



EDUCATE OR STAGNATE

We never cease learning in all aspects of our life – whether we are formally enrolled in a course or not. And the LIS sector is an industry where education is of paramount importance. As the digital age matures, roles are constantly changing and renewing. Our industry has grown and faces challenges that are unique to our sector, and for us to be able to effectively deal with them we need to continue to educate ourselves. Growth and change provide new opportunities to learn and improve upon what we do and also gain access to new employment opportunities.

There are many compelling reasons to keep your education up to date. Here are just a few:

- o Increased knowledge and skills
- o New opportunities for different work roles
- o Increased networking opportunities with other people in your industry
- o Increased ability to change fields within the LIS sector
- o Proof of your commitment and work ethic
- o An enhanced ability to stand out in your field of expertise
- o In many instances, an increase in your income

When you first decide that you'd like to pursue further education you can be faced with a sometimes bewildering range of choices and opportunities. Before diving into new education, ask yourself these questions:

- Are you motivated and committed to further education?
- Determine the areas of your career that are the weakest. What is it you want to work on? Is it management skills or industry innovations and information? Be honest with yourself!
- What qualification levels do you need to obtain the type of roles in which you would like to work in the future?
- Which courses best fit in with the amount of time you have to devote to study?
- Should you specialise in a subject rather than do a general course?
- Can you do a course full-time or part-time?
- Would an online course fit in better with your schedule?
- Which education provider best suits your needs and your learning style?
- How can organisations such as ALIA help you to achieve your goals?
- Have you explored opportunities for scholarships or grants to support your study?
- Have you done enough research to make the most informed decision?

Considering furthering your education can sometimes be daunting – on account of the cost, the time required and the intellectual demands – but the rewards are great. Enhanced qualifications will provide you with more opportunities to effect positive change in your career and your life, have access to new and exciting roles, get inspired by others and help you to continue to love what you do. So why not think about what you'd like to learn and reap the benefits of putting what you learn into practice? 