

Internet Research for the Real World: Incorporating Career Development into Legal Research Classes

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***Abstract.** As a dual-degree reference librarian at a law school, I teach classes dealing with legal research in addition to my regular reference responsibilities. Each fall, I teach a course in international legal research. I began teaching this course in 2001, and have generally included a lecture on job searching strategies for finding employment in international law. As the job market became more competitive, I began including this information in other research classes. When I teach Advanced Legal Research, my last lecture is on fun and useful things on the internet, which includes some review of job searching websites. Each term, I also provide a lecture on resources for practicing law in the neighboring state of Nevada. In addition to presenting legal research materials unique to Nevada, I also provide information on job search web sites, salary calculators, and relocation. While we do have an excellent career services department, the information provided in the classroom setting provides some extra help in a tight legal job market. In this chapter, I will describe some of the ways I have incorporated online career development resources into my class lectures.*

Keywords: Legal Research Materials, Internet Research, Career Development

1. Introduction

In addition to my duties as the Foreign and International Law Reference Librarian at California Western School of Law (CWSL), I also serve as an adjunct law professor for legal research courses. I primarily teach the courses, International Legal Research and Advanced Legal Research. Other dual-degree librarians at CWSL also teach Advanced Legal Research and some other specialized legal research courses. Generally, during the last lecture of the term, I have introduced the students to some career searching web sites that might be useful for their pursuit of legal careers.

In addition to my regular classes, the CWSL Library also offers optional sessions on preparing to practice in California and the neighboring states of Arizona and Nevada. I am generally responsible for covering Nevada, and I include some career searching sites specific to the state in my presentation each term.

In 2012, I assembled the resources I have discovered over the years and revised our research guide to career development resources. The guide has references to various online sources as well as some print directories that we have available in the library's collection.

2. Literature Review

Although most of this chapter will be based upon my personal teaching experience, there has been some research on the rise of technology's role in the career development process. In a 2007 article, Drs. Zalaquett and Osborn discussed their development of the Career Resources Web Page (<http://careerresource.coedu.usf.edu/>), a website designed to train career counseling students in the use of online resources. (Zalaquett & Osborn, 2007). One of the components of

the web site, “*Career Searches*”, provides links to various job searching web sites. (Zalaquett & Osborn, 2007, p. 164).

In 2001, over 10 years ago, the *Journal of Career Development* featured two articles regarding the impact of technology on the career development field. (Davidson, 2001; Miller & McDaniels, 2001) In one article, Davidson discussed the progression of the University of Missouri—Columbia Career Center’s web site from its beginnings in 1995 to the time the article was published in 2001 (Davidson, 2001, p. 219). She noted that, in the beginning the Center’s web site consisted of one page of basic information about the office and its services. (Davidson, 2001, p. 219). In 2001, the web site had increased to include over 2000 pages of information. (Davidson, 2001, p. 219).

In the same 2001 journal issue, Miller and McDaniels-- also from the University of Missouri—Columbia--wrote an article noting the increased use of computers in career development. (Miller & McDaniels, 2001). They remarked that the method of notifying students about open positions moved from posting paper announcements on a bulletin board in the Career Center to making them available online. (Miller & McDaniels, 2001, p. 203).

3. International Legal Research

In 2001, I began teaching a course on international legal research. Because the field is more specialized, I included a session on some career searching sites that might be interest to students seeking a career in international law. I continue to teach this class during each Fall term, and still include some information on job-searching for prospective international lawyers. During this lecture, I present general sources for international job hunting, which include both online and print sources. Figure 1 depicts the first page of the class handout that lists the general sources.

Intl. Legal Research

General Sources for International Job Hunting

United Nations: Human Resources
<http://alturi.com/imo8/>
--Open positions are organized by occupational categories. Vacancies can also be searched by keyword. Many of the jobs allow online applications.

