Profile: Suzanne van den Hoogen  
Liaison Librarian, Saint Francis Xavier University, Angus L. Macdonald Library  

How long have you been working in libraries?  

I've been working in libraries for more than 20 years.  

What was your first job?  

My first job was working in a retirement home. It was a wonderful experience. I was "adopted" by several of the residents as their newest granddaughter. I have to admit, this made cleaning their toilets a little easier...  

Describe your first library job.  

My first library job was while I was an undergraduate at Saint Mary's University. I worked at the Patrick Power Library for three years. At the time, I wasn't sure about applying to work at the library, but a friend of mine actually made me fill out the job application form. I think I'll email her to say, "thank you".  

If you weren't a librarian/library worker, what would you be and why?  

I would be a teacher. If I could do it all over again, I would like to have finished my Masters degree sooner and taken my PhD. I get a tremendous feeling of fulfillment from teaching and interacting with students on a daily basis.  

What do you like best about your current job?  

The students -- Everyday they remind me that I have the best job in the world!
Describe your favorite conference experience.

My favourite conference experience was CLA/APLA in St. John's Newfoundland. I didn't kiss the cod, but I had a great time making new friends and attending the conference sessions in what I consider one of the most beautiful provinces in our country.

What do you do for fun?

In my spare time I like to garden, read, watch foreign movies, paint and cross-stitch.

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

My mother. She was forced to quit school when she was in grade seven to take care of her mother. Despite her lack of formal schooling, she has always recognized the value of education and encouraged me to follow my dreams. She means the world to me.

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

I would encourage anyone considering a career in libraries to act on that impulse. I went to graduate school in my late 30's to complete my MLIS. Next to my children and my husband, it is one of the best decisions I've ever made.

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

I would want to have a copy of "Don't Sweat the Small Stuff". I don't like waiting. This book helps me keep things in perspective.