LARISA: THE NEXT CHAPTER



Curtin University

LARISA Committee members: Julie Coxall, Samantha Hay, Leah Napier, and Dr Hollie White

Catchy names and slogans are important when trying to garner interest and memorability, but how do we come up with them? This was the problem faced by a group formerly known as the Curtin University Information Studies Alumni Chapter. After some wine, snacks, and conversation, the choice became obvious for the newly branded Libraries, Archives, Records and Information Science Alumni (LARISA) chapter of Curtin University.

Inspiration struck a second time when the group realised the potential to play on the dual meaning of the word 'chapter'. Participation in the alumni chapter is 'the next chapter' of the Curtin experience and professional development for our members. And, of course, chapters are also parts of books which are intrinsically linked to our profession, be it in print or digital format.

We asked some of our committee members why LARISA is their next chapter:

Petra (President):

LARISA is one of the chapters I am adding to the story of my own career. I imagine myself in 30 years, looking back, and what I would like to see then is what I am working on now: I want to have a working career that is as much about success as it is about contributing and collaborating to make great things happen, for Curtin University's LARIS alumni, but ultimately, for our profession.

Samantha (Vice-President):

When I was looking for ways to be more involved in the profession LARISA was one of the first opportunities I came across, and gladly jumped at. I'm particularly looking forward to supporting current and future Curtin students through their studies and professional development as a result of the work we are doing.

Marelda (Committee Member):

Becoming a Committee Member of LARISA means a chance for me to give back. Not only to Curtin University, which gave me so much, but to future information professionals. My professional archive career began on a notice board for jobs whilst still a Curtin student. My hope is that LARISA becomes the 'go-to' place for current students, alumni and potential employers of information professionals.

Generally, LARISA aims to advocate engagement with the information professions by enhancing the Curtin alumni experience, in order to raise the profile of Curtin's LARIS course. Our current plans include supporting alumni and students in attending professional development events, maintaining the scholarship for future students, and providing networking opportunities to get together and have fun. We'd love to hear from Curtin alumni on what the next chapter of Curtin alumni should look like. Whether you studied on campus or online anywhere in the world, graduated one year or decades ago, we encourage all Curtin University graduates to make LARISA their next chapter too. (*)

LARISA Committee:

President - Petra Dumbell Vice-President – Samantha Hay Secretary – Julie Coxall Committee member – Leah Napier Committee member – Marelda Kelly Curtin University liaison - Dr Hollie White

LIBRARIES, ARCHIVES, RECORDS AND INFORMATION **SCIENCE ALUMNI**

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