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Information Architect / Usability Specialist

Overview

Information Architects (IAs) create or assist in the creation of the "user experience" for websites, Intranets, and Web applications. This includes devising clear interaction strategies in sync with business and user goals, developing navigation and site structure, organizing content, and tirelessly advocating the rights of real people as "users".

IAs also lead or assist with usability assessments and tests of interactive systems. The best candidate will possess outstanding creativity, a highly detailed nature, and the ability to help define and solve complex user interface problems.

All things being equal, we'll pay close attention to the candidate who demonstrates an excellent proactive attitude, take-charge personality and "can-do" demeanor.

Required Qualities/Skills

An *Information Architect / Usability Specialist* must possess the following qualities:

- *Understanding of the Web Development Process* - Thorough knowledge and experience planning, documenting and leading interactive projects (Web, Mobile, Intranet, Web Application). Familiarity with Web development techniques from a design and development perspective.

- *Passion* – Strong affinity for the digital lifestyle and zealous drive to make interactive technology better for real people.

- *Software Skills* - Strong proficiency/expertise in:
    - InDesign
    - Axure RP
    - Visio (desired, not required)

- *Client Interaction* - An outgoing personality and ability to interact excellently with clients.

- *Writing* – You must be able to write clearly, concisely and quickly. You must be able to create succinct requirements documentation for interactive projects.

- *Forever Learning* - Relentless desire to learn and leverage the latest Web technologies.

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- *Detail-oriented* – You must be highly organized to be an excellent Information Architect.

- *Creativity* - Possess creative problem-solving skills, an investigative mentality and a proactive nature.

- *Independence* - The ability to make things happen with limited direction.

- *Stewardship* - Be committed to delivering solutions on time and within budget.

- *Personal Organization* - Ability to multi-task and meet tight deadlines.

Desired Qualities/Skills
The ideal candidate will also possess the following skills/qualities:

- *Scripting* – We're interested in folks with the ability to "find their way" around technologies such as HTML/CSS, PHP, ASP.NET and CMS products (esp. WordPress and Drupal).

Responsibilities
Conceive, Plan and Lead the development of high-end, effective Websites, Mobile apps and Web applications.
Create or assist with information architecture for complex interactive projects. Coordinate with internal team to produce site maps, wireframes, prototypes and requirements documentation. Identify, collect, categorize and edit site content.

Become a zealous "user" advocate
Work to become an expert in the field of "user experience design" and people-centered Websites and Web Applications.

Communicate externally and internally
Facilitate internal team communication, bridging the gap between visual design, functional development, and content. Communicate the value of these disciplines to clients.

Education
BA or higher is expected but not required if work experience and samples are positively stellar. Degree in one the following fields is typical:

- Human-Computer Interaction (HCI)
- Graphic Design
- English/Journalism
- Computer Science
- Psychology
- Communications'
- Library Science

Experience
At least 2 years experience as an Information Architect or related position. Demonstrable experience with information architecture for websites and web applications. If you lack this, you will have to WOW us with your innate understanding of the medium and outstanding ability to grasp and execute the

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position's requirements. Experience in print design or traditional marketing will not be considered as substitutes for interactive experience.

Evaluation Criteria
Applicants will be evaluated based on experience, **online samples**, interview and references.

truematter
750 Meeting Street
Columbia, SC 29169

www.truematter.com
ideas@truematter.com

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