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Career transition: the way to the future

by Phillipa Robertson

Introduction

The rapid pace of global change is leading organisations to increasing levels of chaos and complexity. This in turn produces a lack of strategic direction based on an uncertain future and thus a less agile organisation.

Yet within the realms of many organisations is an information professional who could provide a deep understanding of the organisation's business ecosystems and a thorough knowledge of research methodologies, information and the value of knowledge. The use of these disciplines can bring deep insight into emerging futures and provide an evidence based research capability that enables an organisation to respond with agility to global business change while maintaining corporate viability and sustainability.

Armed with this insight and awareness, it is not a huge leap to provide that awareness of the emergent trends of the future and to bring this insight to the strategy table. Robust strategic intelligence and futures research can provide the context in which effective, informed strategic business decisions can be made. A career transition for these information professionals could bring amazing transformation for the individual, the organisation and all the environments impacted by the organisation.

How to ...

One of the key driving forces of the future, according to futurist Richard Neville, is the information revolution. According to Richard, the future is about nanotechnology, biotechnology, robotics and artificial intelligence. Combine that with the other driving forces - globalisation and the quest for sustainability - and you have a world that is substantially different from what it was just a few years ago.

Career path - the job is ...

Here lies the future career path for information professionals. It involves monitoring and scanning the global business environment to see the emergent trends or the coming wave and bring this intelligence to the strategy table. More than extrapolation, this futures research discipline is about ascertaining the evidence of emergent trends, to be aware of changes to the driving forces of an industry to enable it to respond accordingly. In a competitive, global world where growth is currently exponential, an intelligence officer and futurist can provide valuable insight into the trends of sociology, energy, politics, law, the business environment, competitors, markets, industries and global supply chains.

Skills

A research futurist will be aware of the new measures of success that are beyond the economics prism in which we value our world. A futurist will read between the lines and see that the world is recording it's successes and wellbeing in measures that have gone beyond the traditional economic model to a well being based measure - that of our people; our planet; good governance. They will see the interconnectedness everywhere ... the butterfly effect (a small change can alter the future).

The Future's Information Professional requires a multi disciplinary approach

The information professional must take into account accrediting responsibility, credibility, audience, ownership, content, source, lifecycle management, value in tactic and explicit knowledge as the platform to futures research.

A future's information professional requires an ability to be paradoxical in thought, to hold conflicting viewpoints and to be aware of mental models, to research, collect, analyse, synthesise, interpret and report on evidence of the future.

Where do you sit on the past present future time continuum? Are you sitting at the strategy stable? What impact will the future have on your career and on your organisation? Are you in the front seat, driving, creating and responding to the future? Or are you in the back seat ... creating and focused on the past? Change seats and change your world.

Phillipa has a career history in research, information management, competitive intelligence and qualifications in Librarianship. She has spent 8 years at Queensland Rail, in her current position as Senior Advisor Strategic Intelligence. Prior to QR she spent 13 years as business advisor for government and a consultant for an information agency.



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(added 30th June 2006)
URL: <http://www.jinfo.com/go/j5467>
Recruiter: Sue Hill Recruitment and Services Limited
Location: London - City, United Kingdom

Deputy Library and information Service Manager

(added 28th June 2006)
URL: <http://www.jinfo.com/go/j5466>
Recruiter: The Library at St Martin's Hospital.
Location: Canterbury, United Kingdom

Records Manager

(added 27th June 2006)
URL: <http://www.jinfo.com/go/j5464>
Recruiter: British Red Cross
Location: London EC2, United Kingdom

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URL: <http://www.jinfo.com/go/j5463>
Recruiter: British Red Cross
Location: London EC2, United Kingdom

Researcher (added 26th June 2006)

URL: <http://www.jinfo.com/go/j5462>
Recruiter: TFPL Ltd.
Location: Bromley, United Kingdom

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Recruiter: TFPL Ltd.
Location: Central London, United Kingdom

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URL: <http://www.jinfo.com/go/j5460>
Recruiter: TFPL Ltd.
Location: Central London, United Kingdom

Library Assistant (added 26th June 2006)

URL: <http://www.jinfo.com/go/j5459>
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Location: Hertfordshire, United Kingdom

