a visionary in the realm of computing.

Though her work was theoretical and ahead of its time, Ada Lovelace's contributions laid the conceptual groundwork for programming languages and algorithms.

The Women of ENIAC

During World War II, the ENIAC (Electronic Numerical Integrator and Computer) project was a massive breakthrough in computing technology. Remarkably, six women—Kay McNulty, Betty Jennings, Betty Snyder, Marlyn Wescoff, Fran Bilas, and Ruth Lichterman—were hired to program the ENIAC.

These women were initially recruited as “computers” to perform calculations but rapidly learned the intricacies of the machine and developed programming techniques from scratch. Their work was crucial for military calculations, such as artillery trajectory tables.

Despite their pioneering efforts, these women received little recognition for decades. The secret history of women in coding is filled with such stories where female programmers were overshadowed by their male counterparts.

Programming Languages and Women's Influence

The development of programming languages was another area where women made significant contributions that often went unheralded.

Grace Hopper and the Birth of COBOL

Rear Admiral Grace Hopper was a trailblazer in computer science. She was instrumental in developing the first compiler, which translates human-readable code into machine instructions. Hopper's work led to the creation of COBOL (Common Business-Oriented Language), a programming language designed to be accessible and easy to understand.

COBOL transformed business computing and is still in use today in many financial systems. Hopper's vision demonstrated that programming could be made more inclusive and practical, paving the way for broader adoption of software development.

Other Female Innovators in Software

Beyond Ada Lovelace and Grace Hopper, many women contributed to programming languages and software development during the mid-20th century. For example:

- Jean Sammet, who developed FORMAC, an early programming language for symbolic mathematical computations.
- Frances E. Allen, a pioneer in compiler optimization, whose research helped make programs run more efficiently.
- Ruth Teitelbaum, one of the original ENIAC programmers and a contributor to early programming concepts.

These women's technical insights and innovations helped shape the evolution of coding and software practice.

Why Has This History Been Hidden?

The secret history of women in coding is not just about celebrating past achievements but also understanding why these contributions faded from mainstream memory.

Gender Bias and Societal Norms

For much of the 20th century, computing was viewed as clerical or "women's work," especially in its early stages. However, as programming grew in prestige and salaries increased, it became more male-dominated. Women were often pushed out or marginalized.

This shift was driven by societal norms and gender biases that underestimated women's abilities in STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics) fields. As a result, many female pioneers did not receive the recognition or opportunities they deserved.

The Role of Media and Historical Narratives

Popular culture and history books have traditionally highlighted male inventors and scientists, often ignoring the crucial role women played. This selective storytelling contributed to the erasure of female contributions in computing history.

Only recently have documentaries, biographies, and academic research started to shine a light on these stories, helping to correct the record.

Lessons from the Secret History of Women in Coding

Understanding this hidden history offers valuable lessons for today's technology landscape and beyond.

Encouraging Diversity in Tech

The story of women in coding underscores the importance of diversity in innovation. When women were included and empowered, they drove breakthroughs that shaped the future of computing. Today, fostering inclusive environments can unlock untapped potential and creativity in the tech industry.

Recognizing and Valuing All Contributions

One key takeaway is the need to recognize contributions from all individuals, regardless of gender. Celebrating a diverse range of role models encourages more young women and girls to pursue careers in coding and STEM fields.

Continuing the Legacy

Many organizations now actively promote women in technology through mentorship, coding boot camps, scholarships, and advocacy. By learning from the secret history of women in coding, we can inspire the next generation to build on this legacy and ensure that no talent goes unnoticed.

A Rich Tapestry Still Being Uncovered

The secret history of women in coding is far from fully told. As researchers and historians continue to uncover documents, personal stories, and artifacts, we gain a deeper appreciation for how women's contributions shaped the digital era. From the calculating women of the early 1900s to the software developers of today, this narrative reveals a rich tapestry of innovation, resilience, and brilliance that challenges outdated stereotypes.

