Trawling Cyberspace

Jobs for Biology Editors

Interested in a new job? Or in learning your worth on the marketplace? Or perhaps in hiring an editor? If so, take a look at some of the job sites on the Web, starting with Safenet’s Job Opportunities (1), a composite site of links to federal registers, state and local government job sites, and private-sector job opportunities. Sponsored by the US Department of Labor, this site is part of the larger Safenet site that seeks to provide opportunities for federal employees in a time of downsizing. Some of the links are surprisingly interesting and offer search capabilities for location, profession, and salary and an opportunity to place your resume information and then forward that information to potential employers.

Under “Newspaper Want-Ads” at the Safenet site, the job listings from the previous 3 Sundays are linked for the following newspapers: Houston Chronicle, Chicago Tribune, Los Angeles Times, Washington Post, Boston Globe, San Francisco Chronicle and San Francisco Examiner (The Gate), Philadelphia Inquirer (TriClassifieds), The News & Observer (Raleigh-Durham), San Jose Mercury News, and The Seattle Times. The timeliness of the pieces varies. On 14 June, I could not get the 14 June Boston Globe ads. I was able to obtain the 14 June ads for the Anchorage Daily News, however, by going to the search box at the Alta Vista search engine and typing the name of the newspaper within quotation marks.

The Safenet newspaper ads can be searched by job categories, including administrative, arts/humanities, computer education, engineering/science, financial, health/medical, marketing/sales, professional, management, trade/services, and other with subcategories under each. I found the papers to be far more readable on screen than in their printed versions. The print is larger and the subcategories smaller.

Universities offer job sites as well. At the Duke University site for international job resources (2), I found O-Hayo Sensei, The...
Newsletter of (Teaching) Jobs in Japan (3). Purdue University (4,5) and Brandeis (6) also offer links to national and international job listings. All this information is packaged with descriptions of placement agencies, demographic information about current and projected job availability, training opportunities, and aptitude information. These are not sites where you can skip the small print. Every entry is probably a link to an enormous resource for the job-hunter or prospective employer.

Being interested, of course, in jobs for biology editors and feeling adventurous, I looked for openings around the world in such spots as the World Health Organization (WHO) (7) and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (8). One particularly interesting opening called for a WHO publications officer in Switzerland. Care to ski Europe this year?

Other CyberTreasures

HealthWeb (9) is a WWW resource begun in 1994 that presents links to health-related Internet resources. Each entry has its own brief evaluations and annotations created by medical librarians at the 22 participating-member university libraries. The reviews are divided into 67 health-related fields. This site is supported by grants from the National Library of Medicine.

Citation Matcher (10) is a newly promoted service at PubMed that matches a publication to papers that have cited it. Users enter any or all of selected bibliographic information to retrieve the articles that cite the reference of interest. Citation Matcher is most easily accessed from the PubMed home page. The search can be as specific or as general as your search criteria. If you want to know about citations of a specific journal, just enter the journal name, volume, and issue, for example, and Citation Matcher will retrieve the articles citing that issue.

Let’s chat! sedwards@ulna.bwh.harvard .edu.

References

THE LIGHTER VIEW

Office Lingo in the Age of the Internet

These definitions were found floating around the Internet:

- Cube farm. An office filled with cubicles.
- Prairie dogging. Something loud happens in a cube farm, and people’s heads pop up over the walls to see what’s going on.
- Ohnosecond. That minuscule fraction of time in which you realize you’ve just made a big mistake.
- Blamestorming. Sitting around in a group discussing why a deadline was missed or a project failed and who was responsible.
- Idea hamsters. People who always seem to have their idea generators running.
- Stress puppy. A person who thrives on being stressed out.
- Xerox subsidy. Euphemism for swiping free photocopies from a workplace.
- Uninstalled. Euphemism for being fired.
- Tourists. Those who take training classes just to take a vacation from their jobs: “We had 3 serious students in the class; the rest were tourists.”
- Ego surfing. Scanning the Net, databases, print media, and so on, looking for references to one’s own name.
- 404. Someone who is clueless, from the World Wide Web error message “404 Not Found”, meaning the requested document couldn’t be located: “Don’t bother asking him, he’s 404.”

The Lighter View consists of short articles, cartoons, quotations, or any other type of humorous material about the editing life. We invite your contributions. Send ideas to Barbara Cox, MedEdit Associates, 5429 SW 80 Street, Gainesville FL 32608, Phone 352-376-3071; fax 352-336-8377; e-mail barbcx@aol.com.