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Recruiter: TFPL Ltd.
Location: Scotland, United Kingdom

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URL: <http://www.jinfo.com/go/j5457>
Recruiter: TFPL Ltd.
Location: Scotland, United Kingdom

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URL: <http://www.jinfo.com/go/j5456>
Recruiter: TFPL Ltd.
Location: London, United Kingdom

Product Development Co-ordinator

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URL: <http://www.jinfo.com/go/j5455>
Recruiter: TFPL Ltd.
Location: Central London, United Kingdom

Information Assistant

(added 26th June 2006)
URL: <http://www.jinfo.com/go/j5454>
Recruiter: TFPL Ltd.
Location: Berkshire, United Kingdom

Records Policy Advisor

(added 26th June 2006)
URL: <http://www.jinfo.com/go/j5453>
Recruiter: TFPL Ltd.
Location: South West England, United Kingdom

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Recruiter: Sue Hill Recruitment and Services Limited
Location: Leeds, United Kingdom

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Recruiter: Sue Hill Recruitment and Services Limited
Location: London - West, United Kingdom

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Recruiter: Sue Hill Recruitment and Services Limited
Location: London - West, United Kingdom

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Recruiter: Sue Hill Recruitment and Services Limited
Location: London - City, United Kingdom

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Location: London - Central, United Kingdom

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Recruiter: Sue Hill Recruitment and Services Limited
Location: Sheffield, United Kingdom

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URL: <http://www.jinfo.com/go/j5444>
Recruiter: Sue Hill Recruitment and Services Limited
Location: London, United Kingdom

Research Team Leader - Evening Shift

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URL: <http://www.jinfo.com/go/j5443>
Recruiter: Glen Recruitment
Location: London, United Kingdom

Legal Librarian vacancies (3)

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Recruiter: Glen Recruitment
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INVESTMENT (added 22nd June 2006)
URL: <http://www.jinfo.com/go/j5440>
Recruiter: Glen Recruitment
Location: London, United Kingdom

Business Researcher – BROMLEY

(added 22nd June 2006)
URL: <http://www.jinfo.com/go/j5439>
Recruiter: Glen Recruitment
Location: Bromley, United Kingdom

Senior Records Manager

(added 22nd June 2006)
URL: <http://www.jinfo.com/go/j5438>
Recruiter: Glen Recruitment
Location: London, United Kingdom

Information Assistant – Legal

(added 22nd June 2006)
URL: <http://www.jinfo.com/go/j5437>
Recruiter: Glen Recruitment
Location: London, United Kingdom

Junior Information Officers (2) - Legal (added 22nd June 2006)

URL: <http://www.jinfo.com/go/j5436>
Recruiter: Glen Recruitment
Location: London, United Kingdom

Global Research Manager - UTILITIES

(added 22nd June 2006)
URL: <http://www.jinfo.com/go/j5435>
Recruiter: Glen Recruitment,
United Kingdom

Senior Researcher/Analyst - U.K.
INSURANCE (added 22nd June 2006)
URL: <http://www.jinfo.com/go/j5434>
Recruiter: Glen Recruitment
Location: London, United Kingdom

Research?Analyst - CAPITAL MARKETS
(added 22nd June 2006)
URL: <http://www.jinfo.com/go/j5433>
Recruiter: Glen Recruitment
Location: London, United Kingdom

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(added 22nd June 2006)
URL: <http://www.jinfo.com/go/j5432>
Recruiter: Glen Recruitment
Location: London, United Kingdom

**Contract Investment Banking
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Recruiter: Glen Recruitment
, United Kingdom

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URL: <http://www.jinfo.com/go/j5430>
Recruiter: Glen Recruitment
Location: London, United Kingdom

Information Project Co-ordinator
(added 21st June 2006)
URL: <http://www.jinfo.com/go/j5429>
Recruiter: Sue Hill Recruitment and
Services Limited
Location: Glasgow, United Kingdom

Knowledge Services Adviser
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URL: <http://www.jinfo.com/go/j5428>
Recruiter: Sue Hill Recruitment and
Services Limited
Location: Glasgow, United Kingdom

