
‘Woody’ died on December 7th 2017 in the age of 87 years. In his official obituary his long career is described.

Forest Windham “Woody” Horton Jr.


When I was working as an assistant professor at the University of Amsterdam, one of the subjects I was teaching, was ‘Information in the Organisation’. One of the inputs that I used for this module was Woody’s book : ‘Information resources management’.

He was the guru in the field. In 1991 I attended a conference in this field in Budapest. It was one of my first international conferences and there he was: the man himself ... alive. I was thrilled. It took me a day before I dared to speak to him. He was sitting somewhere at a small table .... and I took my chance. He was most amiable and open to a conversation. That was the start of what proved to become a long period of collaboration and even friendship.
A few years later we met again and found that both our interest had moved to ‘Information Literacy’. So we went on collaborating and meeting on this new subject together at several occasions: Alexandria, Madrid. The ‘main’ thing we managed together was the UNESCO project of a series of 11 ‘Training-the-trainers in information literacy (TTT) workshops.


A second project we did together, was the ‘Overview of Information Literacy Resources Worldwide’ in many languages. To emphasize the importance of the context of information resources.


And next to that, there is his UNESCO publication ‘Understanding information literacy: a primer’. An important contribution to the field.

http://unesdoc.unesco.org/images/0015/001570/157020e.pdf

For me privately: when I managed to get him to the University of Amsterdam on a Fulbright Grant, he stayed at our house on a canal in the centre of Amsterdam.
He enjoyed every day of it. During the ‘classes’ he was sitting, talking relaxed about his ideas and experiences on the subject.

Fortunately, his ‘mind’ and ‘typing’ qualities were not affected after his TIA, only his speaking suffered a little. But he didn’t want to travel abroad any more. So we went on, on-line, nearly every day: useful sites, interesting activities, persons to be contacted and so on.

‘Information Literacy’ owes a lot to him. Personally I do miss his daily comments and his suggestions but we have to learn to live with it.

As for ‘Information Recourses’: being at his home, you could talk for ‘days’, inspired by all the ‘souvenirs’ he had collected.

And this is how I like to remember him.