

Proposed EARN Project Description: Perspectives of Jobseekers with Disabilities: The Impact of Employer Messaging

Questionnaire of Job Applicants Regarding Employer Online Outreach and Recruitment of People with Disabilities

Approach

Study objectives

- 1. To understand applicants' perspectives of how employer messaging in the online outreach process impacts key outcomes related to recruiting people with disabilities;**
- 2. To use the information we collect about the perspectives of people with disabilities to create tools and resources that help employers improve their online messaging.**

Research questions

1. What online job search strategies do jobseekers with disabilities use when job searching?
2. How are the different online messaging approaches that employers use perceived by jobseekers with disabilities?
3. What messaging strategies are most likely to positively motivate a person with a disability to:
 - a. Apply for a position
 - b. Self-identify as a person with a disability during the application (pre-offer) process?

Potential collaborating organizations:

We propose to access our sample through organizations with direct connections to jobseekers, such as the DirectEmployers Job Board, ODEP's Workforce Recruitment Program, Disability IN's Next Gen Leaders Initiatives, the American Association of Persons with Disabilities Summer Internship Program, and community employment programs such as OurAbility, Getting Hired and Disability Solutions. Concepts, EARN's subcontractor, will also work to promote among relevant groups on LinkedIn.

Participant recruitment

We will work with organizations to reach jobseekers with disabilities to be study participants. Inclusion criteria for the study will be: Adults (18+ years old) with disabilities (identified using a health condition/disability screener) who have looked online for a new position in the last two years.

Research Methods:

The draft text of our proposed questionnaire and related informed consent statement are below. The questionnaire will be an online questionnaire in Qualtrics.

Proposed Questionnaire Content: Respondent Consent and Question Text

Perspectives of Jobseekers with Disabilities: The Impact of Employer Messaging

Online Consent Statement

QUESTIONNAIRE PURPOSE: You are invited to take part in a research study designed to better understand the perspectives of individuals with disabilities/chronic health conditions during the job search process. Specifically, we will ask questions about:

- (1) The approaches you use for finding jobs and
- (2) What information is important to you in evaluating whether an employer is disability inclusive.

The results will be used to develop tools and resources to help employers attract and recruit applicants with disabilities more effectively.

WHO SHOULD COMPLETE THIS QUESTIONNAIRE: Participants should be adults with disabilities (18 years or older) who either are currently searching for a job or have engaged in a job search online within the last two years.

ABOUT THE QUESTIONNAIRE: The questionnaire should take 15 minutes. Your questionnaire responses will be anonymous and reporting of results will be done in aggregate form only. We anticipate that your participation in this questionnaire presents no greater risk than everyday use of the Internet. There are no direct benefits to you. If you participate, you can skip any question or stop the questionnaire at any time.

TO THANK YOU: Participants who complete the questionnaire can choose to be entered in a drawing for a \$25 gift card (chance of winning is 1 out of 10). You will be redirected to another form to enter the drawing, so your contact information will not be linked to your questionnaire responses.

The U.S. Department of Labor Office of Disability Employment Policy is funding this study. This document does not necessarily reflect the views or policies of the U.S. Department of Labor, nor does mention of trade names, commercial products, or organizations imply endorsement by the U.S. Government.

The main researcher conducting this study is Sarah von Schrader, Associate Director of Research at Cornell University's Yang-Tan Institute on Employment and Disability. Please feel free to ask questions at any point during the process. If you have questions later, you may contact Sarah von Schrader (sv282@cornell.edu, 607-254-8088). If you have any questions or concerns regarding your rights as a subject in this study, you may contact the Institutional Review Board (IRB) for Human Participants at 607-255-5138 or access their website at <http://www.irb.cornell.edu>. You may also report your concerns or complaints anonymously through Ethicspoint online at www.hotline.cornell.edu or by calling toll free at 1-866-293-3077. Ethicspoint is an independent organization that serves as a liaison between the University and the person bringing the complaint so that anonymity can be ensured.

If you are 18 years old or older and consent to participate in the study, please click the next button to begin the questionnaire.

- **NEXT**

Questionnaire Part 1: Demographics

This questionnaire focuses on understanding the experiences of individuals with disabilities and/or chronic health conditions who have searched online for work in the past two years.

For this questionnaire, a "**person with a disability and/or chronic health condition**" includes, but is not limited to, individuals with a physical or cognitive impairment, mental health condition, chronic health condition (such as heart disease or diabetes), or a vision or hearing impairment.

Screener Items

(Screener Item 1): Do you have a disability and/or chronic health condition?

- Yes
- No

(Screener Item 2): Have you searched online for work in the past two years?

- Yes
- No

[If respondent answers "no" to either item they will be sent to the end of the questionnaire]

Demographic Questions

Do you have an obvious disability? In other words, do you believe that people can tell that you have a disability and/or chronic health condition without you telling them?

- Always
- Often
- Sometimes
- Rarely
- Never

Have you ever been employed (i.e., worked for pay at a job or business)?

