



Carolina Population Center

In 1966, the Carolina Population Center was founded at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. To celebrate its 40th anniversary in 2006, a project was conducted to document the history of the Center. This transcript is an excerpt from an oral history interview.

Interviewee: Ronald R. Rindfuss

Interview conducted by: Grace Camblos

Interview date: November 30, 2005

Ronald R. Rindfuss was CPC Director from 1992 – 1997, and has been a CPC Fellow since 1977.

RR: When you look at computing, what's changed is the hardware and the software. Some of the software that's very complex – that has a steep learning curve – that continues to evolve. And if I spent much of my time keeping up with the changes in the computing software, I would have less time available to keep up with changes in my field, and to do my research. So early on I made a decision, and lots of people around here have made similar decisions, that I'd be better off specializing in the substantive topics of my research and working with someone who's an expert in the software. And so we've had just a number of good applications programmers, or programmers, here at the Center that can handle even the most complex, logical programming task. And having them and having the continuity, I think has been invaluable.