Internet On-Ramp

Biology Job Resources on the Internet

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Looking for a job can be tough. As a matter of fact, it can be one of life's most stressful events, but also one of life's greatest opportunities. If you haven't encountered the wide variety of online resources for job seekers, you are in for a surprise. Whether you're looking for a postdoc, a technician's job, or a tenure-track position, these sites are virtually guaranteed to lower your stress and lead you to exciting new career options.

Even within science, where employment opportunities used to be dominated by who you and your associates knew, these kinds of general resources are becoming essential to successful job searches. Employers have learned that looking for employees using online resources can be efficient and, in many cases, more effective than more traditional means.

The Big Sites

No discussion of job searching on the Internet would be complete without a discussion of the big sites. You've probably heard of them—Monster.com (<http://www.monster.com/>); CareerPath.com (<http://new.careerpath.com/>); JobBank USA (<http://www.jobbankusa.com/>), etc. These mammoth sites, which allow you to post resumes, create personalized search pages and perform detailed searches for jobs, are becoming increasingly important compared with the more traditional job searches. Such sites present a wealth of resources and are particularly useful for finding science jobs in industry. However, they may not be as useful if you are looking for jobs in academia or government.

The Specialized Sites

For decades, the advertising sections in many journals provided most biology job seekers with much needed leads. Now, as journals are moving their contents to online venues, it is much simpler to browse through a large number of such publications without having to make a trip to the library stacks. Broad spectrum journals like *Science* (<http://recruit.sciencemag.org/jobsearch.dtl>), *Nature* (<http://www.nature.com/jobs/index.html>) and *Cell* (<http://jobs.cell.com/>) have moved their job listings to their Web sites. Job listings in these journals can typically be searched by the position offered, its geographic location, its academic area or the organization that's offering it. Innumerable additional journals have done so as well, so be sure and check the sites of your favorite journals.

Professional societies have also been eager to create Internet-based databases of jobs and resumes to aid their members in finding employment and employees. For ex-

ample, The Society for Neuroscience (<http://www.sfn.org/classifieds/positions.html>) and the Federation of American Societies for Experimental Biology (FASEB, <http://www.faseb.org/careers/applicant.html>) have, like so many other societies, established superb online job resources for the scientific community. I should point out that some of these sites require that you register for their service to verify your membership, and some may even charge a small fee. Others are freely available to the public.

Other outstanding online resources for job hunters have been established by sites that specialize in providing information and other services for scientists. BioMedNet, the well-known Internet portal for the biomedical sciences, offers extensive resources for job seekers (<http://www.biomednet.com/jobs.htm>, free registration required). BioMedNet allows users to search its "Job Exchange", post job offers or wanted ads or save interesting jobs to a personalized jobs folder that can be reviewed and altered at a later time. In addition, this site offers a fine collection of job-related Internet links and career-related articles. BioView (<http://www.bioview.com/car/car.html>) and SciWeb (<http://www.sciweb.com/>, <http://www.biocareer.com/>) also have employment resources that are specifically targeted to biomedical scientists and shouldn't be missed.

Many Internet job sites have grown out of other successful online enterprises, such as the popular HUM-MOLGEN site for human molecular genetics (<http://www.hum-molgen.de/positions/index.html>). Similar subject-specific job listings can be found at sites like the Institute of Biological Engineering (<http://www.ibeweb.org/JobOffers/>) or the Genome Jobs Web site (<http://www.genomejobs.com/>), a unique resource for finding employment in genomics, bioinformatics, biotechnology and biocomputing. To find sites like these for your specific field, visit some of your favorite subject-specific Web sites and surf around. If you're lucky, someone may have built a job site for your specific research area.

A good example of the power of the Internet in searching for biology jobs can be seen in the International Pharmajobs site (<http://www.pharmajobs.com>) that specializes in the pharmaceutical and the biotech industries. Job opportunities at the site cover preclinical research to marketing opportunities, entry-level through upper-management positions. This streamlined and effective site offers job seekers a highly specialized collection of job listings posted with the company logo prominently displayed and linked to corporate Web sites. Listings also provide direct access to the hiring managers by e-mail, as well as more traditional contact information.

Magazine and trade publications are also a likely spot to find that perfect job listing. Science periodicals like the *New Scientist* (<http://www.sciencejobs.com/>, http://www.newscientistjobs.com/frame_regset.html) and *The Scientist* (<http://www.the-scientist.library.upenn.edu/jobs.html>) offer useful and searchable listings of their job advertisements online.

