

2006 Honours Award

Trudy Bodak

Delivered by Cheryl Woods at the 2006 AGM, Ottawa Ontario

In honouring Trudy Bodak today, the Association of Canadian Map Libraries and Archives celebrates an area of excellence for ACMLA. In the welcoming address of the first annual conference of the Association of Canadian Map Libraries in 1967, Dr. W. Kaye Lamb, the Dominion Archivist and National Librarian, said that the item of utmost importance was the creation of a union catalogue of maps—and that to move forward, the greatest problem would be the establishment of a “uniform code” to ensure that results would be properly merged.

The union catalogue and descriptive standards has been referred to as the most significant issue that ACMLA has addressed since its inception. Trudy Bodak has put her mark on the continued excellence of the contribution of the Association to bibliographic standards and has helped members of the Association understand how we can all contribute to this common goal.

Trudy received her undergraduate degree at Queen's University in 1967 with a major in geography, and went to complete her library science degree at the University of Toronto in 1968. Trudy gives credit for her understanding of the importance of catalogue to one of her mentors at the University of Alberta, Yvonne Fenton, then Head of Cataloguing. Trudy moved to Ontario after three years in Alberta, and was hired in 1971 to work as a cataloguer at York University. By 1980, Trudy had become the Head of Cataloguing at York. At the end of the next decade, Trudy was seconded to be Acting Head of the Map Library, attended her first ACMLA conference—and was hooked. She was appointed as Head of the Map Library, and threw herself enthusiastically into the world of maps, GIS and all the disciplines that come with this world.

As she has said, there is never a dull moment in our field and we are always facing one challenge or another. In her own words,

I think what I have loved most is the challenge and the opportunity to make things happen. There is so much to learn and to contribute to this field. It is amazing! We will never be stagnating. The people in our profession are really something else. Their passion, enthusiasm and support are driving forces that make you proud of who and what you are.

Trudy's commitment to the Association and her very capable chairmanship of the Bibliographic Control Committee has been impressive. As a Chair she has been a strong leader, bringing to fruition a number of significant achievements: several cataloguing workshops - in Winnipeg, Toronto and Ottawa--to encourage and

support the description of our collections; the development of a strong cataloguing presence on ACMLA web site; raising the profile of metadata through an ACMLA conference panel; a survey of map cataloguing practice and needs of ACMLA members to ensure that BCC focused on members' need.

Trudy has always been an excellent spokesperson for ACMLA members, representing our requirements to the staff in the Union Catalogue to ensure the continued development and vitality of the national union catalogue of maps in AMICUS. She has brought enthusiasm, commitment and organizational skills to help our members and communities understand the importance of cataloguing and the sharing of our collective knowledge and collections.

In Lou Sebert's closing remarks in preparation for an ACMLA interview, he said,

“Map librarians are only interested in the data outside the neat line;
Surveyors are only interested in the data inside the neat line.”

Trudy would tell him that one cannot exist without the other—and she'd tell him exactly why—with wisdom, passion, and respect.