



EDITOR'S NOTE CHANGE IS GOOD

Technology changes at such a fast rate that sometimes I feel worried that I might be left behind. I find myself constantly paddling to keep up, trying to stay on top of articles, gadgets and news. This not only applies to my working life in our industry but also to my personal life, where I find I need to relearn constantly how things work, especially as electrical items are replaced. All organisations across the world, whether they are in the private or public sector, constantly look to keep innovating to stay relevant, and our industry is no different. It's not always easy to think about innovating when you're busy, but it is essential in our workplaces and for our own personal career development. But how and where to start?

Analysing your environment is a good way to help you highlight areas where you could improve and innovate. Researching what works and what doesn't helps to bring to the fore any particular areas you could focus on.

The biggest pool of resources any organisation has is its employees. When leaders encourage staff to be empowered and to think innovatively, their libraries will sprout bright new ideas and constantly help to improve their services. Assessing all those ideas from staff is also essential to making sure they are what your workplace and your members need. Training people to think out of the box means they are generally more creative and therefore probably happier too.

Your users are another huge resource to help you garner ideas. Connecting with the people who use your library will generate innovative ideas that will probably surprise you. You may find yourself pondering, *Why didn't we*

think of that? And don't be afraid to seek advice from organisations outside the library sector to help provide fresh perspectives and ideas.

A colleague once said to me, 'Prior planning prevents poor performance.' Never a truer word was said. It's something I have never forgotten and I have always since believed that without planning it's very difficult to achieve your goals. By thinking about your library as a whole, making sure that each area has a forward plan to keep innovating, changing and improving will mean that all the elements are in place to keep moving forward as a united group.

Looking to your industry is also invaluable. ALIA conferences and social media are all places that will be bursting with ideas ripe for the picking. Think of all those minds concentrating on the same area has to spawn fabulous ideas.

The more you open yourself to innovation and new ideas, the more you will find yourself being very excited about how you can twist and turn those ideas to apply in your own workplace.

Read on to find out about great ideas from members about how they are innovating. And I'd love to hear about any innovative ideas you've had that you'd like to share. We can then pass them around to keep us all innovating together.

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INDEX: CONTRIBUTORS

Michelle Collins	32
Ben Conyers	21
Gillian Dooley	28
Lauren Gobbett	28
Yusuke Ishimura	31

Mikhail Kallon	34
Rowan Mangan	16
Rowena Morcom	5
Jenny Mustey	22
Ellie Panarettos	24
Camille Peters	30
Kim Shaw	24