

## Obituary

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# Johan van Halm 1941–2008



Johan van Halm, editor-in-chief of *Information Services and Use*, passed away on 28 September 2008 at the age of 67.

After a successful colon cancer operation, a post-chemotherapy session resulted in so many complications that he died on a sunny Sunday afternoon amongst his beloved daughter Anne-Jet, his brothers and best friends.

The online condolence register reads like a who's who in the information world and reflects perfectly the Johan van Halm as many people will remember him. A very well connected professional who travelled the world's library conferences as participant, speaker or organiser. Someone with a friendly word for everyone,

a lively person with wit. And above all, someone who could inspire, who would always embrace change and who was full of new ideas.

Johan worked as a special librarian in The Netherlands with Stork, but in the seventies he was one of the very first in the information industry to set up his own independent information

He knew how to combine business with pleasure, and his love of life worked as a magnet for everyone he encountered. Many of his business contacts became close personal friends who would meet him at all conferences that he attended.

EUSIDIC was one of the organisations which could not have continued for so long was it not for his enduring energy in organising its annual conference and managing as executive secretary to do all networking required for such an international information association.

One person on the condolence register wrote: "you made it happen", which was true for almost everything he touched.

The conference season has started again. Many, many people will miss the man with the red scarf showing up at an exhibitor's booth and introducing people to each other.

The information world has lost a truly remarkable man.

Chris Kluiters  
*Treasurer/Council member EUSIDIC*  
*Vice President Corporate Libraries ROW*  
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