

EVERY MEMBER AN ADVOCATE



SHARE YOUR WORK! A CALL TO ACTION FOR EARLY-CAREER INFORMATION PROFESSIONALS

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Calling all library and information studies students and early-career information professionals – we need ongoing, professional conversation. You have something to say. Please, share your work. Share your learning.

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Without conversation, our ability to respond to future needs, trends and service environments – and the pace at which we do this – will slow down, or worse, grind to a halt. Our capacity for innovation, our agility in applying our skills and knowledge to different contexts will stagnate. To stay relevant and exceptional at what we do, we will need to keep up the conversation.

I did Mathematics B in senior high school. 'Show your workings' was something my teacher said over and over, and it has stayed with me to this day. He would say, 'How did you go from that problem to that solution? Your workings are just as important as the solution.'

This same principle can be applied to our participation in a community of practice. By showing (or sharing) our work – how we solve problems, implement a new service, or share thoughts about a professional issue – we can identify where things don't quite turn out the way we hoped, or where they were spot on. We can understand how we did it and retrace our steps so we can replicate or tweak it later. Our professional skills and capacity for innovation grow; our agility strengthens.

There is no one point when we will know everything there is about being a library or information professional. While it can sometimes be scary, we should think about sharing what we learn.

HERE ARE SOME TIPS TO HELP YOU GET STARTED:

1. Build a reflective habit. Practise free writing about events you attend, a project at work, a day's service delivery, an article you read. Think critically about how your work and skill set fit within the bigger picture. Do this in a notebook, on your phone or set up a private blog.
 2. Do a small research project and share what you learn. Submit for publication.
 3. Start small, one-on-one, and participate in a peer-mentoring program.
 4. Participate in Twitter chats. Find out what others are thinking or concerned about and grow your online community of peers. Subscribe to different feeds and follow different people. Diversity in our networks brings new perspectives, challenges and opportunities.
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We're a passionate bunch. We may not work in the same organisations, but we are each other's colleagues in this profession. We are a part of a 'community of practice'.

This is no time for libraries and library and information professionals to be passive about what's happening around us. We must have active participants in professional conversation. And there are avenues where you can connect, share, learn and grow your network and knowledge. The more of us who participate, the less scary sharing the work becomes.

Share what you're working on.

Share what you're learning.

Share what you'd like to see in this profession.

Share your thoughts on the issues we face now and might face in the future.

Start a conversation. ✨

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