CALmatters/Sacramento State Senior Project Proposal:
California Legislative Directory
January 2016

Overview

CALmatters is a nonpartisan, nonprofit journalism venture committed to explaining how California's state Capitol works and why it matters. One of our missions is to make state government more transparent and accessible to Californians.

Objective

We are interested in building a California legislative directory that can interface with state and public data sets to automatically capture selected data and display it in creative, interesting ways. This could be capturing campaign donation totals for a state Senator and ranking his total against colleagues, capturing a lawmaker's newsletter or posted speeches and turning them into word clouds to give users a quick sense of issues that lawmaker is involved with. The directory would also include some original content from CALmatters staff or free-lancers, and we would like the students' input on overall design and functionality of the online directory. We would like the students to build an online legislative directory system/app.

We would also like to introduce the students to design thinking concepts involving empathy learning toward potential users of the directory. CALmatters would help the student learn and apply design thinking in their overall design functionality of the directory. As such, we would ask the students to do some initial interviews with members of the public to develop some ideas on content, functionality, design that seeks to address needs uncovered during the interviews.

CALmatters Points of Contact

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