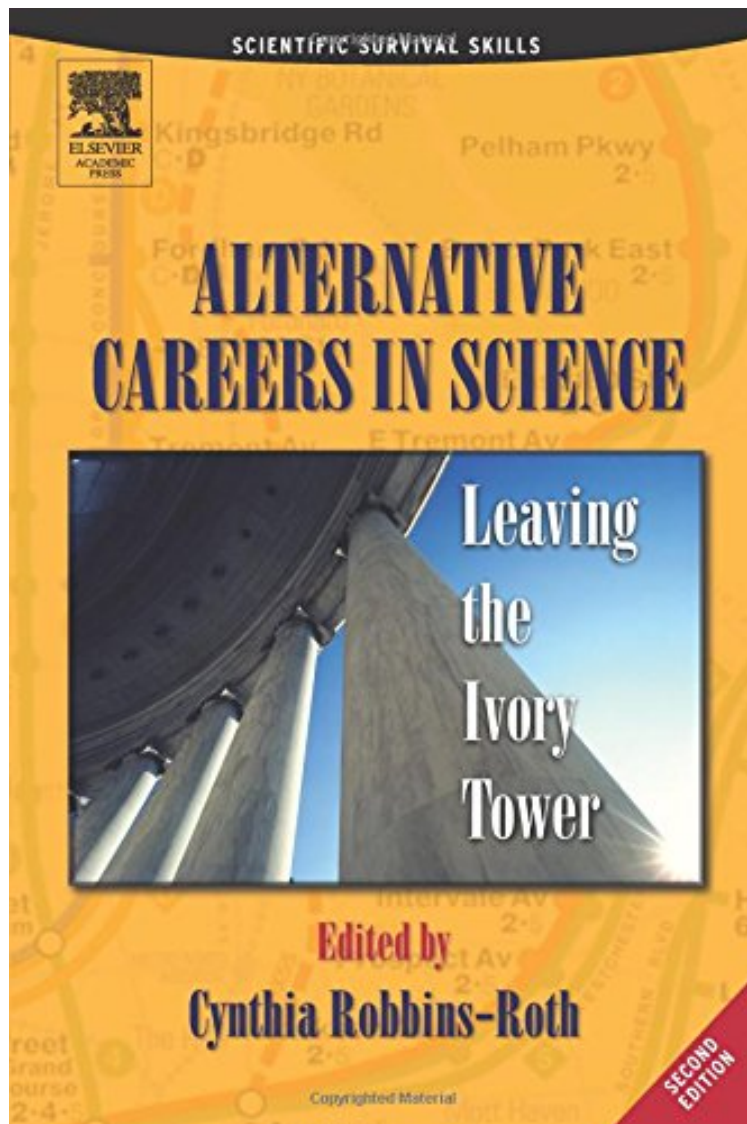


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Alternative Careers in Science, Second Edition: Leaving the Ivory Tower (Scientific Survival Skills)

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#750727 in Books 2005-09-09 2005-08-26Original language:EnglishPDF # 1 9.00 x .71 x 6.00l, 1.15 #File Name: 0125893760320 pages | File size: 73.Mb

From Academic Press : Alternative Careers in Science, Second Edition: Leaving the Ivory Tower (Scientific Survival Skills) before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Alternative Careers in Science, Second Edition: Leaving the Ivory Tower (Scientific Survival Skills):

25 of 29 people found the following review helpful. outdated alreadyBy steve_oakland-- FIRST REVIEW, 2006 -- see

2009 update below
The work environment for scientists changes quickly, and the path to changing careers changes as well. This book has been written by people who changed careers YEARS ago -- when minimal skill sets were sufficient to change careers. Learning how to use a word-processor in the 1980s was apparently enough to land you a job in writing or law. Knowing a bit of biology and how to use a computer was enough to get you into the field bioinformatics. Not anymore! This book offers little advice for what a competitive job market is like today, how and where to find employment, and what skills to acquire to take the plunge from lab to a different career.----- UPDATE: JUNE 2009 -----I've still been thinking about this book and how useless it is. What do I recommend instead? In the years since I've made my first review of "Alternative Careers in Science," I've become interested in business-thinking, for lack of a better word, and I've taken a few classes in entrepreneurship and read a few business books. I highly recommend "A Whole New Mind" by Daniel H. Pink in place of "Alternative Careers in Science." "A Whole New Mind" isn't about leaving academia, specifically, but it is a good book to get you prepared for a transition and think about other skill sets and contacts you would need to explore to leave academia. I haven't completed the career transition myself, but "A Whole New Mind" has me off to a good start.
30 of 33 people found the following review helpful.
warningBy LWThe case studies are entirely on people in the biotech sector. Good ideas, but not as useful for people outside of this field. Would have been more accurate to call the book "Alternative Careers in Biotech."
3 of 3 people found the following review helpful. Fantastic survey for bio-researchers looking to transition from academia
By Baruch HarrisHaving transitioned from a PhD into the biotech / pharma world and now working in biotech / pharma for 12+ years, I get a lot of calls emails from grad students and post docs looking to leave academia. I recommend this book to all of them. It is very easy quick to read, and a fantastic first-step overview of the breadth of career options available to former academic scientists. Some important caveats:
1. It is pretty much limited to biology-related fields, so may not be much help to students of physics etc. Probably fairly useful for chemistry though.
2. As another reviewer mentioned it does not go into depth about the additional skill sets (and work!) that you need to do to successfully transition out of academia. And when someone tells a retrospective story about their life it can sound both easy and pre-ordained when in reality it was neither. Use the book as a high-level survey, dog-ear the pages of careers that sound good to you, and then investigate those further.
3. The list price is ridiculously high. Buy a used copy for \$1.

Many science students find themselves in the midst of graduate school or sitting at a lab bench, and realize that they hate lab work! Even worse is realizing that they may love science, but science (at least academic science) is not providing many job opportunities these days. What's a poor researcher to do !?
This book gives first-hand descriptions of the evolution of a band of hardy scientists out of the lab and into just about every career you can imagine. Researchers from every branch of science found their way into finance, public relations, consulting, business development, journalism, and more - and thrived there! Each author tells their personal story, including descriptions of their career path, a typical day, where to find information on their job, opportunities to career growth, and more. This is a must-read for every science major, and everyone who is looking for a way to break out of their career rut. * An insider's look at the wide range of job opportunities for scientists yearning to leave the lab* First-person stories from researchers who successfully made the leap from science into finance, journalism, law, public policy, and more.* Tips on how to track down and get that job in a new industry* Typical day scenarios for each career track* List of resources (websites, associations, etc.) to help you in your search* Completely revised, this latest edition includes six entirely new chapters

"After my Ph.D. I realized that although I enjoyed science, I felt that my skills might be better applied to enabling the application of science within a more commercial context. Reading the experiences of others in this book gave me the confidence to move into another area of work. After spending two years in university technology transfer, I now negotiate Strategic Alliances on behalf of Pfizer and use my scientific knowledge and experience on a day-to-day basis." -Philip McGurk, Pfizer, California, U.S.A.
About the AuthorCynthia Robbins-Roth, Ph.D., left academia to pursue a science career in the then-emerging biotechnology industry. Her career detoured through business development before her entrepreneurial spirit compelled her to start up her own biotechnology consulting and publishing business, BioVenture. Because of her scientific insight, irreverent manner, and ebullient nature, Dr. Robbins-Roth is a popular speaker on alternative careers for scientists, as well as a recognized biotech industry expert.