



## Candy Schwartz

PROFESSOR

B.A. McGill University

M.L.S., McGill University

Ph.D., Syracuse University

### Teaching/Research Areas

Cataloging; classification; metadata; indexing;  
thesaurus construction; digital libraries; folksonomy;  
guided navigation

**SIMMONS**

Graduate School of Library  
and Information Science

## Candy Schwartz: A Passion for Tolkien and Celtic Music

Candy Schwartz admits she leads a double life. When she's at work, she's an enthusiastic, witty, and highly popular professor. But off duty, Schwartz morphs into another self. "Listening to Celtic music, hanging out with musicians, and traveling are huge parts of my life outside work," she says. Since 1995, she has traveled in the dead of winter to the annual Celtic Connections Festival in Glasgow, Scotland, where she is now an established member of the large international community of musicians and fans who gather there. "The things I like about Celtic music are the things I like about Tolkien books. It's the language, the intricacies of the rhythms, like Celtic design: the loop work, the infinite knots."

And in case you miss the point — a number of *The Lord of the Rings* posters take the place of wallpaper in her office — Schwartz takes her Tolkien seriously. "I've read *The Lord of the Rings* nearly every year since I was twelve. It was so important to me. It shaped everything I've done since; it shaped my being. It was language. So when I went to university, I studied linguistics.

"These books are based on a mythology, which as far as I'm concerned is a real mythology. They're hugely complex, noble, dramatic, and deep in amazing ways. I've always liked mythology and this is mythology, on a grand scale.

"What it does for me, life-wise and work-wise, is it encourages me to be the best that I can . . . and try the hardest that I can to do the things that I think should be done. People in Tolkien change the world. I'm not going to change the world, but I can change my little corner of it."