

Peggie Rimmer on her role in the history of the World Wide Web (C1379/135/06)

I know, you said before, you don't really sort of, like blowing your own trumpet, but I mean, what part do you think you played in this story, to summarise?

In the Web?

Yes.

Mainly just... Firstly, giving Tim the environment where standardisation and, and, complex computing set-ups, diverse environments, were part of the norm. And also, once he did get moving, because I knew so many people from my transatlantic stuff, I could really... I don't mean he... How can I say this? I could easily tell, point him in the right direction, and, for example, I had sent him off to do a sort of recce in the States. I said, you know, 'When you get to Fermilab, you should talk to her and him. And when you get to SLAC you should talk to Paul Kunz,' and... So people he had never heard of. So I could get him started a little bit. And... And then let him go on his own, without taking any credit for it, because it was his thing, I mean that was, you know. [coughs] So I think, setting him up in the standardisation thing officially, unofficially-officially, and, seeing the point of it all, and not wanting to upstage him, and... I mean, if, if this sadness and tragedy hadn't happened, I think my, I think I might have gone on to do a bit more, but I wasn't interested... I mean it didn't matter, it was fine. So I think mainly that. Giving him an opening to the next people who could send him on his way, who respected me, and so would take my word for it, not me just saying, 'Oh I know somebody fantastic,' but if I said, 'Talk to this Tim guy,' and they did. And, I think... I don't know what he thinks, how I... I didn't give him a tremendous amount of technical backup, because I wasn't tremendously fascinated by the stuff, but I gave him all the feeling about how it can be and should be. And, I think that was help- And also, personally, I was a sort of support for him when he had one or two troubles in his life there. And, as I say, we would have a chat, and, help him on his way a wee bit, you know, when he was going through a few complicated things.