

SSLA AWARDS AND BURSARY

2012-2013

Art Forgay Award of Recognition

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The *Art Forgay Award of Recognition* honours those individuals who, through their leadership, have made outstanding contributions to the concept of school library programs and the implementation of school library services which are essential to an effective educational program.

I am delighted to present the *Art Forgay Award of Recognition* to someone I call both friend and colleague, Judy Nicholson. Before Judy comes forward, I would like to share some of the highlights that have occurred as a result of her leadership.

Judy has been an educator for 35 years; 18 of those years with involvement in libraries. I have a very clear memory of the first time that I met Judy. The year was 1998 and Judy was already the master of multi-tasking. She had 3 part-time contracts that totaled a full time position with major travelling...and she had a young family. She was employed as a .5 teacher-librarian with Buffalo Plains School Division, and had contracts with the Indian Head and Cupar school divisions to deliver library consultant services. At one of our first network meetings of the year, Judy provided professional development on the still relevantly new-fangled tool called the Internet. If my memory serves me correctly, Judy was demonstrating how to use Filamentality to create a Hotlist. She was into curation before it became a library buzz word.

Judy was, and is, an exemplary teacher-librarian. Under her leadership, teachers within Prairie Valley Schools and Regina Public Schools were introduced to collaborative planning that embedded competencies into resource-based and inquiry-based learning experiences. Her contributions were recognized by SSLA in 2005 when she was presented with the Connie Acton Award of Merit and in 2000 when she was the recipient of the Wray Wylie Scholarship.

- Judy is a true collaborator. She partnered with Regina Catholic Schools to design a learning object for the Ministry. The website—*Teacher-Librarians...Supporting Student Learning*—was the recipient of the Canadian School Library Association *Angela Thacker Memorial Award* in 2006.

- Judy embraces change. In 2005 she was seconded to the Ministry with a portfolio that included school libraries and learning resources. In 2007, she superannuated; however the call of libraries was too strong for her to resist. In fact, her contributions were so highly valued that that the ministry has continued to employ her services as a learning consultant with responsibilities for school libraries since 2007. During her tenure with the Ministry, she
 - Advocated tirelessly for the important role of the teacher-librarian and has been a leader in establishing criteria for effective school library programming.
 - Crafted the ministry document *Connections: Policy and Guidelines for School Libraries in Saskatchewan* (2008)
 - Coordinated a partnership with Manitoba educators resulting in the ministry document *Assessing Information: Cataloguing Guidelines for Manitoba and Saskatchewan Library Personnel* (2011)
 - Helped to forge a partnership between the SSLA and the Ministry resulting in the project *Teacher-Librarians Constructing Understanding through Inquiry*—more commonly known as *The Inquiry Project*. She is the driving force that is keeping the working committee on track.

- Did I mention that Judy loves multi-tasking? When she superannuated in 2007, she not only took on contract work with the government, she also accepted a teacher-librarian position at Dieppe School with Regina Public Schools, and she took on a contract with Prairie Valley Schools to help them coordinate their system-wide literacy initiative—A Time to Read. It makes me tired just thinking about it!

- Judy has also served as a variety of educational/library related committees:
 - Was a founding board member of the Saskatchewan Young Reader Choice Awards.
 - Served on the Multitype Database Licensing Programming Committee, the committee that brings all residents of Saskatchewan access to a wide range of digital/subscription resources.
 - Was a member of the Saskatchewan Digital Alliance Committee.

- And let's not forget Judy's contributions to this organization—SSLA—over the years. She has served in a variety of capacities:
 - Conference presenter
 - Conference planning committee
 - Secretary, Vice-President, President, and Past President

Judy, please come forward to accept your well-deserved award.