Web Design Reflection

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For this assignment we are to create a professional web portfolio that displays content and information that we would show to a perspective employer. The web enables us to remove geographical constrains and pursue more opportunities for work in the professional sphere. The context of this website is primarily in regards to HU 3650: Introduction to Web Design for the web portfolio assignment, however, I believe the goal is to be able to translate these portfolios into the professional sphere in order to display our understanding and skills concerning web design. The audience of this project is primarily the participants within HU 3650: Introduction to Web Design including both teachers and students. A secondary audience would be any perspective employers for whom I would display my work. The purpose of this website is directly related to HU 3650 as an assignment, however, as an assignment its purpose extends beyond the classroom into a skill set we can take into the workforce and also creates a piece of work we can use to display those skill. Not only that, but we are developing problem solving skills and learning to collaborate with one another, both are skills that are desirable for those in the workforce.

This website reflects a lot of the same content and feeling I desired on my first assignment when I hand-styled a contact page. For this portfolio I am utilizing the same colors as my contact page, a dark gray and a spring green for a pop of color. I felt that these colors held both a professional quality and personality. There will also be some content that will transfer over, such as some of my images. There will be a lot of major changes, however, mostly in the area of layout and design. This web portfolio will contain four main pages plus my client/organizational website. My content will be dispersed among these pages as follows: my home page will house my navigation and statement of the purpose of my portfolio, my contact page will hold my contact information, resume, and a short paragraph about myself and credentials, my photography and graphic design pages will house examples of some of my work in those respective areas, and my web design page will house a link to my website and PDF of my reflection. My hope is that using these elements in conjunction with my color choices that this will create a useable and professional space. I plan to implement these ideas into my web portfolio in order to meet the exigency and create a fitting response for this assignment.

The layout of my website will be fairly consistent and will follow tips from 10 Useful Usability Findings and Guidelines and the article on eye tracking by following the “F” shape pattern that helps users navigate their way through the website, by keeping important content above the fold to reduce/eliminate scrolling, and by using appropriate whitespace for optimal comprehension. By utilizing these findings I hope to create a layout that is simple, suable, and functional.

Constraints for this website mainly stem from my own constraints as a novice in the world of web design, as I learn I am able to create a better, more usable space but it is a work in progress. Another constraint that is a concern is that of time. There is only so much time between the beginning of this assignment and the end of this semester to create, edit, ad polish a project. As in the working world we will have to work with deadlines and meet completion dates, so it is a good practice to become familiar with working under a time constraint. One final constraint I had to consider in the development of my web portfolio is the constraints of creating a good portfolio, such as pairing down...
content to what I believe my best work to be 

By considering the whole rhetorical situation including context, audience, purpose, content, and constraints, I am able to produce a site that will be a fitting response and a great starting web portfolio that I can continue to develop through the remainder of my time at Michigan Tech.

Introduction to Web Design has given me a basic understanding and framework of the theory and mechanics of designing for the web. Through course readings and class discussion, I was able to understand the ways the web has developed from conception until now and because the way in which we use the web has been changing, so must the way we design for it. This class also allowed me to learn the mechanics of web design through practical application through projects that were relevant to me personally, which fostered more of an invested interest on my part, versus learning through generic exercises. I do wish we could have spent more time learning how code works on a daily basis in order to gain a comfort with it. I really appreciate the opportunity to be able to have a general working knowledge of web design and how content and information are rendered through the web as a medium and how they are viewed by an audience. This enables me to better understand how information will be translated across different mediums especially for those in digital spheres. This kind of knowledge will be a huge benefit as I endeavor to become a working professional in a time and place that is constantly changing.
Bibliography