In celebrating these pioneers, we not only honor their achievements but also remind ourselves that the future of technology depends on embracing diverse voices and experiences. Coding, after all, is a human endeavor — one enriched by the talents of all who dare to imagine and create.

Frequently Asked Questions

Who were some of the pioneering women in the early history of coding?

Pioneering women in the early history of coding include Ada Lovelace, often considered the first computer programmer; Grace Hopper, who developed the first compiler; and the women of the ENIAC team who programmed one of the first electronic general-purpose computers.

Why is the history of women in coding often referred to as a 'secret history'?

The history of women in coding is often called a 'secret history' because their significant contributions were frequently overlooked, underreported, or attributed to their male counterparts, leading to a lack of recognition in mainstream historical accounts.

What role did women play during World War II in the development of computing?

During World War II, many women worked as programmers and operators of early computers, such as the ENIAC, and were instrumental in code-breaking efforts, data analysis, and programming, which were crucial to the war effort and the evolution of computing technology.

How did societal attitudes affect the recognition of women coders historically?

Societal attitudes, including gender biases and stereotypes, often marginalized women's work in computing, leading to their achievements being minimized or ignored. This affected their recognition and opportunities in the tech field for decades.

What impact did women have on the development of programming languages?

Women like Grace Hopper had a profound impact on programming languages, with Hopper developing the first compiler and contributing to the creation of COBOL, one of the earliest high-level programming languages still in use today.

How is the secret history of women in coding influencing diversity initiatives today?

The secret history highlights the overlooked contributions of women, inspiring diversity initiatives to promote gender equality in tech, encourage more women to enter coding fields, and ensure that women's contributions are acknowledged and celebrated.

Where can one learn more about the secret history of women in coding?

One can learn more through books such as 'Hidden Figures' by Margot Lee Shetterly, documentaries like 'Code: Debugging the Gender Gap,' online archives, and organizations dedicated to women in technology, which provide resources and stories about women's contributions to coding history.

Additional Resources

The Secret History of Women in Coding: Unveiling Forgotten Pioneers

the secret history of women in coding reveals a rich and often overlooked narrative that challenges the commonly held perception of programming as a male-dominated field. While contemporary discourse frequently highlights the gender gap in tech, a deeper investigation into the origins of computing uncovers a pivotal role played by women—from the earliest algorithms to the foundational development of computer languages. This article explores the hidden contributions of women in coding, shedding light on their groundbreaking work and the socio-cultural dynamics that shaped their legacy.

Tracing the Origins: Women as the First Programmers

The story begins long before personal computers and Silicon Valley startups. In the mid-19th century, Ada Lovelace, often hailed as the first computer programmer, conceptualized algorithms for Charles Babbage's Analytical Engine. Lovelace's visionary notes outlined how machines could go beyond mere calculation, anticipating modern computing principles. Despite her seminal work, her contributions were largely ignored for decades, reflecting early biases that marginalized women's intellectual labor.

Fast forward to World War II, when an urgent need for computational power brought women to the forefront. During the war, women served as "human computers," performing complex calculations by hand to aid ballistic trajectories and code-breaking efforts. One of the most notable examples includes the women who worked at Bletchley Park, where cryptanalysts like Joan Clarke collaborated with Alan Turing to decipher the Enigma code. Their meticulous work was instrumental in the Allied victory but remained classified—and uncelebrated—for many years.

Women Programmers in the Early Electronic Era

With the advent of electronic computers in the 1940s and 1950s, women transitioned from manual computation to programming. The ENIAC (Electronic Numerical Integrator and Computer) project stands out as a landmark where six women—Kay McNulty, Betty Jennings, Betty Snyder, Marlyn Wescoff, Fran Bilas, and Ruth Lichterman—were tasked

with programming the first general-purpose electronic digital computer. Despite their critical role in debugging and developing software routines, their contributions were largely overshadowed by their male counterparts who received public recognition.