Academic job seekers will be interested in looking at sites such as The Academic Position Network (<http://www.apnjobs.com/>), the Academic Employment Network

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(<http://www.academply.com/jobs.cfm>) and the Chronicle of Higher Education (<http://chronicle.com/jobs/>). The latter offers a comprehensive career service with registration or subscription.

These specialized sites can be of great value to many types of biology-related job searches, but are of particular interest to those seeking postdocs and tenure-track positions in academia. Unfortunately, they don't list every available job. To cover all bases, you should also search out some of the outstanding regional and local sites that are available.

Regional and Local Sites

Regional job databases can be of particular interest if you are interested in narrowing your job search to a certain locale. These plentiful sites are often hosted by universities, institutions or corporations. In addition, some regional resources may be found in the sort of sites that only locals are likely to know about. For example, newspapers are increasingly turning to the Internet as an additional host for their classified ads and should not be overlooked in a regional job search.

Besides checking out the Web sites of your local universities and biotech companies, you might want to consider federal government science jobs. If your region of choice is Washington DC, for example, the National Institutes of Health (NIH) offers a great resource for employment and research opportunities (<http://www.training.nih.gov/>) on their main campus. Job openings in Atlanta at the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) are also listed online (<http://www.cdc.gov/hrmo/jobstyle.htm>).

You can also find job sites that focus on regions such as the Bay Area careers site (<http://www.bayareacareers.com/>), which contains a set of links to employment opportunities in the San Francisco Bay area, or the Boston.com jobs site (<http://careers.boston.com/>) that is sponsored by the *Boston Globe*.

Finally, many smaller companies forego the big job sites and instead list their job openings on their own company Web pages. Therefore, as a final step in looking for the perfect job in your region, you may need to consider many local employers and check their individual Web sites.

Collections of Job Site Links

It's obvious there are an enormous number of job sites available online, too many to possibly list here. To find more sites of interest, you should consult some of the excellent online collections of job links. For the biological sciences, the premier list of online job resources can be found at the Employment Links for the Biomedical Scientist site (<http://www.his.com/~graeme/employ.html>). This set of links, compiled by a fellow scientist, is enormously useful for biomedical and other scientists who may be exploring the Internet for online employment information. With groups of Internet links that include job listing sites, search firms and recruiters, online resume posting, biotech/healthcare resources, online science career advice, interactive sites and news groups, this site is unsurpassed for its breadth of linked content.

BioBit

If you are looking for a job in the sciences, you aren't alone. The Internet offers many opportunities for peer contact and mutual support. Check out some of these interactive sites and newsgroups:

Bio Online career forum: <http://www.bio.com/hr/forum/>

Articles on career management:
http://bio.com/hr/search/search_1.html

Network of Emerging Scientists:
<http://psyche.uthct.edu/nas/nas.html>

BioCareer center discussion area:
<http://www.biocareer.com/discussion.htm>

Ph.D.org: <http://www.phds.org/>

Science's Next Wave: <http://nextwave.sciencemag.org/> (membership required)

Usenet Newsgroups: Usenet newsgroups can be viewed on most browsers by entering "news:" plus the name of the newsgroup in the browser location window. Note: your browser must be configured for access to a news server. See your system administrator for more information.

news:Sci.Research.Careers - A general news group for discussions about careers in the sciences.

news:Sci.Research.Postdoc - discussions about careers and postdocs

news:Bionet.General - a broad topic group that includes bioscience careers

Notes

Links to sites mentioned in this article along with other useful employment-related sites are available at the author's website (<http://www.virology.net/garryfavwebjobs.html>).

Earning honorable mention are other meta-link sites like BioMedNet.com (http://www.biomednet.com/jobs?action=job_links), Jobs in Higher Education (<http://www.gslis.utexas.edu/~acadres/jobs/index.html>) and the Career Resource Center (<http://www.careers.org/>), the Web's career directory of career directories. A unique meta-search site, Frontiers in Bioscience: Jobs in Biology (<http://www.bioscience.org/urllists/jobs.htm>), which allows users to search a dozen job sites and Usenet newsgroups, is also worth a visit.

Conclusions

Online job sites have revolutionized the way we look for jobs. Journals and newspapers alone are no longer adequate sources for scientific job leads and, at best, only represent a portion of the resources that you should consult if you are searching for a new job. With diligent effort, these amazing new online resources will aid you in locating your ideal job or your next great opportunity.