

In Memoriam: JQ Johnson

Sarah Shreeves

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In Memoriam

JQ Johnson

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I first met JQ Johnson in person at the Frye Leadership Institute, held at Emory University in the summer of 2008. Frye, at that point, was an intensive two week experience that brought together 47 librarians and information and educational technology professionals with provosts, faculty, trustees, students, lobbyists, and others in order to consider more broadly the current and future state of higher education. We talked, listened, asked questions, argued, laughed, slept, and ate (and drank) in the Emory Conference Center Hotel for two weeks, and at the end of those two weeks we were more or less a family. To lose a member of that family has been heart-wrenching.

John Quincy “JQ” Johnson was the Director of Scholarly Communications and Instructional Support at the University of Oregon (UO) Libraries. He started at the University of Oregon as the Director of Network Services in 1987 and moved into the Library in 1994 as the Academic Education Coordinator. JQ was not a librarian, but in so many ways he belonged to the library and the library community. He was an active contributor to national and local efforts to promote open access and changes to the current scholarly communication system. To name just a handful of his contributions: he led development of the open access policy within the UO Library (the first library to pass one of these); he established an open access fund at the UO for faculty; he thoughtfully participated in SPARC listservs devoted to author rights and institutional repositories; he established the Knight Library Press in collaboration with Oregon State University to provide a publishing service for open access journals; and he was a member of the editorial board of this journal. These contributions are a testimony

to JQ’s passion for identifying tangible ways in which libraries could support their faculty and researchers and students.

JQ in so many ways epitomized what it meant to be at Frye. He was intellectually curious: no matter what the topic, you could see him wrestling with the issues presented and asking thoughtful questions. He was engaged and passionate about higher education and committed to finding ways to improve it. He was always creative, always willing to explore alternative solutions even if they were not very comfortable. And he was kind, perhaps one of the kindest colleagues that I have worked with; you could rely on him to offer encouragement and assistance whether on a listserv, through a phone call, or in person.

The mantra for many of us in the 2008 Frye cohort was ‘chin up’, meaning keep your eye on the big picture rather than letting the details derail you. For many of us, hearing of JQ’s passing in July after a long illness, that phrase meant something else entirely.

EDITOR’S NOTE:

A faculty member and Director of Scholarly Communications and Instructional Support at the University of Oregon, JQ Johnson was also a founding editorial board member of the *Journal of Librarianship and Scholarly Communication*, and we dedicate this issue to his memory.



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