

TALYA JESPERSON MA, PMP (she/her)

Skills and Proficiencies

Agile (Scrum, Kanban) & Waterfall Methodologies, Stakeholder Engagement, Interviewing, Talent Acquisition, Process and Workflow Optimization, CRM, Information Management, Documentation, Risk Management, Cross-Functional Collaboration, Leadership, Event Planning, Project Budgeting, Strategic Planning, Brand Development, Content Development, User Testing, UX, UI, Project Integration, Website Development

RELEVANT WORK EXPERIENCE

Simpson Associates

An executive search group under Grandlark Group, based in Vancouver, BC.

Research Associate, Talent Operations | Oct. 2022 – Present

- Liaise with candidates and clients throughout the recruitment process, conducting in-depth interviews and maintaining accurate records of assessments and feedback.
- Manage candidate experience strategy with a focus on inclusivity, support, and confidentiality.
- Implement efficient information management systems and contribute to CRM/database upgrades using agile frameworks and iterative feedback.
- Coordinate with software vendors and internal leadership to define scope, document functional requirements, and support phased implementation.
- Write business cases to justify projects, articulating needs, costs, benefits, and risks.
- Plan, track, and report on deliverables, schedules, and risk mitigation using Trello, Excel, and Microsoft Project.
- Facilitate company-wide visioning sessions and cross-functional meetings to align stakeholders and drive engagement.

Electronic Textual Cultures Lab

A digital humanities lab based out of the University of Victoria dedicated to open scholarship.

Project Manager | Nov. 2020 – Dec. 2022

- Managed multi-site academic website redesigns within budget and schedule using Waterfall and Hybrid methodologies.
- Created WBS, Gantt charts, risk registers, and documentation templates to guide project execution.
- Led daily team coordination and bi-weekly stakeholder reviews using Basecamp and other tools.
- Facilitated iterative content/design updates based on user and stakeholder feedback.
- Coordinated logistics for large-scale conferences with 1,100+ attendees and 120+ sessions.
- Conducted integration testing, quality assurance, and successful website launches.
- Delivered high-traffic digital products tied to strategic announcements and stakeholder goals.
- Improved usability and onboarded 100+ new users to open scholarship platforms.
- Produced post-project documentation, reporting, and knowledge transfer materials.

Dominique Forand Creations

A consulting service dedicated to enhancing leadership development and organizational effectiveness.

Project Manager | Aug. 2017 – Feb. 2019

- Led an agile brand and website launch project, enhancing client visibility and user engagement.
- Defined scope, charter, and risks in collaboration with the sponsor; conducted SWOT analysis.
- Facilitated iterative design sprints with cross-functional teams and executive stakeholders.
- Managed workflows and task ownership using Trello, real-time messaging, and cloud-based tools.
- Oversaw delivery of branding assets and website features; coordinated user testing and quality assurance.
- Tracked engagement KPIs and adapted deliverables based on client and partner feedback.
- Completed full project closeout with documentation, review, and lessons learned.
- Supported the CEO with scheduling, research, and admin tasks.
- Ensured on-time delivery through effective communication, coordination, and project tracking.

This Table / Olive the Senses

A gourmet food e-commerce platform specializing in high-end ingredients and accompanying recipes, aiming to elevate culinary experiences for food enthusiasts.

Communications / Marketing Manager | Sept. 2015 – Sept. 2017

- Coordinated launch of a gourmet e-commerce platform with inventory, recipe blog, and POS.
- Led kickoff meetings, developed a project charter, and updated sprint plans in Jira.
- Conducted user testing and KPI tracking.
- Managed social media accounts across multiple platforms for Olive the Senses and This Table.
- Developed and implemented effective social media strategies to increase visibility and engagement.
- Created engaging content, including posts, images, and videos in collaboration with cross-functional teams to ensure alignment of social media strategies with initiatives throughout the company.

SUPPLEMENTARY EXPERIENCE

In addition to the above, I worked as a learning coach for a non-profit supporting students with diverse learning needs, and held roles as a research assistant, teaching assistant, and server while completing my studies.

CERTIFICATIONS

Project Management Professional (PMP) Certification

June 2025

View certificate: <https://coursera.org/verify/professional-cert/7D4SBDSQKS2E>

EDUCATION

Master of Arts in Sociology

Sept. 2020 – Aug. 2022

University of Victoria | GPA: 8.4/9.0

Concentration in Cultural, Social, and Political Thought

Thesis: A Siri-ous Conversation about AI: Understanding Human Relationships with Artificial Intelligence

Supervisors: Dr. William K. Carroll (Sociology) and Dr. Jentery Sayers (English)

Bachelor of Arts in Sociology, with Distinction**Sept. 2013 – May 2020***University of Victoria | GPA: 7.6/9.0***Minor in Technology and Society****Thesis:** Creating Context for the Democratization of Technology: Exploring Platforms for Decentralization of the Internet and Digital Knowledge Commons**Supervisors:** Dr. William K. Carroll (Sociology) and Dr. Jentery Sayers (English)**Certificate in Business Administration****May 2015 – July 2015***University of Victoria, Division of Continuing Studies***COMMITTEES & SERVICE****Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives British Columbia (CCPA-BC)**

Volunteer

Nov. 2023 – present**University of Victoria**

MA Student Representative, Sociology Department

Sept. 2021 – Aug. 2022

Graduate Student Representative, Ass. Dean Academic Search Committee

Sept. 2021 – Aug. 2022

Representative, Student Affairs Committee 2020

Sept. 2020 – Aug. 2021

Department Representative for Grad Council

Sept. 2020 – Aug. 2021**PUBLICATIONS & PRESENTATIONS**

Jensen, G., Arbuckle, A., Winter, C., Jesperson, T., Fontenot, T., Siemens, R., Group, E. R., & Group, I. R. (2022). Fostering Digital Communities of Care: Safety, Security, and Trust in the Canadian Humanities and Social Sciences Commons. IDEAH. <https://doi.org/10.21428/f1f23564.ed75625f>

Jensen, G., Arbuckle, A., Winter, C., Jesperson, T., & Siemens, R. (2021, June 7). Fostering Digital Communities of Care: Safety, Security, and Trust in the Canadian Humanities and Social Sciences Commons [Conference Presentation].

https://drive.google.com/file/d/1oIA92kJ7ibzHs7CII75qSDjnhHyV3Rxc/view?usp=sharing&usp=embed_facebook

Jensen, G., & Jesperson, T. (2022, December 9). New Pastures: Expanding the Humanities and Social Sciences Commons [Conference Presentation]. Putting Open Social Scholarship Into Practice, Victoria, BC, Canada. <https://inke.ca/putting-open-social-scholarship-into-practice/>

Jesperson, T. (2022). A Siri-ous Conversation about AI: Understanding Human Relationships with Artificial Intelligence [Thesis]. <https://dspace.library.uvic.ca/handle/1828/14132>

Jesperson, T., Jensen, G., Winter, C., Arbuckle, A., & Group, R. S. with the I. R. (2022). Open, Collaborative Commons: Web3, Blockchain, and Next Steps for the Canadian Humanities and Social Sciences Commons. Pop! Public. Open. Participatory, 4. <https://popjournal.ca/issue04/jesperson>

See my ORCID page for a list of my publications and works: <https://orcid.org/0000-0002-1347-370X>