

Industrial Placement Report

Of

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INFORMATICS INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY

in collaboration with

the University of Westminster, UK

BSc (Hons) DEGREE PROGRAMME in

Information Systems with Business Management

REPORT OF INDUSTRIAL PLACEMENT

of

Nilusha Harini Gurusinghe

in relation to the work carried out at

Workerbee Pvt Ltd

79/10,

C.W.W.Kannangara Mawatha, Colombo 07

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ABBREVIATIONS

IIT	=	(the) Informatics Institute of Technology
B.Sc - Bachelor of Science		Bachelor of Science
Hons	-	Honours
IP	-	Industrial Placement
Pvt	-	Private
Ltd	-	Limited
USA	-	(the) United States of America
MBA	-	Master of Business Administration
US	-	United States
CEO	-	Chief Executive Officer
CRM	-	Client Relationship Manager
SEO	-	Search Engine Optimization

INTRODUCTION

This report consists of the details related to the Industrial Placement Year which I went through as a requirement of the B.Sc Degree programme I follow at Informatics Institute of Technology. An introduction of the company which I worked for, categorized descriptions of the work I carried out during the work period, my own reflections about the work experience and the skills I improved during the time are described throughout the report.

Industrial Placement is an important component of the B.Sc (Hons) degree programme and is the 3rd year of the four-year course, which is referred to as a "sandwich degree" once the IP is included. This course is conducted by IIT in collaboration with University of Westminster, UK. During the IP, the students get the valuable opportunity of relating to and applying the knowledge and skills they learned so far, to work in the industry. A student who is after their first two years of the degree at IIT moves into placement with a lot of theory and skills in store to be applied at work. The main expectation of IP is to have the students return to their final year of study with a valuable work experience which is supportive to the advanced academic studies and the individual project of the final year. Also, the IP experience provides a stronger push-up for the students when they go for a job in future.

The experience I received working at Workerbee (Pvt) Ltd as a Business Analyst for the IP period of 48 weeks is priceless to me. I was very lucky to have had the opportunity to join them, especially as an employee of the opening Workerbee team. More details about the company and the work in which I was engaged during my time there is to follow in the coming chapters of this report.

COMPANY PROFILE

2.1 Details of the Company

Name	Workerbee (Pvt) Ltd
Postal Address	79/10, C.W.W.Kannangara Mawatha, Colombo – 07
Email Address	infor@workerbee.com
Website	www.workerbee.com

2.2 Company Goal

"To give our clients time to think strategically and act competitively. We recognize that operational efficiency is as strategically important as your product development and sales functions."

2.3 Introduction to Workerbee

Phrasing its own preface as, "An innovative provider of business support services, dedicated to helping organizations cost-effectively enhance their business performance", Workerbee emerged in 2008 under the initiative of Mr.Nirmalan Navaratnam, a skilled businessman with experience working in Australia, UAE and USA.

Mr Navaratnam has been born in Sri Lanka and has migrated at an early age, finally setting his own business in USA after achieving his MBA from Columbia University in the City of New York. He has been inspired at setting up Workerbee as he recognized many of the US business firms leaning towards outsourcing small scale business activities to Asian countries as a result of the recent financial recession.

Workerbee team is made up of capable and skilled professional virtual assistants who provide innovative and tailored solutions to their global clients. With locations in New York (USA) and Colombo (Sri Lanka), Workerbee functions as an offshore partner and extension of their clients' businesses. Since the beginning up to now, Workerbee focused mainly on USA market of small & medium level business organizations seeking offshore business assistants. The company at present operates as a small team but is hoping to expand in the near future as business is booming after its successful first year.

2.4 Services

Workerbee offers their clients a variety of services which can be categorized as follows.

- Administrative Services
- Bookkeeping & Accountancy Services
- Blog Creation & Maintenance
- Content Management
- Data Processing
- Flash Multimedia Services
- Graphic Designing
- Sales Support
- Search Engine Optimization (SEO)
- Research Services
- Website Developing

Please refer Appendix A for a detailed description of the services.

2.5 Organizational Structure

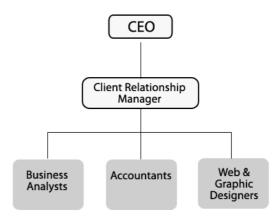


Figure 1

2.6 Engagement Structure

The following diagram is the Engagement Structure of Workerbee which displays the procedure of engaging a client to the staff.

