

Evaluate : Deliverable #Situated Biology

Team Details :

Name	Unity ID
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Participants

Number of participants: 5

Teacher 1:

- Professor at North Carolina State University
- Paleontologist

Student 1:

- Graduate student at North Carolina State University
- Studies Computer Science

Student 2:

- Graduate student at North Carolina State University
- Studies Computer Networking

Student 3:

- Undergraduate student at North Carolina State University
- Studies Math

Student 4:

- Graduate student at North Carolina State University
- Studies Computer Science

List of Characteristics

Desired:

- ❖ Education at a high school level or greater
- ❖ Basic proficiency in operating a website

Undesired:

- ❖ High proficiency in using technology
- ❖ Individuals with prior knowledge of this project

Recruiting Participants

The users were sampled from solicitation around Centennial Campus, using our natural charisma as Computer Scientists.

Lab Setup

The lab setup consists of the participant in a room with one of the team members. The participant is seated by a desk with the wireframe displayed on a laptop and the team member is seated by them.

We used the Fish bowl at the Hunt library for a noise free casual environment for the participants to feel comfortable to express their thoughts without any biases.



Tools used

- Balsamiq
- Google docs and sheets

Interviews

Introduction:

Before we met the participants, we followed a structured script as follows:

“Hi, my name is _____, thank you so much for participating in this study. I’m going to be walking you through this session today. I’ll give you some information about what you will be looking at and give you time to ask questions that you may have.”

“The end-goal for this project is to develop an application that enables people to observe the ecology about ecosystems on college campuses. Our role in this project

has been to develop a prototype for how the user experience for the application would work, rather than the actual functionality of the application.”

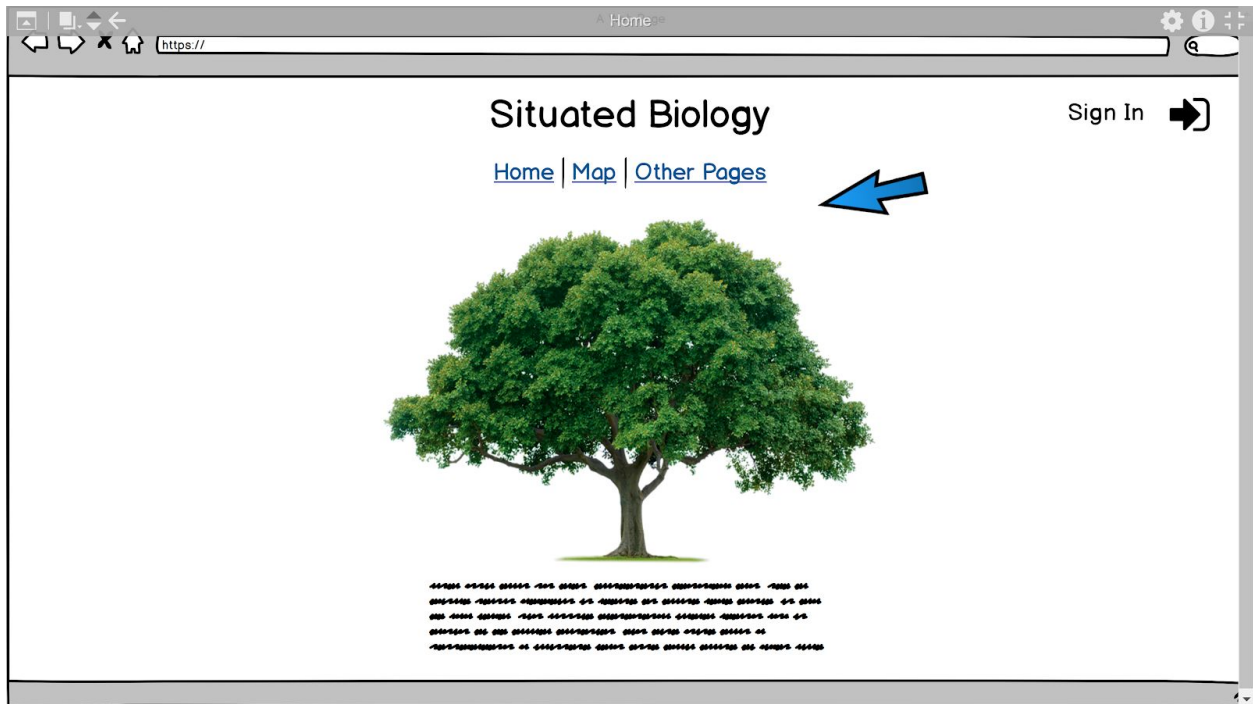
“It is important to note this is simply a prototype using Balsamiq and does not actually have any functionality. The view is simply a graphical concoction with links called wireframes. The navigation is represented by clicking links which will navigate to other wireframes. You are evaluating the ease-of-use of the prototype as well as the overall feel of the prototype.”

“It’s important to note that we are evaluating our prototype, we are not evaluating you. If you find the prototype difficult to use, that is useful information on us and does not say anything about you.”

Tasks:

“Now, we will have some tasks for you to go through. The point of these tasks is to get you to experience each wireframe. We ask that when you move from wireframe to the next, you stop and take in the entire wireframe and give us any feedback you have at the moment.”

The participants start from this page :



1. “Log in to the website.” (The user should be directed to register for a new account, since they won’t have an account at first)
2. “Look at the details for a tree at NCSU”
3. “Look at the comparison between two trees”
4. “Look at the timeline/historical data for a tree”
5. “Continue to the Seasonal View page and cycle through the seasons”
6. “Examine the 3D model of a tree”

7. “Download the timeline data”

GRID

	1	2	3	4	5
Home	-Map -> Explore		Had to guide them		The homepage is designed well but there is a problem with why the tree? There should be some information to user of what it is.
Login	-Standard	-Standard	Standard	Pretty familiar and standard. Make consist with registration where it says email and password in the text box	Standard login
Registration	-Standard	-Standard	Standard	standard	Very nice and standard
Region Map	-Font could be bigger on sides			Made sense	No instructions what to do with map i.e. click on x y or z
NCSU Map	-Same idea for fonts			Made sense	Very nice
Tree Cluster Page	-Better labeling, indicator of how to access detailed info.	Was not able to navigate and compare trees.	The compare feature is sort of hidden.	Individual trees say tree cluster, should not say that. Finding compare option was tricky. Could leave it on the main page	So much details Can be summarized
Timeline & Reports Page		Slightly clustered. Participant took a while.	Timeline title should be bigger and should on the top.		Very nicely placed. Cognitively I can remember what it is. Very intuitive
Seasonal View Page	-Maybe replace since you can see seasons from advanced data page.			Radio buttons to tabs for season was weird	Very well presented

Download Page			Confused between two download buttons.		Very good.
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Results

Patterns:

➤ What the audience liked:

- Predominantly users were smoothy able to register and login.
- The participants appreciated the overall look and feel of the website.
- Timeline is good: to the point and easy to remember
- 3d model is nicely presented, has limited information, focused on user.

➤ Things to improve:

- Confused between two download buttons.
- It took significant time for users to figure out tree compare view.
- Reduce textual information on the screen
- Give better suggestions and links and explain

Follow up :

We have the following suggestions:

- Rich visualizations can be used using d3js (in the place where pie & bar charts are used)
- Instead of other pages (sections) one may extend to incorporate chat and blog pages.

- Open source lucene based search engines can be used in the backend for to enable querying of data using natural language.
 - Uploading data should be validated in the backend. In that case not just admin but even the students will be able to add data.
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