U.S. Department of State Careers
<http://www.careers.state.gov/>
--Web site provides information on careers with the U.S. Department of State

USAID Careers
<http://www.usaid.gov/careers/>

USA JOBS: Advanced & International Search
<http://jobsearch.usajobs.gov/advanced.aspx>

SLA International Information Exchange: International Jobs
<http://www.sla.org/caucus/kiie/unijobs.htm>
--Portal to career pages for various international organizations.

Idealist.org: Jobs
<http://alturi.com/uokej/>
--Database of job and volunteer opportunities from throughout the world

Books

<i>At CWSL</i> http://kim.cwsl.edu/ Nina Segal & Eric Kocher, <i>International jobs: where they are, how to get them</i> , 6th ed. (2003)	Ronald Krannich, <i>Best resumes and CVs for international jobs: your passport to the global job market</i> (2002)	Books for Purchase Paul Allen, <i>Should I stay or should I go?: The truth about moving abroad and whether it's right for you</i> (2010)
<i>At SDPL</i> --Ronald Krannich, <i>The directory of websites for international jobs: the click and easy guide</i> (2002) --Ronald Krannich, <i>The directory of websites for international jobs: the click and easy guide</i> (2002)	Heather Krasna, <i>Jobs that matter: find a stable, fulfilling career in public service</i> (2010)	Blythe Camenson, <i>Opportunities in Overseas Careers</i> (2004)
	Daniel Lauber, <i>International job finder: where jobs are worldwide</i> (2002)	

Figure 1.

Like domestic law, there are also various specializations within the area of international law. The second part of my

presentation includes information on job-searching resources specific to trade and commerce, human rights & labor, and the environment. Figure 2 depicts the second page of the class handout that lists specialized resources.

Trade and Commerce	<p><i>Directory of American firms operating in foreign countries</i>, 19th ed. (2007) --Multi-volume set located in the Reference Collection --Search http://kim.cwsl.edu</p> <p>World Bank: Jobs http://alturl.com/duovv</p> <p>WTO: Job Vacancies http://alturl.com/76rox</p>	<p>WTO Internship Programme http://alturl.com/eu3iy</p> <p>IMF Recruitment http://alturl.com/im4yy</p> <p>International Telecommunications Union: Employment Site http://www.itu.int/employment/</p>
International Human Rights & Labor Jobs	<p>Human Rights Watch: Employment http://alturl.com/it2vw</p> <p>ILO: Current Vacancies http://alturl.com/u47zj</p>	<p>Amnesty International: Jobs http://alturl.com/ce6qn</p> <p>OAS Employment http://alturl.com/vx9if</p>
International Environmental Jobs	<p>Defenders of Wildlife: Jobs http://www.defenders.org/jobs</p> <p>Earthjustice: Job Opportunities http://alturl.com/n4vsz</p> <p>World Wildlife Fund INTL: http://alturl.com/s8nix DC: http://alturl.com/kbpor</p>	<p>Greenpeace Int'l: Current Jobs http://alturl.com/jrow6</p> <p style="background-color: black; color: white; text-align: center;">Law of the Sea</p> <p>Careers at IMO http://alturl.com/vi8vp</p> <p>ITLOS: Employment Opportunities http://alturl.com/dwhz2</p>

Figure 2.

4. Advanced Legal Research

As the legal job market grew tighter in recent years, I could sense the concern that many of my students had about finding a job upon graduation. Accordingly, I started including information about career searching sites in my final lecture for my Advance Legal Research classes as well. Since the students are not going to be tested on what I say during my final lecture for the term, I usually present some quirky web sites as a sort of comic relief while the students are preparing for final examinations. Since some of my students may also be graduating during that particular term, I also share some practical information about the various career searching sites available online as well as some of the print sources that are available at the library. Figure 3 depicts the career development section of my final class handout in Advanced Legal Research.

5. Prepare to Practice--Nevada

In 2009, the California Western School of Law Library began offering optional “*Prepare to Practice*” sessions focusing on resources useful for practicing law in California as well as the neighboring states of Arizona and Nevada. Traditionally, I have been delegated the responsibility of presented the lecture on Nevada. Along with providing

information on legal resources specific to practicing in Nevada, I also provide information about job searches in the state as well as salary calculators and relocation information. The outline of the presentation is updated each term, and is available at <http://libraryguides.cwsl.edu/nevada>.

