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DEVELOPING KEY SKILLS FOR THE PROFESSIONS OF THE FUTURE

Introduction. Do you remember what life was like before iPhones? What about YouTube or Instagram? According to analysis by California Institute of Technology (Caltech) by 2025, we'll lose over five million jobs to automation. However, there will also be a vast array of new jobs available to university graduates mostly related to knowledge creation and innovation.

Objectives. The basic objectives of this research are:

- to introduce jobs of the future, and areas of study which will monopolise the career market by the 2020-2050's;
- to determine key skill sets that student should develop while studying at university.

Presenting main material. In a world where both routine blue collar and white collar work can be easily automated by robots and algorithms, we have to be constantly learning and finding new ways to create value for others. While the digital economy is booming, the demand for many traditional, high-paying professionals like lawyers, accountants, academics and middle management is decreasing due to what's being called the *robot revolution*. This doesn't mean these jobs will disappear but the competition is increasing fast among the traditional professions, which means many people entering these professions are working more for less money. Fortunately, there are new industries where hierarchies aren't well-established because the skills required to do the work have only appeared around for a few years. It is these new industries that will drive the next economic boom. If you want to make a much higher

income, you should start learning the highly-paid digital skills in the emerging industries of what's being called the Innovation Economy.

Based on current technology trends, here are **10 high-paid digital careers** where the demand in the next decade will outstrip the supply of people with the necessary skills and training [2]:

1. 3D Printing
2. Digital Marketing
3. User Experience Design
4. Alternative Energy
5. App Development
6. Robotics
7. Cyber Security
8. Data Science
9. Artificial Intelligence
10. Mind Transfer/Memory Surgeon

This new innovation-driven digital economy requires creative workers who are highly curious, adopt new technologies before everyone else and embrace the lifelong path of constantly improving their technical, creative and social abilities. To make learning easier, a new generation of innovative online education platforms have emerged to help lifelong learners break into the industries of the future.

According to Crimson Education Manager, Rebecca Pretorius, students can future proof their careers with qualifications in science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM). Quoted in a Business Tech Article, Rebecca suggests that: “Students need to consider choosing a field of study that is “future proof” after graduation. STEM job opportunities are being created at a much faster rate than students can graduate to fill them” [2].

Of course, humanities students should not abandon their love for the arts, as key to a student's future success and happiness is the pursuit of a career they enjoy. In

fact, five of the key skills for future employment involve the use of key human skills such as [1]:

- Mental Elasticity and Complex Problem Solving
- Critical Thinking
- Creativity and openness to innovations
- Interdisciplinary knowledge

There are five possible jobs of the future:

- ✓ commercial space pilot,
- ✓ extinct species revivalist,
- ✓ alternative energy consultant,
- ✓ organ (body) part creator,
- ✓ mind transfer specialist (or memory surgeon).

The new labour market will entail the loss of routine jobs which can be mechanised. In the same way, there will be an increased demand for those working in information technology, communication and entertainment media as well as professional services. The key to employment in the future is not so much the appearance of new jobs but rather developments to a large number of those already existing.

Conclusions. The future is just as likely to bring opportunities and positive developments, as it is to bring disruption and uncertainty. By taking steps today to future proof your career, you can look to the horizon with optimism and excitement! These strategies can be useful throughout your working life. They'll help you to keep your skills current and your opportunities open. In the future, anything is possible, with forethought and planning, you can take control of your future career today.

REFERENCES

1. Richard Susskind and Daniel Susskind “*The Future of Professions*”. Oxford University Press, USA 2015
2. Top Ten Jobs (2020). Available at: <https://www.crimsoneducation.org/kr/blog/campus-life-more/jobs-of-the-future/>