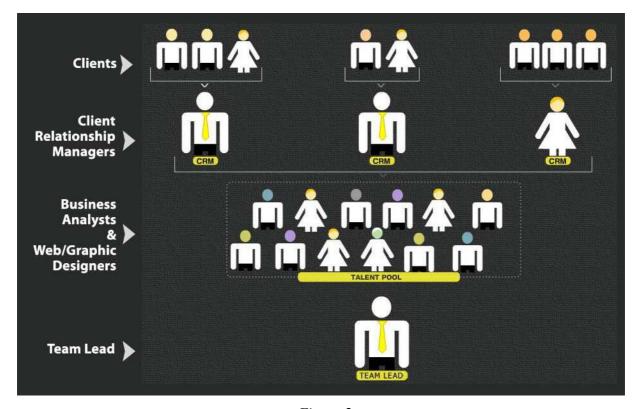


Figure 2

2.7 Values of Workerbee

As a fundamental part of their business strategy, Workerbee recognize the following core values.

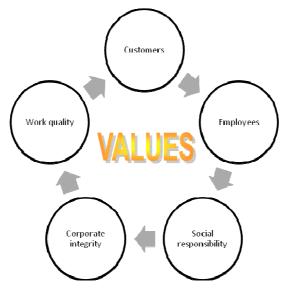


Figure 3

- Work Quality Workerbee hold themselves to the highest standards possible and their goal is to exceed the expectations they have set for themselves.
- **Customers** Workerbee recognize their Customers as the lifeblood of the business and are dedicated to every client's success and want to meet or exceed the client expectations on every engagement.
- **Employees** Workerbee believe strongly that their success is dependent upon the collective energy and intelligence of all of the employees which is why they strive to create a collaborative work environment in which the employees continually develop their skills and succeed to their highest potential.
- Responsibility and Integrity: Corporate and Social Workerbee take responsibility for their own success and failures, celebrating success and seeing failures as an opportunity for growth. They strive for integrity and seek to meet the highest ethical standards. Workerbee believes in being financially successful and socially responsible and perform the duty to the society by giving a percentage of their profits every year to help those less fortunate than them.

3 WORK CARRIED OUT

I was assigned to projects under the following five categories.

- Category 1 Internet Research & Report Writing
- Category 2 Website maintenance
- Category 3 Search Engine Optimization
- Category 4 Blog Creation & Maintenance
- Category 5 Content Writing
- Category 6 Animated Card Designing

3.1 Internet Research & Report Writing

3.1.1 Projects & Details

Project Title	Description & the Purpose	Tasks Assigned
1 Competitor An for Workerbee		 To search on Google for other companies offering similar services as Workerbee using a variety of key terms. To keep record of any such company along with details such as name, website, location and services. Finally to provide a report, along with the findings. (Refer Appendix B for a screenshot of a few pages of the final report produced.)

Video Conferencing This was the 2nd individual research To collect information through which I was assigned. The client wanted a & its importance in research in Google on video **Cost Reduction** detailed description of Video conferencing, companies providing Conferencing and its advantages against video conferencing services, video air traveling for business purposes, in conferencing costs and air travel order to support for an important decision costs. making procedure regarding facing the To analyze the collected information financial crisis. and produce a report, answering in detail to the client's questions. (Refer Appendix C for a screen shot of two pages of the report) The 3rd research which was conducted by 3 | Manhattan Real To search online for articles, blogs, **Estate Sale related** me according to a client request. The forums and other documents written to Recessions client needed to know the best time to buy about the subject and to point down real estate, particularly in Manhattan, after the important sections taken from an economic recession. A graph had to be each document, providing a link to drawn using data taken from the following the source. two links: To create a graph on MS Excel to - http://finance.yahoo.com/q/hp?s=^GSPC display Manhattan Coop & Condo - http://millersamuel.com/charts/gallery-Sales and Stock (closing) values for view.php?ViewNode=1208449530UATU the period of 1989 to 2009 1st X&Record= quarter.

3.1.2 Problems, Solutions & Comments

In the first I conducted where I needed to indentify correctly the key competitors of Workerbee, my progress was slow as I wasn't accustomed to the search terms to be used and therefore my results varied from the expected. Later on I improved myself and produced research results with lesser number of errors. In certain research topics, finding reliable information on the internet to support your query is difficult. The ability to use different key terms to achieve successful results was practiced throughout, which improved search findings more & more towards the end.

