

Keystrokes Per Minute

The women of the Public Service Typing Pools from 1945 to the present day

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The New Zealand Historical Association Conference

Tuesday 23 November - Friday 26 November 2021

Online, hosted by Massey University

The Keystrokes Per Minute project has been included as part of an abstract submitted to the NZ Historical Association by Dr. Rachel Patrick, Therese O'Connell and Dr. Emma-Jean Kelly.

The abstract will be presented in the form of a roundtable session called '**Keep On Walking Forward: learning from the songs, work, and stories of women typists and clerical workers 1950s to the 1990s**'; to illuminate the lives and work of women typists, office workers, and their organisations. In doing so, it will centre the voices and stories of an often-neglected sector of the female workforce, during an era of rapid social, cultural, and technological change in women's working lives

Rachel Patrick's paper will focus on themes of gender, class, and modernity, with a focus on women's pathways into and through the typing profession, and the impact of rapid technological change on the nature and content of women's work.

Shifting from the nature of women typist's work to their organisations, Emma-Jean Kelly and Therese Frances O'Connell will present a feminist history of the private sector Wellington Clerical Workers Union from the 1970s until 1991, drawing on archival records and the oral histories of the Wellington Clerical Workers' Union recorded by historian Grace Millar in 2017.

Fees are between \$15 and \$30 to register for this online conference, registrations via [Massey University's website here](#)

