Electronic Technology Committee
Judy Craig and Sheila Spear, Co-Chairs

The Electronic Technology Committee offered four programs this year, all of which were well attended. Selecting programs from suggestions in evaluations of prior programs, we once again used the good services of staff from the Division of Information Technology, who provided input on computer safety and health, as well as guiding us through the imminent transition in the UW’s email and calendaring system. The impending migration to Office 365 aroused much concern among the membership and the board as to whether retirees would be included in the process or left by the wayside; a liaison between DoIT and ETC led to a pilot group from the board and ETC who experienced the migration process. As the year ends, about 80% of the campus has migrated, including some retirees who went through the process with their departments. Remaining migration will occur during the summer, and plans are being developed for DoIT to offer a training session for UWRA members who would want it.

Photography in the digital age, the preservation of family memoirs and archiving of our life work were the subject of three other programs. ETC members also wrote items for The Sifter under the rubric “ETC Says” and arranged for additional articles on areas of concern (computer security and Office 365). Finally, committee members have determined that their mandate includes using meeting times to keep ourselves informed of developments in technology, a process that often begins with a description of a problem one has encountered and various interesting ways others have found to address it. We believe this helps us stay tuned to problems and issues facing the UWRA membership, and we invite others to join us in some stimulating committee discussions.

Electronic Technology Seminars
September Nicholas Davis, DoIT, “Computing Safely in an Online World”
January Brown-bag luncheon on two technology topics
   Computer health. (Discussion led by N. Davis)
   Photography in the digital age. (Discussion led by S. Spear)
February “Preserving Your Family’s Memories—Getting Started with Your Photos, Slides, and Films” presented by Joyal Holder, Holder Printworks
April “Archiving Your Life’s Work” presented by Paul Hedges, Emerging Technologies/AV Archivist, Library-Archives Division, Wisconsin Historical Society, and Brianna Marshall, Digital Curation Coordinator, Chair, Research Data Services, University of Wisconsin-Madison

ETC Says in The Sifter
November Using Facebook to distribute family belongings (Mary Beth Plane)
December Changes to the university email system (Hal Winsborough)
April Keeping up through free local classes (Sheila Spear)
May LibraryThing cataloging system (Louise Robbins)
June Office 365 update (Laura Grady, DoIT)