

The Value of being an SLA Member – Perspective of a Student

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Being an SLA member is not only of value for people in employment. For students also, being a member has many advantages:

- Alongside your studies, you gain insight into the professional world: Which questions and topics are being discussed at the moment? Which workshops and conferences are taking place? In short: What's going on in the information specialists world? Being an SLA member gives you a reality check on situations and activities worldwide, which is in my opinion important with regard to globalization.
- You receive newsletters, and the monthly publication Information Outlook full of interesting articles. You have access to websites, e-learning-courses etc. All great stuff which helps you to master your studies more successfully.
- SLA has a lot of different divisions. These divisions help you to orientate yourself in the world of work. If you are not sure in which area you would like to work, they might serve as a guideline.
- Being an SLA member also means not being alone when dealing with your future career. You can reach many information professionals worldwide who are willing to answer your questions. Maybe you can also find a mentor – your individual contact partner which is really of great value as it makes the membership more personal.
- Last year, at the annual conference in Denver, I was lucky enough to meet many nice people and I am still in touch with some of them. For me that's the highest value. Events and people create the possibility to experience SLA as a living organization.

Of course there are plenty more facts which could be listed, but everyone has to find out the value of being an SLA member for themselves personally. In my opinion, SLA is an organization which accompanies you on your professional path and as a student I am pleased to find “direction signs” there.