(Refer Appendix D for the graph)

3.2 Website maintenance

3.2.1 Projects & Details

	Project Title	Description & the Purpose	Tasks Assigned
1	Creating html pages	This was the first Dream Weaver project	To get to know the Dream
	of a website on	which was assigned to me. The client owned a	Weaver tool with the support of
	Printer Reviews	website in which she posted descriptions of	the supervisor and to create
		Printer Reviews. She wanted us to convert the	sample html pages similar to the
		content written about printers in Word	ones required by the client.
		documents to html pages in Dream Weaver,	To work on creating html pages
		using appropriate images for each printer we	for the Printers requested by the
		wrote on. Instructions were provided along	client, using the provided content
		with a list of printers and sample websites to	and images found in Google.
		refer to in order get a feel of the required	(Refer Appendix E for a
		structure.	screenshot of a Printer Review
			page on the client's website)
2	Editing the html	A client's site which was developed and	To go through each page of the
	pages of a website	designed by our web / graphic designers had	site, mark down the errors and to
	created for a travel	to be proofread and reviewed for any errors in	make the corrections using Dream
	agency in New York	design and content. Most of its content was	Weaver.
	- Rio Travels	written by us business Analysts. Corrections	
		had to be made to the html pages using Dream	
		Weaver before launching the website.	
3	Creating and	For SEO purposes, we created multiple sites	• To shift the necessary files (html,
	editing a website for	for a Neurologist practicing in New York.	java scripts etc) from the previous
	SEO purposes for a	The first website done was under the Doctor's	site to a new folder, ready to be
	Neurologist based in	practice's name. A second site needed to be	uploaded to the new server under
	New York	created to link with the other one, which had	the new domain.
		the Doctor's name as its domain.	To update the links in those html

		Original site: www.pennmedicalservices.com		files according to the new domain
		Second site: www.shannagendra.com		as necessary.
		(Refer Appendix F for a screenshot of the		
		site)		
4	Training received at	Joomla and Drupal were back-end software /	•	To go through the training
	www.lynda.com on	tools which were tried out to answer a client's		sessions and document the
	Joomla, Drupal and	requirements. The shopping cart training was		necessary procedures and other
	shopping cart	received in order to have an understanding to		important points to be applied on
	creation	test the functionality of the shopping cart of		the requirements later.
		the new animated card website which the		
		company is going to launch.		

3.2.2 Problems, Solutions & Comments

As I was new to Dream Weaver, the first batch of html files which I created using it contained errors. After receiving feedback and further guidance from my supervisor, I was able to produce error-less files.

3.3 Search Engine Optimization

3.3.1 Projects & Details

	Project Title	Description & the Purpose	Tasks Assigned	
1	Keyword searches	A keyword search has to be conducted	•	To use Google Adwords tool and
	using Google Ad	initially when creating a website of a client		to search for the popular search
	Words tool	who has requested SEO to be applied on their		terms used by searchers related to
		site. Google Adwords tool which is freely		the website theme / content.
		available and known for its accuracy is to be	•	To record the keywords in an
		used for this search. Through the results of		Excel document, listing them
		this search, the most popular keywords related		according to their popularity

		to that website theme can be recognized and		which is decided from their
		used appropriately within the site to improve		average search volume as shown
		its SEO.		in Google Adwords tool.
			•	To use the top three keywords
				and suggest html names that
				should be used as the page titles
				of the website for SEO.
2	Further research on	Those were researched especially to be	•	To research and document highly
	SEO techniques	applied on the Neurologist's website who was		recommended methods for link
	such as link	the very first client to request SEO from us.		building, use of xml sitemaps and
	building, use of xml	We needed to find all the existing methods		indexing to search engines.
	sitemaps and	which could to be used in order to get his	•	Apply the discovered methods on
	indexing to search	website to appear higher on search engine		the client website and keep
	engines	results.		tracking the changes in the search
				engine results for specified
				keywords.
3	Research on Google	This was researched in order to make our	•	To discover the procedure of
	Local Business	client's website appear on Google's Local		entering a website into the Local
	Directory`	Business results which appears when you use		Business Results.
		a search term with a region specified as one of	•	To enter the doctor's website into
		the keywords. Ex: neurologist new york		it. (Refer Appendix G)

3.3.2 Problems, Solutions & Comments

The major issue which I had to face under this section was the difficulty in filtering and recognizing the correct information with regards to SEO techniques. Going through a number of reports, video tutorials and training sessions in www.lynda.com and a few other websites, I was able to remove the doubts which I had regarding most of the SEO techniques.

