

Fall 2013

Learning about a Career Interest Using Different Platform: Civil Engineering Research

Saeed Aldawsari

Western Kentucky University, aldowsari_502@hotmail.com

Follow this and additional works at: http://digitalcommons.wku.edu/ueul_award



Part of the [Civil Engineering Commons](#)

Recommended Citation

Aldawsari, Saeed, "Learning about a Career Interest Using Different Platform: Civil Engineering Research" (2013). *Undergraduate Research Award*. Paper 15.

http://digitalcommons.wku.edu/ueul_award/15

This Report is brought to you for free and open access by TopSCHOLAR®. It has been accepted for inclusion in Undergraduate Research Award by an authorized administrator of TopSCHOLAR®. For more information, please contact topscholar@wku.edu.

Saeed Aldawsari

Sara McCaslin

Civil Engineering

31October, 2013

Learning about a Career Interest Using Different Platform

Getting to know the most important information about a particular profession is necessary especially for a student who is in the midst of deciding which career would fit his or her needs, expertise and proficiencies. In addition, information like salary range, workforce density and educational requirements are also important to know whether a particular profession will be profitable even after academic completion. While there are a number of platforms and resources available where this information can be drawn, there is a need to evaluate which of these sources and platform actually provide the most comprehensive information.

For someone who wants to pursue a career in Engineering, I used three platforms to scout the information I need. These platforms include a journal, a book and an online website. I will try to determine which among the sources I've used was most beneficial to my needs.

Garner's Careers in Engineering was a very useful resource. At the beginning, tables of contents help you to select from the different branches of Engineering you would like to pursue. I choose Civil Engineering. This allowed me to proceed directly to Chapter 7 of the book which extensively discussed about my chosen specialization. The introduction talks about an overview of Civil Engineering along with what to expect from the profession. What it generally does and a brief historical accomplishments and merits of the profession. After the overview, the book narrates about the nature of Civil Engineering. In this case, it talks more about the professional instead of the profession. The book was very informative. In fact, it has provided an extensive

description of each of the wide variety of options available for an individual who would like to pursue a career in civil engineering. Under each specialization, a detail description of what to expect was presented. Some of these specializations were new to me. Towards the end of the chapter, the author began giving the reader an overview of the environment where a civil engineer usually works. It also gave an extensive review of the educational requirements that one must complete if they want to practice civil engineering. What I particularly appreciate about this material was that it gave readers like me an idea of how the profession will become in the future. This is valuable especially for would-become students to help them decide whether the industry can still accommodate them upon graduation. This section also gives tips on how a potential civil engineer can get a head start among all the other candidates. The book also gave a salary range that would allow a student to decide whether the investment in an engineering education is worth it. Finally, several supplementary resources were provided for additional information or verifications.

The journal article on the potential career in Engineering at the US Air Force was also helpful. It provided information as to the perks and benefits of having to be employed in one of the US government's most elite and prestigious organizations. Although there were a limited number of options which had not been detailed in the article, the information that was given was encouraging. There were also specific answers provided by the article. It did not, however, go into a detailed explanation in as far as where it applies and what is warranted to accomplish it. There were also added resources, specifically links to sites which might perhaps give additional information about the profession or career choice. It was, however, missing the part which gives information as to how congested the industry is and how it would look in the future.

The US Department of Labor's Occupation Outlook Handbook was not very helpful as far as my personal opinion of the website is concerned. All the information in the website were passé. In fact, the data from the fact sheet were still from 2010 records. Although there were several useful links, they were no longer relevant considering that majority of them were data from May 2010. The administrators of the website should regularly update the information because this is generally the most accessible platform for many individuals. It would be a complete waste if it will not be put to good use.

Works Cited

- Bureau of Labor Statistics, US Department of Labor. (2013, October 31). Occupational Outlook Handbook. Retrieved October 31, 2013
- Garner, G. (2008). Careers in Engineering, 3/e. New York City: McGraw-Hill Professional Careers.
- Stauder, T. (2001). A Smart Way to Begin a Civilian Engineering Career in the US Airforce. Software Engineering Technology , 19-20.