



LEARNIT – WOMEN IN IT



CLAIRE (UK)

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Background

- 1. What is/was your parent's or other important family member's vocation? How many brothers/sisters do you have? Are they older/younger than you?**

My father has an educational background being a qualified Teacher & member of many national bodies. I have two sisters one older one older.

- 2. Where did you spend most of your time when growing up? What kind of area was this – city, town, rural, etc?**

Until I was born and raised in a rural area in the South West of England and where I still live today.



- 3. How did you spend your leisure time?**

Leisure time is very much sports orientated, swimming, running, aerobics gym.

- 4. Did your parents or other important persons express an opinion about how a good/perfect girl has to be (clever, sweet, wild, pretty, shy, etc...)?**

My parents always expected me to succeed in life as they both describe feisty (a girl with attitude). However I have never been pressurized into doing something or being something I don't want to be.

- 5. What gender was your closest friend when growing up? Did this person/ these people express opinions about how a cool/perfect girl has to be?**

My sister was the closest "friend" that I had whilst growing up. However I as progressed into higher education obviously new friends come along, that perhaps I am now closer to than my older sister. Everyone passes comments on how I act to them and relate to others. My role as Marketing provides me with the confidence to converse with anyone and anybody.

- 6. What kind of occupational careers did your friends take?**

I always wanted to put education as my goal/career, they on the other hand have branched into administrative roles, housewives and teachers.

- 7. Did you have role models you wanted to follow? If so who were they and what were their characteristics that you wanted to follow?**

Probably my granddad, who owned a farm. I admired they manner he had with animals and how he could remember every cows name from the shape of their spots. I am too short to be a model also the wrong shape but I am happy.

Actual vocational situation

1. What are your earliest memories on deciding about the job you now have?

I think we all expect to be professional people with glamorous jobs, but reality dictates what your career path will be. I started to work in Marketing from about 18 and sort of fell into various other elements working in ICT by accident.

2. Who or what were the initial triggers?

The initial triggers was my adolescent obsession with all things ICT and particularly graphic design and photography.

3. How did the decision evolve?

The decision to work in marketing was one of part choice/part fate as I had worked at the organization during my school days part-time.

4. What aspects of ICT do you find particularly appealing?

Graphic design is number one, website constructions where you look at something and admire your creation.



5. Do you work in a team or alone?

I work as part of a team although fairly autonomous.

6. What do you do in your job?

I spend a lot of time researching material for use in marketing. I look after and construct articles for the website and most of the PCs throughout the park.

I also produce press releases and explore new marketing opportunities.

7. What does one of your typical work-days look like?

There are no typical days I'm referred to as Jack at work. A little of everything and solver of problems.

I generally work a 10 hr day which about 70% marketing 30% ICT.

8. What aspects of your job do you like the most and the least?

Best – Marketing, in all formats

Worst – data analysis, and repairing peoples PC because they didn't ask.

Supporting/Impeding factors

1. Could you please describe your vocational career?

Vocationally I am a teacher with under 5 year olds.

2. What factors and people supported you in your career choice and development?

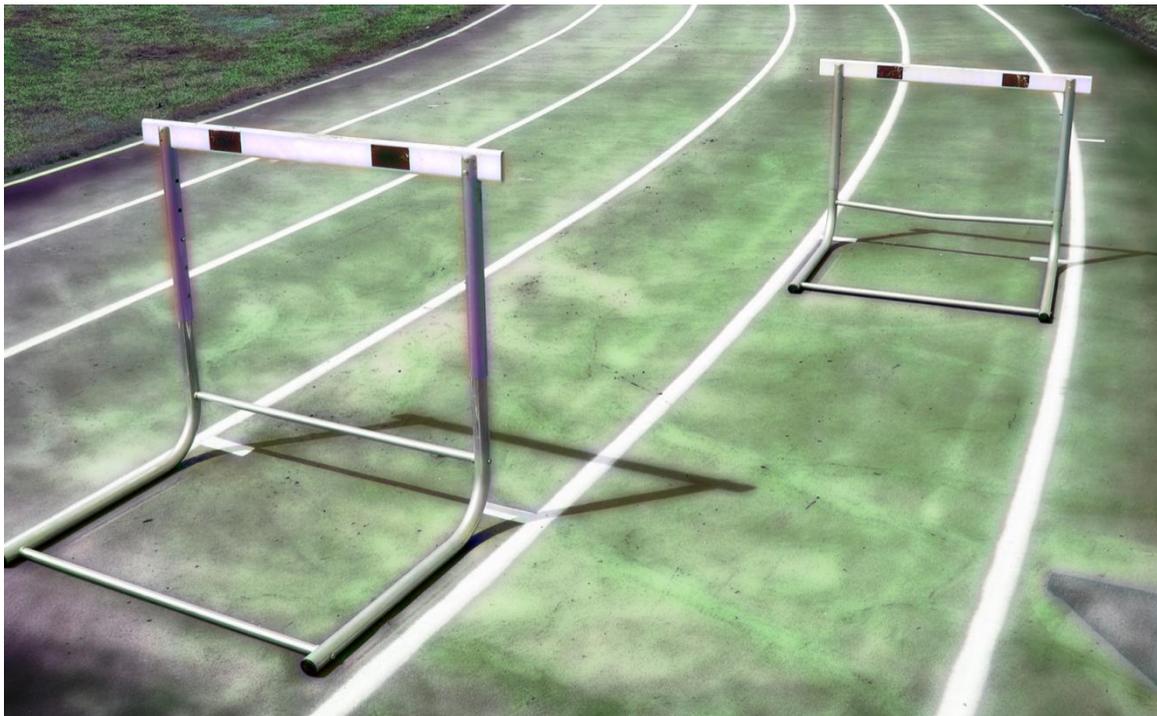
My parents have always supported my choice in career, but never molded it to any one given career choice.

3. What factors and people hindered you in your career choice and development? How did you overcome them?

I have never been hindered in my career, I have done what I wanted when I wanted and supported by my family. Hindrance has sometimes come from the male dominated world of IT professional - so you have to be better than them, learn their language and be confident in the way you express yourself.

4. Why did you choose this job/these jobs?

I didn't choose it, it chose me. I am often told at work the job variety matches my personality.



The private person

1. How do you spend your time off?

Leisure time is very much sports orientated, swimming, running, aerobics gym shopping and sharing family time.

2. Do you have children? If so what gender/age?

No children.

3. Is your spare time influenced by your job? If so how?

My spare time encapsulates my job in many ways. I meet a lot of people in my job which widens my circle of friends.

4. What are your main interests besides your job? Do you have any hobbies?

My interest have to be my boyfriend I suppose and of course my leisure pastimes.

5. In brief, how would you describe yourself as a person? Serious, thoughtful, friendly?

Outgoing, confident, friendly, gosh does this sound conceited.



Advice for others

1. Would you encourage other women to work as IT specialists? Why? How would you encourage them?

I would most definitely support and help anyone who wanted to create an IT role within any company, but make them understand that they need to specialize in a branch of IT, web building is an area not solely controlled by men, in fact someone with creative flair can outperform the men with their eye for detail and self criticism.

I would entice them by showing what can be done, Demonstrate my achievements and "walk them through getting started. This I would hope will provide the impetus for them to seek professional qualifications.



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