

Desired Characteristics of an Environmental Scanner

The basic organising principle for a scanning team is that any staff member can think strategically if they are given the opportunity and are supported to un-learn conventional approaches to gathering strategic information.

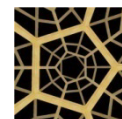
This means that the most appropriate people to join a scanning team may be scattered throughout your organisation, beyond the senior management/executive group.

The following statements describe some of the characteristics of effective environmental scanners. It's unlikely that one person will have all these characteristics, so a scanning team should ideally include people who together can create a group that displays these attributes.



I am open to new ideas, including to what others might call weird and whacky.

I am a systems thinker – I look for internal and external connections between what I do on a daily basis, and where I fit in the 'big picture'.



I am curious – I want to know why it is so.

I accept diversity – I understand that there are no right or wrong perspectives, and that perspectives just 'are'.



I think outside the box. I understand my industry, but I'm interested in global trends as well.

I think outrageously at times. I try not to be limited by what I know.



I challenge assumptions about the future – mine and others.

I am aware of my own worldview filters and blinkers – I know how I see and make sense of the world.



I enjoy making sense of disparate information and digging deep to find out more, synthesising it into useful documents and/or artefacts.

I am comfortable with technology, and enjoy exploring how I can use it to enhance my life and work.

