Learning Disabilities Association of Pennsylvania

Executive Summary

Community Partner
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Student Consulting Team
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Background

Founded in 1963, Learning Disabilities Association (LDA) hopes to create opportunities for success for individuals with learning disabilities. Taken from the [organization's website](#) , their mission is outlined below:

> *LDA's mission is to create opportunities for success for all individuals affected by learning disabilities through support, education, and advocacy.*

Our team is working with the Pennsylvania branch of LDA, the Learning Disabilities Association of Pennsylvania (LDAPA). They are an all-volunteer non-profit (501c3) with five staff members that fosters research, encourages early identification of learning disabilities, supports intervention, and protects the rights of those with learning disabilities. The President of LDAPA and our point of contact is Dr. Collin Diedrich.

Project Description

Project Opportunity

Approximately 100 stakeholders per year reach out to LDAPA for medical resources including therapists and a formal diagnosis. These stakeholders have many constraints such as budget and location. LDAPA does not have an efficient way to provide these resources and spends about 2 hours a week finding resources through ad-hoc Google searches and their network. They are currently able to provide 2-3 resources per request. The opportunity exists to create a data repository of learning disability resources in the region so that LDAPA may more seamlessly provide for its constituents.

Project Vision

In summary, our project vision is to create a working data repository in Airtable of learning disability-related medical resources available in Pennsylvania. The repository will allow the resources to be filtered by budget, location, etc and will allow the staff to search more efficiently for resources that meet multiple constraints. The data repository will be within budget ($1K-$3K upfront cost) and be maintainable for the LDAPA staff.

Project Outcomes

Our solution enables our client to further his organization's mission of creating opportunities for success for all individuals affected by learning disabilities as shown in the table below.

Description	Baseline	Expected
Time it takes for LDAPA staff members to find needed resources	2 hours per week	15-20 minutes per week
Number of resources aggregated	100-150 per year	1392 total resources

Our solution is also easy to search, filter, group and sort by multiple constraints including price, location and insurances accepted. The Airtable provides a proof of concept that our client can bring to the LDA National Board to get further funding for this project.

Project Deliverables

Our final deliverables included the following:
- Airtable directory with twelve sheets of learning disability resources: a master sheet, therapists sheet, psychiatrists sheet, tutors sheet, therapists from Psychology Today, psychiatrists from Psychology Today as well as backup copies of each sheet.
- Downloaded CSVs of the Airtable in a shared Google Drive folder to provide a backup.
- Github with scripts that we used to scrape the website Psychology Today and collect the data to populate the Airtable.
- Documentation of our solution in a shared Google Doc

Recommendations

Our main recommendations to maintain and improve the project are as follows:
1. Download the documentation and CSVs onto a personal computer or Google Drive
2. Creating a working frontend based off of the client's wireframes by using their existing Squarespace website or working with another 373 Project
3. Use Airtable's "Gallery View" feature to display resources to the public

Student Consulting Team

Anjali Akula served as project manager and team lead. She is a third-year student majoring in Information Systems with a minor in Business Administration. She will be interning at Oliver Wyman this summer and is looking toward a career in sustainability consulting.

Takho Lee was the technical lead of the project. He is a third-year student majoring in Information Systems with a minor in Software Engineering. He will be interning at Loom this summer as a Software Engineering Intern.

Kate Zhao led the design and user testing aspects of the engagement. She is a fourth-year student majoring in Information Systems with a minor in Human Computer Interaction. She will be starting her career as a UX designer at Microsoft after she graduates.