3.5 Blog Creation & Maintenance

3.5.1 Projects & Details

	Project Title	Description & the Purpose	Tasks Assigned
1	Creating of an	I was asked to create an individual	To go through the training on
	Individual	professional blog using Wordpress blog tool	Wordpress blog creation at
	Professional Blog on	offered free. This was to be used to display to	www.lynda.com
	Wordpress.com -	clients who demand to see content writing	To create an individual
	The Business	work done by our team members. I was	professional blog with a suitable
	Parable	instructed to go through a training session at	name and post articles to it time
		www.lynda.com to get to know about	to time.
		wordpress's advanced features. The blog can	Refer Appendix H for a screenshot of
		be viewed at	the blog.
		http://thebusinessparable.wordpress.com/. 4	
		articles based on research done at different	
		times were submitted to this blog time to	
		time, as mentioned under Content Writing	
		category.	
2	Creating the	The company was interested in creating a	To research and find the method
	Company Blog on	common company blog adjoined to the	to adjoin the Wordpress blog into
	Wordpress.com	company server to which each Business	the company server. (Found and
		Analyst was to contribute with articles chosen	went through a video tutorial
		from those written for their individual blogs.	available online and submitted a
		This company blog can be viewed at	document regarding the
		http://www.envelocity.com/wordpress/	procedure and created the blog)
			To submit blog postings to the
			blog (taking mostly from those
			written for my individual blog)
			and maintain it.

			•	To get blog posts written by
				others as recommended by the
				superiors and to post them to the
				blog.
3	Creating a Test Blog	A client requested us to edit his Wordpress	•	To go through some user guides
	to familiarize with	theme, using the Theme Editor function and		provided online and to figure out
	Wordpress theme	the editable CSS & PHP files provided		the functioning of the Theme
	editor	through it.		Editor tool when editing the
				Wordpress blog theme.

3.4.2 Problems, Solutions & Comments

My lack of knowledge on CSS and PHP slowed the progress of the last task of editing the Wordpress theme using Theme Editor. I went through some html and css trainings which were available and was able to solve the issues I had.

3.5 Content Writing

3.5.1 Projects & Details

	Project Title	Description & the Purpose	Tasks Assigned
1	Article Writing on	A client required a series of articles written	To go through the sample articles
	Radio Stations	over some online FM radio stations to use on	and understand the client
		blogs for promotion purposes. A few sample	requirements regarding the article
		articles and blogs were provided by the client	structure and content.
		for us to go through in order to understand the	To visit the provided websites of
		required article structure. Certain radio	radio stations, extract the
		stations had non-English websites where I	essential content and write the
		was asked to use Google or Yahoo – free	articles.
		translator tools to translate the websites to	

		English. 3 of the team were engaged in this	•	To review articles written by two
		project and I was asked to do the first review		other colleagues.
		of the articles written by the others, after		
		some time.		
2	Blog posting 1 for	A short research was conducted online in	•	To research and discover
	the company blog	order to discover a suitable remote assistance		appropriate remote assistance
	on "Remote	software tool to be used for office purposes		software tool by comparing the
	Assistance	when working remotely. The results		top tools available online.
	Software"	suggested Team Viewer as the best available	•	To write a blog on the findings,
		option. The blog posting can be viewed at		stating the reasons for choosing
		http://www.envelocity.com/wordpress/2008/1		Team Viewer above others.
		1/06/remote-assistance-software/		
3	Blog posting 2 for	The 2 nd blog topic which was assigned to me	•	To search online, read up on
	the individual blog	was to write on Twitter. The article was		Twitter and to write the blog
	on "What is	written based on reliable facts found online.		posting.
	Twitter"	The blog posting can be viewed at		
		http://thebusinessparable.wordpress.com/2008		
		/11/18/what-is-		
		%E2%80%9Ctwitter%E2%80%9D/		
4	Blog posting 3 for	A research was done to find the best Live	•	To research online about
	the individual blog	Chat software available to be used on a client		available Live Chat software and
	on "Live Chat	website. At the end of the research, the blog		to write the blog posting based on
	Software"	posting was written based on the findings.		the findings.
		Link to the blog post:		
		http://thebusinessparable.wordpress.com/2008		
		/12/23/live-chat/		
5	Blog posting 4 for	A short research conducted online regarding	•	To research on the available Fax
	the individual blog	the available Fax To Email services in order		to Email service providers and
	on "Fax To Email"	to figure out the best one to be used for our		document the findings as a blog
		company. Link to the blog posting:		posting and post to the blog.

