Career Prep Websites: A Summary and Review

Imagine PhD

What it is
A career exploration and planning tool for the humanities and social sciences.

Summary
Four Categories:

1. Self-Assessments
   a. **Interest**: matches your self-assessed interests to relevant job categories
   b. **Skills**: matches your self-assessed skills to relevant job categories
   c. **Values**: provides you with relevant interview questions based on your self-assessed values

2. Job family resources:
   a. **Explore**: stories and articles to help you understand the range of careers, kinds of work and industries
   b. **Connect**: resources, groups, and organizations to help you identify and connect with people
   c. **Build skills**: strategies and resources to build specific skill sets to help you move efficiently
   d. **Apply**: job search sites, job postings, and application document tips and strategies to help you apply for jobs

3. General resources: tips, strategies, and general guidelines for professional communication and documentation during the application process

4. My plan: set your goals and make an individual development plan
Review

Pros

• Assessments are useful independently of other things on the website (recommended: consider completing the assessments in preparation for a career counseling appointment).
• Job families are aligned with skills and interests, so it’s relatively easy to identify job families that you are interested in and have skills for once you’ve done the assessments.
• Resources are quite comprehensive and useful. Of particular note: they provide annotated job postings and tailored resumes/cover letters for each job family.

Cons

• Job families are not exhaustive.
• Very few profiles of philosophers in the job family resources.
• Assessments are a little buggy, and planning tool is clunky.

Versatile PhD

What it is

A website that helps graduate students and PhDs envision, prepare for, and excel in non-academic careers.

Summary

1. PhD career finder:
   a. Non-academic careers for humanities and social sciences & non-academic careers for STEM
   b. Real-life examples: hiring success stories (with narratives, CVs, résumés, cover letters included), Q&A, and career autobiographies
2. General information of a given career
3. Forums
   a. Humanities forum & STEM forum
   b. Ask me anything events
   c. Panel discussion archives
4. Job listings posted by volunteers from the Versatile PhD community
5. Networking with other PhDs
6. Local meetups groups
Review

Pros

• Real-life examples are very rich in content. A few are from philosophers.
• The panel discussion archive for humanities is a good place to read and learn more about careers you are interested in.
• Occasionally, there are active sessions with PhD career experts under “ask me anything events.”

Cons

• No meetup groups in Columbus yet.
• General information of a given career is too general to be helpful.