These early female programmers were pioneers of the programming languages and techniques that shaped the future of software development. Their work laid the groundwork for higher-level languages such as FORTRAN and COBOL, the latter co-created by Grace Hopper, a naval officer and computer scientist whose advocacy for machine-independent programming languages revolutionized coding. Hopper's development of the first compiler made programming more accessible and efficient, underpinning modern software engineering.

Social Dynamics and the Marginalization of Women in Tech

Understanding the secret history of women in coding requires an examination of the social and cultural factors that contributed to their invisibility in the tech narrative. In the mid-20th century, programming was initially perceived as clerical or secretarial work, roles traditionally assigned to women. This perception paradoxically enabled women's entry into computing but simultaneously undermined the recognition of their technical expertise.

As the computing industry professionalized and gained prestige, the workforce became increasingly male-dominated. Studies suggest that by the 1980s, the representation of women in programming sharply declined due to a combination of workplace discrimination, societal stereotypes, and the rise of gendered marketing of computer products. The myth of programming as a male "nerd" domain took hold, effectively erasing many women's early contributions from mainstream histories.

Data-Driven Insights into Gender Disparities in Tech

Recent data underscores the persistence of gender disparities in technology fields. According to the National Center for Women & Information Technology (NCWIT), women held only about 25% of computing-related jobs in the United States as of 2022, a decline from approximately 35% in the mid-1980s. This trend highlights both the historical and ongoing challenges women face in entering and staying in coding careers.

However, the narrative is not solely one of loss. Initiatives aimed at increasing diversity and inclusion, such as Girls Who Code and Women Who Code, are actively working to reverse this trend by providing education, mentorship, and community support. These programs recognize the importance of reclaiming the secret history of women in coding to inspire future generations.

Reclaiming the Legacy: Celebrating Women's Contributions to Coding

The rediscovery and celebration of women's roles in computing are crucial for a more accurate and inclusive understanding of technological history. Documentaries, biographies, and academic research have recently brought figures like Ada Lovelace, Grace Hopper, and the ENIAC programmers to wider public attention. Museums and exhibitions dedicated to women in computing further contribute to this reclamation, providing educational resources that contrast with the male-centric narratives prevalent in mainstream tech culture.

Key Figures and Their Impact

- **Ada Lovelace:** Developed the first algorithm intended for machine processing, laying the conceptual foundation for programming.
- **Grace Hopper:** Innovated compiler technology and popularized the term "debugging," instrumental in the development of COBOL.
- **Katherine Johnson:** Her calculations were critical to NASA's early space missions, demonstrating the application of coding and mathematics in aerospace.
- **The ENIAC Programmers:** Pioneered programming techniques on one of the first electronic computers, demonstrating early software engineering principles.

These pioneers exemplify how women's involvement in coding was not incidental but foundational to the evolution of computer science.

Contemporary Reflections and Future Directions

Today's technology landscape is shaped by the layered history of coding, where the secret history of women in coding offers lessons about diversity, equity, and innovation. Increasing awareness of women's historical contributions challenges stereotypes and encourages a more inclusive culture in tech industries and academia. Moreover, understanding the systemic barriers that once sidelined women informs current strategies to create equitable opportunities.

Efforts to close the gender gap in coding are multifaceted—ranging from policy reforms and workplace inclusivity to educational outreach and cultural change. As the tech sector continues to grow and evolve, embracing the full spectrum of contributors, past and present, will be essential for fostering creativity and resilience in the digital age.

In unraveling the secret history of women in coding, we not only correct historical oversight but also enrich our understanding of how technology is developed and who gets to shape its future. The stories of these women—once hidden—now inspire a generation of coders committed to innovation without boundaries.

