



Profile: Sherry Kropninski
Library Technician, Port Alberni campus of North Island College, British Columbia

What was your first job ever?

Hmmm, that's a hard one! So long ago... Well, other than babysitting, I'd have to say it was working at "Esta Villa Motel." I was a sort of Girl Friday - I registered guests, answered switchboard, did laundry and dishes!

Describe your first job in libraries.

North Island College, Port Alberni – at the "old campus". I began with no library experience in a library that didn't even have its collection catalogued yet. I grew as the library grew. I now have my Library Technician diploma from University College of the Fraser Valley.

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

That's easy - I'd either be working at Indigo Chapters or owning and operating my own bookstore.

Who has been a big inspiration/influence on your library career?

Mary Anne Guenther - Coordinator of Library Services at North Island College, Comox campus library.

Name one person you admire (outside of libraries) and explain why.

My mother-in-law: Cecile Coutu-Kropninski. She is a former elementary school teacher and an exceptionally talented seamstress. She also has written several family histories and a book on the French Canadians of Port Alberni. She is kind and nurturing. She is 84 years old and never stops teaching my children new things.

What is the best part of your job?

I would like to say helping students but my biggest pleasure really is in choosing new materials for our library. I love reading reviews; searching Books in Print for just the right books on a given topic; and most of all - getting those new books in!

In terms of electronic resources, what is your favourite search interface and why?

I am probably most familiar with Ebscohost databases, so I would choose those. The new visual search option is wonderful. Ebscohost databases are easy to use and Academic Search is awesome.

What was a great conference you attended and what made it great?

I have only attended one BCLA Conference and that was a number of years ago. It took me 4 years of schooling (working full time and taking courses online) to get my diploma. It's been a year since I graduated. Since then I have moved into a new position at work; I am now the Library Technician at this campus and supervise one other staff member. Naturally, the best thing about library conferences is the chance to communicate with others in the same field of work.

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

There are many options today for getting your education to become a library tech or librarian! You can do it even with your other life commitments!