



## **Position Available: Information Architect/User Experience Designer, TOPS**

Are you looking for a fast-paced, creative and challenging work environment?

Is working with energetic, passionate people right up your alley?

The TOPS division at Torstar Digital is looking for a Information Architect/User Experience Designer. The TOPS platform powers a portfolio of world-class websites from Star Media Group, Metroland Media and Rogers Digital Media including: thestar.com, toronto.com, wheels.ca, Citytv.com, Flare.com, 680news.com, MetroNews.ca, LifeNews.ca and a series of community papers across Ontario. This individual will work closely with the Creative Director, TOPS Product Development and Professional Service Teams to ensure both product and sites adhere to the best standards for user experience for the online world (web and devices).

**Forward your resume to:**

[careers@torstardigital.com](mailto:careers@torstardigital.com)

### **Job Description**

An Information Architect/User Experience Designer is a specialist in translating the needs of project teams (including clients, business analysts, technical architects and marketing specialists) into an actionable technical blueprint. It is the IA's job to assimilate all of the diverse requirements and expectations of these groups into a detailed visual plan; allowing the development process to proceed efficiently and with a minimum of divergence from the project objectives, while always advocating the best experience for the user. The IA employs user-centered design principles and human factors best practices to design the optimal client experience solution.

### **Responsibilities**

- Actively participate in requirements gathering sessions. Lead and facilitate group sessions with stakeholders and multidisciplinary teams to collect information related to usability. Drive for group consensus in meetings.
- Research the competitive landscape and make recommendations relating to web site functionality.
- Constantly conduct user research and identify opportunities to create business value and improve the user experience across web properties.
- Apply modular and systematic approaches to user experience design.
- Design interactive solutions that address business and brand requirements, technical constraints, research findings, and the audience's processes, tasks and goals.
- Document design intent clearly for business, creative, and technical audiences, using site maps, wireframes, interaction flow diagrams, with appropriate functional and behavioral annotations.
- Act as an advocate and consultant on usability/user experience/information architecture issues during all phases of development

### **Required Skills**

- University degree in Human Factors, Computer, Information or Design related field, or equivalent work experience.
- Thorough knowledge of the web and other emerging digital media (5+ years professional web experience)
- At least 2 years experience in the role of information architect / user experience designer / interface designer
- Strong and varied portfolio of work in interface/user experience design
- Proven understanding of user-centered design techniques & demonstrated ability to incorporate UCD principles into the architecture and design of user interfaces.
- Knowledge of web client technologies (browsers, HTML, CSS).
- Strong interpersonal skills and ability to work in project teams.
- Strong ability to multi-task and meet deadlines.
- Excellent communication and presentation skills and the ability to articulate ideas effectively.
- Ability to provide creative solutions balancing user, business and technical needs.
- Extreme detail orientation and a passion for getting it right.

### **Key Accountabilities**

- Working closely with Project Manager, Creative Director, Business Analysts, Technology Architects and business sponsors to obtain and understand business requirements.
- Creating the design of user interface specifications, by applying client research, design standards, industry best practices, taking into account strategic business objectives, user needs, and systems constraints.
- Within the project team, responsible for leading the usability review sessions, acquiring consensus and getting approvals on designs and documentation.
- Working with the project managers to ensure that usability deliverables accommodate project timelines, budgets, technical and scope constraints.
- Possibly working on several projects at a time and providing regular status reporting to project manager on all projects.
- Contributing to the development, maintenance, and continuous improvement of efficient & effective usability methodology/process, documentation, workflow, ROI, metrics and design standards.
- Continuously developing self and the team by staying current of industry trends and best practices.
- Acting as a user experience advocate and thought leader regarding principles of user experience and user-centered design.

### **DESIRED PERSONAL ATTRIBUTES:**

- Innate driver, leader and collaborator across stakeholders.
- Passion for the Internet, technology, efficiency and quality
- Exceptional oral and verbal communication skills.
- A global and strategic thinker
- Ability to work well in a fast paced, agile development environment.

**About Torstar Digital:** <http://www.torstardigital.com>

Torstar Digital's mission is to deliver technology and strategic leadership to its online-only properties, create winning online businesses that can leverage Torstar Corporation's

wealth of media assets and assist in online enabling of Torstar Corporation's existing portfolio of print businesses. Torstar's current portfolio of leading digital properties includes thestar.com, toronto.com, workopolis.com, wheels.ca, Olive Media, eyeReturn Marketing and a variety of regional sites.

**About TOPS:** <http://www.topscms.com>

TOPS is a full service web solutions provider enabling the creation of outstanding online experiences for publishers, consumers and advertisers. TOPS is comprised of a leading edge publishing platform and an expert professional services and maintenance team to deliver the end-to-end solution of creating, integrating, hosting and supporting some of Canada's most prestigious brands. TOPS currently services 3 key client groups including Star Media Group; Metroland Media Group; Rogers Digital Media in addition to a number of other small-medium size properties.