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the secret history of women in coding: *The Secret History of Gender* Steve J. Stern, 1997-02-01 In this study of gender relations in late colonial Mexico (ca. 1760-1821), Steve Stern analyzes the historical connections between gender, power, and politics in the lives of peasants, Indians, and other marginalized peoples. Through vignettes of everyday

the secret history of women in coding: The Secret History of a Woman Patient Janet Rhys Dent, 2018-10-08 When Janet Rhys Dent is diagnosed with a life-threatening illness, she decides to try to be a good patient. With any luck, this role will give her the best chance of recovery during the six months of medical testing and treatment that she faces. This book reveals her secret dilemmas and discoveries both inside and outside the hospital. It also records her successes and many failures as she becomes seriously involved in the quest to find out what makes a good patient. Her experiences lead her to reflect on her life, to look further into the roles of patients, to join a support group and to seek information and enlightenment on internet sites and in philosophy and popular self-help methods. What she learns brings about a change in her attitudes, not only to being a patient but also to life and living. As to the essence of being a good patient, she discovers that the answer is simpler and more life-affirming than she had ever imagined. 'Though names and personal details have been changed for the sake of others' privacy, all the episodes in the book are true, real-life events. I portray the new world I am thrown into; the search for knowledge about it; the people I meet; my attempts to understand and trust the hospital staff, system and treatment; and my failures and successes in adapting to many other challenges both outside and inside the hospital.' - Janet Rhys Dent, in the Introduction.

the secret history of women in coding: The Secret History of Wonder Woman Jill Lepore, 2014-10-28 NATIONAL BESTSELLER • Within the origin of one of the world's most iconic superheroes hides a fascinating family story—and a crucial history of feminism in the twentieth-century. "Everything you might want in a page-turner...skeletons in the closet, a believe-it-or-not weirdness in its biographical details, and something else that secretly powers even the most "serious" feminist history—fun." —Entertainment Weekly *The Secret History of Wonder Woman* is a tour de force of intellectual and cultural history. Wonder Woman, Jill Lepore argues, is the missing link in the history of the struggle for women's rights—a chain of events that begins with the women's suffrage campaigns of the early 1900s and ends with the troubled place of feminism a century later. Lepore, a Harvard historian and New Yorker staff writer, has uncovered an astonishing trove of documents, including the never-before-seen private papers of Wonder Woman's creator, William Moulton Marston. The Marston family story is a tale of drama, intrigue, and irony. In the 1920s, Marston and his wife brought into their home Olive Byrne, the niece of Margaret Sanger, one of the most influential feminists of the twentieth century. Even while celebrating conventional family life in a regular column that Marston and Byrne wrote for *Family Circle*, they

themselves pursued lives of extraordinary nonconformity. Marston, internationally known as an expert on truth—he invented the lie detector test—lived a life of secrets, only to spill them on the pages of Wonder Woman. Includes a new afterword with fresh revelations based on never before seen letters and photographs from the Marston family's papers, and 161 illustrations and 16 pages in full color.

the secret history of women in coding: The Secret History of Oxford Paul Sullivan, 2013-08-01 The Secret History of Oxford offers the reader an off-the-beaten-track tour of the city's landmarks and streets. Filled with hundreds of facts and anecdotes, it reveals the amusing, unlikely and downright wonderful stories hidden beneath the surface. Some, such as the fact that the founder of Oxford was eaten by wolves, will be known; many others, such as the fact that Robert Dudley, Earl of Leicester, stole a piece of New College's unicorn horn, that one of the Fellows of Christ Church was a bear or that Oxford Castle has England's most frequently sighted ghost, are much less widely known – and some of these stories have not appeared in print for hundreds of years. With rare photographs and intriguing information on the people, eras and events that defined the city's history, this book lets the flying cats out of the bags, rattles the dragons' cages and reveals all the skeletons in the city's cupboards.

