Planning a career involves many steps. There is no standardized, progressive, “linear” way to search for all the information. In searching for career-planning information and job openings, one size does not fit all.

Best systematic approach: chunk it up into components:
- Soul searching
- Personality profiling / identifying your temperament and interests
- Translating interests into career fields and job types
- Job searches / vacancies
- Job specifics: what career field? → Specialized professional journals with job ads
- The importance of origin: if a website, newsletter, or journal, who publishes the source? Which profession is represented?

WEBSITES
- Tools for the Career Planner and Soul Searcher (librarian’s list of library books, campus links, and websites): <http://faculty.winthrop.edu/maysa/Career/Career.html>

Career information in general
- O*Net: Occupational Information Network (By NC Employment Security Commission): in-demand career fields are tagged as such <http://online.onetcenter.org/>

Job sites (both sites also include useful hints for general career planning)
- Career Builder: searchable by location and job <http://www.careerbuilder.com>
- Job Star: searchable by location job type <http://jobstar.org>

Professional Associations
- American Psychological Association: has job and career info <www.apa.org>
- American Psychiatric Association: has job lists searchable by discipline <www.psych.org>

Questions to ask yourself
- What career path?
  - scholarly (researcher, teacher)?
  - commercial?
  - practice?
- Which profession?
  - Business (e.g. sales/marketing, HR, behavioral economist)?
  - Art / music / book therapy?

Where to look for more info: journals in the field, books, professional websites

Library materials: start at <www.winthrop.edu/dacus>
- Professional journals:
  - click “Dacus Online Catalog” → Helpful lists → Current journals by subject
- E-journals:
  - click “Databases” → e-journals → browse subject → social sciences → psych
- Books: click “Dacus Online Catalog” → keywords “career”, “job”, “psychology” → to p2
Career Path Example: Forensic Psychology

more career info at <http://faculty.winthrop.edu/maysa/Career/Career.html>

So you’re interested in forensic psychology. How can you find out more? How do you know that what you’re finding is good information? First, what is “forensic psychology”? It is a broad field – it includes all psychological work where psychology and law intersect.

Career search to-do list:

1 Rule #1: Put on your critical thinking hat.

2 When gathering information, ask yourself:
   a. “Where is this coming from?”
   b. “Who published this?”
   c. “Why?”
   d. “What is their agenda?”
   e. “Is this source (person, organization, etc) reputable”?
   f. “Is the source / materials relevant to your career search?” (For example, self-serving advertisement is much less useful than a university website put together for students or a professional / scholarly association in the career field).

3 Get an in-depth definition of the career field. Some writings go beyond merely explaining the career field of forensic psychology and describe the areas where forensic psychologists perform their work. Some excellent resources include:
   a. *Credo Reference* – from Library Databases, from alphabetical listing for “C” or from “Infopedia” under list of encyclopedias under “databases by subject” listing.
      i. The beauty of *Credo Reference*: it is a database of scholarly encyclopedias ranging from the general to the very specialized such as psychology encyclopedias. For example, a search for “forensic psychology” finds entries from the *Concise Corsini Encyclopedia of Psychology and Behavioral Science*, *Penguin Dictionary of Psychology*, and other psychology-related references. Full-length 3-volume *Corsini* is at Dacus: Reference BF31 .E52 2001.
   b. Psi Chi (national honor’s society in psychology) – article about forensic psychology. Gives well-rounded definition of the field and in-depth description of career paths and training requirements. <www.psichi.org/pubs/articles/article_58.asp>
   c. “Careers in Forensic Psychology” webpage from West Chester University. It introduces the career path and training. Written for college students in an easy-to-read style: <www.wcupa.edu/_academics/sch_cas.psy/career_paths/forensic/career08.htm>
   d. Official site for the American Board of Forensic Psychologists professional organization. It has some information about requirements for certification. However, it does not provide guideposts for career exploration. <www.abfp.com>
   f. Psychology Information Online, by Dr. Franklin, a psychologist in private practice. Some of the information is helpful, but it is incomplete. An example of your need to consider the motivation for this type of site. It could be a mature psychologist’s desire to interest the next generations of students in psychology; it could be a publicity strategy for his private practice – perhaps a bit of both. <http://www.psychologyinfo.com>
      i. To verify if a site (and its author) is reputable: type the domain name into samspade.org and you’ll see the name of the person who registered the site.
Plug the Whois information (the website registrant’s name) into a database, in this case PsychInfo. What can you find out about the website’s author?