

The Social Innovations Group at the University of Michigan's School of Information, consists of an interdisciplinary group of individuals specializing in the research and development of digital technologies. Our vision is simple: To design, build and enhance innovative technologies to solve real-world problems.

Our expertise lies in addressing real-world problems affecting marginalized groups and individuals primarily in the U.S. Our group aims to tackle real-world problems such as unemployment and digital literacy affecting marginalized groups and individuals primarily in the U.S. For more information, please go to http://socialinnovations.us. This work was funded by the National Science Foundation award 1717186.









## Online Resources

The Internet is an advantageous resource for those seeking employment. It can be accessed with little cost, allows multiple job applications to be sent, and can help job seekers highlight their experience and skills. People of all ages are spending more time online searching for jobs.

Job seekers who had previously earned incomes greater than \$75,000 per year used more exploratory job search strategies and were more likely to get callbacks than job seekers who previously earned less than \$35,000 per year. These sites allow job seekers to explore careers, get advice, and ask specific career-related questions.

In our online survey with 768 job seekers who were actively seeking jobs, we found that job seekers used these online platforms to:

#### 1. Apply for new openings

#### Job search sites:

- Indeed, CareerBuilder, and Monster: You can use these free services to upload resumes, search for jobs, and apply to them directly. These sites allow you to create job alerts, and more.
- SnagaJob: Another popular job search platform that offers services for employers and job seekers, including an online job board focused on hourly jobs and shift work.

#### Informational sites:

• Company websites: These sites allow you to search for jobs and might include more detailed descriptions of job requirements. Unlike the other sites, you might be able to track your application status using company websites.

# 2. Get referrals and network with people working in Industry

#### Social support sites:

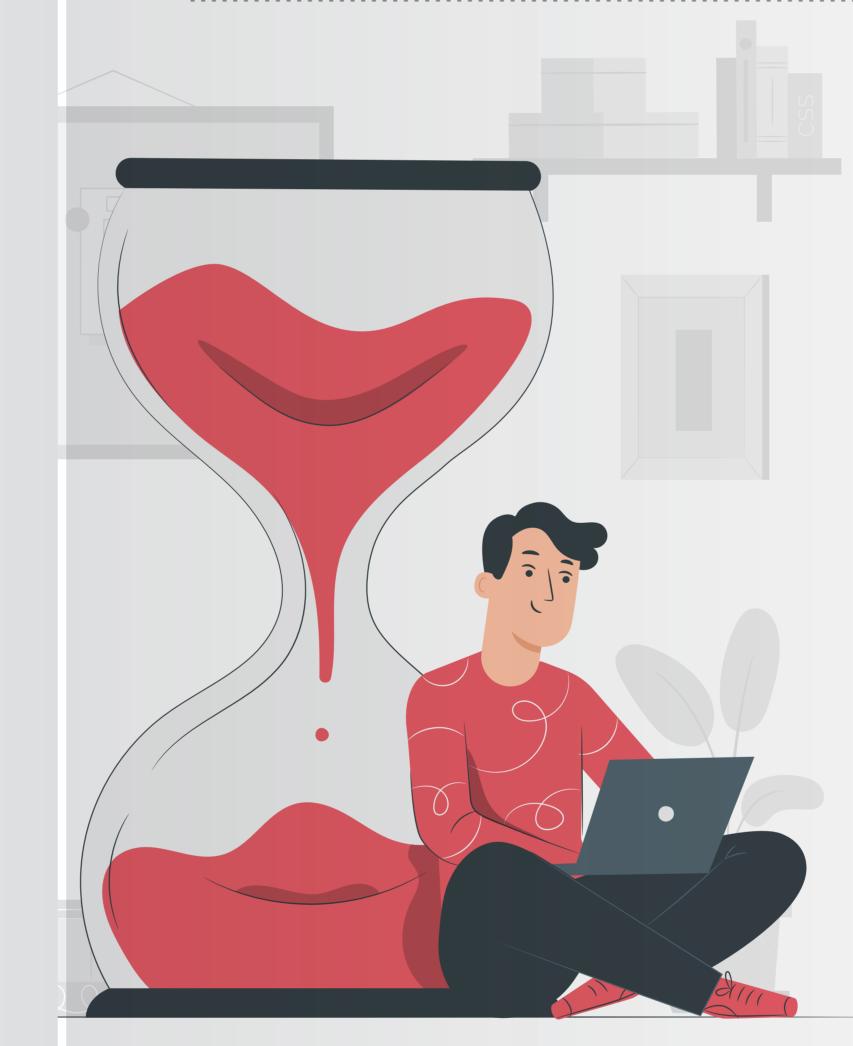
- Facebook Groups: You can use groups as a space to connect based on shared career interests. You can also attend in-person events and form connections to facilitate your job search.
- LinkedIn: You can use this site for professional networking and career development and post your resumes. Employers also use LinkedIn to post jobs.

