INDIVIDUAL PROJECT

INSTRUCTIONS

You'll create a set of instructions that users can open on their mobile phone or computer to help them position a new humidifier in their home. I'll provide you with the original instructions that came with the device. You'll take the location information from those instructions and create a responsive page (or set of pages) that contains a step-by-step guide for users to choose a location for the appliance. The instructions should rely heavily on iconography and/or illustrative photographs. Additionally, you'll create a small insert that can accompany the physical product and guide users to the instruction site.

WHAT YOU NEED

- ★ A quality digital camera--the camera on your phone should be sufficient.
- ★ A GitHub account, or somewhere to host the instruction site.
- ★ A photo editing application like GIMP (or Photoshop if you're more comfortable with those controls).

PROCEDURE

You'll evaluate the instructions provided with the unit to determine what information is important to locating the device. Not every numbered item on the original instructions has to do with positioning the unit, so you must interpret the instructions to determine which information the user should take into account; you should not replicate the current instructions as they are not sequenced logically and provide too much information for the task of finding a location for the unit.

It will be up to you to determine an effective presentation order for this information. You'll need to use the chunking principle to group information into steps with appropriate granularity to keep users engaged through the location process. Some of the information is critical in the sense that misinterpreting or failing to follow the procedure can result in property damage, personal injury, or death. You'll need to signify the level of hazard to your users with design (keep in mind that this product is safety tested, so you don't want to overemphasize the hazards and make it seem like a death trap).

Early on in your design, you'll have to decide whether you want to use photographs or iconography to represent location information. Many of the conditions cannot be recreated or would be extremely difficult to recreate with photography, so a mix of both might be your best bet.

The website itself should be responsive to the extent that it should present as readable on devices with different screen sizes, especially a mobile phone (which most users will probably employ as they scout locations and set up their device in their home). Using a single-page approach will necessitate an in-page navigation or use of the HTML5 slideshow properties. Using a multi-page approach (one page for each step) will require a working navigation to take users between each page. Either way, the users should have the option to view an index of steps or return to the beginning (home). It's up to you to determine usability.

One step that may assist you is to ask a friend to help you conduct a usability test of both the insert and your instruction site. Tell them to find an object about the same dimensions as the humidifier (product dimensions with other files on Blackboard) and ask them to position it in the room. A simple usability test like this may expose shortcomings in your instructions/document design.

It will be up to you whether you want to try your hand at responsive CSS/jQuery or use a responsive design template like Bootstrap to build your site on. Note that Bootstrap will not necessarily solve all your problems, and you will also need to pare it down significantly to remove unused code, classes, and functionality from your site, which may complicate the relatively straightforward task of writing CSS. The final version should contain only the code you need to run your site. As this is a relatively simple set of documents, it will probably be easier to build it from scratch rather than work through the large amount of excess code that templates give you.

DESIGN REQUIREMENTS

- ★ Your instructions should be hosted on accessible web-page/pages using standards-compliant HTML5, CSS3, and JQuery (or a responsive design template customized to your needs and utilizing only classes and code that apply to your site, i.e. no junk code).
- ★ The instruction text should be translatable in the browser (i.e. all text stored as text, not text in an image, logo excluded). The photos/icons should be sufficient to communicate critical steps with minimal text reinforcement (to support users who don't read).
- ★ Photos and icons should present consistently (i.e. part of a repetitive, uniform design scheme), and should be resized to fit the wide-screen and mobile formats.
- ★ Your insert should be no larger than 4" x 6" (after finishing) and should print two-sided without alignment issues. Use crop marks and bleeds.
- ★ Your insert should efficiently direct users to your instructions and explain why it is important to review instructions when determining placement of the device.

SELF-CRITIQUE

Explain your choice of photos and icons and how you broke down the task of locating the device for the user. How did design decisions support the level of granularity in the instructions? How do icons, illustrations, and photos replace/reinforce text?

DELIVERABLES

Files Scribus packaged files for insert

.pdf of insert (use crop marks and bleeds—check alignment before submitting)

Instructions website, submitted with your project and hosted on GitHub

Self-critique (.txt, .pdf, or .docx)

Submission

method

Submit your files as a .zip archive on Blackboard.

Submit by Wednesday, April 29th, 11:59 p.m.