

LAPERLE-HT final reflection

I was working on a capstone project that aims to promote tourism in Haiti. It was about creating a data-driven website to promote tourism in a way that is sustainable. The finale objective was landing the website. To get to that point we must conduct research in the background of the tourism sector in the Caribbean region and search what kind of experience tourists looking for when they come in Haiti. But we only do the study on the trend of the tourists in the Caribbean region and the impact that political crisis and natural disaster have on tourist arrivals in Haiti. We see that the sector is growing. That means the trend is positive. Crisis don't have significant impact on tourist arrivals in Haiti. We planned to use web scrapping to collect comments of tourists who already visit or plan to visit Haiti. Due to lack of technical knowledge, we cannot do it. And most websites we try to scrape prohibited that with strong prevention measures. We haven't done this website yet. We prefer to present our final public facing in a PowerPoint. We prevent ourselves from generating the website with as we do the project to develop these skills. Using AI to generate the website will not allow us to do that.

Working on this capstone project has been a transformative learning experience that allowed me to grow collaboratively. Even though, we are Haitian in the group, but we work in different time zone and each of us have different background. This meant navigating disagreements or contrasting expectations, but ultimately it strengthened our ability to communicate, compromise and reach collective decisions.

Working with a diverse background team taught me that collaboration is not simply dividing tasks. It is also about aligning visions, building trust and understanding each other's limitations and situation. One of the most positive aspects was the exchange of ideas. Each member saw the problem through a different view, which allowed us to approach the project in a more holistic manner. For instance, some members excelled in research, others in technical development, and others in communication design. We learned to merge our perspectives and create solutions that were stronger than any individual contribution.

However, this diversity in background also created challenges. Communication styles differed and levels of availability varied throughout the project timeline. There were moments when we struggled to maintain consistent progress due to conflicting schedules or unclear task ownership. If I were to approach a similar collaborative project in the future, I would introduce a more

structured team agreement, especially about deadlines. Set shorter and more Strick deadline. Make documentation clear and weekly check-ins would also help prevent misalignment and ensure that everyone is on the same page from the beginning.

There are also several things I would replicate. For example, our openness to feedback and willingness to help one another were essential to our success. Preserving that spirit of mutual respect would be a priority in any future group project.

If I were to redo a similar project, I would delegate task related to communication and design. Although I am capable in these areas, they are not my strongest competencies and someone with more experience could have completed them more efficiently. This would have allowed me to focus on the aspects where I could contribute the most value, such as data analysis, technical development and research.

The tasks I would take ownership again are the technical components of the artifact and data interpretation. I enjoy transforming ideas into concrete systems and ensuring that the technical foundations are solid.

Navigating the project management process was both an educational and practical challenge. We experimented with tools such as shared documents, weekly agendas and task boards. Early in the process, we underestimated the time needed for research and background review, which taught us the importance of realistic planning. We also learned that transparency is key whenever someone faced an obstacle, the team progressed faster when the issue was communicated immediately instead of waiting until a deadline.

One important takeaway is that project management is iterative. Our initial plan evolved significantly as new insights emerged. Learning to adapt without losing sight of the project objectives was an essential skill gained through this experience.

We evaluated several options before choosing the final artifact, considering factors such as clarity, impact, scalability and suitability to the theme of innovation. As the time bound not allow the website.

The artifact we chose was the best fit because it communicated the essence of our project while demonstrating practical value. It was PowerPoint. It allows us to present the project concisely. It showed both the technical and social components of our work.

Several components of the Emerging Talent program were useful, such as 6.001x, 6.002x and the ELO2 office hours. Each bring a piece in building to get to that point. Overall, program is valuable.

Overall, I don't believe we achieved the core objectives of our project. The current state of our work is just a starting point; we have to develop further in the future. Due to time constraints we haven't yet developed the main purpose of the project. More importantly, the project demonstrated a viable approach that could be expanded or improved upon in the future.

The most valuable learning from this project was realizing that impact comes not only from technical skill but from collaboration and adaptability. I learned how to translate complex ideas into accessible formats, how to navigate team dynamics and how to manage ambiguity in real time. These insights will extend far beyond this project into future academic, professional and community endeavors.