		http://thebusinessparable.wordpress.com/2008		
		/12/30/fax-to-e-mail/		
6	Blog posting 5 for	A basic blog topic assigned to be written on,	•	To research online, find important
	the individual blog	in order to update the blog. Link:		facts related and to write a blog
	on "Search Engine	http://thebusinessparable.wordpress.com/2009		posting to be posted on the blog.
	Optimization"	/01/05/search-engine-optimization-		
		<u>%E2%80%93-seo/</u>		
7	Blog posting 6 for	Researched for the purpose of SEO and	•	To research online about
	the individual blog	converted the findings into a blog posting.		robots.txt and gather the
	on "Robots.txt file"	Link:		important points into a blog
		http://thebusinessparable.wordpress.com/2009		posting.
		/01/23/robottxt-file/		
8	Content writing for	The company needed a few sample brochures	•	To go through competitor
	Brochures	to pick up ideas to create a final Workerbee		brochures and others provided,
		brochure.		think innovatively and write
				content and design a few sample
				brochures; one paged, two paged,
				4 pages etc
				(Refer Appendix I for a
				screenshot of one paged sample
				brochure)

3.5.2 Problems, Solutions & Comments

The overall content writing tasks were less erroneous than others but there were times when my writing didn't satisfy the superiors, which lead me to edit them according to feedback. After some time, I grasped the writing style they were looking for and adjusted myself accordingly.

3.6 Animated Card Designing

3.6.1 Projects & Details

	Project Title	Description & the Purpose	Tasks Assigned
1	Editing created .psd	To begin an animated greetings card website,	To learn Adobe Photoshop,
	and .fla cards using	Workerbee started creating different types of	Illustrator and Flash with the
	Adobe Photoshop,	cards using Adobe Photoshop, Illustrator and	support of Web / Graphic
	Illustrator and	Flash. The first version of a card was done as	Designers of the team.
	Flash	a psd file using Photoshop or Illustrator and	To use the above software to
		later on converted to Flash with the animation	make recommended changes to
		added, when the design was approved by the	the cards created by the designers.
		superiors.	
2	Designing new	The card site is to have Baby Birth	To search online and get good
	cards; creating the	Announcement cards, Birthday Party	card ideas.
	.psd, .ai and .fla files	Invitation cards (for kids), Save the date	To design new card designs;
	using Adobe	cards, Graduation cards and Holiday cards.	creating the psd version, getting
	Photoshop,	The need to create a certain number of cards	approval and creating the flash.
	Illustrator and	for ech category was a main requirement.	(Refer Appendix J for a screenshot of
	Flash	Once grasped the software, I was encouraged	a few card designs created)
		to work on new card designs on my own.	

3.6.2 Problems, Solutions & Comments

Apart from the difficulties that arise when working at a new project, card designing proved to be quite enjoyable. Our team's web / graphic designers were a great help to me as I went about learning the tools. Towards the end of my internship, I was able to create new card designs and animate them on my own.

REFLECTIONS AND COMMENTS

The IP year spent at Workerbee (Pvt) Ltd helped me gain an extensive amount of experience and knowledge through the different challenging tasks which were assigned to me. Having completed the first two years of study at IIT backed me up at IP, which was my first time at work. The experience I had got through modules, practical sections and the course-work covered at IIT were a huge support to me to settle down comfortably to the work environment. The personal skills such as team working, presentation skills, communication skills, time management and management / leadership skills which were always encouraged at IIT also became helpful at the workplace and they improved more during the work period.

Being a small scale company providing business support services to offshore clients, Workerbee proved to be an ideal place for an intern like me to get a good exposure to many sides. I was given the opportunity to learn a variety of new techniques and tools related to a range of business activities. The guidance and feedback received from the superiors at Workerbee were a great support towards sprucing my working skills. Apart from the main categories of work mentioned in the above chapter, I was engaged in scores of other short activities which cannot be categorized due to their simplicity but each of them contributed towards my success.

