

## Message from the Great Northwest Region of ARMA Coordinator

So I know you are all very curious as to the theme for the 2009-2010 GNW Region year and, based on the clue "Ginger" Marc mentioned in his September message, you are trying to figure out exactly how the Spice Girls fit into ARMA. So I'll tell you what I want, what I really, really want.....I want you to think of other cultural references that have Ginger, because it would be a big stretch to fit the Spice Girls with ARMA (although if I had to, I could!).

Let's reflect back a few years, and sit right back and hear a tale, a tale of a fateful trip, that started from this tropic port aboard this tiny ship. Anyone? A three hour tour? Jogging memories....I see the wheels turning.....aha! They've got it: Gilligans Island. Now exactly how does Gilligans Island fit into the Records and Information Management world? Well, years ago (and I'm not saying how long!) when I started in ARMA and joined the Bellevue/Eastside Chapter board, I was told I was signing up for an hour a month, and its turned into, well a few more than that. But ARMA has taught me quite a bit about leadership, overcoming obstacles and working as a team and those traits flowed into my career path as well. And I think that during that 3 hour tour Gilligan and the gang went on, each of those traits can be found during their adventures.

Once they landed on the island, they took on different roles to keep the group going and each week we saw how vital those roles were to helping the castaways during their stay. Do you have people in your group that are consistently inventing new ways to keep records and information management in the forefront? Dealing with everyday life was a running theme on the island. Inventing what you need with what you have. And although some of those inventions on the island were a bit far-fetched (really, who needs an automatic coconut pie baking device?), I'll admit I've had to do some out of the box thinking to get things done. Do you ever think of that person who consistently finds new ways to do things with limited resources as the professor?

Another theme throughout the show was visitors to the island. Ever feel that you are the only one on the island and everything is up to you? Well, as Gilligan and the gang showed us each week, there are other "guest stars" that can come to your rescue and throughout the year, we'll introduce some of those guest stars that can help you during your three hour tour. Although I don't think one of them will be the Harlem Globetrotters.

So why am I Ginger? Well, what was Ginger.....a movie star? Nope that's definitely not me! Glamorous? Don't I wish...I didn't even wear heels at my wedding, ballet slippers folks! So, again, why Ginger? Well, I have red hair and during a discussion over the summer someone mentioned wearing a red shirt to which I said my ginger hair would not match. I used the word ginger since we had an international member on the team and red hair is often referred to as ginger internationally, just trying to spice it up! And thus the making of a theme! But there are traits that Ginger brought to the island and the group and we'll get into those later this year. So Gilligans Island really does fit as we're all in the same boat, we've all signed up for this wonderful and crazy three hour tour and we all need to work together if we're going to thrive in the Records and Information Management profession.

Just a reminder, if you will be attending the ARMA International Conference, please let Marc or I know so that we can keep an eye out for you. We'll be planning a GNW region lunch for those in attendance. I think I found a great cruise ship we can use! And they say it will only take 3 hours!

Best Wishes,

Jennifer Winkler aka Ginger  
GNW Region Coordinator