



4.1.4 Academia

Academic professionals

Mike: Program director in a university (social science)

How would you describe your current role? Academic program director of distance education and the online unit; I work with research-teaching staff to develop online distance education course materials. My job is part academic and part administrative. I am an instructional designer and project manager. I don't directly manage any staff, but work with a team of about 30 to develop and deliver courses.

Specific responsibilities:

- Training: Course development for others' use, assessment, occasional teaching
- Writing: Course texts, reports of research results/ findings, research bids
- Administration: Project management, team work, academic committee meetings, managing research projects

NB Similar roles include Student Support or Student Services Director; Director of Undergraduate Programs. Such positions are sometimes classified academic and other times academic-related.

Bridget: Science outreach coordinator (social science)

How would you describe your current role? I was asked a number of years ago to help send scientists out into the community to teach science beyond the gates. So I began to develop the position of outreach coordinator/ administrator. This work is focused around creating and coordinating a range of public programs. It involves getting funding, supervising and managing all the programming. This work requires me to stay current in science research, and use this knowledge to organize outreach activities which vary from coordinating with scientists who will give mini-lectures, to developing pedagogical materials for teachers, to developing and maintaining blogs, to giving workshops. The programs are offered in a range of settings, e.g., in schools and libraries and the university. The job is really wonderful, very creative, and broadening.

Specific responsibilities

Katherine: Research project co-ordinator (.8) (science)

How would you describe your current role? I work 4 days a week, coordinating events, research collaborations and funding schemes for an inter-disciplinary research group. I constantly interact with many people as I manage ethical research, and promote open and collaborative working practices. It's a really exciting project that combines my interests in biology and open knowledge. I wanted to work only 4 days a week so I had 1 day a week



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in invest in a start-up. The plan is to create a company and I will be a director. In other words, I have a portfolio career which lets me do the things I want to.

Specific responsibilities

- Planning and analysis: creating a range of local to global initiatives
- Organization: organising meetings, dissemination events and academic conferences
- Communication: co-ordinating team-based, collaboration across three distinct science groups; engaging with ‘clients’ in outreach activities
- Writing: Funding proposals

NB The educational level expected of these kinds of positions can vary considerably.



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