



Returning to work

A brief guide for **library and information professionals** looking to **re-start their careers**

You've been working in another field, raised a family, been looking after a dependent, or just travelling the world. But now you want to take up your **LIS career** again and you're concerned that developments have left you behind. There are things you can do to enhance your employability.

Here are just some ways of keeping in contact with the profession:

- **Professional development and training.** Demonstrate to potential employers that you've kept your skills and knowledge up to date by registering for an ALIA run specialised [library and information course or workshop](#) or an ALIA [event](#). These include face to face seminars and online courses. Consider doing refresher subjects with one of ALIA's [recognised TAFEs or Universities](#). Enrol in one or two subjects and improve or update your knowledge in an area. Join ALIA's [PD Scheme](#) and show your commitment to your professional growth.
- **Networking.** Experts agree that networking is a good way of making connections and potentially meeting future employers. Increase your professional networks by [volunteering](#) for an ALIA group. Volunteering is also a good way of maintaining your profile in your sector or region. If volunteering isn't an option, then join an ALIA [e-list](#) and contribute to discussions there. Consider participating in a local [mentoring program](#) to build your confidence and give you direction.
- **Stay up to date.** It is important that you maintain your professional knowledge and be aware of industry issues. You can achieve this by reading the latest Australian LIS publications. ALIA's full-text online [LIS journals](#) package will enable you to remain current with industry research and developments. ALIA's [inCite](#) magazine (11 issues a year) is an easy way to keep yourself informed about industry news, trends and all the latest developments in the library and information community. ALIA's [e-newsletters](#) are sent to your desktop and ensure you stay up to date with the latest in LIS news. By subscribing to ALIA's refereed [research journals](#) *The Australian Library Journal* and *Australian Academic & Research Libraries* you will demonstrate your knowledge of professional issues and concerns.

Making sure you're a member of your professional association is a great way to ensure you keep up to date with industry developments. A good professional association will provide their members with resources, tools and support to help you maintain your presence in the profession.

ALIA is the professional association for Library and Information professionals and membership will give you an advantage from the moment you join. Let ALIA help you build an edge in today's challenging information environment with our [personal](#) membership package.