



Chapter IV

Wendy Bussen

Auckland University of Technology

To foster excellence, equity in learning, teaching, research and scholarship and in so doing serve our regional, national and international communities

My name is **Wendy Bussen**. I am the director of information technology services at AUT University in Auckland, New Zealand.

Personal History

I was born in Huntly, New Zealand. It is about a 1½ hours drive south of Auckland. I attended Huntly Primary School and Huntly College, and then went to Waikato University in Hamilton. I lived in residence and graduated with a Bachelor of Science, majoring in mathematics. Ten years ago, I went to Auckland University to study for a Master of Philosophy, majoring in management sciences and information systems.

My first job after university was as an actuarial trainee for National Mutual Australasia in Wellington. I worked there for about 18 months. I could have stayed and studied for a professional actuarial designation, which would have taken 5 or 6 years, but

instead I chose to travel. I don't regret that I did. I set a personal goal to go around the world before I turned 30, and I managed to achieve it.

While on my travels, I decided to find employment in England. For 3 years I worked at Unilever Computer Services in London in their operational research division. I was a FORTRAN programmer, writing code for simulation packages. One exciting project I worked on was simulating the addition of a new cutter for the Thames timber mill in northern England.

I was also involved in the establishment of a new division. Unilever wanted to set up a new information centre at their head office. I was seconded to work on the data analysis and graphical representation of data from all the Unilever factories around the world. I had to learn a new programming language called "A Programming Language" (APL). Senior management had never seen the data presented in the graphical format that I developed. This was in the 1980s, when graphical tools were still in their infancy. I was pleased with the results as they showed information about production in a different light. This was greatly appreciated by senior management.

After 4 years living in London, I decided it was time to continue on my travels with the intention of returning to New Zealand. I had some difficulty finding a job when I first returned to New Zealand. My experience was in management sciences and operational research. Most companies in New Zealand were too small to have a department specialized in this type of work. Most computing companies developed business systems. I managed to secure a job with a company called Computer Professionals Limited in Auckland. I coded accounting systems using Visual Basic. After about 2 years, I moved to Quanta Consulting Ltd, as a systems consultant. I wanted to work closer with the client and gain a deeper understanding of business needs and system requirements. Once the client decided to buy the software I would project manage the implementation until the system was up and running. After 2 years working for Quanta, we decided to start a family and I became pregnant with my first child. I had hoped to take on contract work, but when the baby was born everything else took second priority. My focus became the needs of my baby.

Eventually, a friend of mine called and asked if I would consider working part-time at UNITEC Institute of Technology teaching accounting information systems. This was ideal, as the lectures were in the evening and fitted around my family commitments. I enjoyed working with the adult students and spending time during the day preparing my lecture notes. I lectured for about the next 2 years, and then took 6 months maternity leave when our second child was born.

At this time, I started working on my master's degree in management sciences and information systems. I wanted to lecture in the Bachelor of Business program and I needed to have a higher qualification. It was a challenge fitting it in around my commitments; however, it has assisted me with securing the job that I have today.

6 more pages are available in the full version of this document, which may be purchased using the "Add to Cart" button on the publisher's webpage: www.igi-global.com/chapter/george-elder-tait-electronics-limited/6999

Related Content

John Zarb, Libbey

John Zarb (2007). *Contemporary Chief Information Officers: Management Experiences* (pp. 213-223).

www.irma-international.org/chapter/john-zarb-libbey/7015

Strategic Innovation Management: An Integrative Framework and Causal Model of Knowledge Management, Strategic Orientation, Organizational Innovation, and Organizational Performance

Kijpokin Kasemsap (2014). *Strategic Approaches for Human Capital Management and Development in a Turbulent Economy* (pp. 102-116).

www.irma-international.org/chapter/strategic-innovation-management/80742

Strategies for Diversity Initiatives: A Case Study at University of Nebraska-Lincoln Libraries

Toni Anaya, Charlene Maxey-Harris and Anchalee Panigabutra-Roberts (2010). *Recruitment, Development, and Retention of Information Professionals: Trends in Human Resources and Knowledge Management* (pp. 46-61).

www.irma-international.org/chapter/strategies-diversity-initiatives/41294

The Role of HRIS in Crisis Response Planning

Amy E. Hurley-Hanson (2009). *Encyclopedia of Human Resources Information Systems: Challenges in e-HRM* (pp. 764-769).

www.irma-international.org/chapter/role-hris-crisis-response-planning/13312

Evidence-Based Organizational Change and Development: Role of Professional Partnership and Replication Research

Robert G. Hamlin (2016). *Bridging the Scholar-Practitioner Gap in Human Resources Development* (pp. 120-142).

www.irma-international.org/chapter/evidence-based-organizational-change-and-development/148088