



Researching Your New Job

I ILLINOIS

Common Misconceptions

- Many avoidable hurdles in the job search process
- Accept the uncertainty
- Keep in mind it's a first step...not forever



Reid, Marc. "5 Assumptions You Need to Drop Before a Job Search." ACS Axial
<http://axial.acs.org/2018/03/28/assumptions-job-search/>

Publish or Perish

- “I’ve only published ‘X’ papers, so I don’t have enough in my résumé to apply for this job.”
 - In prep...
 - Corporate collaborations
 - How else can you stand out?
 - Make a phone call



Reid, Marc. “5 Assumptions You Need to Drop Before a Job Search.” ACS Axial
<http://axial.acs.org/2018/03/28/assumptions-job-search/>

Lack of Knowledge

- “I won’t know enough about this particular field.”
 - Research is about failing until you succeed, too
 - Be adaptable
 - Ask good questions



Reid, Marc. “5 Assumptions You Need to Drop Before a Job Search.” ACS Axial
<http://axial.acs.org/2018/03/28/assumptions-job-search/>

My PhD Prepared Me to Do...My PhD Research

- “What if I want to explore a field outside my degree? What I’ve learned is so specific.”
 - STEM training produces critical and creative thinking
 - Industry is constantly evolving
 - How else might you use a skill or instrument?



Reid, Marc. “5 Assumptions You Need to Drop Before a Job Search.” ACS Axial
<http://axial.acs.org/2018/03/28/assumptions-job-search/>



Serendipity

- “Building a career should be easy and a smooth and straight line.”
 - Make and take opportunities
 - Rejection is certain
 - Jump in and overcome fear



Reid, Marc. “5 Assumptions You Need to Drop Before a Job Search.” ACS Axial
<http://axial.acs.org/2018/03/28/assumptions-job-search/>



Great Risk, Great Reward

- Trying and failing more manageable than the regret of never having tried at all!



Reid, Marc. "5 Assumptions You Need to Drop Before a Job Search." ACS Axial
<http://axial.acs.org/2018/03/28/assumptions-job-search/>

Define Your Topic

- Review available resources
- Assess interests, abilities, goals, values
- Determine experiences and skills you have to offer
- Consider options
 - Education
 - Industry (traditional or non-traditional)
 - Academia
 - Government
 - Volunteer



Review the Literature

- Do you have enough information?
- Research job market trends
- Review open, relevant job descriptions
- Obtain advice from experts
- Create a career roadmap (not just about the first step)
- Establish expectations based on facts



Formulate a Plan

- Work from general to specific (Who, What)
- Where should you look?
 - Networking (family, friends, labmates, professors)
 - Informational Interviews
 - LinkedIn, social media
 - Google search
 - Relevant job sites
 - Conferences
 - Professional organizations
 - Scientific headhunters
 - Career Services
- How do you want to search



Design Your Materials

- Create appropriate documents
 - Résumé or CV
 - Cover Letter
 - Research Summary/Plan/Slides
 - Educational Philosophy/Course development
 - Transcripts
 - Elevator pitch
 - References
- Prepare stories and practice interviewing
- Convey fit and demonstrate research



Carry Out Your Search

- Maintain the plan
- Keep an Excel sheet or log of applications
- Experiment with multiple methods to ensure strong results
- Stay focused during repetitive actions to avoid errors
- Just jump in and go for it!



Evaluate Your Sources

- Keep seeking advice through informational interviews
- Review success/leads
- Drop sources that are not fruitful
- Consider adding supplementary ones



Make Notes & Follow-Up

- Document and follow-up
- Review the process
- Evaluate your interviews
- Prepare-practice-persevere



Happy Researching

