

AND WILL YOU SUCCEED? YES! YOU WILL INDEED! (98 and 3/4 per cent guaranteed)*

Life would be great if opportunities constantly fell into our laps with no effort on our part. But when they don't, you can still go out there and make them for yourself, as MARY TUCKER advises.

If opportunity doesn't knock, build a door. If life hands you lemons, make lemonade. Love them or hate them, quotes that advise you to make your own opportunities do hold a certain wisdom. That perfect job might fall into your lap or you might find yourself in just the right place at the right time, but frequently such opportunities fail to appear. Taking action will give you a much better chance of obtaining a position that best utilises your skills and provides the amount of challenge that you seek. Here are some things you can do to create opportunities for yourself:

Social networks: If you are seeking a new position or new opportunities, nothing will be as valuable as that tiny piece of information you glean from talking to people in your organisation or profession. Keep connected to real people. Even in today's tsunami of social media, arguably the most useful and valuable information comes straight from someone's mouth.

Raise your hand for an opportunity: There's a new project happening and nobody has asked if you would like to contribute. Ask anyway if you can contribute. Express an interest in working on something new. If you can't contribute directly, ask if you can shadow a team leader or project member, even if it is just for a short time. At the very least you're sure to learn something.

Keep up to date, never stop learning and find a focus: No-one can be 100 per cent in the know about everything, not even library and information professionals. So be selective in what you read. Try to put what you read



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into practice. Make sure you learn from other people as well as the on-screen world. It took me over a decade to realise that some of the best teachers were often sitting right next to me.

Diversify: It's no secret that the world keeps changing and it's not clear which jobs will still be around in five years. Do a bit of futureproofing: learn new skills, attend workshops, be aware of trends, watch what is happening in libraries around the world, gain a wide variety of experience in your early career and don't just stick to doing the one thing you are good at. Spread your wings and survey the landscape for new learning opportunities and new contacts.

Find what makes you happy: Don't stay in a job that doesn't make you happy. Look for something else, even if it takes a long time. Even if it takes years, keep looking. Try not to let the cash rewards determine your career path. Choose a job that suits your skills and personality and don't be swayed by an area or job because it seems sensible. Find a job that you will be happy to go to every day, and in that way you will be a success. 🌟

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* Thanks to Dr Seuss for the title quote.