

UI Changelog documentation

Foremost, we decided to fix the underlying issues of our resultspage.html file, which had several internal coding problems in addition to some overall design problems. The main problem of the results page design-wise was that the aesthetic of the page itself did not match well with the theme of the homepage and about page. In addition, the color contrast of the text to the background caused some reading accessibility issues. While we cleaned up these issues, we also drastically improved the code of the page itself by removing all style errors: all CSS directly in the html code had been appropriately removed or coded into the CSS files. We also created two different results pages based on the user interaction on the homepage. To this extent, we separated the results page into two files, both with extensions to the general “layout.html” file.

This layout.html file references all our CSS references as well as extracting the HTML code for our header and navbar into a separate file, which are held constant throughout the site.

While the resultspage.html file needed its fair share of refactoring and cleaning up, our homepage was not perfect either nor will it ever be entirely perfect. However, we did make some drastic improvements adhering as more closely to Krug’s 5 questions. The homepage before had several usability issues. The intent of the website relative to the user’s initial interaction with the homepage was ambiguous. The website’s main features of the map and the box search engine we displayed did not project an obvious goal. What will and does this map do? What will happen if I enter the following parameters into the search engine? What will return? Therefore, we tried to optimize our homepage by maximizing on the ability to inform the user on the functionalities of the features on the page while also minimizing their time spent on reading and having to muddle through by using trial and error. As a result, we decided to display a messagebox, above the map, briefly describing the functionalities of both the map and the search box. On the bottom right of the page, we have a longer description, detailing the map and toolbox functionalities to a greater extent. We avoided formatting this paragraph above the map itself to reduce clutter and keep the homepage as spacious as possible. Finally, we made it even easier to go home, by making the large header at the top of the website, “2016 PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION” clickable and navigate back to the home page (in addition to the home tab in the navigation bar).