

Building Your Career in Electronics, Part I

Identifying Careers in Electronics

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Special Notes: The Internet links explored in this Drill Down will be used in Drill Down 1, Part II.

Approximate Time Required: 5 hours

Equipment and Tools

- Internet connection
- Standard browsing (web surfing) capabilities

Team or Individual Activity: This activity is designed as an individual activity.

Learning Objectives

1. Use the Internet to identify three distinctly different types of electronics careers, and describe at least eight jobs available in each area.
2. Collect links (URLs) and keywords that provide the most useful information on electronics careers.
3. Document specific types of work available to electronic technicians.

Performance and Task Procedures

The Internet is ideal for exploring job opportunities in virtually any geographic location and across many types of careers that are available in electronics. This exercise involves visiting various web sites to collect information and document different types of jobs and job requirements (e.g., education/training, skills, and experience) across the electronics industry.

Your task is to gather information on at least eight jobs in at least three distinctly different areas of electronics in geographic locations of your choice. There are two tables provided for this task: Table 1: Internet Research Sources and Table 2: Electronics Career Information and Planning.

Table 1 provides a few links (URLs) to help you get started on information gathering. As you conduct the research, save links and keywords that are most useful, and record them in the table. At the same time, complete Table 2.

Take time to become familiar with the way each search engine and job source site works by reading directions and using “help” features and “advanced search options” when they are available. Good job research experience and skills will boost your chances of finding a career that best suits your professional interests and financial needs.



Deliverables: Write a short report of the job information that you found which is most interesting to you. Remember all papers must be written in your own words. Words copied exactly as they are written must be placed in quotations and referenced. Failure to do so is deemed as academic plagiarism and is a serious offense.

The report should include:

- Search strategies you found most successful in getting good information
- Information on certain companies, job types, or geographic locations in which you may look for a job in the future
- Your conclusions on the effectiveness of this type of research and tips for others on how to conduct an effective search in the least time
- Summary paragraph of the findings that you may use in the future for your own career planning

Scoring or Grading Criteria

Instructors may use the following criteria to grade this exercise:

1. Completion of each table as specified under “Performance and Tasks Procedures”
2. Written report:
 - Clarity of descriptions of search strategies, conclusions, and summary of findings
 - Degree that the information is well organized for future use
 - Grammar and general quality of writing



Table 1: Internet Research Sources

Search Engines and Career Search Web Sites	Suggested Keywords for Searches
http://www.careerbuilder.com/ (job search site)	technician, technical, technologist, electronics, engineering
http://www.monster.com/ (job search site)	technician, technical, technologist, electronics, engineering
http://www.google.com/ (a general purpose search engine)	job search, career planning, employment sites
http://www.khake.com/page19.html	



Table 2: Electronics Career Information and Planning

Instructions: Identify two more types of electronics careers (in addition to semiconductor manufacturing which is provided), and find at least eight different jobs available in each of the three areas. The sample entry is provided to show the type of information needed.

Company	Location	Job Title and Abbreviated Description	Required Degree	Required and/or Desired Knowledge, Skills, & Experience	Comments
Career Area 1: Semiconductor Manufacturing					
Chip King Inc.	Portland, OR	Troubleshooting RF Systems: repairs and maintains RF plasma chamber-cleaning systems and related subsystems	A.A.S. in electronics or technology	Familiarity with RF applications in chip making and general knowledge of electromechanical systems operations and maintenance procedures	This type of job is not what I will look for in future—not enough emphasis on computers



Company	Location	Job Title and Abbreviated Description	Required Degree	Required and/or Desired Knowledge, Skills, & Experience	Comments
Career Area 2:					



Company	Location	Job Title and Abbreviated Description	Required Degree	Required and/or Desired Knowledge, Skills, & Experience	Comments
Career Area 3:					