Working at Workerbee with a small team made each of us responsible for our own work in a much larger scale and that sense of responsibility made us all happy to work there. We organized and enjoyed special events such as the New Year, Thai Pongel and many others by celebrating them together at office.

Altogether, the IP helped me realize the importance of achieving work experience while following a degree. It covers the essential practical segment which we tend to ignore when receiving education most of the time. Therefore I recommend an IP year to all higher educational students at some stage within their higher studies.

APPENDICES

Appendix A - Detailed view of Services offered by Workerbee (Pvt) Ltd

Administrative Services

- Content Writing for Brochures, Blogs, Articles, E-Newsletters or Websites
- Database Creation & Maintenance Using MS Access
- Document Preparation report writing, promotion emails,
- Editing Print media, Website content, E-newsletters, E-articles, E-magazines
- Legal Document Drafting
- Managing Social Networking Accounts Twitter, Facebook, MySpace, Hi5 etc.
- MS Office Tasks MS Access, MS Excel, MS PowerPoint, MS Outlook, MS Word
- Proof reading Proof read your important business documents, articles, blog postings, newsletters, website content or any other document.
- Remote Desktop Management

Bookkeeping & Accountancy Services

- Customized Financial Statements Balance Sheet, Income Statement, Cash flow
- Consolidated Financial Statements
- Periodic Ageing Analysis of Customers & Debtors
- Payroll Processing
- Periodic Tax Filing
- Reconciliation of Bank Accounts, Credit Card statements, Supplier and Customer payments
- Cash Flow Management
- Inventory Management
- Fixed Asset Accounting
- Cost Accounting
- Budgeting & Forecasts

- Depreciation & Amortization
- Report on Checks to be issued
- Report on Suppliers to be paid
- Report on Receivables
- Transaction Summary with vendors and customers
- Reports on borrowings and loans
- Supplier/Customer/Account/Bank/Investment/Loan/Employee specific Reports

Blog Creation & Maintenance - Using Wordpress

- Create blog & maintain
- Edit blog template We can edit your blog template's design as how you want it to appear by editing the Cascading Style Sheets (CSS)
- Write blog content on requested topics

Content Management

- Web content management
- Document management
- Multimedia management

Data Processing

- Data Entry
- Data cleaning

Flash Multimedia Services

- Flash cards
- Flash animations
- Flash presentations
- Flash intros
- Flash headers

Graphic Designing

- Banners
- Brochure designing
- Business cards
- Cover pages for books or magazines
- Flyers & Hand bills
- Greeting cards
- Letter heads
- Logos
- E-Newsletters
- Paper & online advertisements
- Poster designing
- Template design

Sales Support

- Internet research
- Sending emails to clients / customers
- Sales data analyzing and presentation
- Posting advertisements
- Link submission

Search Engine Optimization (SEO)

- Provide SEO consultation at the developing stages of a website SEO consultation
 provided from the early stages of a new website's development, instructing how the
 designing and content writing should be done according to SEO.
- Provide SEO suggestions for an existing website We will optimize your current site with SEO so it becomes a top ranked site.
- Link building support Provide internal & external link suggestions for your website
- Keyword searches with Google Ad Words tool Provide a list of keywords related to your website content which can be used within your content to improve SEO
- SEO friendly HTML suggestions for a new website After conducting a keyword search, we provide you with SEO friendly HTML links that can be used for your new website pages

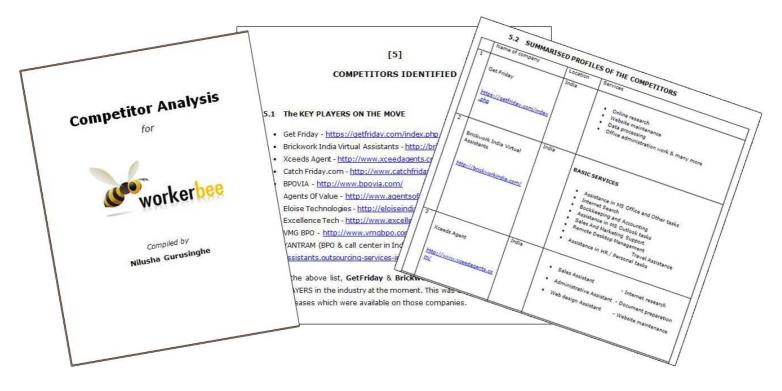
Research Services

- Internet research We conduct online researches based on a broad range for you who need high quality information to assist with you with in decision making. We choose information from the most reliable online sources in order to ensure its quality and depth.
- Market research For your management who are exploring the market to discover new opportunities or to find solutions to existing problems, we provide market research services.

