
Computing & IT Careers: Utilising a National Resource for Teaching and Learning

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Abstract

Career Services, is a New Zealand government organisation providing extensive job career information online.

This poster illustrates the breadth and depth of information about computing and IT jobs available from this web site. It suggests ways in which this national resource can be effectively utilised for the benefit of students studying computing and IT in institutes of technology and polytechnics (ITPs).

Keywords

Career Services, computing, ICT

Introduction

Information on job careers has been available from the Career Services web site for a number of years. Wintec School of IT students, and potential students, have been provided with direct access to this information (Figure 1) since 2006.

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| Computing & IT | |
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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Administrator (Website) • Analyst Programmer • Call Centre Adviser • Chief Information Officer • Computer Applications Engineer • Computer Programmer • Computer Systems Analyst • Computer Systems Technician • Computing Services Manager • Content Developer • Customer Service Professional • Customer Service Representative (CSR) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Database Analyst • Database Developer • Desktop Support Analyst • Desktop Support Technician/Engineer • Documentation Specialist • Graphic Designer (Web Pages) • Hardware Engineer • Helpdesk Operator • Information Designer • Information Services Manager • Information Systems Engineer • Information Systems Technician/Consultant • Info Database Administrator • Information Technology Manager |

Fig.1 PowerPoint Slide with Hyperlinks to ICT Careers

The prospect of using this information in a variety of teaching and learning situations, however, is a recent development. The Tertiary Education Commission (TEC) Literacy, Language and Numeracy Action Plan has helped highlight these opportunities. The TEC plan proposes a significant increase in the amount of explicit literacy and numeracy teaching and assessment that is embedded into vocational training.

Strategies for utilising the Career Services ICT job information to help implement the TEC plan and for other teaching and learning opportunities are featured in this poster.

Content

The Career web site includes extensive information about ICT careers including; typical salary ranges (using links to the Seek Salary Centre), stories about people working in particular jobs, alternative names for jobs, as well as the qualifications typically required,

with links back to the Tertiary Educational Organisations (TEOs)

Opportunities for using this information in an academic environment include:

- Classroom teaching and learning; Literacy & Numeracy skills (TEC action plan)
- Learning to search with purpose and/or focus; e.g. for NCC L3 students
- Quick quizzes and assessments, based on web site content
- STAR (Secondary Tertiary Alignment Resource) courses; e.g. illustrating skills requirements
- Contextualising Blue Book modules; e.g. HD600 Helpdesk (Personal attributes, goal setting, and outcomes)
- Further opportunities include;
 - Informing students, secondary school teachers and careers advisors
 - Marketing STAR courses

Conclusion

Academics are constantly looking for new and innovative ways to engage students in the teaching and learning environment. The TEC imperative to embed literacy and numeracy into vocational training provides a further incentive to innovate. The Career Services web site provides a rich source of ICT job information that can help academics meet the TEC imperative while further mining the content to the benefit of both the students and the wider ICT academic community.

References

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