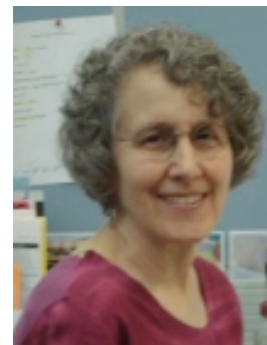


Judy Growe (nee Fortus)

Judy Growe passed away peacefully on October 9, 2011. She was approachable, cooperative, helpful, accessible, respectful, and took the time to listen. Judy loved singing, birds, purple, and words.

Judy earned her Masters of Arts in Teaching (English) from Harvard Graduate School, and spent the early days of her professional career as a teacher in Boston and St. Louis. After moving to Vancouver, she worked as a Corporate Librarian with MacDonald Dettwiler and Associates. Judy started the library from scratch, interviewing employees to determine how they wanted it organized; during her ten years with the company, she developed the specifications for a computerized library catalogue designed by their MIS department.



Judy Growe,
Photo by Sandy Ragan

With experience in hand and enthusiasm for the information profession, Judy went to the University of British Columbia for her Masters in Library Science, graduating in 1992. By 1993, Judy was employed as a full-time librarian with Langara College, where she remained until her retirement in August 2010.

Judy worked closely with several departments at Langara, especially Sociology and English. The always positive feedback from instructors included the following note: “a noticeable improvement in the average standard of the research papers compared to the same sections in earlier semesters... Judy’s contributions made the difference”.

She continually thought about new approaches to delivering library services, played a leading role in expanding the use of new technologies in the reference area, and was passionate about library instruction.

Judy was the Reference Coordinator before it was an official position, carrying on as official Coordinator, Reference and Instruction to 2002. She oversaw the instruction program, helped create the “Blue Workbook”, and helped develop the “Library: Introduction to Research” online tutorial.

Judy’s feedback and testing of the Library’s online presence were as invaluable as her development of the Library’s Chair and Coordinator descriptions. Her legacy of the Library’s Succession Planning document continues to be used.

Besides contributing to Langara, Judy was active in the British Columbia Library Association (BCLA), Vancouver Online Users Group (VOLUG), and Electronic Library Network (ELN).

Since her retirement, Judy had the opportunity to spend more time with her family. Judy will be missed by her daughter Amanda, son-in-law Al and her cherished five-month old grandson Tom. It was Tom, especially, who gave her great pleasure during her final weeks.

She will also be greatly missed by her colleagues at Langara, and throughout the greater library community.

Written by Patricia Cia, a version previously published in the BCLA Newsletter