

Baharak Yousefi

MLIS MA

250 - 13450 102 Avenue
Surrey, BC V3T 0A3
(778) 782-7414
byousefi@sfu.ca

May 4, 2014

Bio & Statement of Interest

Prepared for BC Libraries Cooperative AGM 2014

I serve as the Head of Fraser Library at Simon Fraser University's Surrey Campus. Prior to my current position at SFU, I worked as a librarian at Capilano University, Vancouver Public Library, and BiblioCommons. My professional experiences and training in a mid-sized research university, a small teaching university, a large urban public library, and as a library vendor have provided me with a broad view of the library landscape in BC. In addition, earlier this year, I was selected to take part in the US State Department's International Visitor Leadership Program on Higher Education. The group visited higher education institutions, non-profit organizations, consortia, and libraries across the US and had the opportunity to learn about many programs and initiatives taking place south of the border.

I came to librarianship after a seven-year tenure as a manager in the book industry where I was answerable to customers, company executives, publishers, employees, the community, and all other stakeholders. I am comfortable and adept at working within complex organizations and relationship matrices.

I believe strongly that libraries exist for the common good and are at their core a public and communal effort. As such, I am excited about the mission of the BC Libraries Cooperative "to help libraries help people." I have no doubt that when it comes to the services that libraries provide to their communities, both big and small, our most important work is still in front of us. I believe the cooperative approach is the strongest and healthiest way forward for both our libraries and communities.

If given the opportunity to serve as a member of the BC Libraries Cooperative Board of Directors, I would engage not only in the *hows* and the *whats* of the work at hand, but also in the *whys*. I would bring a healthy obsession with the big picture, open-mindedness, creativity, responsiveness, and an ability to see a situation from a variety of perspectives. Recently, I had the pleasure of serving as the Chair of the 2014 BC Library Conference, and found the experience of collaborating with colleagues across library sectors both exciting and generative.

It would be my privilege to assist in advancing the Coop's strategic goals and priorities and learn from the great work done by our colleagues across Canada.