

Everyday Career Development

Secondary Version



Participant's Guide

British Columbia

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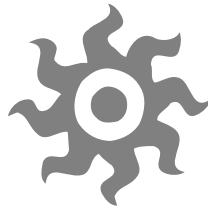


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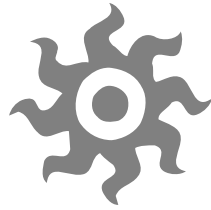
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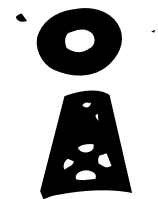
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Introduction

A Lexicon Leads You Into Learning



his book uses *nine* key terms: career, life-career, job, occupation, work, career building, career counselling, career development and work dynamic. Many of these terms are familiar, although their specified meanings and uses may be different from commonly assumed meanings.

Do not be deceived by their apparent simplicity or obviousness! If you gain nothing else from this book than a better or renewed understanding of these terms, you will have done important learning in the career building process of the 1990s and beyond.

Career means the sum of a person's work-related experiences over the course of a lifetime. Each person's career is molded by:

- individual needs
- the effects of the economy
- the individual's social milieu
- chance.

With this definition, *everybody* has a career because everyone has work-related experiences. For example, your students (regardless of grade) have careers because their school experiences are setting the stage for the kinds of work they will do. Also, notice that a person has only *one* career and that the person's career is always changing. For example, within a single career, someone may have been a student, a plumber, an

engineering technologist, a mother and a semi-retired consultant.

At this point, you should be asking yourself, "Why, when everyone but career development specialists uses the term 'career' in a different way, is the term defined this way?" This is a very good question, the answer to which will become evident as you proceed through this book. For now, you can either buy this definition or read the information in the following **Convince Me #1** box. (See also *life-career*.)

Life-career is a term sometimes used by theorists¹ to replace "career." "Life-career" acknowledges that almost all of life's experiences are work-related; therefore, the "career" counsellor is also a "life-career" counsellor.

Job refers to a specific set of duties performed for a specific employer. "Principal at New Age Senior High" is a job. (Contrast this with *occupation*.)

Occupation refers to a cluster of related duties that can be performed at various locations for different employers. "Principal" is an occupation. (Contrast this with *job*.)

Work means systematic and goal-directed activities that result in outcomes valued by the person working or by society. Work can be paid or unpaid. Teaching in a school, running a paper route and fixing cars for money in the back yard are examples of work activities that are



¹ Donald Super and David Tiedemann are two prominent career development theorists who have used this term.



Show Me



Definitions in Context

Sam's parents both were athletic and made sure he had lots of sports opportunities. Thanks to his mom, he went to swim classes as a mere baby. His dad, who had played shortstop for the Vancouver Canadians, taught him what to look for when they watched ball games on television. He and his cousins organized "track events" when the family got together almost every weekend during the summer.

Sam liked the action of sports, although he found the strategy of the thing most interesting. Also, he had always read a lot and he kept a notebook where he made notes about batting averages, players' profiles and coaching comments. In school, he found math fascinating and achieved well in language arts.

Sam's dad, although he loved sports, had found it difficult to make a stable living as an athlete. He therefore encouraged Sam to stay away from sports as a way to make a living and to pursue work that held greater financial security. Sam, who was disappointed by this recommendation, recognized the validity of the argument and worked hard academically all through elementary and high school. Eventually he enrolled in university to study statistics. A professor in his mandatory writing course noticed Sam's fluency with the written word and talked with Sam about pursuing writing rather than statistics. Sam was flattered, and this attention really made him think about what he wanted to do. He went to see a career counsellor who helped him understand that the choice between statistics and writing was not just an "either/or" option. The counsellor had Sam explore a number of work roles that combined these two activities. The counsellor also asked Sam to look for similar roles in the sports world, as it was obvious that Sam's heart was devoted to sports.

...continued on page 6