<sup>1</sup> Tawanna R Dillahunt, Aarti Israni, Alex Jiahong Lu, Mingzhi Cai, and Joey Chiao-Yin Hsiao. 2021. Examining the Use of Online Platforms for Employment: A Survey of U.S. Job Seekers. In Proceedings of the 2021 CHI Conference on Human Factors in Computing Systems (CHI '21). Association for Computing Machinery, New York, NY, USA, Article 562, 1–23. DOI:https://doi.org/10.1145/3411764.3445350

#### 3. Seek advice from peers

#### Exploratory and Q&A job sites:

- Quora: You can use this site to search for questions and answers (Q&A) related to career and employment. You can also post your own questions and answers to other people's questions.
- Glassdoor: You can use this site to review former and current employees' experiences interviewing with and working for companies. This site also provides salary information and maintains the anonymity of site contributors.
- Reddit: You can use this site to ask and answer questions and connect with a network of communities.



### Additional tips

Work online: This includes connecting with employers through Facebook groups and exploring the following sites to find work that you can do online:

#### Local gig work:

• **UpWork**: This site connects businesses to freelancers. Freelancers are typically self-employed and do not commit to a specific employer long-term.

#### Online gig work:

• Amazon Mechanical Turk: Use this platform to complete simple tasks known as crowd work for pay.

# Online Learning Resources

Companies across industries have digitized their operations and processes. Even now, businesses are employing artificial intelligence to streamline workflows and supply chains. As a result, job seekers today require specialized skills to help them stand out from the crowd. Several online tools that could help job seekers build these digital skills include:

## Develop (basic) computer skills for free:

Grow with Google







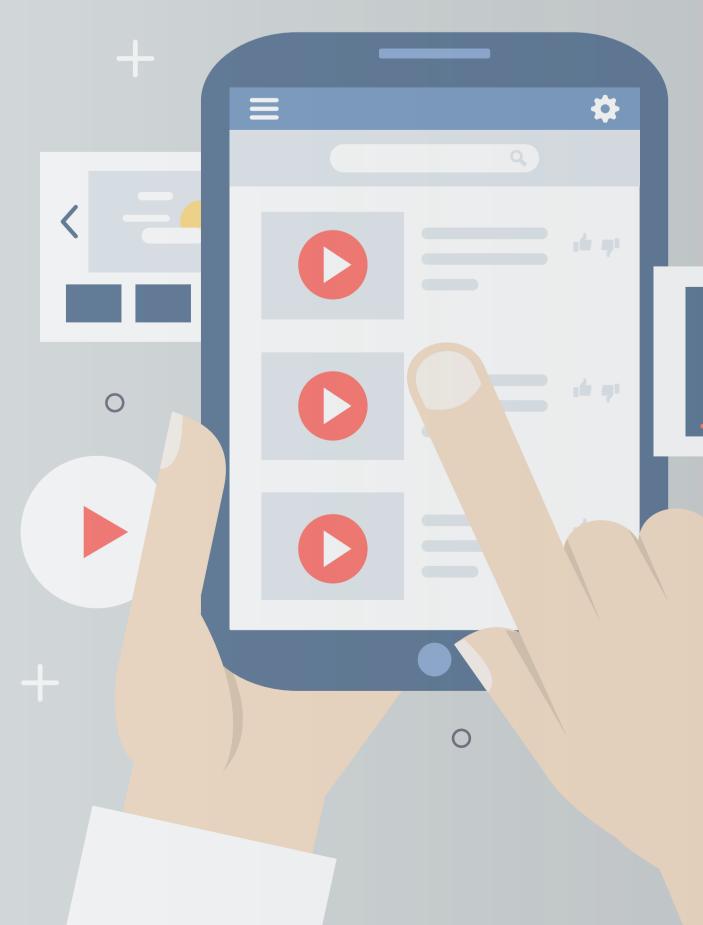
Develop additional skills: Some might

have an associated cost

Linked in Learning



coursera



<sup>2</sup> Alex Jiahong Lu and Tawanna R. Dillahunt. 2021. Uncovering the Promises and Challenges of Social Media Use in the Low-Wage Labor Market: Insights from Employers. In Proceedings of the 2021 CHI Conference on Human Factors in Computing Systems (CHI '21). Association for Computing Machinery, New York, NY, USA, Article 452, 1–13. DOI:https://doi.org/10.1145/3411764.3445774