Reflection on Project

Caralyn Everman

EDCT531 Internet Applications

Design
During the design process, you outlined the goals & objectives and defined the client and target audience for your site, completed a competitive analysis, searched for inspiration from other sites, mapped the organization of your site and created visual mockups of your intended design. You then received feedback on your design via peer critique. Which stages of the design process do you feel were the most helpful and why?

My design process was complicated because there were a couple of underlying issues that complicated my process. The first was that I was heading in the direction of the site I ultimately created but I mentioned that I was doing the project to the Distance Learning Coordinator at the Community College where I teach. I suggested that the project could possibly be integrated into a current project at the school and then went through a couple of weeks of trying to keep pace using the project I ultimately finished and keeping up a communication/planning process that would lead to the integration suggestion option. This is not an unusual circumstance at the institution but I ended up doing double time until my classes there began and then I just told them I didn’t have the time to pursue that option. The second underlying issue was personal in nature and involved family illness and other things too numerous to mention here.

Since I was also taking the Instructional Design class I was able to explore the design phase in tandem in work that I was doing in that class. Design entailed so many elements that were ultimately helpful. I realized that focus on the learning needs of the audience I hope to serve were the most important element of the project and in that focus I found that many other needs were impactful. This helped me to see that the continuous improvement of the site and the resources that it offers would be a full time undertaking. I hope to someday be able to explore where this resource would be best used. I hope to see it serving its audience someday.

Peer Review

What critical feedback did you receive from your peer review?

Peer review was wonderful on so many levels. In the design phase I was a bit overwhelmed because my mockups were very basic and web page design elements were missing and sparse. Starting over was hard to face but it ultimately gave me a firm foundation on what needed to be done to the site in the final creation phase. Peer review was invaluable.

What alterations did you make to your design after the peer critique process and why? Additionally, what feedback did you decide not to act on and why?

I changed about everything in the design of the site itself, I changed very little in the educational plan. I acted on most of the feedback because it was mostly the same.

References: Provide citations and links for any tutorials, borrowed code, templates or other resources you used to develop your website.

I used the code that was provided on the weatherbug.com site to create my widget for that application. I used the code that was provided to create the W3 consortium validator link.

What feedback did you record during usability testing in the last class?

My page had problems with the backgrounds that were layered in that I had layers and they were leaving a lot of blank space.

The W3 validator was forgotten
The tables were lacking spacing that made them difficult to read and they need spacing. Table headings were not stretching across the entire table in 3 places. The backgrounds I used were solid colors.

**What alterations did you make to your design after the peer critique process and why?**

I made all the changes that were suggested except one.

**Additionally, what feedback did you decide not to act on and why?**

The one exception was the use of a patterned background. I think it would have been nice and I want to play with the concepts that Amirah suggested because I was so interested but decided to wait until break and play then. I need to catch up on other things in my life this week.

**Alignment to Aspects of Proposal**

If your final, functioning website does not align with any of the aspects of your proposal site (e.g., sitemap, mockups), you will need to provide a sound rationale for this here.

I believe it does align but is much better in design and function because of great peers.