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### ***Background***

I have worked in Information Management (IM) most of my career. I was originally attracted to IM because I felt my library and information skills could add value in managing information and records. I had realised that my experience and skills in classification and indexing were transferable and could be used to make a difference in information, web/intranet and record management.

### ***My career***

I have spent my information professional career in the academic and government sectors.

Currently I am an independent knowledge and information management professional and a CILIP Trustee. Until recently, I was Government Head of Profession for Knowledge and Information Management (KIM) leading a virtual team of 1100 professionals in government. I was also previously Deputy Director for Information Exploitation and Protection at GCHQ for 8 years, leading a large multidisciplinary team providing Knowledge and Information Management, and Information Assurance services. I was responsible for ensuring that knowledge and information were considered as and treated as assets; and for creating the right information management and information risk management culture.

Prior to that, I held a wide range of roles in government, where I applied my information skills e.g. intranet management, information security, information management, knowledge management, information governance and information risk management. I have also worked as a librarian in university, college and government libraries and started my professional career as a cataloguer at the University of Hull working to Philip Larkin.

Probably my achievement of note was the successful rollout of an electronic document and records management system (eDRMS). Our approach was that this was a business change (not a technology driven) project led by us - the information professionals - in the IM service.

### ***The Future***

During the last 10 years, I have seen our roles expanding into records management, web content management, information management, and secure information management as a result of a 'real sea change' as people have realised that traditional library skills are important in managing and exploiting information in an organisation.

We need to build on this for the future. Our skills and background as information professionals mean that we are in a unique position in the changing information environment. I firmly believe that we, as library, information and knowledge workers, have the skills, and have a role to play, in managing information in whatever sector we work in - whether its central government, local government, commerce, industry, academia, or schools.

The right information to the right person at the right time is the key to any successful organisation. Therefore, people with the expertise to find, manage and exploit information relevant to the aims and objectives of organisations are vital to its future success not only to, make evidence based decisions and ensure accountability but also to drive efficiency and service improvement and reduce waste and improve value for money. I want to help raise CILIP's profile in this space.

As Bill Gates says: "The most meaningful way to differentiate your company from your competitors, the best way to put distance between you and the crowd is to do an outstanding job with information. How you gather, manage and use information will determine whether you win or lose."

As library, information and knowledge workers we need to be confident in recognising and promoting the value of the specialist skills that we can bring to our organisations.

### ***Advice***

Finally some tips for those professionals entering the Information Management space - seize opportunities, move outside your comfort zone, and ask yourself can your information handling skills make a difference. Every library, information and knowledge professional needs to be an IM leader and advocate. Look for examples of where better information management can make a difference in your Department and suggest an appropriate way forward.