

# Francesca Holyoke

## Recipient, Academic Librarians' and Archivists' Distinguished Service Award



Francesca Holyoke began working in academic libraries after having finished her undergraduate degree in 1979. The University of New Brunswick's (UNB) Archives & Special Collections department was that first stop. Post graduate study, in the intervening years along with having worked as library consultant, free-lancer, in public and special libraries, she has also traversed through nearly every unit and branch of UNB Libraries. It has been a welcome return to Archives & Special Collections in 2011 as its current head. Although she had had a fleeting involvement with unions in 1980 as a library assistant among those seeking certification for university staff, it was in 2000 that her involvement with AUNBT began. Stints through several executive positions, several rounds of bargaining and as the current grievance chair have all reinforced the notion that it is only through collective action that the interests of the academy can be protected, particularly in ensuring that those parts of the academy that are

entrusted with the care of the acquisition, description, preservation and access to knowledge, are in the hands of academic, not administrative staff. This lifeblood of democracy, intellectual rigour and social justice cannot become the domain of conservative, neoliberal administrative apparatchiks. It is this perspective that informed her approach as Chair of the CAUT Librarians Committee from 2008-2012. This has also been the basis of her work in presentations such as "Assessment and Altmetrics" in 2014 and in a chapter, co-written with then-fellow committee members Meg Raven and Karen Jensen in 2013 about "Librarians as Teachers, Researchers and Community Members."