Before his retirement, Thomas C. Lovitt was on the special education faculty of the University of Washington in Seattle. Although his special education “specialty” was children with learning disabilities, he spent most of his professional time working in schools, assisting general education teachers to effectively manage all types of children with academic and social problems. The bulk of his research was directed toward that end. Lovitt’s writing also focused on assisting general education teachers to manage all sorts of youngsters in their classes. In that regard he wrote two popular books describing instructional procedures: Tactics for Teaching (Merrill), which was directed toward elementary-age youngsters, and Preventing School Failure (PRO-ED), which targeted secondary-age youngsters.

Lovitt has continued to work in schools with teachers and children since his retirement a few years ago. He has assisted first-grade teachers in his neighborhood schools, and has worked as a court-appointed special advocate for abused and neglected children. He has also taken classes in drawing and welding and, most recently, has begun playing cornet with a brass band.