

I determined my topic by first figuring out the time period in which I wanted to focus on. I knew that I wanted to focus on World War II, therefore I began looking into prominent people during that time. I came across Alan Turing through conversations with my family members, as well as looking through the Internet. I was interested in computer science and therefore Turing's work in the field caught my attention.

To begin my research, I found background information on the Enigma code used during World War II, as well as biographies about Alan Turing. Through the background knowledge gained from the books found, I went online to search for archives and other primary and secondary source books. Using Amazon, I was able to find various primary sources of Turing's personal letters, publications, and papers. Because many of the books regarding Turing were checked out of the library, Prosector aided greatly in the process of finding books. While reading the books, I kept a system of flashcards to record important ideas, quotes, pictures, and their sources. Using the information on the flashcards, I was able to create the preliminary structure of the project. Then, if there was any information that I needed but didn't have, I looked through my sources to fill in the holes.

I had only used Weebly to create an informal website once or twice, therefore making a larger scale website caught my attention. There were many letters and documents of Turing, therefore I was able to easily find pictures to arrange on my website. I felt that using a web application was the best way to present the focus on Turing and his impacts in computer science and culture.

The 2015 NHD theme was "Leadership and Legacy", which fit in nicely with the focus on Alan Turing. Alan Turing led Hut 8 into decrypting the Naval Enigma during World War II, and his intelligence and innovative thinking in the Artificial Intelligence and Computer Science characterized him as a leader with his brain. His legacy, however, was significant, as it impacted all areas of our everyday lives – technology and culture. His work during his life regarding intelligence machinery created the foundation of modern Computer Science and digital computers through his ACE machine, Turing machine, and other important innovations. Furthermore, his invention of the Bombe during World War II had the ability to give women exposure to science, allotting them a role during the war and indirectly propelling women into science. Turing's conviction of "gross indecency" for homosexuality also fueled the modern day gay rights activist movement, demanding justice for the unfair prosecution of a brilliant thinker.