WJE

Penny Sympson Foresto | Corporate Librarian

EDUCATION
- Western Illinois University
  - Bachelor of Business, Economics, 1986
  - Master of Arts, Economics, 1987
- Dominican University
  - Master of Library and Information Science, 1997

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS
- Special Libraries Association (SLA)

COMMITTEES
- SLA - Engineering Division Board, chair, 2013

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EXPERIENCE

Penny Foresto holds a Master of Library and Information Science degree from an American Library Association-accredited university. At WJE, she manages the corporate library, which contains more than ten thousand engineering-related materials, with an emphasis on bridges, concrete, concrete repair, and structural steel. She manages the print and electronic collection of codes, testing standards, material specifications, textbooks, manuals, and reports.

Ms. Foresto supervises the library's administrative staff, maintains the library's Intranet page and online resources, and performs expert research for more than 600 professional engineers, architects, and materials scientists. In 2010, she was selected to participate in Synergy: The Illinois Library Leadership Initiative. Prior to joining WJE, Ms. Foresto spent three years as a reference librarian at a busy suburban public library and spent eight years as an economist for a government agency, the Commodities Futures Trading Commission, where she researched financial and agricultural markets.

AWARDS
- NSLS Special Library Staff Member of the Year, 2004
- SLA - Illinois Library Champion, 2008
- Library Journal Movers & Shakers, 2008

PUBLICATIONS
- Sympson, P., "How I Made a Library Indispensable and Saved It from Outsourcing." *Information Outlook*, v. 9, no. 3 (2005): 29–30.
- Sympson, P., "Marketing the Special Library." Online, National Society of Leadership and Success, 2006.
- Sympson, P., "More Ideas for Marketing the Special Library." Online, National Society of Leadership and Success, 2007.
- Sympson, P., "Customer Service Models for the Special Library." Online, WebJunction, 2008.

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