- Yes
- No

Are you currently employed?

- Yes
- No

What type(s) of jobs have you looked for recently? (Select all that apply)

- Management, business, and financial occupations
- Computer, engineering, and science occupations
- Education, legal, community service, arts, and media occupations
- Healthcare practitioners and technical occupations
- Healthcare support occupations
- Protective service occupations
- Food preparation and serving related occupations
- Building and grounds cleaning, and maintenance occupations
- Personal care and service occupations
- Sales and related occupations
- Office and administrative support occupations
- Natural resources, construction, and maintenance occupations
- Production, transportation, and material moving occupations
- Other occupation, please describe_____

What is your gender?

- Female
- Male
- Non-binary
- Prefer to self-describe: _____
- Prefer not to say

What is your age?

- 18-24
- 25-34
- 35-44
- 45-54
- 55-64
- 65-74
- 75 or over

What is your race?

- White
- Black/African American
- Native American or Alaskan Native
- Asian
- Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander
- Some other race
- Multi-racial

Are you of Hispanic, Latino, or Spanish origin?

- Yes
- No

What is your highest educational level completed?

- 8th grade or less
- Some high school, but no diploma or GED
- High school graduate or GED certificate
- Technical, trade, or vocational school
- Some college, but less than a 4-year degree (including 2 year Associate Degree)
- College graduate (BS, BA, or other 4-year degree)
- Master's, doctoral, or professional degree

Questionnaire Part 2: Job Search Strategy

How often do you use the following approaches when job searching?	Always	Often	Sometimes	Rarely	Never
a. Searching on job posting websites (e.g., Indeed.com, Monster.com, Craigslist.com)					
b. Searching for open positions on disability-specific job posting websites (e.g., AAPD Career Center, abilityJOBS, AbilityLinks)					
c. Going directly to a specific employer's online career webpage(s)					
d. Searching for open positions on social media platforms (e.g., LinkedIn, Facebook)					
e. Attending online career fairs					
f. Working with a recruiter/headhunter					
g. Other (please specify)					

How often do you have a specific employer in mind when you are searching for job openings online?

- a) Always
- b) Often
- c) Sometimes
- d) Rarely
- e) Never

How often do you use the following approaches to decide whether to apply for a job at a specific employer?	Always	Often	Sometimes	Rarely	Never
a. Going directly to the employer’s online career webpage(s). <small>Note: An employer’s career webpage lists job openings and may share information about the employer with jobseekers.</small>					
b. Searching for the employer on social media platforms (e.g. LinkedIn, Facebook)					
c. Looking specifically for the employer’s online <u>disability</u> career page					
d. Using outside websites (e.g., Glassdoor) to understand how current employees feel about working at the employer (e.g. workplace culture)					
e. Other (please specify)					

How often do you look for an employer’s disability-inclusive messaging when making the decision to apply to that employer?

- a) Always
- b) Often
- c) Sometimes
- d) Rarely
- e) Never

Questionnaire Part 3: Self-Identifying as a Person with a Disability

Some employers are required to invite applicants and newly hired employees to voluntarily identify as a person with a disability. This is called **self-identification** and it helps the employer keep track of their success in recruiting and hiring people with disabilities. An example form is presented below.

Voluntary Self-Identification of Disability

Form CC-305
Page 1 of 1

OMB Control Number 1250-0005
Expires 05/31/2023

Name: _____ Date: _____
Employee ID: _____
(if applicable)

Why are you being asked to complete this form?

We are a federal contractor or subcontractor required by law to provide equal employment opportunity to qualified people with disabilities. We are also required to measure our progress toward having at least 7% of our workforce be individuals with disabilities. To do this, we must ask applicants and employees if they have a disability or have ever had a disability. Because a person may become disabled at any time, we ask all of our employees to update their information at least every five years.

Identifying yourself as an individual with a disability is voluntary, and we hope that you will choose to do so. Your answer will be maintained confidentially and not be seen by selecting officials or anyone else involved in making personnel decisions. Completing the form will not negatively impact you in any way, regardless of whether you have self-identified in the past. For more information about this form or the equal employment obligations of federal contractors under Section 503 of the Rehabilitation Act, visit the U.S. Department of Labor's Office of Federal Contract Compliance Programs (OFCCP) website at www.dol.gov/ofccp.

How do you know if you have a disability?

You are considered to have a disability if you have a physical or mental impairment or medical condition that substantially limits a major life activity, or if you have a history or record of such an impairment or medical condition. *Disabilities include, but are not limited to:*

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Autism Autoimmune disorder, for example, lupus, fibromyalgia, rheumatoid arthritis, or HIV/AIDS Blind or low vision Cancer Cardiovascular or heart disease Celiac disease Cerebral palsy 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Deaf or hard of hearing Depression or anxiety Diabetes Epilepsy Gastrointestinal disorders, for example, Crohn's Disease, or irritable bowel syndrome Intellectual disability 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Missing limbs or partially missing limbs Nervous system condition for example, migraine headaches, Parkinson's disease, or Multiple sclerosis (MS) Psychiatric condition, for example, bipolar disorder, schizophrenia, PTSD, or major depression
--	--	---

Please check one of the boxes below:

Yes, I Have A Disability, Or Have A History/Record Of Having A Disability
 No, I Don't Have A Disability, Or A History/Record Of Having A Disability
 I Don't Wish To Answer

In your recent job applications, have you been asked to complete a self-identification form?

