

# WORKING OUTSIDE THE LIBRARY WALLS

It would be hard to find an industry that has not moved to the digital environment and information management graduates appear uniquely suited to capitalise on this. Ben and Steven are both recent students of post-graduate studies in information management. They're employed at Education Services Australia (ESA), a national not-for-profit company owned by the Australian federal, state and territory education ministers. The company supports national priorities in the education and vocational training sectors by acquiring, developing and hosting primarily digital resources for teachers, students, and Australian citizens as a whole. There's a number of staff within ESA with an information management background, including cataloguing, copyright and licensing, controlled vocabularies, and information management staff. Below, Ben and Steven profile their roles.

## **BEN CHADWICK, METADATA ANALYST.**

I work across a range of projects aimed at resourcing schools for the Australian Curriculum. The Australian Curriculum is published in Research Description Framework (RDF) using linked data, making it readable by both humans and machines. Federally funded projects, such as the National Digital Learning Resources Network (NDLRN), cultural institutions, and private enterprise can develop resources aligned to learning

outcomes in the Australian Curriculum. One means of doing this is by describing resources using the same linked-data subject vocabulary used to describe curriculum elements, the Schools Online Thesaurus (ScOT). ScOT is a whole-of-knowledge thesaurus of over 8000 concepts, published in SKOS.

My role includes maintaining the ScOT website and web-services. I assist in developing the ScOT vocabulary by monitoring use of ScOT concepts in a range of national systems, including the National Curriculum, the NDLRN repositories, the Scootle teacher portal, and the School Cataloguing Information Service (SCIS) records. I evaluate candidate concepts by analysing language in documents such as teacher and student resources, the Australian Curriculum, and the AITSL Teacher Standards. I audit metadata records to ensure compliance with the ANZ-LOM Metadata Application Profile, and participate in ESA's Metadata Standards Working Group.

I came to this role after graduating from RMIT University's Graduate Diploma in Information Management, which provided me with the essential skills in controlled vocabularies, which I now use daily. My day-to-day life also involves working with HTML, XML, SKOS/RDF, MARC-21, programming languages, and even other human beings.

## **STEVEN RICHARDSON, INFORMATION OFFICER.**

Previously, I worked in content management roles in university libraries after completing a Graduate Diploma of Information Management at RMIT University. Content and data management comprise two areas that have emerged as new domains of knowledge and practice in the university library sector. They also provided me with a springboard into the delivery of online services beyond the library sector.

Information officer titles are found in a range of information management settings, from public libraries to bureaucratic agencies. At ESA, my role as Information Officer is to support the information management, business analysis, marketing and communication, and stakeholder management tasks of a national online career service.

This role overlaps with my content management librarian roles in many ways. For example, quality of data, information and content and the continuous focus on user experience are all paramount. However, it is the opportunity to combine my interest in information management with the implementation of a government program that aims to support national priorities in career and workforce development that distinguishes it.

Opportunities outside of libraries will continue to arise for graduates of librarianship and information management as new service models and technologies enable the delivery of online services and information resources. Seizing such opportunities can help you develop skills, knowledge and perspectives that might not have been available inside a library.

## **DR BEN CHADWICK**

In 2010, Dr Ben Chadwick abandoned his directionless career, had a son, moved inter-state, stacked shelves at the State Library of Victoria, and commenced the Graduate Diploma in Information Management at RMIT University. He commenced his current role as a Metadata Analyst at ESA after graduating in 2012.

ben.chadwick@esa.edu.au

## **STEVEN RICHARDSON**

After completing RMIT University's Graduate Diploma in Information Management, Steven Richardson began working as a Content Management Librarian in a university library. This provided him with a springboard into his current role, Information Officer at ESA.

steven.richardson@esa.edu.au

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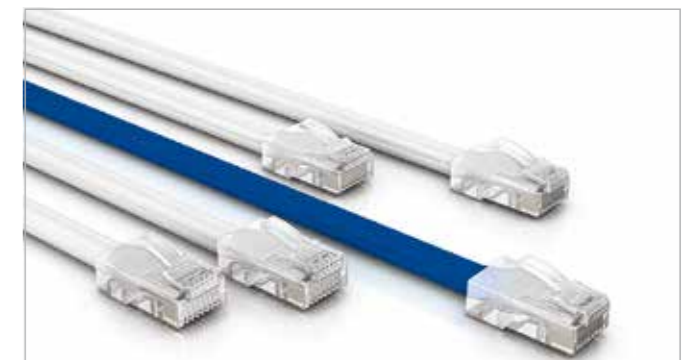
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