HONR269i
To the Moon and Back: The Apollo Program
Discussion Questions
Session 25: Apollo 15: Lunar Rover

0. Our colleagues at the University of Southern California Institute for Creative Technologies (USC-ICT) need to anticipate what questions might be asked so that they can match those questions up with answers. Please write down at least three questions you personally would like to ask Al Worden. We will share your questions with the team that is building the system that we saw demonstrated.

1. We have used several technologies that did not exist at the time of the Apollo missions to learn about what happened back then. Some examples include the Internet Archive (which made one of our projects possible), YouTube (which we have used to view movies made back then), the Apollo 11 landing reconstruction that we saw in class, the Apollo Lunar Surface Journal (which some students "read" for today), and the USC-ICT system that we just saw demonstrated. Suggest at least two other things that we could do with technology today that did not exist at the time of Apollo to help people better understand what happened during Apollo. Then discuss the consequences of our ability to do this – to use technologies that were not anticipated at the time – for how we should make decisions about what kinds of records to maintain from the current International Space Station, and what in what form those records should be maintained. How should archivists make those decisions, given that they can't completely anticipate how the records they have to decide on will be used?

2. The Lunar Rover was originally designed to make it possible for Apollo missions to reach more geologically interesting terrain without compromising safety by making it possible to land far enough away from that terrain to find a reliably flat area. But the lunar rover had many other benefits as well. List all of the other benefits. I can think of at least five, and you can probably think of even more.

3. The J missions (Apollo 15, 16 and 17) stretched the capabilities of the Apollo system pretty far, from 8 hours of moonwalks to about 20. But of course with some redesign it could be stretched even further. Identify all the things that would have needed to change for the moonwalking time to be extended by another factor of 2.5, to 50 hours. Could this have been done safely, in a way that could still be launched on a single Saturn V?