

Name Ann Liang

Title: Instructional Librarian at Saskatchewan Polytechnic Moose Jaw Campus

Born and lived: Saskatoon, Saskatchewan

Family & Early Life: I am the youngest of three kids (as in 10 and 11 years younger than my siblings), so I spent a lot of my early life terrorizing my siblings and making them seem “uncool” in their teen years.

The majority of my family is still in Saskatoon, so I do make frequent trips back to Saskatoon to visit.

Professional career and activities: I started out as a student assistant in the Science and Health Science libraries at the University of Saskatchewan during my undergrad (where I studied Biology and Archaeology). It was at this position that I found my love of libraries and I decided to pursue an MLIS with the help and advice of Dede Dawson! I completed my MLIS in 2015 at Western, and as luck would have it, I managed to come home to Saskatchewan when I was hired on with Saskatchewan Polytechnic.

In my spare time: I spend my spare time learning new ways to create art. I enjoy painting with acrylics and sketching with conte chalk. I dabble in photography, calligraphy and origami. Currently I am crocheting elaborate animal themed blankets.

Favorite books: I love reading fantasy, science fiction, historical fiction or my guilty pleasure young adult novels in my spare time. My favorite series are Kate Daniels by Illona Andrews, All Souls Trilogy by Deborah Harkness and as a massive Star Wars fan; I am slowly making my way through the new canon books.

I’m currently reading: What If?: Serious Scientific Answers to Absurd Hypothetical Questions by Randall Munroe

Pet peeves: As a short person who has had to learn to walk quickly to keep up with my taller peers, slow walkers are definitely my biggest pet peeve.

Philosophy: As a child of the 90’s and avid Magic School Bus fan my philosophy is to “Take Chances, Make mistakes, Get Messy!” in order to explore and continuously learn.

Most memorable career achievement: I have only just passed the one-year marker as a professional librarian and my most memorable achievement to date is taking on and completing the daunting task of a user feedback survey within the first few months of my first librarianship and then seeing the results of that survey applied widely to all our decisions moving forward.

Long-term career goals: I have strong interests in user feedback and user experience testing and I would like to further my research into these areas in order to improve services and libraries to serve our patrons better and to start publishing in the scholarly world!

How/where do I see the library industry in five years: The library industry is and will continue with making huge strides with technology. We are becoming the earliest adopters and supporters of the newest tech for not only recreational but also educational purposes. In addition, the focus these days is on “Fake News”. While libraries have always been at the forefront of fighting fake news, I feel like this is our time to capitalize on this buzz to be the leading and immediate go to experts in helping people to learn how to think critically and evaluate information in a world where our users are drowning in information.