- Yes, always
- Yes, sometimes
- No, I have not been asked to complete a self-identification form
- No, I have not applied for any jobs
- I do not remember

[If respondent answers “Yes, always” or “Yes, sometimes”]

In your recent job applications, did you check the box to self-identify as a person with a disability?

- Always
- Sometimes
- Never

[If respondent answers “No, I have not been asked to complete a self-identification form” or “No, I have not applied for any jobs” or “I don’t remember”]

If you were asked to complete a self-identification form, would you check the box to self-identify as a person with a disability?

- Yes
- No
- It depends

[If respondent answered “yes” to “Are you currently employed” OR “Have you ever been employed” above]

In your current or most recent job, were you asked to complete a self-identification form?

- Yes
- No
- Unsure

[If respondent answered “yes” to “were you asked to complete a self-identification form” above]

In your current or most recent job, did you check the box to self-identify as a person with a disability?

- Yes
- No
- Unsure

[If respondent answered “yes” to “Did you check the box to self-identify” above]

At what point did you check the box to self-identify as a person with a disability? (Please select all that apply)

- Before the job offer
- After the job offer, but before starting the job
- After starting the job

Questionnaire Part 4: Career Webpages

Employers design the career pages on their websites to appeal to potential applicants. Some employers include items on their career webpages that can signal that their organization is disability inclusive.

Consider the following elements that could be included on an employer’s **career webpage(s)**.

To what extent does each element of an employer’s career page increase your interest in applying for a job with that employer?	To a great extent	Somewhat	Very Little	Not at All
a. Diversity and inclusion statement includes disability				
b. Videos or pictures of employees with disabilities				
c. List of awards received for disability inclusion efforts				
d. A testimonial from an employee with a disability				
e. Description(s) of flexible work arrangements ((e.g., work from home options, work schedule flexibility, and time off options)				
f. Description(s) of work-life balance programs (e.g., parental leave, education support, counseling, and health and wellness opportunities)				
g. A disability-focused Employee Resource Group ¹				
h. Clear explanation of the accommodations request process for applicants (e.g., availability of accommodations for the application process, whom to contact)				
i. Description of disability-focused hiring programs (e.g., affirmative action or other targeted hiring programs)				
j. Description of partnerships with disability employment organizations (e.g., state vocational rehabilitation, job placement providers, job coaching services)				
k. List of disability-focused recruitment sources (e.g., disability job posting boards, job fairs)				
l. Other (please specify)				

Please choose the three most important things from this list that an employer can include on their career page to increase your likelihood of **self-identifying as a person with a disability?**

- Diversity and inclusion statements/information that includes disability
- Videos or pictures of employees with disabilities
- Awards received for disability inclusion efforts
- A testimonial from an employee with a disability
- A disability-focused Employee Resource Group
- Flexible work arrangements
- Work-life balance programs
- Clear accommodations request process for applicants

¹ Employee Resource Groups offer employees an opportunity to network, address common issues and concerns, and receive support from those who share similar backgrounds, experiences, or interests.
<https://askearn.org/topics/retention-advancement/employee-resource-groups-ergs/>

- Disability-focused hiring programs
- Partnerships with disability employment organizations
- Disability-focused recruitment sources

What else can employers do to increase your likelihood of self-identifying as a person with a disability?

Questionnaire Part 5: Job Postings

Consider the following elements that could be included in an employer’s **job postings**.

To what extent does each element of an employer’s career page increase your interest in applying for a job with that employer?	To a great extent	Somewhat	Very Little	Not at All
a. The diversity and inclusion statement includes disability				
b. Awards received for disability inclusion efforts				
c. Flexible work arrangements (e.g., work from home options, work schedule flexibility, and time off options)				
d. Work-life balance programs (e.g., parental leave, education support, counseling, and health and wellness opportunities)				
e. Clear accommodations request process for applicants (e.g., availability of accommodations for the application process, whom to contact)				
f. Other (please specify)				

Questionnaire Part 6: COVID-19

Have you searched for a job since the COVID-19 pandemic began? (March 2020)

- a) Yes
- b) No

Have your job search efforts been impacted in any way by the COVID-19 pandemic?

- c) Yes
- d) No

[If yes, to job search efforts been impacted in any way by the COVID-19 pandemic]

Please explain how your job search efforts have been impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic (open-ended)

Thank you for completing our questionnaire! If you would like to be entered in a drawing for a \$25 gift card, please enter your name and email on the next screen. When you select “next” you will leave this questionnaire and enter a new form to enter the drawing. Your name and email will not be linked to your questionnaire results.