Profile: April Colosimo  
Liaison Librarian, McGill University

How long have you been working in libraries?
I worked one year as a student reference librarian before graduating with an MLIS in 2005.

What was your first job?
My first job was as a candy girl in a movie theatre in Montreal.

Describe your first library job.
I had two simultaneous jobs as a student reference librarian, at Concordia University Libraries and at McGill University Library. I answered questions at the reference desk of the Vanier Library (Concordia) and the Humanities and Social Sciences Library (McGill), mostly evenings and weekends. It was terrifying.

If you weren’t a librarian/library worker, what would you be and why?
I spent several years in a cancer research lab and would probably still be a lab rat. I also thought about teaching after amassing enough life experience.

What do you like best about your current job?
I am constantly challenged in my current job and I have the opportunity to work with some amazing people.
Describe your favorite conference experience.

I just returned from ICML in Brisbane, Australia. There was an impressive array of keynote speakers and high quality papers presented.

What do you do for fun?

I love to travel. I had a record year - Las Vegas, Hawaii, the Maritimes, Australia.

Name one person you admire, and explain why you admire them.

I admire the librarian I worked with at my first real librarian job at Concordia. She is now retired but was an old school librarian and showed me how things were done in her day and why. At the same time she challenged me to find my own path. She also taught a course in graduate school which I now teach, thanks to the example she set.

If you could say one thing to someone who is interested in a career in libraries, what would it be?

Try to stay fluid and ready for change.

If you were stranded at the airport, what would you want to have with you to read, and why?

If I was stranded in an airport today I would want to have Stieg Larsson's The Girl with the Dragon Tattoo because I am 600 pages in and I have to know how it ends.