

Oliver Benson

Curriculum Vitae

- Significant experience in developing and maintaining major online media projects with a proven background in journalism
- Demonstrated passion for working with young people and promoting their issues and well-being

Employment

Head of Projects, YouthNet (April 2011 – present)

- During a period of restructuring, promoted to lead the Project Management Office at YouthNet, responsible for the successful delivery of all projects in the organisation
- Continue to lead on the development of Do-it.org.uk website and associated services

Do-it.org.uk Programme Manager, YouthNet (July 2009 – March 2011)

- Project managing a £1.6m partnership project supporting the volunteering legacy from London 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games, working with key agencies involved in the 2012 Games
- Leading the creation of a strategy for improving user experience of this popular website

Editorial Manager, YouthNet (April 2008 – July 2009, Maternity Cover)

- Responsible for the organisation's major websites (TheSite.org and Do-it.org.uk)
- Successfully project managed a significant redesign of TheSite.org, increased audio/video on the websites and initiated development of a new website, Lifetracks.com
- Line-managed editorial staff, commissioned freelancers and liaised with partner organisations
- Operational and strategic management, working closely with marketing, fundraising, partnership and technical teams

Freelancer, Election 2010, BBC (May 2010)

- Part of the in studio production team for the BBC's Election 2010 coverage

Head of Editorial, Headliners (September 2006 – April 2008)

- Developed and supported the editorial elements of the informal education programmes
- Liaised with media partners, including the BBC, Sky and several national newspapers
- Project managed the rollout and maintenance of a multimedia website, including choosing a CMS, implementing multimedia, and integrating with news-feed services and social networking sites
- As part of the charity's senior management team, responsible implementing the strategic plan, recruitment and management of staff

Producer, BBC English Regions HQ New Services Team (August 2003 – September 2006)

- Part of team rolling out a content management system across all of the BBC Local websites
- Provided first-line editorial and technical support, and trained producers and editors in topics including generating user participation, best practice and integrating online and radio activity
- Specific projects included organising the Blast Reporter Scheme (a work placement scheme for young people aged 16-19) and producing website for pilot of The ONE Show

Previous roles

- Journalist / Producer, BBC Three Counties Radio (May 2002 – August 2003)
- Entertainment Journalist / Web Developer, BBC Radio 1 (November 2001 – June 2002)
- Journalist / Broadcast Assistant, BBC Radio Leeds (June 1999 – November 2001)
- Freelance journalist, Yorkshire Post / Bradford Telegraph & Argus / Bedfordshire on Sunday (various times between April 1998 – February 2000)
- Department Assistant, St John Ambulance National Headquarters (March 1996 – September 1996)

Education

BSc(Hons) Electronic Imaging and Media Communication, Class 2:1 University of Bradford (1996-2000)

- Four-year degree, including foundation year, in digital media production, based partly at National Media Museum

Biddenham Upper School, Bedford (1990-1995)

- A Levels in Geography (B), Sociology (C) and Economics (D)
- 9 GCSEs grade A-C including English Literature and Language, Double Science and Maths

Voluntary activities

St. John Ambulance

- A volunteer for 20 years, primarily around delivering youth work and youth participation
- Member of the National Youth Training Team, including redeveloping youth leadership training within the organisation
- On County Youth Team in West Midlands (2003-06) and Hertfordshire (2006-08), supporting and running weekly youth units, and delivering weekend training courses to young people and youth leaders

Community radio

- News editor, breakfast presenter and programmer controller for my student radio station
- Elected as Development Officer of the Student Radio Association, role included working with the Radio Authority on pilot community radio licences
- Produced the breakfast show on Make Poverty History radio, run to coincide with the 2005 G8 summit

Other voluntary activities

- I am currently a trustee of the Citizenship Foundation
- I was a steward for two years at TVYP, the educational arm of the Edinburgh International TV Festival

Other skills and qualifications

- In November 2007 I was chosen as one of the top ten rising stars in the Public Life category of the Courvoisier/Observer's Future 500 award
- I am a relatively confident PHP and MySQL programmer, as well as having a good knowledge of HTML and CSS; and competent at computer packages including Avid, Premiere, Audition, Photoshop, Quark and Microsoft Office applications
- I have a full UK driving licence and hold a First Aid at Work certificate
- As well as trips to the USA and Europe, I have travelled in Ethiopia and South Africa