Profile: Ruth Rochlin
Librarian, Interior Health

How long have you been working in libraries?
22 years

What was your first job?
Clerical work in banks.

Describe your first library job.
My first paid library job was in the Metro Toronto Reference Library. I worked in "Collection Maintenance and Access", i.e., tons of shelving and retrieving requested items from 10 floors of closed stacks. It was a very aerobic job.

However, my first library job was in junior high. I stayed after school and worked in the library because it was fun. (Was I ever going anywhere else?)

If you weren't a librarian/library worker, what would you be and why?
That question makes me gasp! Not in a library? Maybe I would work in a museum, a gallery or a bookstore: places where there is information and used by people who come because they want to learn something.

What do you like best about your current job?
I learn something every day that I work. I loved university and this is a way to stay in school forever. I'm in healthcare and I feel that I am making a difference.
Describe your favorite conference experience.

I attended CHLA in Quebec City in 2001, and everything about it was stellar. The electronic environment was new in healthcare, and I connected with people that I could discuss the changes with. Quebec City was a fabulous venue, and over dinner in the old city we discussed Docline routing tables!

What do you do for fun?

I live in the Okanagan, so outdoor fun is always high on the list: biking, hiking, skiing, swimming. Also high on the list is reading and my book club.

Name one person you admire, and explain why.

I admire the librarians at the National Library of Medicine in Bethesda, Maryland. Back in the 60’s, when the rest of the nerd world was playing with email, those librarians were trying to put Medline into electronic form on the internet.

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

Do it! It's the most fun and interesting career path you could choose.

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

This has happened to me many times so I know the answer. First, I can kill several hours in any airport bookstore, perusing what is new in several categories and trying to limit my purchasing. A national newspaper is always good for a while. I won't read about terrorism or disasters in an airport. I've read that Maeve Binchey sells most of her books in airports, and there's a reason for that!