

# One in a Million

## Meet Shelly Koller

By David Lias

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Working at a library wasn't the first career path taken by Shelly Koller.

She's quite happy, however, that circumstances worked out that allowed her to find a place at the Vermillion City Library.

For 21 years, Shelly has served as the library's circulation supervisor and interlibrary loan supervisor.

"I work as the head of circulation, where patrons bring back books, check out books, and where they make reference calls," she said. "People call all the time with questions, and I also help get people set up on our computers here. Anything, really, that has to do with the library where people are checking out books, and I also answer questions that they might have."

Shelly also plays a role in supervising work-study students who come to the library to help place books back in their proper place on the shelves.

"We really try to help people locate information that they are looking for," she said, "through our books, through our collections, or possibly on-line. We have computers that people can go to for research."

Should the Vermillion library not possess the needed materials, it may be accessed through the interlibrary loan program.

"The interlibrary loan part is where we borrow books from other libraries," Shelly said. "They send the material here, and then we call the patron and they pick it up here, they return it here when they are finished, and then we return it back to the

other libraries."

Libraries in South Dakota are checked first for needed materials that may be borrowed through the interlibrary loan program. "If we can't find it in South Dakota, we go through what is called Minitex, which is out of Minnesota, and they go more national, and they try to locate things for us."

The Vermillion City Library is where Shelly's second career got its start. She stopped working in another field to stay home for a time and raise her family.

"And then the time was right to return to work, and this job came open and I thought it sounded like a good place to work," she said. "It wasn't like it was a lifelong dream, but it was a good opportunity, and I guess I was lucky to find it, and to find a job that I've enjoyed enough to stay with it for 21 years."

Working at a library means, naturally, working with books. But anyone involved in the circulation aspect of the operation has to work directly with people, and that's what Shelly said is the best part of her job.

"I really like working with people, and when I'm working with the circulation, you get to meet all different ages, from little kids who are going to story time, to older people and in-between who are school-age," she said. "My favorite part of working here is to be able to work with the public, and try to help people."

"I think that was probably what drew me to the job at the library in the first place," Shelly said. "What I had done in the past is work with the public, work with people, and so that's what I really enjoy. You meet so many



interesting people."

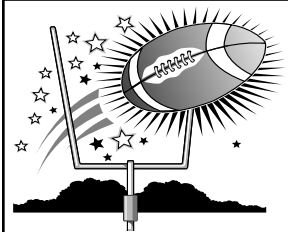
The library currently offers a unique work environment. The building has been a construction site since last spring as construction workers have made great progress on a much-needed expansion of the building.

A new addition to the building is now complete, and is being utilized as workers focus their attention on making some changes to an area of the old, existing building.

It means the library staff has been busy over the months, moving shelves to a new, temporary, and at present, more crowded than usual place in the library.

"It's kind of crowded right now, because we're working on the old part of the library, and we're all crowded into the new part," Shelly said. "We're all kind of squished

together right now, but it's coming along really great, and the new addition is very nice. This is really a great improvement for the city."



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