

NAHLA Member Profile

Louisa Fricker

Research Coordinator, Faculty of Nursing

As a research coordinator for the Faculty of Nursing, Louisa Fricker supports a research team that includes nurses, occupational therapists and other health professionals, and students. They conduct research with families to examine the experience of raising a child with hypoplastic left heart syndrome, a complex form of congenital heart disease.

How do you typically spend a day?

Louisa engages in a wide variety of activities related to the research process, including: identifying funding opportunities, grant writing, as well as organizing and ensuring that the necessary technology is in place to facilitate research activities. She also orients new staff and students, edits manuscripts, and even walks the grants down to secure the necessary signatures. "It's a good balance," says Louisa, "There are a lot of demanding activities, like writing a grant proposal or recruiting a research advisory group, but then you can do something easy like ordering office supplies."

What do you enjoy most about this position?

"The research team - the people I work with are fantastic!"

Tell me about your educational background. Where did you go to library school?

Louisa completed her Bachelor of Arts at the University of Lethbridge and her MLIS at the University of Alberta.

What attracted you to LIS as a career option? What attracted you to health librarianship?

"I knew I was going to be a librarian when I was 16 years old. I wanted to have access to all the information of the world, at my fingertips." Louisa remembers thinking, while working as a page in the Children's department of the Lethbridge Public Library prior to getting her MLIS degree. "What better place to work in the world (than) where you have access to books on a topic from beginner to advanced level". Once she completed her MLIS, "There were jobs available in health sciences, so that's where I landed." It was not where she had expected to be, but she is really happy to be here.

What do you like about NAHLA?

“The professional and peer support. This is a good community and you get to know people. Because they’re here in the city, the NAHLA events are very convenient to attend.”

What do you like to do for fun off duty?

Louisa says, "I'm a science junkie." She collects RSS feeds, enjoys reading online and listening to science podcasts such as Quirks and Quarks. Louisa also enjoys playing Dr. Mario on the Wii and baking, but not at the same time. She also shares her home with her husband and four rescue cats: Lorril, Zammy, Zen and Mocha.