Memorial Resolution of the Faculty of the University of Wisconsin-Madison
On the Death of Professor Emeritus Richard Dean Walker

Richard Dean (Dick) Walker died on November 23, 2019 at the age of 89. He was born in Hammond, Indiana in 1930, was raised in northern Indiana, and graduated from Griffin (Indiana) High School in 1948.

Dick’s undergraduate study at Indiana University was interrupted by two years of service with the U.S. Army in the Korean War. He received his bachelor’s degree in chemistry in 1955. He added a master’s degree in library and information studies from Indiana University in 1957 and a Ph.D. from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign in 1963.

Dick brought to his teaching and scholarship at UW-Madison a broad background of professional practice in library and information services. He served as Geology Librarian at Indiana University (1955-1958) and Physics Librarian at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign (1958-1961). Other experience included directing the Library Research Center at UIUC (1961-1963) and teaching in the instructional media program at Southern Illinois University (1963-1965).

In 1965, Dick joined the faculty of the UW-Madison Library School (later the School of Library and Information Studies, now the Information School). His initial duties included overseeing the development of independent-study courses in library and information services under the University’s Articulated Instructional Media (AIM) program. Dick’s catholic interests in library and information services made him a valuable teacher in the School’s broad curriculum on library and information studies. He taught the basic course in reference materials and services throughout his career, along with more advanced courses in science literature and librarianship, audiovisual media, and the use of electronic information sources. He retired from the University in 1995.

Dick’s contributions extended to the campus at large. For example, he participated in campus undergraduate advising programs for ten years, and he worked with other campus faculty and staff members who were interested in the computerization of information sources and services.

Dick’s research and scholarly interests clustered in the area of explicating the systems and patterns in scientific communication and literature. Geology and water resources were the fields from which he drew his main examples. He served as major professor for a number of doctoral students, advising them and others on such research approaches as bibliometrics and citation analysis. In addition to numerous technical reports and journal articles, his publications include his books, *Patents as Scientific and Technical Literature* (Scarecrow Press, 1995) and *Scientific and Technical Literature: An Introduction to Communication Forms* (with C. D. Hurt, American Library Association, 1990). He had leadership roles in the Geoscience Information Society, and he was heavily involved in international conferences on geologic literature.

Dick had many interests outside his teaching and scholarship. He and his wife, Margy, had a wide circle of friends, many from the First Unitarian Society and from their longtime participation in an international foods group. They loved to travel, choosing to live in Hawaii for periods of time. Dick loved sailing and was accomplished at restoring and maintaining boats. In retirement, he took up printmaking, and his abstract prints were shown in many area venues.

Dick is survived by his wife, Margaret (Margy), their three children, five grandchildren, and a wide circle of family, colleagues, and friends.

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