Getting a Job

Indeed

<http://www.indeed.com>

—This mega job database seems to have a more extensive and current selection than its competitors.

USA Jobs

<http://www.usajobs.gov>

—Database of federal job opportunities. Allows searches by job title, location, and salary range.

California State Jobs

<http://jobs.ca.gov/OEC/index.aspx>

—Database of jobs available with the State of California. Allows limitation by county and job category.

County of San Diego—Dept. of Human Resources

<http://www.sdcounty.ca.gov/hr/>

City of San Diego—Current Jobs

<https://apps.sandiego.gov/pjaol/currijob/index.jsp>

Imperial County—Human Resources

<http://www.co.imperial.ca.us/human-resources/HrNew/>

Orange County Government Employment

<http://egov.ocgov.com/ocgov/Services/Employment>

Los Angeles County Job Search

<http://alturl.com/u56xk>

San Diego Daily Transcript—Classifieds

<http://www.sddt.com/Classifieds/>

Idealist.org [jobs with nonprofit organizations]

<http://www.idealist.org/>

—Can search by country, region, and job title.

CWSL Research Guide: Career Development Resources

<http://libraryguides.cwsl.edu/CareerResources>

Figure 3.

6. Library Research Guide on Career Development Resources

In February 2012, I revised our Career Development research guide using the new LibGuides software (<http://springshare.com/libguides>). This research guide is available online at <http://libraryguides.cwsl.edu/CareerResources>.

I divided the library research guide into 6 different sections or pages: “*General*”; “*Legal Jobs*”; “*Government*”; “*Newspapers*”; “*Directories*”; and “*Books*”. Below is a brief description of each page’s contents.

General: This page includes mostly links to many popular job web sites that are popular in the U.S., including *Monster*, *CareerBuilder*, *FlipDog*, *Indeed.com*, *Simply Hired* and *LinkUp*. This page also includes links to information on job fairs.

Legal Jobs: This page consists of links to job sites specifically related to the legal field. It is divided into sub-sections for local, nationwide, and international opportunities.

Government: Links to employment sites for federal government jobs and for the human resources departments of all 50 U.S. states as well as the District of Columbia are included on this page. There is also a section of employment sites from municipalities local to San Diego.

Newspapers: Links to the online sites for local newspapers and newspapers in California are included on this page. There is also a section with links to various newspaper portals.

Directories: At times, job-seekers may need to find contact information for a prospective employer. This page of the research guide has links to the catalog records for many of the print directories that we have available in our

collection. There are sub-sections for general legal directories, legislative and regulatory directories, court directories, and academic directories.

Books: This final page includes links to the catalog records of books that provide vocational guidance, tips on resumé writing, interviewing, and career paths for graduates with a law degree. Most of the books are available in the CWSL collection, but there are some references to books in the local public library.

This software provides information on some usage statistics. Since its creation, 422 people have viewed all or part of this guide. The guide was published in February 2012.

Job announcements are only a component of career development. The guide also provides information on books for vocational guidance, and directories to help locate appropriate contacts for networking. Nonetheless, job announcements are still an important beginning point, and today most are available online. From my personal experience, only my first part-time job while in high school was obtained because I knew someone working at the establishment. All of my professional positions have originated from answering a newspaper advertisement, job board posting, or online job announcement.

7. Conclusion

While the research guide has provided a reference point and a portal for various career resources for our students, the classroom lecture time provides an opportunity to show students how to best navigate job-searching sites for the optimum results. The competitiveness in the legal field, as in many other fields, has caused students to be concerned about their future employment prospects upon graduation. Career information literacy is just another type of information literacy. Librarians and information professionals are well-versed in various information tools and often teach others how to use them. It makes sense for us to share this knowledge and experience in the area of career-searching as well.

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