Profile: Ania Dymarz
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Describe your early background.

I was born in a small coal mining town in Poland. Shortly after, my family left Poland, transporting me to England in a laundry basket, eventually immigrating to Canada. I grew up in Edmonton spending my formative years enjoying a strong community fostered by the fierce winters and prairie air.

Where are you working now, and what do you like best about your current job?

I work at the Surrey campus of Simon Fraser University. What do I enjoy the most? The energy from staff and students alike here is remarkable. I would describe it as forward-thinking, innovative, and inspiring...there is a definite can-do attitude here. This environment enables me to engage in my job creatively and encourages me to put forward the same energy to colleagues and patrons.

What is your most memorable library experience?

At the time that I was applying for library school, I was living in Kraków. I made my way down to the Jagiellonian University Library for some reason or other and had my first encounter with a closed stacks library. While there are many good reasons why a library may have closed stacks, I think of my experience as a novice user of this space often in the context of library as place. What barriers to access do users encounter, be they physical, social, or cultural, when they come into a library? As we renovate our physical spaces, and as we re-imagine our library programs to meet the changing needs of users, we are provided with a great opportunity to dismantle barriers and to build up the library as a welcoming place.

What accomplishment are you most proud of?

Maybe not my greatest accomplishment, but my latest: I just finished knitting my very first sweater...and it looks OK!
What issues do you think will have a big impact on libraries in the next few years?

When people talk about the future, they tend to talk about technology; these days, for libraries that means e-books, 3D printing, and the like. Technology has shaped and will continue to influence the contours of our libraries, but I believe that the core of libraries are their communities. If you start from there, the issues that have the biggest impact are accountability to, and engagement with, community. In public libraries we can see this through the growing importance of community-based librarianship, and in academia this shows up in an increased focus on areas such as UX, evidence-based practice, and assessment more generally. In either case, understanding existing relationships and growing new partnerships will be key.

Tell us about an interesting book or article you've read recently. What appealed to you about it?

I'm just in the middle of Thomas King's *The Back of the Turtle*. He has an amazing ability to speak stark truth in a disarming and even light-hearted way. I appreciate his levity and his sense of responsibility in his approach to history, to contemporary issues, and to storytelling.