Profile: Olivia Anderson
Branch Head, Greater Victoria Public Library

How long have you been working in libraries?

19 years.

What was your first job?

Ice cream parlour in Kamloops - was fired for making the ice cream cones too big.

Describe your first library job.

Auxiliary public service librarian at Burnaby Public Library and North Vancouver District Public Library.

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

Something in the trades - carpenter? Though realistically, I periodically think of giving it all up to work in landscaping and garden design.

What do you like best about your current job?

I love the variety of what I do, managing two small branch libraries, and greatly appreciate that I still have time to work closely providing stellar reader's advisory to patrons. I also do all the adult fiction ordering for GVPL - something I adore.

Describe your favorite conference experience.

BCLA - was delighted to have participated in the first “Ain't on the G&M Bestsellers list”.
What do you do for fun?

Read, cook, travel and walk.

Name one person you admire, and explain why.

Someone in the field of libraries? Barbara Jo May - Branch Manager at Burnaby Public Library - now at Okanagan Regional Library: avid and eclectic reader, champion of our rights and freedoms, brave and forward thinker. Patricia Eaton, Acting Manager of Public Services, GVPL: feisty, stylish, outspoken and passionate about the future of library services, outstanding mentor to all. Both these women have had a great influence upon me.

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

Do it! From book stores to flirting with a career in publishing... I settled on public libraries and haven't regretted it for a minute.

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

I never go anywhere without at least two good sized books just in case one doesn't suit. Nothing too deep as airports are distracting. A new Peter Robinson, or Denise Mina, or Fred Vargas, or Kate Atkinson would suit me nicely. Mind you... a new EReader would mean I would not have to pack an extra bag!