

## Joseph Becker, In Memoriam

Joe Becker, a founder and the first editor-in-chief of this journal, died July 23, 1995, in Santa Monica at the age of 72. Many readers knew Joe personally through his many contacts and activities worldwide.

Joe's career began in World War II Army intelligence service and continued in intelligence work after the war. He was responsible for the Central Intelligence Agency's records systems until 1968. During those years, the intelligence community led the world in the design and use of large-scale information systems, especially those handling volumes of loosely structured textual information. His research and experiences of that era resulted in the 1963 publication, with Robert M. Hayes, of the classic text *Information Storage and Retrieval*.

Effective storage and access to large collections of information was a dominant theme of Joe's career. He was president of the American Society of Information Science in 1969 and won its highest award—the Award of Merit in 1984. In 1971, President Richard M. Nixon appointed him as a member of the National Commission of Libraries and Information Science and he served through 1979. His books on information processing include *National Information Policy: A Report to the President of the United States* and *The Handbook of Data Processing for Libraries* (which won the Best Information Science Book award in 1971). He served as an adjunct professor in the University of California, Los Angeles, Graduate School of Library and Information Science since 1976. In addition to his service, he also made a significant philanthropic commitment to the school.

Joe's international activities included active involvement with the University of the World, a nonprofit group promoting distribution of educational materials to developing countries through computers, video, and telecommunications. As president of the consulting firm Becker & Hayes, he consulted to the World Bank, the United Nations Scientific and Cultural Organization, and the governments of Japan, Italy, China, and Great Britain.

In 1978, Joe gathered a small group of colleagues together in a set of discussions that led to the establishment of *The Information Society: An International Journal*. Although just one of his many interests and activities, the journal represented and embodied his wide-ranging interests in the societal and international implications of the continuing information revolution.

Joe leaves a broad range of friends and colleagues spanning many disciplines and countries, for whom he was a source of energy and constancy. The continuing evolution of this journal will become one of the many tangible and useful legacies he has left to us.

Robert H. Anderson  
Editor Emeritus  
*The Information Society*