

Introduction

Job search engines are aggregators of job vacancies from a number of other websites or sources. Typically they collect or take feeds of jobs from sources such as general or specialist job boards, newspaper job sites, recruiters' sites, company websites and direct advertisements. This means that the job search engines usually contain many more vacancies than a single job vacancy website will. The benefit is that a user can, in theory, search a number of sources simultaneously via one source.

However, not all job vacancy sites allow the automated spiders or programs of the job search engines to access their databases so you may not always be searching the most appropriate sites for your requirements. None of the search engines listed here provide information about which sites they index. You need to do that research for yourself. In a recent test, we looked for jobs which had been advertised in the Sunday Times, Guardian and People Management. The Sunday Times job was found on only two sites, the Guardian job was found on one site, and the People Management job did not appear at all. So, these sites are not currently an option to replace all other job vacancy searches.

Another issue with job search engines is that as they are aggregating from multiple sources, the search criteria will not be as comprehensive as for a single site. Most engines allow you to search by keyword and location, with others having some additional criteria such as salary or job type. Also there can be duplication issues as you may find the search repeatedly returns a job which has been listed on multiple vacancy sites.

The following list reviews a selection of UK job search engines and gives a brief overview of their search, display, refining and alerting options.

Workcircle

<http://www.workcircle.co.uk>

The quick search option operates on keyword and location and typing in your key words brings up a list of matching roles ordered by date added. You can click on a job title to go to the original advertisement. You can also refine your search by location or similar job search. The advanced search option allows you to add skills, location and phrases. The home page also has a browse menu.

Alerts are by daily email or RSS feed. Covers the UK only.

When we checked there were 565,446 jobs on the database.

Through its sister company, ABC, Workcircle also has a number of sector specific job search engines. These contain the relevant roles from the main workcircle site plus additional direct vacancies.

1 Job

<http://www.1job.co.uk>

The default search is to browse by country, county and job category. The results list is ordered by date added and clicking on the title takes you directly to the original advertisement. You can filter your results by neighbouring county or broaden to other job categories. Hidden towards the bottom of the page is a keyword search.

Alerts are by daily email or RSS feed. Covers the UK and Ireland.

The database contains over 300,000 jobs at any time.

Job Rapido

<http://www.jobrapido.co.uk>

The search function is by keyword and location which brings back a results list ordered by date added. Your results cannot be refined but you are directed to related searches. If no results are returned you are prompted to broaden your search.

Alerts are by email.

The database has over one million jobs at any time.

Clickajob

<http://www.clickajob.co.uk>

This site has a lot more happening on it than the other job search sites and offers a lot more additional features. The three main search options are keyword/location, browse job categories and location (interactive map). The keyword option includes a salary search although this only searches the roles which specify a salary. Search results can be ordered by relevance, date or salary. Clicking on a job title takes you to the specific advertisement.

The advanced search option enables you to be more precise with keyword searching, allowing the use of phrases, all, any or none. You can also limit to company name, job type or to search only on the job title, a useful feature. There is also a proximity search for location which covers up to a 100 mile radius.

Alerts are by daily email or RSS feed. Covers the UK only.

When we checked there were 1,032,129 jobs on the database.

Indeed

<http://www.indeed.co.uk>

The search function is by keyword and location which brings back a results list ordered by relevance. You can also order by date and clicking on the title takes you directly to the original advertisement. You can refine your search by job title, company or location. There is also a proximity search which allows you to broaden or narrow the geographic area.

Alerts are by daily email or RSS feed. Covers the UK only.

When we checked there were 225,350 jobs on the database.

Jump to Jobs

<http://www.jumptojobs.co.uk>

This site has a detailed search function which includes keyword, category, location and proximity, salary, job type and date range. Results are listed by relevance or date and clicking on the title takes you to the original advertisement. You can refine your searches by job title or recruiter. Alternatively you can browse jobs by category or location.

Alerts are by daily email or RSS feed. Covers the UK only.

When we checked there were 446,321 jobs on the database.

Workhound

<http://www.workhound.co.uk>

The search function is by keyword and location which brings back a results list ordered by relevance. From the results list you can refine by date posted, distance, job title, location, job type, sector or company. Alternatively you can browse by sector, job title, skills or location.

Alerts are by daily or weekly email or RSS feed. Covers the UK only.

When we checked there were 562,696 jobs on the database.

All the Top Bananas (Executive version)

<http://www.allthetopbananas.com/executive/>

The Executive version contains only roles for £50,000 and above. The simple search is by keyword and location/proximity. Your results can be sorted by relevance, distance or date and further refined by company or job board (source). Clicking on the link title takes you directly to original advertisement. There is also an option to browse jobs by county.

When we checked there were 29,652 jobs on the Executive version and 158,055 jobs on the main database.

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