
EXTRA! EXTRA! READ ALL ABOUT IT

SOPIA EMPEL, CRM

The ARMA International Education Foundation (AIEF) coordinated and recently published two research studies: one examines litigation readiness and the other assembles a list of records and information management (RIM) standards and best practices.

LITIGATION READINESS RESEARCH

Implementing Litigation Readiness: Principles and Practices examines litigation preparedness for law firm clients. According to the author John T. Phillips, CRM, FAI, CDIA+, "Law firms today need to consider how to most cost effectively assist clients with litigation readiness and preparation for the production of ESI (p.17)."

Phillips' investigates topics such as records production guidelines, litigation partnership, and outsourcing among others. The study projects an increased demand for outsourcing based on the ongoing need to capture and manage ESI during discovery (p. 29). Opportunities for consulting, software services, training, and support services are also discussed.

STANDARDS AND BEST PRACTICES RESEARCH

Guide to Commonly Used National and International Records Management Standards and Best Practices has been revised and updated by Mary Margaret Fletcher, MLIS. According to the author Virginia Jones, CRM, FAI, standards establish benchmarks, create metrics, promote interoperability and compatibility, and provide consistency of products and services.

This compilation serves as a reference resource by listing national and international standards for topic areas such as general RIM, protection, technology, legality, and publication based on their

relevance to RIM. The guide uses a table to organize its information which includes name, brief description, and when available, scope or purpose.

OTHER RESEARCH IN PROGRESS

Additionally, the AIEF has two other research projects in progress. Researcher Greg Gardner is establishing an online, updatable resource of English language RIM programs at accredited colleges and universities world-wide. And, Donald Force and Elizabeth Shaffer are investigating the feasibility and desirability of a peer-reviewed RIM journal for the United States and Canada.

To read more about any of these studies, or to download a free PDF of the completed studies, visit the AIEF Website at:

<http://www.armaedfoundation.org/index.html>

ARE CRMS PEOPLE WITH TOO MUCH TIME?

BY SOPIA EMPEL, CRM

If you're not a CRM (and even if you are), you've probably wondered why some people push themselves to become certified. After all, it's a big investment in time, effort, and money.

CRMs either have good reasons for certifying or too much time. So, which one is it? I contacted three CRMs to find out who they are, why they got certified, and where they found the time.

CAROLINE WERLE, CRM
TORONTO, ONTARIO

Why did you become a CRM?

As a consultant, I wanted credibility. Also, I wanted to know if there were any gaps in my knowledge, so I could augment them. As it turned out, I passed the exam in one try.

If I didn't spend so much time studying, I would've had the time to...take yoga which I started later in life. I should have started yoga earlier while studying for the CRM!

FRANK LASORSA, CRM
NEW YORK, NY

Why did you become a CRM?

Ten years ago, there were only a few CRMs in New York City. I knew certification would show my employer that I was smarter than I looked. The CRM demonstrates a commitment to your profession and yourself.

If I didn't spend so much time studying, I would've had the time to...play music in any juke-joint that would have me. As a weekend warrior, I played guitar in bar bands in the tri-state area.

SCOTT MURCHISON, CRM
SAN FRANCISCO, CA

Why did you become a CRM?

I wanted to earn more money and experience more opportunities for growth. I noticed job postings began to list "CRM Preferred," and another CRM suggested that, because of all my RIM experience, I should take the exam.

If I didn't spend so much time studying, I would've had the time to...avoid a nervous breakdown! At test time, I was cramming for the CRM, while in the middle of selling my house in Tennessee, and moving to my company's headquarters in Los Angeles.

So, CRMs have no extra time, but lots of good reasons to certify.

ABOUT THESE ARTICLES

These reoccurring short articles are part of a series devoted in 2012 - 2013 to two very worthy organizations: ARMA International Education Foundation (AIEF) and Institute of Certified Records Managers (ICRM).

The articles represent the author's views entirely and do not reflect the opinions or views of any organization. They are written and made available as a service to the profession by the author.



ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Sofia Empel, CRM, MLIS, CDIA+ is president of InfoCentric Strategies, an information governance consultancy specializing in records and information management program development, training, technology implementation, and other analytical services.

Sofia is a past recipient of the AIEF's Mavis Eppes, FAI Excellence in Records Management Scholarship and participates in ICRM activities as a grader, mentor, and workshop instructor. Sofia can be reached at sofiaempel@infoCentricStrategies.com.