



SARAH (UK)

*This project has been funded with support from the European Commission.
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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 is an educationalist working in the field of Business Management. My mother is a housewife and part-time vocational teacher. I have three sisters all younger than me. 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?**

I was a keen sports woman and living by the sea spent most of my youth on the beach. My father also had a keen interest in vegetable gardening so a number of occasions I spent in the allotment.



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

Swimming, Surfing and Rowing.

- 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...)?**

No influence was placed upon us, except enjoy life, be honest with yourself.

- 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?**

Stella, Nicola & Tanya were equally my closest friends and we almost grew up together in each others houses.

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

Stella works in an optician.

Nicola works as a beauty therapist.

Tanya Works as a solicitors clerk.

- 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?**

My father also taught me how to build a website which excited me to want to learn more. He was my role model in wanting to develop those skills.

Actual vocational situation

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

I never really had a perception of what I wanted to do but wanted to work in IT. Whilst at school I worked in a chemist and moved into jewelry retail. Whilst there I decided to look for alternative employment in a Travel company using my IT skills to research holidays for people. This was not necessarily my career choice but opportunities were few and money was important.

2. Who or what were the initial triggers?

Triggers to starting in ICT was my success in building an e-zine.

3. How did the decision evolve?

I had always had a very keen interest in IT and during my teenage years I created a e-zine which gave me a strong IT interest.



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

Everything to do with ICT, particularly web design.

5. Do you work in a team or alone?

I now work as part of a team, but independently too and have completed a few websites privately for charitable organizations.

6. What do you do in your job?

Research holidays and some data input (accounts).

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

There isn't a typical day. Everything is client dependant.

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

I enjoy the research and the opportunity to help people using my skills.

Fussy clients who don't really know what they want, accounts input.

Supportinglimpeding factors

1. Could you please describe your vocational career?

I always wanted to be involved in IT, but the opportunities were not very good as it appeared to be a male dominated arena.

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

My parents supported me through College to gain qualifications in ICT and formalise my own personal teaching.

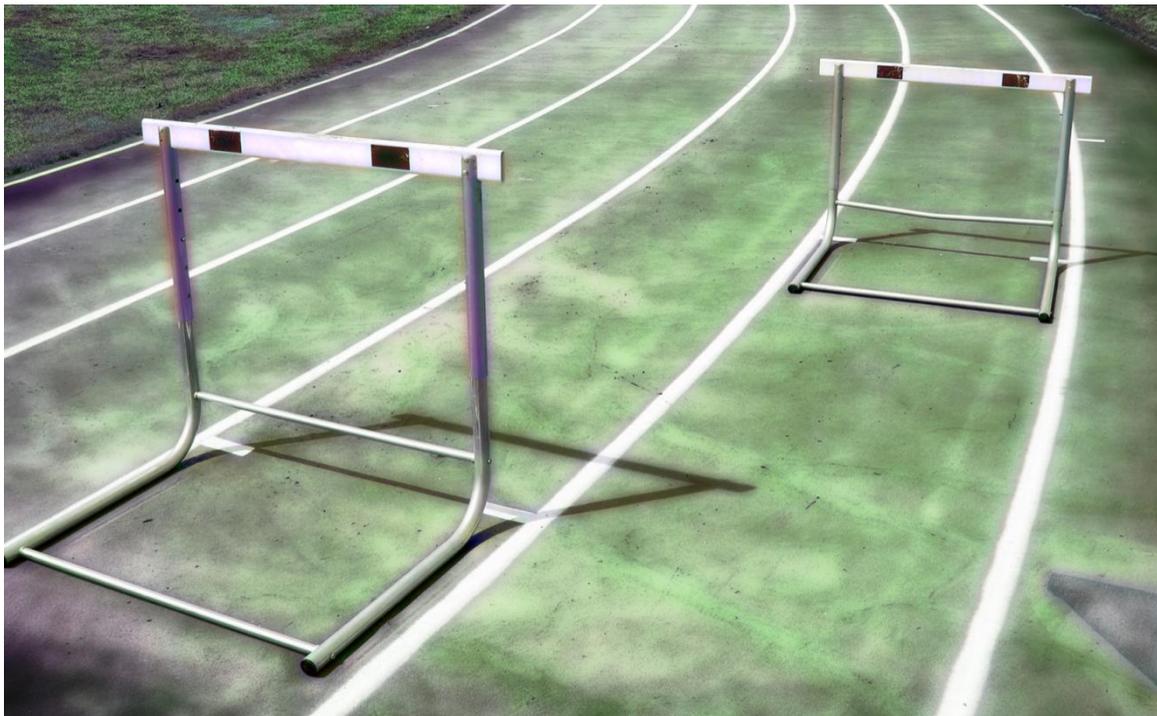
3. What factors and people hindered you in your career choice and development? How did you overcome them?

I think the perception has always been that women have children within 10 years of leaving school so expensive training was and still is perceived as a cost that should be avoided.

But of course companies cannot publically say this.

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

It fits my family commitments and it permits me to use my life-skills to help me enjoy what I do within employment.



The private person

1. How do you spend your time off?

Looking after my children and enjoying a family lifestyle.

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

I have two sons 5 years & 2 years.

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

No my job fits around my family life. I do have remote access to work and can carry out some functions from home.

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

My hobbies reflect my home life, a husband and two children leave little time for hobbies, although we do as a family unit enjoy outings and pastimes.

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

Approachable and friendly.



Advice for others

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

I would recommend that people do what they want to do. Working in IT can be quite daunting unless you have an interest or experience.

I would describe IT as a challenge as you learn something every day, not just from yourself but from other users.

Researching different sites and creating something is rewarding as well as my own requirements to stand back and say I did that.



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