Obituary

**Paul Eugene Maher**

Paul Eugene Maher, a longtime employee of the Library, passed away on May 15.

Paul was born in Viola, Illinois, on Nov. 11, 1951. He grew up in a religious environment and was fascinated from an early age by Biblical and Jewish histories. He devoted himself to studying Hebrew, Biblical Greek and theology, and he graduated from Marion College (now Indiana Wesleyan University) in 1972. He also studied at the University of Dubuque Theological Seminary and the University of Michigan in Ann Arbor, receiving two master’s degrees.

From 1979 to 1982, he worked as a Hebrew materials specialist at University Microfilms in Ann Arbor. He then relocated to Washington, D.C., to take a job at the Library of Congress. He was a cataloger and assistant section head in the Descriptive Cataloging Division. Following a reorganization, Maher became leader of the Hebraica Team. He stepped down from that role in 1995 and eventually assumed the position from which he retired: automated operations coordinator for Japanese, Arabic, Chinese, Korean, Persian, Hebrew and Yiddish (JACKPHY).

Maher was the author of “Hebrew Literature in the Modern Period: Sources for History and Criticism” and “Hebraica Cataloging: A Guide to ALA/LC Romanization and Descriptive Cataloging.”

“It’s impossible to overstate Paul Maher’s contribution to the field of Hebraica and Judaica cataloging,” said Jeremiah Aaron Taub, head of the Israel and Judaica Section. “His ‘Hebraica Cataloging’ provides clear guidelines for catalogers and is the foundational classic in the field.”

When Maher retired in 2002, he moved back to Illinois, where he continued his research. His “Donald G. Bloesch: A Research Bibliography” is a comprehensive bibliography of the works of the noted Catholic theologian who had served as Maher’s mentor at the University of Dubuque. Over the years, Maher also amassed an enormous database of bibliographic information that he was organizing for public use by scholars. Parts of it were used by David J. A. Clines in his “The Dictionary of Classical Hebrew.”

Maher is survived by three brothers — Martin Maher of Langlois, Oregon; Michael Maher of Lebanon, Oregon; and his twin, John Maher of Marion, Indiana — as well as nieces and nephews and numerous friends and colleagues.