

In Memory of Rolf Erickson, Head of Circulation Services at Northwestern University

We at NOTIS Systems were deeply saddened to learn of the recent death of Rolf Erickson, Head of Circulation Services at Northwestern University Library. Many NOTIS staff members first learned about the circulation module directly from Rolf and he provided valuable assistance and support, especially in the early years of NOTIS' independent existence.

Many of those professional contacts turned into personal friendships that continued long after NOTIS became a separate operation.

As some users may know, Rolf worked with the very first NOTIS circulation system—a batch-update version using punched cards—where the library user could key in a call number and find out the item's status. Because of both the benefits and the drawbacks of that first effort, Rolf was deeply involved in the effort at the library to develop a more sophisticated system, resulting in the integrated circulation module that first came online in January 1985.

There are those of us at NOTIS Systems who still remember standing at the terminals for the official unveiling of the new online system of which Rolf was so justifiably proud.

The software that Rolf helped design now of course forms the basis for circulation at all NOTIS sites. He was one of the automation pioneers whose hard work has had such enormous impact on libraries everywhere.

We at NOTIS Systems extend our sympathy to his family and join our colleagues at Northwestern University Library in mourning this loss to our community.

Memorial contributions can be sent to the Northwestern University Library Council, Northwestern University, 1935 Sheridan Road, Evanston, Illinois 60208. ■