

Artful Résumé Service



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10 TIPS TO STAND OUT AS A CANDIDATE

The market is competitive however we are fortunate to be in an industry that is driven by the exchange and dissemination of information and general intellectual curiosity. Such favorable conditions are ripe for a subject matter expert to share their knowledge and gain credibility in a professional manner. Following are some which, when used effectively, might make you stand out from the rest of the pack.

- 1) Consider writing articles, blogging or contributing to a community in an area of expertise for which you are passionate to industry publications, trade sites and open forums. Remember the golden rule though, and offer high quality information relevant to the subject matter. There is nothing these groups hate more than being “sold” by a lurker out of the gate. You have to build credibility as a valuable contributor. You can put a link to your site or your email in your auto-signature to indirectly work in your contact information. Have your autosignature at the bottom of each entry with your email.
- 2) Sit on a panel of a professional conference or volunteer to chair or organize events for a local chapter of a professional organization. Attend networking events and demonstrate your knowledge through conversation.
- 3) Volunteer for a project in your field for a nonprofit or professional association. One candidate volunteered to help automate her child’s school library system. Volunteering is a great way to network and to keep your skills sharp. Volunteering for civic organizations, such as literacy projects or an organization like Boston Cares shows you have commitment and compassion.
- 4) Strengthen your online personal brand. Register on job search focused websites, such as LinkedIn and Twitter. Contribute to their discussion boards with your expert advice and be sure to claim your name as your URL. Be sure your profile is richly keyworded and that you have recommendations on the sites attesting to your competencies and experience. Search for your name on Google to make sure that there are no bad hits out there. Suppress your settings in social sites like Facebook and Twitter.
- 5) Assist your professors or academics you know in the field with a library science related research study or article to get some experience and credit. One student did this and she is cited as a key contributor to a major study on the effectiveness of corporate libraries.
- 6) If you are employed, ask to volunteer on projects that relate to your area of interest. One candidate did this by getting a job as an office assistant and volunteering for her company’s research department. They ended up paying for the rest of her MLS and promoting her full time into the position.
- 7) If you are in school, arrange a coop with a local academic, special, or public library. Internships go a long way and count toward experience.
- 8) Don’t be afraid to ask advice of those in your field, in the form of an informational interview or other format. People love to be asked for advice, and it just may lead to some interesting connections.
- 9) When online job searching (which is just one of many job search techniques), make a change to your resume every week or so to bump it to the top of the search pile.
- 10) Consider consulting if you possibly can to build your experience. If you are an indexer, metadata librarian, cataloger or your passion is Information Literacy, see what “gigs” are out there. Post an ad on craigslist.com to get a pulse on the market. More experience for the resume is a good thing.

NEVER GIVE UP AND STAY MOTIVATED AND POSITIVE!!