

Albert K. Boekhorst: In Memoriam Forest Windham "Woody" Horton Jr.

'Woody' died on December 7<sup>th</sup> 2017 in the age of 87 years. In his official obituary his long career is described.

Forest Windham "Woody" Horton Jr.

PASSED ON DECEMBER 7, 2017



Forest Windham "Woody" Horton Jr. (Age 87)

Forest Windham "Woody" Horton, Jr., beloved father and grandfather, died of natural causes in his home in Washington, D.C., on December 7, 2017. Dr. Horton was born in California, and he graduated from the University of California at Berkeley in 1951 and received a Masters degree from UCLA in 1952. He then received a teaching and research fellowship at Columbia University in New York for one year, and following that entered military service for three years, serving in the Army Counterintelligence field. Following his military service he became employed as a government civilian employee at the Army Ballistic Missile Agency (ABMA) at Redstone Arsenal in information technology, serving in the Werner von Braun missile program, where he learned to program and operate the early IBM mainframe computers.

<https://www.adventfuneral.com/archives/forest-woody-horton-jr.htm>.

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'.

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Horton, Forest W.  
Information resources management : concept and cases / Forest Woody Horton, Jr.  
Cleveland, OH : Association for Systems Management, c1979.  
SELECT TITLE FOR HOLDINGS INFORMATION

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.

Boekhorst, Albert K. & Horton, Forest Woody. 2009. Training-the-trainers in information literacy (TTT) Workshops Project, Final Report to UNESCO *The International Information & Library Review*, Volume 41, Issue 4, December 2009, Pages 224-230. <http://www.sciencedirect.com/science/journal/10572317>

• Montego Bay, Jamaica (30 May–1 June 2008)	(31 on-camp)
• Quebec City, Canada (8–9 August)	(35 on-camp)
• Port Dickson, Malaysia (11–14 August)	(78 on-camp)
• Tallinn, Estonia (21–23 August)	(47 on-camp)
• Ankara, Turkey (3–5 September)	(50 on-camp)
• Cape Town, South Africa (4–6 October)	(27 on-camp)
• Wuhan, China (21–23 October)	(104 on-camp)
• Granada, Spain (27–30 October)	(50 on-camp)
• Alexandria, Egypt (4–6 November)	(134 online) (94 on-camp)
• Patiala, India (5–7 November)	(66 on-camp)
• Lima, Peru (22–24 January 2009)	(45 on-camp)

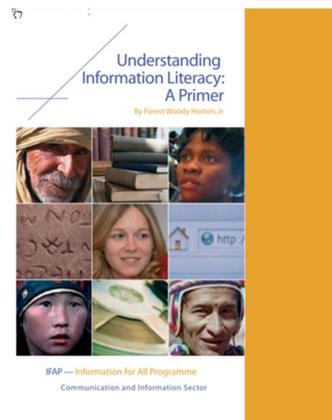
A second project we did together, was the 'Overview of Information Literacy Resources Worldwide' in many languages. To emphasize the importance of the context of information resources.

<http://www.unesco.org/new/en/communication-and-information/resources/publications-and-communication-materials/publications/full-list/overview-of-information-literacy-resources-worldwide/>



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.

Woody at home May 2008 ©akb



And this is how I like to remember him.