

## Web Seal of Excellence: Lisa Ryder

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<http://www.freelake.org/AIS/library.php>

### Librarians as Leaders:

#### Important for the Future of our Profession

While studying to earn my Masters in Library and Information Science, it was exciting to think about how school librarians could influence changes in the teaching and learning process. I started developing a vision for building partnerships to achieve twenty-first century learning standards.

Six years later, I have developed a program that I am proud of. One of the most noteworthy aspects is my library website. I was thrilled in the fall of 2009, when my library website was awarded the MSLA Seal of Excellence. It was an honor to be recognized because so much of what I do involves providing services and often there is little feedback. In building this website, I tried to include meaningful information for all of our stakeholders: students, teachers, parents, administrators and the community.



Although I take great pride in what I have created, I am still not satisfied. I will not rest until I get 100% teacher buy-in for the media center. While I still believe that an enthusiastic media specialist is essential for bringing the potential of information and learning resources alive for both students and teachers, I have learned that it is imperative to have strong

leaders who share that vision. There are still teachers out there who have no idea that our roles as "librarians" have evolved in response to the 21<sup>st</sup> century. Perhaps because they have not evolved themselves or perhaps they are so busy doing their jobs that they don't take notice of what we can do for our educational communities.

In order for my vision to become fully realized, we need leaders who will encourage teachers to see beyond the four walls of their classrooms. We need leaders who will help change those old perceptions of the school librarians we grew up with. We need leaders who will bring about change with sensitivity and a sense of humor while building an understanding that we can help transform education for the better. Nobody is better equipped to do this for us than us. Do it. Be a leader. The opportunity is there, why not grab it? I used my summer to complete the coursework to earn an administrator's license. Not sure what I will do with it yet, but, going through the program has pushed me to get more involved with the administration than ever before. Those few teachers who weren't paying attention to me before are starting to take notice.

## MSLA Lifetime Achievement: Carolyn Markuson

*I enthusiastically nominate Carolyn Markuson for the MSLA Lifetime Achievement Award.*

*Carolyn served on the MSLA Executive Board for many years in many positions, including president. As Director of Libraries in the Brookline Public Schools, she administered an exemplary program that garnered wide recognition. As an adjunct professor in the Simmons GSLIS program, she taught legions of future school library media specialists. Over the years she has offered countless workshops on strategic planning, new technologies, and facility design. Carolyn also shared her expertise beyond Massachusetts as a member of the board of NESLA for many years, holding the office of President in that organization more than once.*

*When Carolyn retired from her position in Brookline, she became the President and CEO of the BiblioTECH Corporation and launched her international career as a consultant in school library facility design. With Rolf Erickson, she authored Designing a School Library Media Center for the Future and is widely recognized as an authority in this arena.*

*Carolyn's unflagging enthusiasm for advancing the school library profession has kept her current in her field even in retirement. This year, after having done an in-depth review of the library program in the Wellesley Public Schools, Carolyn emerged from retirement to take the position of Director of Libraries in that school district.*

*Carolyn has been a role-model and mentor for countless colleagues in our profession, giving generously and freely of her time and vast knowledge of school library programs, facilities, and technology. There is no other MSLA member more deserving of this award.*

*Submitted by Kathy Lowe  
MSLA Executive Director*

