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A YEAR ON THE FLIP SIDE: JOB/LIFE EXCHANGE TO THE UK
Donna Priddle, Mackay Regional Council Libraries, QLD

Mid 2008 brought about changes in my personal life that I decided to transform into an opportunity. My grandmother was born in England, so I knew I had access to the Ancestry Visa that allows citizens of British Commonwealth countries to work in the United Kingdom (UK) for 5 years. Previous life choices and circumstances had not allowed me to make use of this in the past, but now, things had changed.

Initially I considered taking a year's leave of absence and 'winging it' in the hope of obtaining regular work via the numerous employment agencies that deal with library and information science professionals. Temporary and contract work in this field appears to be quite plentiful. However, while researching (as we librarians do) I came across the LibEx database hosted by CILIP, the Chartered Institute of Library and Information Professionals. (www.cilip.org.uk) As my daughter (then 17) would be joining me on this adventure, an exchange appeared a much more practical choice, as we would have a steady place of residence for the duration. Further, it would enable me to become better acquainted with one position in one place of work, rather than a series juxtaposed jobs.

And so, in late June 2008, I registered with the Libex database, and started sending emails...