

**2011-2012 OCUFA TEACHING AND
ACADEMIC LIBRARIANSHIP AWARDS
CITATION FOR WINNER DON KINDER**

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CITATION FOR DON KINDER

Read by Patti Ryan, York University

On behalf of the OCUFA Teaching and Academic Librarianship Awards Committee, I am honoured to present a 2011 Academic Librarianship Award to Don Kinder, librarian at Ryerson University.

To give you a sense of the scope of Don's responsibilities at Ryerson, I need only to cite his current job titles: Learning and Teaching Librarian; Health Sciences Librarian; Coordinator, Information Literacy; Coordinator, References Services, and most recently, Ryerson University Teaching Chair. In a career at Ryerson that has spanned more than two decades, Don has, in the words of his nominator, Chief Librarian Madeleine Léfebvre, "grown with the University," witnessing its transformation from a polytechnic to a cutting-edge University, and he has worked forcefully and passionately to embody this transformation in his own work. Reading through Don's nomination package, one is left with the sense that he brings to his work a rare blend of forward-thinking determination, along with an attentiveness and dedication to the day-to-day needs of students and researchers.

Vision. Reach. Adaptability. Creativity. Generous with his time and expertise. These are just a few of the adjectives that surface repeatedly in Don's letters of support, which come from a wide variety of constituencies, including librarian colleagues, teaching faculty, university administrators, students, mentees and colleagues from outside the University. His Ryerson colleagues draw particular attention to his work on key projects and committees in support of the improvement of teaching and learning on campus. These include the Senate Learning and Teaching Committee, the Provost's Commission on Academic Structures, the Academic Integrity Committee, and the Task Force on Student Success and Retention. Don's reach on the Ryerson campus is wide, and he has, as one supporter notes, been instrumental "in positioning the library to serve Ryerson's ever-changing and growing community." Perhaps more



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remarkably however, this strategic leadership has been accompanied by an ever-present attention to individual needs. Several supporters comment on Don's willingness to devote time and energy to individual students and faculty members, and on the kindness, sensitivity and unfailing respect that he extends to them.

His contributions to the advancement of information literacy skills are particularly striking. As one referee notes, information literacy is a "singular passion" for Don. As Coordinator for library learning and information literacy, Don developed and now administers the library's instructional program, which in the 2010-11 academic year, reached over 14,000 students. Under Don's careful direction, the program is currently being expanded to provide specialized support to graduate students. In 2006, Don worked with a faculty member to design and implement a "University 101" course which embeds the Association of College and Research Libraries' Information Literacy Standards directly into the curriculum, an accomplishment that is considered by many to be the gold standard for integrating information literacy skills into the curriculum. Don's contributions in this area have been formally recognized by his appointment at Ryerson as the first Faculty Teaching Chair representing the library. A supporter notes that this was a competitive process that focused on individuals who have a demonstrated history of advancing teaching excellence on campus, and that Don carries out this role with characteristic passion and dedication.

Don's professional contributions beyond Ryerson are equally impressive. He is an active member of the Ontario Library Association, has served this organization in various capacities over the years, including as President of the Ontario College and University Library Association division, and as Chair of the 2002 and 2004 Super Conference Planning Committees. His years of dedicated service have made him a household name in the OLA community perhaps because, as one referee observes "Don is able to bring people together to make things happen" and "always pays attention to the details and ensures nothing is missed."



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In summing up Don's contributions, a colleague writes that "Librarians hold a unique place in a university" and "can choose their level of engagement with the various components." Don has chosen an extraordinary level of engagement with many aspects of academic librarianship, and has set a standard of excellence for our profession that deserves to be recognized, and celebrated. I join the Committee in offering my most sincere congratulations on this award.