2017

Raul Valdes-Perez Profile

Follow this and additional works at: http://docs.lib.purdue.edu/atg

Part of the Library and Information Science Commons

Recommended Citation

(2017) "Raul Valdes-Perez Profile," Against the Grain: Vol. 26: Iss. 4, Article 64.
DOI: https://doi.org/10.7771/2380-176X.6911

This document has been made available through Purdue e-Pubs, a service of the Purdue University Libraries. Please contact epubs@purdue.edu for additional information.
Raul Valdes-Perez

Chief Executive Officer, OnlyBoth LLC
P.O. Box 8120, Pittsburgh, PA 15217
OnlyBoth.com


EARLY LIFE: Attended elementary and high school in the Chicago area, then did a gap year in Madrid before college.

PROFESSIONAL CAREER AND ACTIVITIES: Got B.S.E. and M.S. in computer engineering at University of Illinois at Chicago. Then went abroad for two years seeking adventure. Returning to the U.S., worked at the MIT AI lab for two years in Randy Davis's group. Went to Carnegie Mellon to do a Ph.D in computer science under a faculty member. Finally, we started Vivisimo, which I served as CEO for nine years and chairman until IBM acquired us, 12 years after founding.

IN MY SPARE TIME: Family, friends, travel.

FAVORITE BOOKS: I often cite Cyrano de Bergerac as a romantic tale of heroism and nobleness, and Brave New World as a dystopia of a diminished mankind.

PHILOSOPHY: "Advice is for Winners" which is the title of my book, subtitled “How to Get Advice for Better Decisions in Life and Work.”

MOST MEMORABLE CAREER ACHIEVEMENT: 15 years of monthly meetings with my Ph.D advisor and Nobel Laureate Herbert A. Simon, first as a student and later as a collaborator and colleague. One could ask him something about anything and walk away smarter.

GOAL I HOPE TO ACHIEVE FIVE YEARS FROM NOW: We want OnlyBoth to liberate the tremendous insights cloaked in structured data everywhere, yearning to breathe free and become known.

ATG: That sounds like a goal that we in libraries are trying to address. Instead of providing search results only, how do we provide possible meaningful solutions/pathways?

RVP: Identify the common and valuable questions that users want answers to, and design algorithms and heuristics that will do it; it’s a research endeavor. A further challenge is that you don’t want yet another entry page that is separate from the search page. For our trend discovery work at Vivisimo, we added a separate Emerge button placed next to the Search button. A user typed a query and then pressed either Search or Emerge. Of course, you can’t have too many such buttons, but you can have a few more. IBM now owns the prototype we developed. We’d love for them to bring it to market.

ATG: Everyone needs a little down time. What leisure activities do you enjoy? If we were to take a quick peek, what books would we see downloaded on to your tablet or smartphone?

RVP: I don’t have a tablet or a smartphone, because I don’t spend insufficient time in front of computer screens. For leisure, I prefer people contact involving friends, family, and travel, or books that help me see the world in ways that I’m not seeing now.

ATG: Raul, Thank you so much for a thoughtful interview! We really appreciate it.

RVP: You’re very welcome.