



Knowledge Management in a changing world

How are organisations handling Knowledge Management in 2008 and beyond? Many are still grappling with KM and terms such as Business Intelligence (BI), Collaborative Networks and Collective Intelligence.

Some believe that Knowledge Management is dead, but in reality we feel that it has never been more important. A recent report by the Australian Department of Education, Science & Training indicates that the amount of data to be generated in the next five years will surpass the data created to date in human history http://backingaus.innovation.gov.au/info_booklet/on_commit.htm

Another paper entitled "The expanding digital universe: a forecast of worldwide information growth through 2010" estimates that the data added annually will increase more than six fold from 161 exabytes to 988 exabytes http://backingaus.innovation.gov.au/info_booklet/on_commit.htm

The environment described above is complex and dynamic. The role of libraries is changing and the road ahead is unclear.

What part can libraries play? How can we promote access, efficient capture and management and a culture of sharing knowledge?

One role of libraries that remains unchanged is that of education, because as 'information specialists' we aim to foster a culture that promotes and supports the sharing of knowledge and information across an organisation.

The library is involved in knowledge management, because of our expertise in collecting, organising and making information available to our patrons. Library websites bring together many facets of information by providing access to the catalogue, databases, digital resources and key websites. Libraries are at the forefront of new ways of sharing information through blogs, wikis, digital resources and RSS feeds.

It is vital that we continue to promote our expertise in managing and sharing information. By continuing our information literacy programs, we encourage lifelong learning which in turn enables the acquisition of knowledge.

Many of us are still finding our way and we feel that it is important that libraries keep talking about knowledge management. We hope this article inspires others to think about knowledge management and open a dialogue for the future.

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Be part of the innovative generation of Information Managers and apply for one of the new postgraduate programs in Library and Information Management or Business Information Management offered by the University of South Australia. These programs are continually under review to ensure course materials meet industry needs.

These innovative programs will enable librarians, records managers, archivists and business information management professionals to reinvent their careers and remain in touch with the latest digital approaches.

If you live outside of Adelaide or even Australia, the programs offer you the opportunity to study at your own pace by choosing to study part-time or full-time externally online in your own home! If you live in Adelaide you can of course choose to study online externally or face-to-face.

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