the secret history of women in coding: Kritische Pädagogik und Bildungsforschung Wassilios Baros, Rita Braches-Chyrek, Solvejg Jobst, Joachim Schroeder, 2024-05-26 Der Band greift theoretische und methodische Ansätze Paulo Freires auf, dessen Kampf für Gerechtigkeit und Solidarität beispielhaft für eine radikale Kritik am bestehenden, postkolonialen neoliberalen System ist. In der Auseinandersetzung mit Freires Position der kritischen Erziehungswissenschaft eröffnen sich neue, die bisherigen Grenzen überschreitende Möglichkeiten.

the secret history of women in coding: Ada Lovelace Vera Weidenbach, 2025-08-12 Ada Lovelace und der Aufbruch in die digitale Welt Ada Lovelace war eine geniale Mathematikerin. Anfang des 19. Jahrhunderts dachte sie Technologien voraus, die unsere Welt veränderten. Trotz der Beschränkungen, die Frauen ihrer Zeit auferlegt waren, gelang es Ada durch ihre umfassende Bildung, eine führende Rolle in der konzeptuellen Entwicklung eines Vorläufers des modernen Computers zu übernehmen – eine Leistung, die grundlegende Prinzipien der Programmierung und Informatik vorwegnahm. Ihr Leben spiegelt auch den außergewöhnlichen Balanceakt zwischen den gesellschaftlichen Pflichten einer Frau und wissenschaftlichem Genie wider, ein Spagat, der ihre Errungenschaften umso bemerkenswerter macht. Vera Weidenbach erzählt in dieser Biografie über die Leistungen einer Pionierin des Programmierens und was passiert, wenn der wissenschaftliche Ehrgeiz einer Frau auf die patriarchalen Strukturen des 19. Jahrhunderts trifft.

the secret history of women in coding: The Secret History of the Rape Kit Pagan Kennedy, 2025-01-14 Marty Goddard dreamed up a new crime-solving tool—a kit that could help rape survivors fight for justice. This thrilling investigation tells the story of the troubled, heroic woman who kicked off a feminist revolution in forensics, and then vanished into obscurity. Astonishing . . . Marty Goddard takes her rightful place as a visionary thanks to Kennedy's relentless investigation."—Rachel Louise Snyder, author of No Visible Bruises The Secret History of the Rape Kit is stunning: part thriller, part feminist reclamation, part personal journey, fully a page-turner. How did we not know about Marty Goddard?—Peggy Orenstein author of Girls & Sex and Boys & Sex In 1972, Martha Marty Goddard volunteered at a crisis hotline, counseling girls who had been molested by their fathers, their teachers, their uncles. Soon, Marty was on a mission to answer a question: Why were so many sexual predators getting away with these crimes? By the end of the decade, she had launched a campaign pushing hospitals and police departments to collect evidence of sexual assault and treat survivors with dignity. She designed a new kind of forensics tool—the rape kit—and new practices around evidence collection that spread across the country. Yet even as Marty fought for women's rights, she allowed a man to take credit for her work. When journalist Pagan Kennedy went looking for this forgotten pioneer, she discovered that even Marty Goddard's closest friends had lost track of her. As Pagan followed a trail of clues to solve the mystery of Marty, she also delved into the problematic history of forensics in America. The Secret History of the Rape

Kit chronicles one journalist's mission to understand a crucial innovation in forensics and the woman who championed it. As Pagan Kennedy hunts for answers, she reflects on her own experiences with sexual assault and her own desire for justice.

the secret history of women in coding: Summary: The Secret History of the War on Cancer BusinessNews Publishing,, 2017-01-30 The must-read summary of Devra Davis's book: "The Secret History of the War on Cancer". This complete summary of The Secret History of the War on Cancer by Devra Davis, a prominent epidemiologist and writer, presents her revelation that the 'war on cancer' focused too much on research for treatment and a cure, instead of combating cancer's basic causes. She argues that industries have contributed to the problem by making unhealthy food, substances and environments widespread, but will not change their ways due to private gain. Added-value of this summary: • Save time • Understand how the 'war on cancer' has been fighting the wrong battles • Expand your knowledge of American politics and society To learn more, read The Secret History of the War on Cancer and discover how private industries have distorted and manipulated a major public health battle for their own gain.