Knowledge Officer
(added 21st June 2006)
URL: <http://www.jinfo.com/go/j5427>
Recruiter: Sue Hill Recruitment and
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Location: Glasgow, United Kingdom

Literature Searcher
(added 21st June 2006)
URL: <http://www.jinfo.com/go/j5426>
Recruiter: Sue Hill Recruitment and
Services Limited
Location: London - Central, United
Kingdom

Part-time Database Assistant
(added 21st June 2006)
URL: <http://www.jinfo.com/go/j5425>
Recruiter: Sue Hill Recruitment and
Services Limited
Location: Berkshire, United Kingdom

Cataloguer (added 21st June 2006)
URL: <http://www.jinfo.com/go/j5424>
Recruiter: Sue Hill Recruitment and
Services Limited
Location: Liverpool, United Kingdom

Part-time Children's Librarian
(added 21st June 2006)
URL: <http://www.jinfo.com/go/j5421>
Recruiter: Sue Hill Recruitment and
Services Limited
Location: London - South, United
Kingdom

Subject Librarian
(added 21st June 2006)
URL: <http://www.jinfo.com/go/j5420>
Recruiter: Sue Hill Recruitment and
Services Limited
Location: London - Central, United
Kingdom

Information Officer
(added 21st June 2006)
URL: <http://www.jinfo.com/go/j5418>
Recruiter: Sue Hill Recruitment and
Services Limited
Location: London - City, United Kingdom

Cataloguer (added 21st June 2006)
URL: <http://www.jinfo.com/go/j5417>
Recruiter: Sue Hill Recruitment and
Services Limited
Location: Hampshire, United Kingdom

Records Manager

(added 21st June 2006)
URL: <http://www.jinfo.com/go/j5416>
Recruiter: Sue Hill Recruitment and Services Limited
Location: Brighton, United Kingdom

Bibliographer

(added 21st June 2006)
URL: <http://www.jinfo.com/go/j5415>
Recruiter: Sue Hill Recruitment and Services Limited
Location: Surrey, United Kingdom

Generalist Researcher

(added 21st June 2006)
URL: <http://www.jinfo.com/go/j5414>
Recruiter: Sue Hill Recruitment and Services Limited
Location: London - City, United Kingdom

Knowledge Assistant (Banking & Capital Markets) (added 21st June 2006)

URL: <http://www.jinfo.com/go/j5413>
Recruiter: Sue Hill Recruitment and Services Limited
Location: London - South, United Kingdom

Knowledge Assistant (Insurance & Financial Service) (added 21st June 2006)

URL: <http://www.jinfo.com/go/j5412>
Recruiter: Sue Hill Recruitment and Services Limited
Location: London - South, United Kingdom

Researcher & Information Manager

(added 21st June 2006)
URL: <http://www.jinfo.com/go/j5411>
Recruiter: Sue Hill Recruitment and Services Limited
Location: Oxfordshire, United Kingdom

Australia Beckons

(added 21st June 2006)
URL: <http://www.jinfo.com/go/j5410>
Recruiter: Sue Hill Recruitment and Services Limited
, United Kingdom

Corporate Knowledge & Information Manager (added 20th June 2006)

URL: <http://www.jinfo.com/go/j5409>
Recruiter: South Bedfordshire District Council
Location: Dunstable, United Kingdom

Researcher (added 19th June 2006)

URL: <http://www.jinfo.com/go/j5408>
Recruiter: Instant Library Recruitment (Tribal Group)
, United Kingdom

Junior Knowledge Assistants (2)

(added 16th June 2006)
URL: <http://www.jinfo.com/go/j5407>
Recruiter: Glen Recruitment
Location: London, United Kingdom

Generalist Researcher

(added 16th June 2006)
URL: <http://www.jinfo.com/go/j5406>
Recruiter: Glen Recruitment
Location: London, United Kingdom

Extranet / Knowledge Executive

(added 16th June 2006)
URL: <http://www.jinfo.com/go/j5405>
Recruiter: Glen Recruitment
Location: London, United Kingdom

Information Centre Assistant

(added 16th June 2006)
URL: <http://www.jinfo.com/go/j5403>
Recruiter: TFPL Ltd.
Location: Surrey, United Kingdom