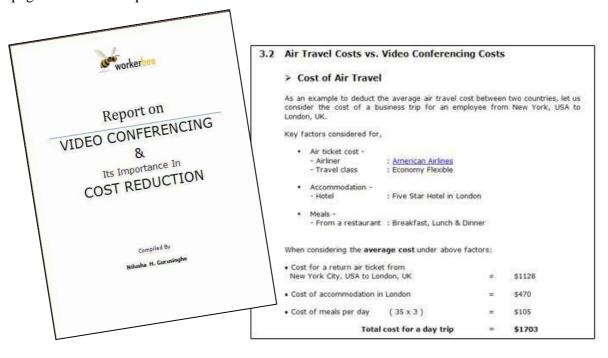
Website Developing - Using Adobe Dreamweaver

- Analysis We analyze your web requirement and provide suggestions
- Specification building We provide you with a basic plan for your website
- Website design & development We design and develop your site according to the agreed plan
- Coding We use HTML, CSS & PHP coding
- Content writing We will write rich content, following your requirements
- Database creation We can create MySQL databases for your website where necessary
- Testing A sample of your website is provided for you after we test it, for further suggestions
- Website hosting We purchase a domain for you and host your site
- Website promotion We promote your new site on the web through directory listings
- Website Maintenance & Updating We maintain your website for you and update it

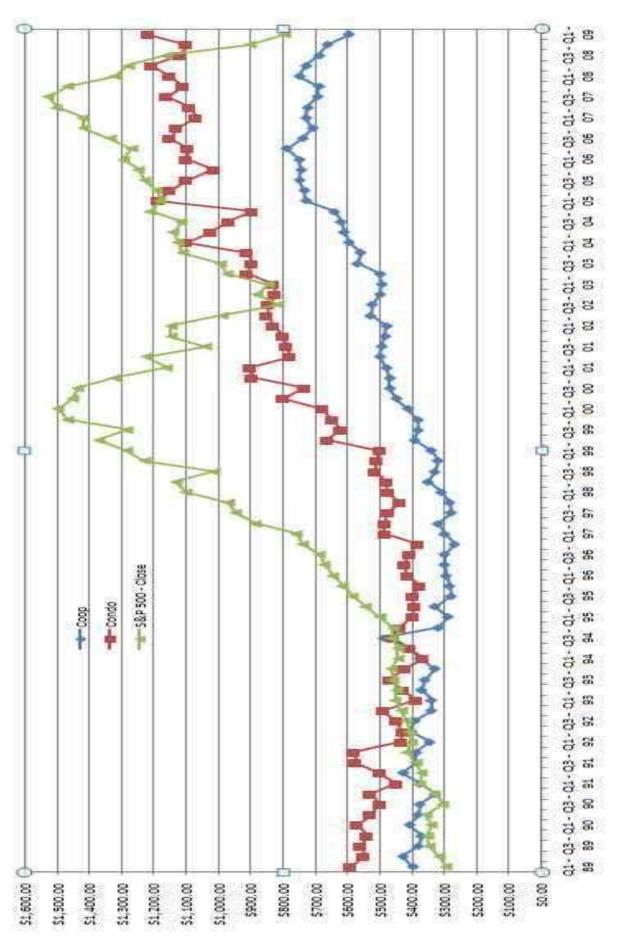
Appendix B - Competitor Analysis for Workerbee: Screenshots of a few pages of the final report



Appendix C - Video Conferencing & its importance in Cost Reduction - Screenshots of a few pages of the final report



