# What an information architect does

Based on an analysis conducted in July 2000 of IA job descriptions from 19 Web development consulting firms.
Numbers to the left of each requirement indicate the number of companies (out of 19) that included that requirement in their job descriptions for information architects.
Broad requirements are indicated in bold; where applicable, specific requirements are listed below the broad requirement.

## responsibilities

| | |
|---|---|
| **15** | **information architecture** |
| 15 | lead role |
| **14** | **teamwork** |
| 13 | collaboration |
| 4 | project management |
| 3 | creative leadership |
| 3 | resource management |
| 3 | performance management |
| **12** | **strategy/requirements** |
| 8 | lead role |
| 4 | participant |
| **10** | **interaction design** |
| 8 | lead role |
| 2 | participant |
| **10** | **navigation design** |
| 10 | lead role |
| **9** | **presentation/deliverables** |
| 5 | diagrams |
| 4 | specifications |
| 3 | client presentations |
| 2 | unspecified |
| **7** | **interface design** |
| 5 | lead role |
| 2 | participant |
| **4** | **information design** |
| 3 | lead role |
| 1 | participant |
| **4** | **user research** |
| 3 | lead role |
| 1 | participant |
| **4** | **usability testing** |
| 2 | lead role |
| 2 | participant |
| **3** | **prototyping** |
| 3 | lead role |
| **1** | **content analysis** |

## skills

| | |
|---|---|
| **9** | **design** |
| 5 | information |
| 4 | visual |
| 3 | interaction |
| 2 | general |
| 1 | interface |
| **7** | **analysis** |
| 5 | information organization |
| 4 | analytical problem-solving |
| 4 | technology |
| 3 | business |
| **7** | **presentation/deliverables** |
| 5 | deliverables |
| 4 | presentation |
| 3 | communication |
| **6** | **teamwork** |
| 4 | collaboration |
| 2 | resource management |
| **4** | **usability** |
| 4 | principles |
| 1 | testing |
| **1** | **user research** |

## technical expertise

| | |
|---|---|
| **8** | **front-end** |
| 3 | "some" HTML |
| 3 | basic HTML |
| 3 | DHTML |
| 3 | Director/Shockwave/Flash |
| 3 | JavaScript |
| 2 | advanced HTML |
| 2 | graphics production |
| **8** | **tools** |
| 7 | design (Photoshop/Illustrator) |
| 5 | MS Office |
| 3 | diagramming (Inspiration/Visio) |
| 2 | QuarkXPress |
| 1 | MS Project |
| 1 | Lotus Notes |
| **4** | **back-end** |
| 3 | middleware |
| 2 | database |
| 2 | networking |
| 1 | scripting |
| **4** | **desktop platforms** |

## experience

| | |
|---|---|
| **9** | **Web** |
| 3 | "some" |
| 3 | 1 yr |
| 1 | 2 yrs |
| 1 | 3 yrs |
| 1 | 4 yrs |
| **9** | **education** |
| 4 | HCI BA/BS |
| 4 | design BA/BS |
| 3 | "some" |
| 1 | unspecified BA/BS |
| 1 | IA BA/BS |
| **8** | **teamwork** |
| 5 | collaboration |
| 4 | management |
| **7** | **IA** |
| 4 | "some" |
| 2 | 2 yrs |
| 1 | 1 yr |
| **7** | **presentation/deliverables** |
| 5 | deliverables |
| 4 | presentation |
| **5** | **usability** |
| **5** | **design** |
| 3 | 3 yrs |
| 2 | "some" |
| **2** | **writing** |
| **2** | **other creative** |