Michael Weyman

Nancy Kersell

ENG 291

10-3-12

Web quest on Computer Science

For my web quest I will be evaluating sites on career paths in Computer Science. I choose this because I am a CS major and plan to acquire a job in this field like developing, programming, software engineer, etc… I mainly used Google to research and searched “career paths in Computer science,” to find my sites.

*The Good*

When you think of a website being good you think of all the things you wanted before you go to the website and then you decide if they website provided the info you wanted. Besides the info, you want the site to look good. If the website is covered in random ads that just get in the way you will not like the site. Finally the site should be organized, if it throws random info at you that is jumbled you won’t learn anything and you will be confused after you read it.

The first good website I would like to mention is “Computing degrees & Careers.” This is the first website on reference page. This site defines CS as “Computer science (CS) spans the range from theory through programming to cutting-edge development of computing solutions. “ This site is very easy to understand and sets specific paths for Computer Science and describes what each job is in the path. It’s full of very good info and it is very well organized.

“Bachelor’s Degree in Computer Science: Possible Career Paths”, “Computer Science Careers”, and “What Can I Do with a Degree in CS?” are the other good sites for my research. They basically give out the same info. They list jobs in the career path, give valuable info on what CS is, and tells you steps on how to succeed. “What Can I Do with a Degree in CS?” This site has a really good information table on salaries in CS:

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Job Title** | **No. Employed** | **Mean Annual Salary** |
| Computer and Information Scientists, Research | 27,650 | $96,440 |
| Computer Programmers | 396,020 | $69,500 |
| Computer Software Engineers, Applications | 472,520 | $82,000 |
| Computer Software Engineers, Systems Software | 329,060 | $87,250 |
| Computer Support Specialists | 514,460 | $44,350 |
| Computer Systems Analysts | 446,460 | $72,230 |
| Database Administrators | 109,840 | $67,460 |
| Network and Computer Systems Administrators | 289,520 | $65,260 |
| Network Systems and Data Communications Analysts | 203,710 | $67,460 |
| Computer Specialists, All Other | 180,270 | $69,370 |

*The Bad*

When you think of a bad website you think of a website that is unreliable. You think of a site that has ad’s everywhere. The site will be unorganized and will not teach you anything. Out of my 10 websites, 4 of them were bad: “"Career Paths With a Computer Science Bachelor’s Degree", "Career Path", "8 Great Careers/ Jobs for a Computer Science Major", and “Career Paths at the National Security Agency”.

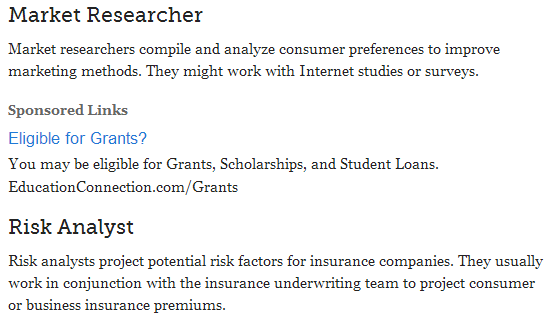
To sum up all of these sites is simple. The sites were too simple; they give information, but not enough to teach you anything. There would be ads not many, but enough to be noticed. When ads are on a website it just means that the website doesn’t really want to give you information, the site wants you to go there so they make money off of advertising.

For example, “Career Path” lists many job titles of what you can do when you get a B.S. in Computer Science, but doesn’t even describe what the responsibilities that the job comes with, or even what someone in that field does.

*The Ugly*

The ugly websites I came across are: “Career Paths with a Computer Science Bachelor's Degree”, and “Career Opportunities for Computer Science Majors.” An ugly website will make you want to click off just from the first site. The sites will be jumbled, filled with advertisements, completely unreliable, and has no sense of organizations at all. For the sake of Wikipedia, I consider it to be an ugly site for one and only one reason, it can be edited. I was reading an article on Wikipedia last week and randomly placed in the article was “babies are crazy!” I had to laugh at that, and laughing at that distracted me from remembering what the article was about.

The worst thing I come across in a website that makes it ugly is from “Career Paths with a Computer Science Bachelor's Degree”. You will see the picture after this paragraph. The site has an advertisement for getting a grant right in the middle of the body of the page. The advertisement is hidden so well I read it as part of the paper before I went back and noticed it.



*Final Analysis*

For this paper I have learned what to look for in a website, especially for research. I noticed organization problems and was able to point out what information was bad by comparing websites together. I have learned a lot for my career and I know what I need to be looking for.

**Reference Page**

"ACM" *Computing Degrees & Careers*. N.p., n.d. Web. 02 Oct. 2012.

<http://computingcareers.acm.org/?page\_id=8>.

"Bachelor’s Degree in Computer Science: Possible Career Paths." *Bachelor's Degree in Computer Science:*

*Possible Career Paths*. N.p., n.d. Web. 02 Oct. 2012. <http://myfootpath.com/degrees-and-

programs/bachelors-degree-programs/bachelors-degree-computer-science-career-paths/>.

"Career Opportunities for Computer Science Majors." *Career Opportunities for Computer Science*

*Majors*. N.p., n.d. Web. 02 Oct. 2012. <http://www.cse.ust.hk/ug/admissions/career/opportunities/>.

"Career Path." *Career Path*. N.p., n.d. Web. 02 Oct. 2012.

<http://www.merrimack.edu/academics/science\_engineering/computer\_science/career\_paths/

>.

"Career Paths With a Computer Science Bachelor’s Degree." *Career Paths With a Computer Science*

*Bachelor’s Degree*. N.p., n.d. Web. 02 Oct. 2012.

<http://www.computersciencebachelordegree.com/career-paths-with-a-computer-science-

bachelors-degree.htm>.

"Computer Science Careers." *Computer Science Careers*. N.p., n.d. Web. 02 Oct. 2012.

<http://www.seas.gwu.edu/~simhaweb/misc/cscareers.html>.

Grabkowski, Leonardo R. "Career Paths With a Computer Science Bachelor's Degree."*EHow*. Demand

Media, 04 July 2009. Web. 02 Oct. 2012. <http://www.ehow.com/facts\_5151293\_career-

computer-science-bachelors-degree.html>.

Vercillo, Kathryn. "8 Great Careers/ Jobs for a Computer Science Major." *HubPages*. HubPages Inc., n.d.

Web. 02 Oct. 2012. <http://kathrynvercillo.hubpages.com/hub/8-Great-Careers-for-a-

Computer-Science-Major>.

"Welcome to the National Security Agency - NSA/CSS." *Career Paths at the National Security Agency*

*(NSA)*. N.p., n.d. Web. 02 Oct. 2012.<http://www.nsa.gov/careers/career\_fields/compsci.shtml>.

"What Can I Do with a Degree in CS?" *Career Options*. University of Massachusetts Amherst, n.d. Web.

02 Oct. 2012. <http://www.cs.umass.edu/admissions/career-options>.