Remediation Memo for a Toy Set Composed of Building Blocks

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Design: The Magic Dragon

Overview: We decided to remediate our manual into a Google Slides slideshow. You can find the presentation [here](#).

What did this medium allow you to do in designing that the original didn't?

The slideshow format allows portability and flexibility. By being an electronic copy, the user can access the manual via their phone, tablet or computer. The digital nature of the slides allows the user to go back and forth between slides when reference information is needed. Giving the user such flexibility reduces the frustration of flipping back and forth between pages. Updates by authors are also more convenient and cost-effective because every revision does not need to be reprinted. We can also collaborate more effectively by using the slideshow rather than the paper format. The digital format allowed us to work individually on single slides. The distribution of the content of the manual into slides reduces the frustrations that result from one designer's changes affecting another designers workflow. For example, while working on the print version of the manual, if a designer inserts an image, it causes the text to move down. If another designer is working simultaneously on the document, the real-time shift of the document causes an interruption in the workflow. After the work is divided, each designer can work on a slide independently without affecting another designers workflow.

What interaction does this medium afford for your user that the previous did not?

The efficiency of the user can be significantly increased when it comes to searching for particular information in the slideshow. In this respect, the digital version offers the user with the ability to search particular words or phrases by typing "Ctrl+F". The advantage of searchability could be quite useful if say while the user is building one body part they want to find out how this particular part of the body of the dragon is connected to one that the user has previously built.

The electronic version has another advantage over the paper copy when it comes to the user interaction. The electronic copy can be used by people who are visually impaired by using the "read-aloud' option of their electronic device. Such an option can improve their lives by opening more opportunities to use products that otherwise require visual recognition. On the other hand, the paper copy can be printed in Braille alphabet which can

What are the benefits/disadvantages of each medium?

First, let us look at the benefits and disadvantages of print manuals. Print manuals are more apparent in building-block sets than a slideshow manual and thus are more familiar to an average 8-year old child who buys a building-block set. Printed manuals can also bring a sort of satisfaction to many children, or adult enthusiasts, who love having printed copies for reasons such as having it as a collectible or having the ability to draw figures or write personal notes on to it. Another important aspect of print manuals is that there is less room for potential distractions since they are not reading it on an electronic format. The main drawback for print manuals is that they have a higher cost of distributing than electronic slideshows as we will detail next. Another drawback is that once a print manual is damaged it will take more time than necessary to acquire another manual. To edit mistakes on the print manual, the manual would have to be edited, reprinted and then mailed to all the users who bought the product. The revised print manual would also have to make its way into each Lego product on store shelves and inventory. Overall revisions of the manual would become more complex, costly and inconvenient.

Next, let us look at the benefits and disadvantages of slideshows. The main attribute of slideshows as a writing space is that they leverage electronic formats to allow accessibility to almost everyone. This speaks to the portability of slideshows as they can be in software formats such as Google Slides, Microsoft PowerPoint, Apple Keynote, etc. If anyone has access to any of these software's, they can easily edit it or update it. This format can be accessed through any type of screen format from a desktop, laptop, tablet, phone, etc. If a user would like, they still have the option of printing the slideshow, providing more flexibility. In addition, editing mistakes on a slideshow are convenient for both the designer and the user. The edits show up instantaneously and are virtually distributed to all the users that access the slideshow. Overall, using slideshows is the more economical way of providing clear instructions to a wide range of potential users.

Moreover, the slideshow can supplement the user interaction by including instructional videos or animation on the slides when necessary. These videos can be exceptionally beneficial to

people with visual impairments and short attention spans. These videos further reinforce the ideas found throughout the slides just in case the user wants a more visual experience. Giving the ability to add videos is something unique to slideshows since they can inherit the benefits from video formats as well. This flexibility gives designers multiple avenues on how to display the product for the manual.