We are all the same...

Geneticist Mary-Claire King wrote in 1993: "Our genetic differences are at the heart of one of the most fascinating paradoxes of the human condition: that we are all different, yet we are all the same". It is as true of fingerprints as it is of library and information service professionals – while we may do wildly different things in vastly different places, the core values – the DNA – that holds the profession together, is very much about a shared philosophy and dedication to a common good.

In the following pages you will read various articles inspired by our theme, ranging from our guest OPINION columnist Ian McCallum's view that libraries are "Durable, Necessary and Adaptable", to Doreen Sullivan's warning about the risks of good DNA gone bad, and the State Library of New South Wales' innovative move to use a special collection as a training ground in the basics for new graduates.

Throughout, there is a common message: it's ok to "stick to our knitting" as long as we're flexible about the pattern. In other words, library

DNA remains strong and healthy. In a typical day in the office, library and information professionals are simply splicing in the good stuff that's new, such as the new technologies of delivery, while standing our ground on the old stuff that's good – connecting people with the information they need to do what they need to do and protect our culture and communities.

It's a great genetic blueprint for May's public advocacy focus on all the good that libraries do with Library and Information Week looming and Information Awareness Month already underway.





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