

# FROM INFORMATION MANAGEMENT STUDENT TO ARCHIVIST TO...

**A**fter working in a book store for several years, and given her fondness for organising and categorising everything (including her shoes), Eva Samaras said to herself, 'Yeah, I could be a great librarian!' Since then she's been trying out all sorts of roles in information management.

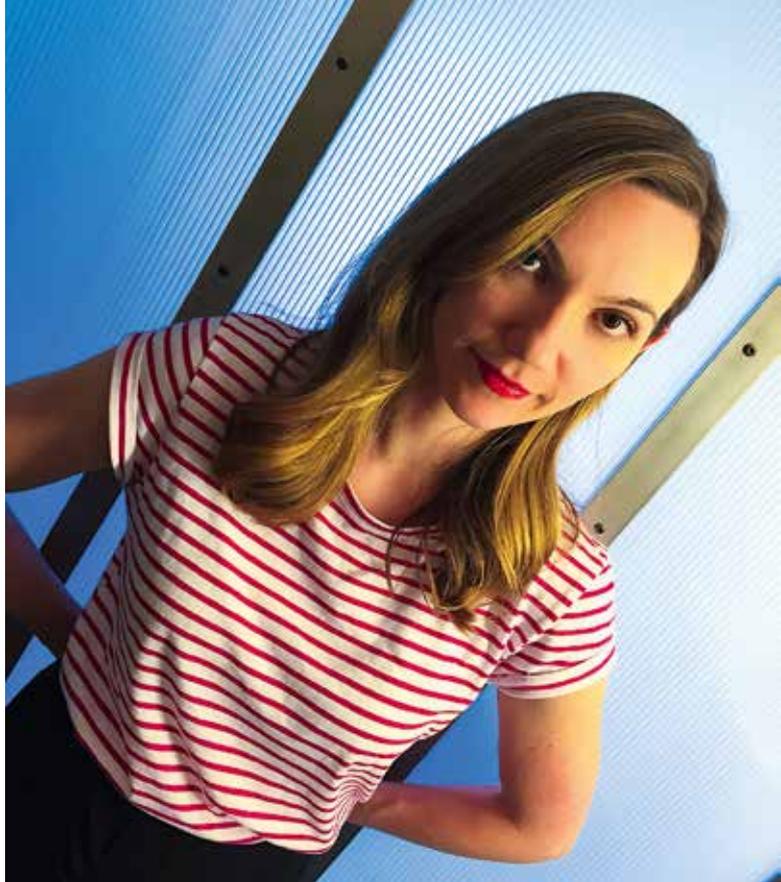
In 2013 I returned to university to pursue studies in Information Management (IM). I became immediately fascinated with several fields within IM, and started to consider pursuing professional roles beyond librarianship. By mid-semester I had a part time job within a television archive, and began volunteering at my university design archives.

Within a few months of completing my studies, I secured a full time archiving position at Public Record Office Victoria (PROV). I've had a broad range of archival duties and responsibilities in my current role at PROV, and recently contributed analysis and communications project work to one of PROV's strategy teams. This enabled me to develop an entirely new set of knowledge and skills in government communications and records management.

## THESE OPPORTUNITIES DIDN'T JUST FALL IN MY LAP. I SOUGHT THEM OUT.

I have been very fortunate to gain such excellent professional experience in the first few years of my IM career. These opportunities didn't just fall in my lap. I sought them out and have maintained consistent enthusiasm towards extending my learning beyond university. Let me share a few morsels of advice to inspire your IM career development.

Be open and seek out opportunities. Even if you're content with working in one IM field, being willing to take on new roles or tasks will only boost your career development. Join a committee next time you come across an expression of interest, accept additional responsibilities while your manager is on leave, or undertake a temporary assignment. Just go for it – you never know where it could take you.



*A predilection for organising things is guiding Eva Samaras' career path.*

Consider seeking opportunities for skills and knowledge development beyond your current workplace. Membership and participation in professional organisations can be an excellent chance to network and develop valuable experience. I recently became a member of ALIA's New Generation Advisory Committee (NGAC), to keep abreast of what's happening in the library sector and learn more about what a committee does.

Sometimes it can be daunting to tackle something new. However, by taking on a new project, task or area of research, you can discover new areas of interest and even find inspiration.

I started working with PROV's Victorian Electronic Records Strategy team, to expand my knowledge of digital recordkeeping and develop my strategy, communication and analysis skills. I was assigned a task recently to research information governance systems, such as records auto-classification applications. While some of the terminology still eludes me – alas I am no IT guru – it was a rewarding experience to learn about digital records management and big data, and speculate over the future for IM professions.

I have resisted the trend to limit my career path to a particular field since completing my IM studies. By continually learning and challenging myself every day of my new career, I have remained open to new professional opportunities. While I may not know where my career will end up, I am revelling in the journey itself.

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### EVA SAMARAS

Records & Archives Analyst  
Public Record Office Victoria  
evanthia.samaras@prov.vic.gov.au