

Congratulations to Francis Morrison Award Recipient: Bill Sgrazzutti

SLA is pleased to acknowledge Bill Sgrazzutti as recipient of the Frances Morrison Award. Bill's career of more than 20 years of service at the University of Regina Library includes innumerable contributions at the local, provincial, and national levels. Locally, he has served generations of University of Regina students and faculty, initially as a subject liaison librarian for music and education, then as an Associate University Librarian, next as the University Librarian, and finally as the Strategic Initiatives Coordinator. Provincially, he led the growth and development of RegLIN into CASLS, a consortium of Regina libraries. Bill has also been an active member and volunteer with SLA, including serving as co-Chair of the 2017 SLA Conference in Waskesiu. Nationally, while University Librarian; he represented the University of Regina Library at the Council of Prairie and Pacific University Libraries (COPPUL) and the Canadian Association of Research Libraries (CARL).



The nomination letter included quotes from Bill's colleagues and others who have worked closely with him. The following are excerpts from that letter:

... I could rely on Bill to be honest, honourable, and supportive of province-wide initiatives and programs. Bill is a strategic thinker, and clearly understood the role of academic libraries and the University of Regina in particular as key stakeholders and advocates in developing a functioning and functional integrated library support network for citizens of the province.

... I have personally relied on his intellect, his corporate and personal knowledge, his ability to recognize the importance of emerging campus and professional trends, and his grounding in strategic thinking -- all of which have made him a trusted advisor and colleague.

... He has left a legacy that will be long remembered, even though he would never take personally take credit for that legacy. I can think of no one who deserves the SLA Frances Morrison Award more.

... Bill is an incredible visionary, always slightly ahead of the curve. He is not only a visionary, but also someone who can gather the right people together and lead them through to make sure that vision is achieved.

... Bill is one of the most humble people I have known. Many of the successful innovative initiatives in our Library started with him, but he wouldn't want people to know that. He would rather the group take the credit. Nothing was ever "about Bill", but rather about what was best for the Library. Other words that come to mind when I think of Bill are "consummate professional", "honourable", and "kind."

... Bill is diplomatic and considerate, always taking time to listen to the opinions and viewpoints of other people. He understands the value of consultation and process in decision-making, and he does not make decisions lightly without carefully considering the impact on employees.

... Bill Sgrazzutti is an exceptional colleague and library leader. He approaches everything he does with great focus, and always in a way that is collaborative, fair and strategic.

... Bill has had no small role in mentoring and encouraging a whole new generation of information professionals, and growing the profile and services of the University of Regina Library

... What I value about Bill is his humour, organization, strategic mind and ability to get stuff done.

I have always been impressed with his professionalism, work ethic, and dedication to the Library. He is always very pleasant to work with, shows his appreciation of others' work, and maintains a sense of humour in any situation.

... Through his dedication and leadership, Bill has helped ensure that countless students, faculty members, and researchers from our province and indeed around the globe have the means to access a world of knowledge through what truly is the University of Regina's 'spiritual heart.'