Profile: Linda Searcy Howard Librarian, Fraser Health

How long have you been working in libraries?

30 years

What was your first job?

Writing a column for the local paper on high school events while in grade 12.

Describe your first library job.

Library Assistant in an American high school library on an army base in Kaiserslautern, Germany. I provided library orientation to students, catalogued books, coordinated the circulation desk and answered basic reference questions. I was encouraged by the librarians to pursue the Masters of Library Science which I did.

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

I would be a guidance counsellor or a social worker. I have always been interested in interacting with people and assisting them in solving problems.

What do you like best about your current job?

I like conducting literature searches in the health science databases for research questions given to me by health professionals. I also love teaching health professionals how to use the online databases and electronic journals.

Describe your favorite conference experience.

The Canadian Health Libraries Association conference in St. John's Newfoundland was a wonderful experience. I stayed in a heritage bed and breakfast in downtown St. John's and walked daily to the conference. The opening reception was held in a winery and gave me an opportunity to mix and mingle with librarians from across Canada.

What do you do for fun?

I love to play tennis, listen to jazz and watch foreign films. I also love to attend local live theatre and concerts with friends.

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

I admire Penny Priddy, former politician for Surrey. She is able to speak from the heart, connect with a wide variety of people from diverse backgrounds and still remain humble and true to herself.

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

Go for it! A career in libraries is a wonderful opportunity to continually learn on the job. It is a positive and meaningful way to connect people with information in new and stimulating ways. You will never be bored.

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

I would like to have Stephen Covey's book "Seven Habits of Highly Effective People". It is an inspiring guide to living one's life with integrity and courage.