the secret history of women in coding: The Secret History of Home Economics Danielle Dreilinger, 2021-05-04 Deeply researched and crisply written. —Margaret Talbot, The New Yorker The surprising, often fiercely feminist, always fascinating, yet barely known, history of home economics. The term "home economics" may conjure traumatic memories of lopsided hand-sewn pillows or sunken muffins. But common conception obscures the story of the revolutionary science of better living. The field exploded opportunities for women in the twentieth century by reducing domestic work and providing jobs as professors, engineers, chemists, and businesspeople. And it has something to teach us today. In the surprising, often fiercely feminist and always fascinating The Secret History of Home Economics, Danielle Dreilinger traces the field's history from Black colleges to Eleanor Roosevelt to Okinawa, from a Betty Crocker brigade to DIY techies. These women—and they were mostly women—became chemists and marketers, studied nutrition, health, and exercise, tested parachutes, created astronaut food, and took bold steps in childhood development and education. Home economics followed the currents of American culture even as it shaped them. Dreilinger brings forward the racism within the movement along with the strides taken by women of color who were influential leaders and innovators. She also looks at the personal lives of home economics' women, as they chose to be single, share lives with other women, or try for egalitarian marriages. This groundbreaking and engaging history restores a denigrated subject to its rightful importance, as it reminds us that everyone should learn how to cook a meal, balance their account, and fight for a better world.

the secret history of women in coding: The Secret History of the Mongol Queens Jack Weatherford, 2010-02-16 "A fascinating romp through the feminine side of the infamous Khan clan" (Booklist) by the author featured in Echoes of the Empire: Beyond Genghis Khan "Enticing . . . hard to put down."—Associated Press The Mongol queens of the thirteenth century ruled the largest empire the world has ever known. The daughters of the Silk Route turned their father's conquests into the first truly international empire, fostering trade, education, and religion throughout their territories and creating an economic system that stretched from the Pacific to the Mediterranean. Yet sometime near the end of the century, censors cut a section about the queens from the Secret History of the Mongols, and, with that one act, the dynasty of these royals had seemingly been extinguished forever, as even their names were erased from the historical record. With The Secret History of the Mongol Queens, a groundbreaking and magnificently researched narrative, Jack Weatherford restores the queens' missing chapter to the annals of history.

the secret history of women in coding: Can You Crack the Code? Ella Schwartz, 2019-03-26 Codes can carry big secrets! Throughout history, lots of good guys and lots of bad guys have used codes to keep their messages under wraps. This fun and flippable nonfiction features stories of hidden treasures, war-time maneuverings, and contemporary hacking as well as explaining the mechanics behind the codes in accessible and kid friendly forms. Sidebars call out activities that invite the reader to try their own hand at cracking and crafting their own secret messages. This is

the launch of an exciting new series that invites readers into a STEM topic through compelling historical anecdotes, scientific backup, and DIY projects.

