

Internet Job Search - Part I

After finishing the series of articles on Career Portfolio Development I received several suggestions for topics of interest to job seekers. One in particular came from the Vancouver College where I taught a Linux course this past week.

The suggestion was to give a brief overview of job searching on the Internet and focus on a few popular sites that would be useful to check out.

Most internet users find themselves overwhelmed with the amount of information on the Internet. Frequently the traditional approach of using the major search engines leaves a person with thousands of websites to sift through.

As with all things on the Internet specialization is one of the key factors in developing a successful online service. One of the big mistakes I find with major employment websites is that they try to accommodate the full range of employment tools. Meaning they try to be everything to everybody. They frequently have a resume bank, a job bank, tons of information on careers and job readiness, all sorts of quizzes and helpful information for job seekers, but rarely focus enough on developing one area.

When an online service specializes in a particular area the results for job seekers are more specific and should lead to better employment outcomes.

It is important to find out the strengths of an employment related website and then combine it with other resources on the Internet to get better results.

Here is a short list of employment related websites. I have divided them into rough categories (although most offer many other services):

Canadian Job Banks:

monster.ca = Search more than 400,000 jobs

workopolis.com = Search more than 30,000 jobs

jb-ge.hrdc-drhc.gc.ca = Home of the Canadian Job Bank

BC Employment Papers:

therecruit.com = Home of The Recruit employment paper

BC Labour Market Information:

workfutures.bc.ca = BC labour market information

BC Newspaper Employment Ads:

careerclick.com = All the major newspaper employment ads

BC General Career Information:

workinfontet.bc.ca = BC career, job and labour market information

In addition to these basic sites there are several other sites that are worth mentioning:

Resumes:

little.nhlink.net/nhlink/employe/how.htm = How to write a resume

BC Resume Banks & Recruitment:

vancouver-jobs.com = BC job & resume bank
recruitex.com/sqp = Senior Quality Personnel resume bank

BC Jobs, Job Matching & Gov't:
rao.gov.bc.ca = BC Gov't recruitment access office
ele.hrdc-drhc.gc.ca = HRDC Electronic Labour Exchange
britishcolumbiajobs.com = BC Jobs
okanaganhightechjobs.com = BC/Okanagan hi-tech jobs
agri-labourpool.com = BC agricultural jobs
jobpaper.com = Jobpaper links (currently under construction)

BC Tourism Industry:
bcjobs.virtualave.net = BC tourism jobs

BC Free Employment Services:
networktowork.com = Located in downtown Vancouver
pepjob.com = Located in Surrey
vcn.bc.ca/options/ = Located in Vancouver
ywcavan.org/employment = Located in North Vancouver
rysa.bc.ca = Located in Richmond

There are many more that have not been mentioned due to a lack of space. If you would like a comprehensive and extensive list please e-mail me at jakes@pepjob.com and I will send you the list.

TIP: Online job search is a supplement or value added component to traditional job search elements. Those traditional elements include mastering interview questions, evaluating your skills, creating a good resume and cover letter, networking with industry professionals, gathering first-hand information through informational interviews, and being motivated and empowered to carry out a job search.

Internet job search is another tool in the job seekers tool-belt but it will never be able to replace the core of what a job search is built upon. Internet based job search falls primarily within the information gathering, job lead generation, and marketing areas of a job search. It is definitely changing the way in which the labour market functions, facilitating the process of employment, career management, and labour exchange.

NEXT WEEK: Next week I will cover various components that go into an internet job search, from services that e-mail want ads, to answering questions about whether entry-level job postings are available online.

If you have a topic that you think would be of interest to other job seekers please feel free to e-mail me at jakes@pepjob.com.