

# SARAH AUTUMN

## CHIEF ENGINEER

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Connections Museum, Seattle  
PO Box 81103  
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### RESEARCH FOCUS

The history of telecommunications, with a focus on manual and electromechanical switching technology, transmission technology, and telegraphy.

### POSITIONS

<b>Chief Engineer</b> , Connections Museum	2015—Present
<b>Board of Directors</b> , Telecommunications History Group	2021—Present
<b>Seattle Museum Advisory Committee</b> , Connections Museum	2018—Present

### TALKS

*"A History of Data Translation as Applied to Telephone Switching"*, University of Washington, 2017, Seattle WA.

*"Preservation of Switching History at the Museum of Communications"*, Toorcamp 2018, Doe Bay, WA.

*"Risk and Adventure While Rescuing Telephone History"*, Toorcamp 2022, Doe Bay, WA.

*"Restoration of the Last No. 1 Crossbar Switching System"*, Hackers 2022, Santa Cruz, CA.

*"Restoration of the Last Full Mechanical Switching System"*, Hackers 2023, Santa Cruz, CA.

*"Preservation of Our Technical Heritage"*, Hackers 2024, Santa Cruz CA.

*"Device Drivers for the Panel Switch: The World's Oldest Linux Peripheral"*, Hackers, 2024, Santa Cruz, CA.

### CONSULTING

Technical Consultant for *"Shift Happens"*, a book by Marcin Wichary

Technical Consultant on Telephone Switching for Phil McCarter, 30+ year telephony veteran and owner of a large private collection in Jefferson, OR

Technical Consultant on Telephone Switching for Remco Enthoven, Curator of the American Museum of Telephony, in Soquel, CA

Technical Advisor for Pacific Battleship Center in San Pedro, CA, regarding the Dimension PBX on the battleship USS Iowa

## JOURNALS

*Original Senders for the Museum's No. 1 Crossbar*, Singing Wires, January 2017

*Crossbar Senders Part II: Installing and Resurrecting Early 20th Century Relay Protocol Handling Logic*, Connections News, Summer 2017

*Call Traffic Simulator for the Connections Museum*, Connections News, Spring 2019

*A Trip to the Capehart Communications Collection*, Connections News, Summer 2019

*Automatic Number Identification (ANI) System*, Connections News, Summer 2021

*Pretranslator for the No. 5 Crossbar*, Connections News, Summer 2021

*Capehart Communications Collection Closes with Big Auction*, Singing Wires, July 2022

*Panel Switching System Lives On at Connections Museum*, Connections News, Spring 2023

## MEDIA APPEARANCES

Guest Presenter, "*In Old Movies, Why The Dial Tone After Someone Hangs Up?*", Things You Might Not Know by Tom Scott, YouTube, December 2016

Guest, *Obsolete Professions Podcast*, iHeartMedia, August 2020

Guest Presenter, "*At the Connections Museum: the insane telephone technology that led to today's computers*", CuriousMarc, YouTube, October 2022

Guest, "*Dialing Into History: Telephony's Hidden Evolution*", Chaos Lever Podcast, November 2024

## NOTABLE PRESS

"*Connections Museum In Seattle Explains How We Communicate*", KING 5 News, July 16 2018

"*Remembering America's first social network: the landline telephone*", NPR Morning Edition, May 10th 2023

"*From old phones to volunteers, everything clicks at The Connections Museum*", Pacific NW Magazine, The Seattle Times, January 2024

"*This Seattle museum has more visitors, more volunteers, and big plans*", Pacific NW Magazine, The Seattle Times, December 2024