Peter Lyman was one of the founders of James Madison College at Michigan State University and taught there from 1967 to 1987. During this time he also served as a visiting professor at Stanford and UC-Santa Cruz. In 1987, Lyman took a position at the University of Southern California and founded the Center for Scholarly Technology. He remained there until 1994 when he moved to UC-Berkeley as university librarian and then professor in the School of Information Management & Systems, retiring in 2006. Throughout his career, Lyman researched and published extensively on topics ranging from public policy to technology transfer and institutional change. He was one of the first researchers to work directly with computer companies to develop information technology specifically for research and teaching purposes. Born in San Francisco, California in 1940, Lyman received his Ph.D. in political science from Stanford in 1972, following a bachelor's degree from Stanford and master's degree from UC-Berkeley. He died on July 2, 2008.