

Taking Charge of Your Career

A guide for library and information professionals

Joanna Ptolomey



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Contents

<i>Preface and acknowledgements</i>	<i>xi</i>
<i>List of checklists</i>	<i>xiii</i>
<i>About the author</i>	<i>xv</i>
1 Introduction	1
Part 1 The backbone – skip this at your peril	5
Part 2 Everyday tools for taking charge of your career	6
Part 3 Different stages of your career	6
Part 4 A complete framework for personal strategic planning	6
PART 1 THE BACKBONE – SKIP THIS AT YOUR PERIL	
2 Your LIS career I presume?	11
Introduction	11
The questions we have in mind	15
How goes your LIS world?	18
Why this book can help you	20
Further reading	23
3 It's all about you	25
Introduction	25
Stage 1: Your personal constitution	27
Stage 2: Reflecting on what makes you brilliant	37
Stage 3: Not everything is always peachy in LIS world	42
The next stage in moving on with your career	47
Further reading	47

4	Check out the view – the LIS landscape	49
	Introduction	49
	Education and training	51
	Broad library and information strands	52
	Traditional library	56
	Non-traditional (special) library	60
	Hybrid information professionals	61
	Other types of library and information work	62
	Appendix 4.1: A snapshot selection of jobs	63
	Further reading	64

PART 2 EVERYDAY TOOLS FOR TAKING CHARGE OF YOUR CAREER

5	Tips for keeping up with business as usual and managing change	69
	Introduction	70
	Coping with change	71
	Are you a commitment-phobe?	72
	Attitude	73
	Start the creative process	74
	Asking the ‘why’ and ‘what’	76
	Working outside your LIS comfort zone	77
	Checking out the neighbour’s garden – non-LIS input	78
	Hard (sore) and soft (easy) thinking	80
	Let’s get sociable	81
	LIS professional networking	82
	Breaking free – work out how to fail?	85
	Tips for successful goal-setting	87
	Professional reading	88
	Work–life balance	91
	Using a journal	91
	Further reading	93

6	Making the time for managing your career	95
	Introduction	96
	Who is managing your day?	97
	Let's get serious about time issues	101
	Commitment versus interest	103
	Do you know what you are aiming for? Writing it down	107
	Getting things done, or just busy?	109
	Multitasking – multi-wasting?	110
	Prioritise the important – first things first	112
	No is a very powerful and underused word	115
	Little and often	117
	Welcome to the world of limits	118
	Fear and loathing of lists	119
	Random factors and understanding urgency	121
	Further reading	124
7	Taking charge using project management as a tool	125
	Introduction	125
	Why should I bother with project management?	126
	Project management ... what's it really about?	128
	Managing, controlling and delivering?	132
	Have a start, a middle and an end	134
	Stage 1: Initiate and define	135
	Stage 2: Risks, issues and constraints	138
	Stage 3: Planning and scheduling the project	140
	Stage 4: Scheduling and control	143
	Stage 5: Implementation phase	145
	Stage 6: Communicating and reporting	149
	Stage 7: Project completion, evaluation and dissemination	150
	Further reading and resources	151

PART 3 DIFFERENT STAGES OF YOUR CAREER

8	Career breaks	155
	Introduction	155
	What can give rise to a career break?	157
	The formal career break: the sabbatical	158
	The unforeseen career break	161
	Other types of career break	161
	Issues around career breaks	162
	Getting back to work	163
	Note	167
	Reference	167
9	Starting out, making it count	169
	Introduction	169
	Understanding your industry	171
	The buck stops with you	172
	Getting experience	173
	When you have a clear idea of what you want to do	176
	When you are looking to increase your skill set and competencies outside your current job	177
	Managing your professional development	178
	Making the most of the electronic world	179
	Further reading and resources	180
10	Managing and leading	181
	Introduction	181
	Are you ready for the next level?	183
	Leadership versus management	184
	Management	187
	Leadership	189
	Manager or leader: know your personality type and traits	196

Managers and leaders – let's get emotional	197
Leadership and management skills – here I come!	202
References	205
Further reading	205
11 Going it alone – being an independent information professional	207
Introduction	207
What is an independent and what do they do?	208
Managing time as an independent	210
Good and bad things about being independent	212
Skills for working independently	214
Small fish in a big pond or bigger fish in a smaller pond?	216
Setting up in business	218
Let's talk about money	219
Deliverables	221
Professional development	223
Strategic planning for the independent worker	223
Further reading	229
PART 4 A COMPLETE FRAMEWORK FOR PERSONAL STRATEGIC PLANNING	
12 Personal strategic planning	233
Part 1 The backbone – skip this at your peril	234
Part 2 Everyday tools for taking charge of your career	235
Part 3 Different stages of your career	235
Part 4 A complete framework for personal strategic planning	236
Final thoughts and tips	236

Appendix: Templates for project management checklists	239
Glossary of basic project management terms	247
Index	249

Preface and acknowledgements

Writing a book has never been a dream of mine and has mainly been the result of organic growth rather than design. My career – like this book – has been a marathon and a sprint at the same time, and perhaps a few more lines on my face especially in my 40th year. This book builds upon the ideas that I have accumulated and actioned over the last twenty years or so in my career. This career journey has been in the library and information industry (public, private and independent sector) and also via another industry sector where I trained and worked as a construction planning engineer.

This book has been written mainly to share my commitment and passion for the world of libraries and information services. I have been inspired to craft my career as an information professional and this book represents what I have learned and the tools I have utilised.

I would like to thank the many colleagues, clients and mentors I have worked with and for over my career. In some instances you gave your time, your interest, your words of wisdom and also when required the kick up the backside. There are too many people to list but you have all genuinely shaped the person I am today and are an important part of my ongoing journey. For my friends, colleagues and clients in the library and information world I only hope to give as much back.

This book would not have been possible without the practical and emotional support of my husband Eddie – you really are ‘Eddie the wonder boy’! This book is dedicated to my husband Eddie, daughters Lara and Alice, sisters Frances and Patricia, dad George and to the memory of those who are not with us now.

Joanna Ptolomey

List of checklists

2.1	The questions you have in mind	22
3.1	Working out your own personal constitution	29–30
3.2	Reflecting on what makes you brilliant	43
3.3	Where did it go wrong?	45
6.1	How do you spend your time?	104
6.2	Commitment versus interest	108
6.3	What are you aiming for?	114
6.4	Closed or ‘must do’ list	122
7.1	Initiate and define the project: example	137–8
7.2	Record risks and issues: example	139
7.3	Record tasks and estimate time durations: example	142–3
7.4	Action plan: example	146–7
8.1	The formal career break (sabbatical) planner	160
10.1	Managing or leading?	186
A.1	Initiate and define the project template	240
A.2	Record risks and issues template	241
A.3	Record tasks and estimate time durations template	242–3
A.4	Action plan template	244–5