the secret history of women in coding: The Secret History of the Five Eyes Richard Kerbaj, 2022-09-01 'A seminal history' - The Wall Street Journal 'Gripping and shocking' - Tim Shipman, author of All Out War 'An extraordinary development' - The Times 'An impressively detailed account of a remarkable alliance' - Jeremy Bowen, The New Statesman 'A remarkable book . . . delves into the fascinating individuals involved.' Daily Beast THE TIMES BEST POLITICAL BOOKS OF 2022 Despite being one of the world's most powerful intelligence networks, the Five Eyes has been steeped in secrecy since its formation in 1956. The international intelligence collaboration between Britain, the US, Canada, Australia and New Zealand, has shaped global events since its inception - and continues to do so to this day. Over eight decades, the alliance's agencies, including the CIA, FBI, MI5, MI6, GCHQ, and ASIO, have swapped secrets and tradecraft, and pooled resources. From Nazi hunters and World War II codebreakers, to spymasters and political leaders embroiled in the recent security crisis around Russia and Ukraine, they have shared a common purpose and common enemy, in spite of a mutual mistrust. In this revised and updated edition, Richard Kerbaj expertly weaves together stories of this extraordinary alliance and the unlikely cast of characters who have played a crucial role in its history. Impeccably researched and including interviews with world leaders and intelligence officials, The Secret History of the Five Eyes is a major contribution to the literature of international intelligence. _____ 'Reveals in great detail how the U.S. intelligence community closed ranks during Trump's first term in office.' The Wall Street Journal 'The story of this non-binding marriage of convenience through its most compelling personalities.' The Globe and Mail 'This thought-provoking and informative book suggests that the era of globetrotting lone agents such as James Bond is long gone.' - Sydney Morning Herald 'The stories Kerbaj tells reveal ... a story of failure - of missing warnings that could have prevented atrocities, of misusing intelligence to start a war' - Observer 'Scintillating ... full of scoops ... by focusing on the human relationships which are the beating heart of the Five Eyes, Kerbaj has made a singular contribution to the intelligence discourse. It's a service to democracy.' - The Australian 'Kerbaj ... has chronicled the history of the Fives Eyes spy network. His list of interviewees speaks for itself - several former heads of MI5, MI6, GCHQ, the CIA, four former British and Australian prime ministers, and myriad other current and former spooks. But this account is unencumbered by any sense of an agreed or official narrative (the usual price for this level of journalistic access).' - Gabriel Pogrund, Whitehall Editor, The Sunday Times 'Sensational' - Nigel Nelson, Political Editor, The Mirror 'An impressively detailed account of a remarkable alliance' - Jeremy Bowen, The New Statesman 'Examines decades of intelligence sharing' - The Telegraph 'Reopen[s] the debate' - The Times 'Explosive' - The World News

the secret history of women in coding: Am I Literate? Kate Arthur, 2025-02-28 Kate grew up in a home where words mattered. Inspired by her family's love of reading, she pursued a degree in English Literature and began a career as a publicist. Confident in her mastery of language, Kate believed she was literate—until her husband, a technologist, introduced her to computing. A moment that redefined literacy for Kate. With three young daughters starting school, she recognised the need to prepare the next generation to create and communicate in a digital world. Since 2000, Kate has been exploring reading, writing, numeracy, computing, and AI literacies to help people—especially youth and women—thrive. This book explores how literacy, storytelling, and technology shape individuals, inspire innovation, and connect generations. It is a call to embrace change and build a future where people and the planet flourish in the age of AI.

the secret history of women in coding: Women in Allied Naval Intelligence in the Second World War Sarah-Louise Miller, 2024-10-17 Closely examining the work of women in the US and British naval services towards Allied naval intelligence during the Second World War, this book focuses on their contributions during the Battle of the Atlantic and Pacific Naval War, in order to shed new light on arenas of war from which women's narratives are almost always absent. Including personal testimonies from those involved, and surveying a wide cross-section of different

roles, Sarah-Louise Miller analyses the work of women at every level and rank in the US and British naval services, and offers a much wider picture of how they assisted the Allied forces behind closed doors. With exploration of the work of the WRNS and WAVES on developing naval intelligence, this book argues that they played a crucial role in the British and American SIGINT systems, and within programs such as those at Bletchley Park and OP-20-G – therefore directly impacting the organisation and outcome of Anglo-American naval efforts. Including analysis of the development of the modern 'kill-chain', Miller also re-evaluates the effect of the 'combat taboo', to demonstrate that the WRNS and WAVES were in fact at the cutting edge of the emergence of modern warfare.

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