

This too shall pass



For centuries, people have taken comfort from, and exercised caution as a result of, one short phrase: 'This too shall pass.'

I have found it highly applicable when it comes to a career. I can't think of the number of people I have spoken to who have been heading in one direction when events conspired to send them in another. Often it is good news, sometimes it is not. It has happened to me countless times and, although I'm now in one of the best jobs I have ever had, I am very much aware that 'this too shall pass'.

It was a pleasure to attend an ALIA careers event last November in Adelaide, where there was a presentation from Anne Rundle, Manager of Culture and Life Long Learning at Adelaide City Council, and one of her colleague about a program that is helping the library team (and others in council) to build resilience. Resilience isn't a word that would have had much meaning in the 1980s career landscape, when I was starting out, but today it is one of the essential qualities we all need.

I envy the next generation coming into the workplace. There is more choice than ever before, and the number of professional positions is no longer in decline, but this embarrassment of riches creates its own dilemmas about which path to take. The good news is that careers are no longer linear. Employers want to see applicants who have a broad spread of experience, and a few diversions are seen as enriching the candidate rather than delaying their progress.

The ALIA team aims to support Members at every stage of their career. Our Learning Team offers one-on-one career advice sessions. The PD Scheme for professional Members enables them to build on their formal qualifications. We have the MyPD tracking tool, which is available to all Members to help them keep tabs on their ongoing learning. Perhaps best of all, we create opportunities for Members to meet and connect with people on every rung of the career ladder, from new entrants through to senior leaders. 🌱

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