Appendix D - Manhattan: Coop & Condo Sales S&P 500 Closing Values



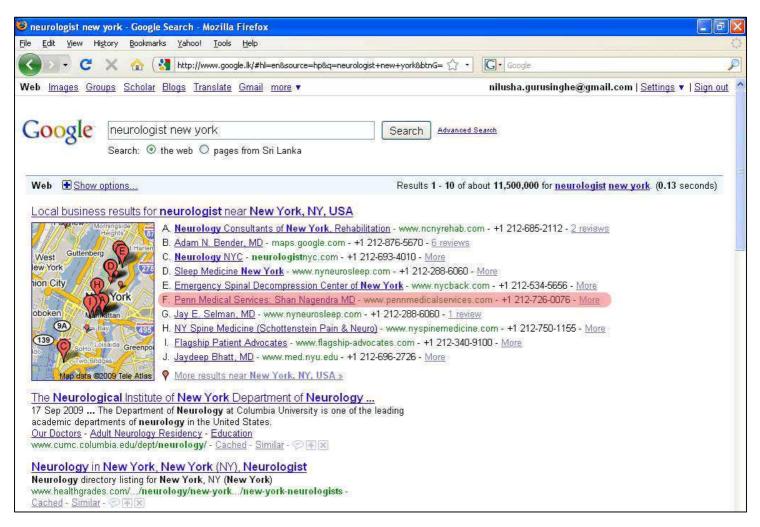
Appendix E - Printer Review website: screenshot



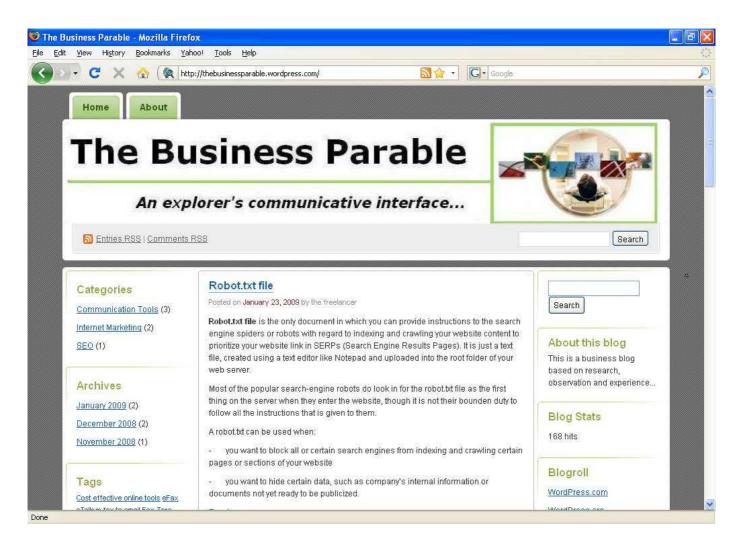
Appendix F - A screenshot of <u>www.shannagendra.com</u>

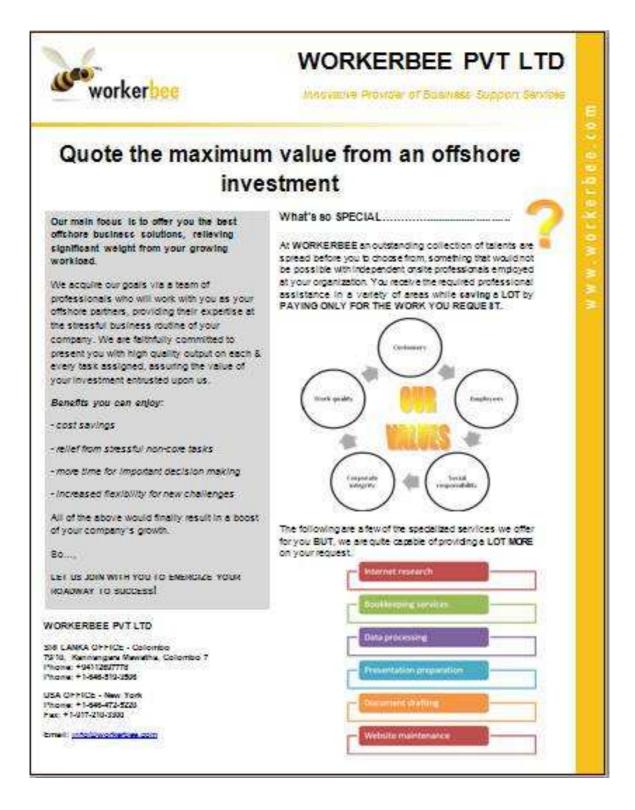


Appendix G - Screen-shot of Google results showing the local business directory entry for the search term "neurologist new york"



Appendix H - The Business Parable: Individual Blog - Screenshot





Appendix J - Animated cards - Screenshots

