

PERSONAL AND PROFESSIONAL NOTES

In Memoriam

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(For information on how you may make a contribution to any of the funds please contact the LASA Secretariat at 412-648-1907.) ■

Scott Van Jacob, the Iberian-Latin American bibliographer at the University of Notre Dame, died on October 10 at the age of 53 after a 21-month battle with melanoma. The Notre Dame community and the wider community of bibliographers who worked on Latin America will miss an extraordinary friend and colleague.

Scott came to Notre Dame in 1995, after serving as a bibliographer at Dickinson College. He was an innovative librarian whose skills ran the gamut from identifying invaluable and rare historical documents and archives to being on the forefront of electronic developments in library work. He worked assiduously to purchase and catalogue many unusual collections. Early on in the development of electronic library materials, he recognized the importance of this medium and heralded its use.

Scott was a pioneer in promoting and pursuing collaboration among libraries, especially collaboration in the Latin American collections of research university libraries. A leader in the international association SALALM (Seminar on the Acquisition of Latin American Library Materials), he was well known and esteemed nationally and internationally for his innovative work. He was project director of the Brazilian Government Document Digitization Project, a pioneering large-scale digital scanning effort that brought some 700,000 pages of 19th and early 20th century national and provincial documents to the Internet. He also served as chair of the Latin American Research Resources Project (LARRP), which began as a pilot project within the Global Resources Program, a joint effort of the Association of Research Libraries (ARL) and the Association of American Universities (AAU). A major goal of LARRP has been to expand access for scholars to research materials from Latin America, and Scott was

instrumental in establishing two of its major components: the LAPTOC serials indexing project (Latin American Periodicals Tables of Contents), a web database that provides access to more than 800 periodicals; and the LAOAP (Latin American Open Archives Portal) digital archive.

Scott forged strong professional relationships with Latin American bibliographers around the country and with librarians and book dealers in Argentina, Uruguay, and Spain. To his great personal delight, he oversaw the acquisition and study of an important collection of manuscripts by his favorite writer, Jorge Luis Borges, and many other special collections. At Notre Dame, he won both the President's Award and the Foik Award, presented in recognition of exemplary contributions by a Notre Dame librarian.

Scott grew up on cattle ranches in Oregon and never lost his love of the outdoors. He earned BA and MA degrees at Oregon College of Education (now Western Oregon University) and his Master's in Information Science at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. He taught at an American school in Medellín, Colombia, after studying at the Oregon College of Education. An outstanding runner, he won the Harrisburg Mile at the age of 38 and had a personal best time of 4:07 for the mile and 30:50 for ten kilometers.

Through his final days, Scott exhibited the same wonderful spirit and kindness that characterized his life. We benefited hugely from Scott's outstanding work, deep humanity, and unsurpassed generosity.

Scott Mainwaring, University of Notre Dame ■