WEB AUTHORING REPORT: MY PORTFOLIO

BEST PRACTICE:

The first set of best practices to have implemented was, having fewer menu options… This was summed up in a recent Econsultancy article by Michael Sandstrom. Which highlighted how fewer choices guide the user more easily to what they are looking for. This Feature was implemented in my site as it only has 5 menu options and 2 are for the same page but a different section.

Another example of good practice when making a site was highlighted as; to ensure the no use of the layered menu button. This was explained as it disguises the depth and breadth of the website. Again, this was taken into consideration as this feature is not present on my site.

On the page it also references Duotones and tactile design. These design features I have not implemented as this required very simple CSS styles. As such I didn't feel that these features benefitted the site, or displayed my capability's

The Econsultancy blog, states that parallax scrolling is another form of bad practice when creating a site, this is because of the different speeds in items scrolling it gives the illusion of depth to the page. Therefore, it is a benefit that this feature isn't implemented in my site. However, I do use a JavaScript function which allows the section title to follow down the page. This type of movement is then referenced in the next section in the blog as meaningful motion which essentially is movement to provide a purpose to the user. This then fits in well to how my titles follow down the page. This then indicates to the user the topic and aids a way of keeping place on the text.

Finally, the last section references stock images and how this may be also considered bad practice. This is because photos are now easily edited to fit to a purpose or seem more aesthetically pleasing. With relevance to my site I used custom images from google to find a suitable background image. These images were electronically made and would not have been created solely via camera. Even then, the self portrait is un edited to give as realistic perspective as possible.

When creating my site. This page was used as a reference to make my site in best practice as possible within my skill set. This meant checking that my site conformed as much as possible to the practice guidelines highlighted on the page and yet still have a form of individual design. Therefore, my site doesn't have all best practices listed; such as the duotones.

STANDARDS:

Web standards are guidelines set by the World Wide Web Consortium. Also, known as "W3C". These guidelines were created to set a standardized design specification which make up web pages. On the W3C page it normally consists of small worded tutorials to comply with these standards. One example of this is the section on web fonts. This area demonstrates how font changes can be applied and how it would affect the page. For my site, I use an array of different fonts throughout. This is in HTML is considered a font family. In addition to this I am using two different font family's. This is because I wanted to emphasize the change in the page as I have used media queries throughout the site to accommodate for smaller screens. This could be mobile devices like an iPad or Mobile Phones.

Another section focused on mobile devices. This is because W3C promotes multi-device compatibility. Here it highlights ways of creating a mobile platform in addition to a standard computer. These are items like CSS Mobile,

SVG Tiny and XHTML for Mobile. These technologies focus solely on designing pages specifically for mobile devices. For my site I didn't use any of these specific technologies listed, however I used media quires in my CSS. This meant that when my site reached a certain size. The site would then change its format to fit a mobile devices resolution. This way I wouldn't have to completely re-make the site and configure it to a smaller screen. Instead I was able to move certain objects and resize them to fit a mobile device…

On W3C a section within privacy is "Do not Track" This means that a site should have the ability to not track a user ask permission to do so. This can be for items like navigation or locating a shop/facility. This then improves the users control of their personal information, browsing data and this would then improve their online privacy. With regards to my site I have geolocation implemented via Google which allows the user to be able to track their current location to contrast where I have based my location. So, to comply with this web standard, when tracking the location of the user, the site firsts ask the user's permission to track them. This way it gives the user control of the information used. Also, because its run via google, the security of the location service is a lot more secure rather than if it was done independently on my site.

Finally, W3C has a section on Media. This is items such as Video and Audio. On the page it gives descriptions of what Video and audio may be used for. In my site it is used to demonstrate the functionality of my page. However, I didn't have any audio on my site as I wasn't able to find any suitable audio tracks to play throughout the site and in addition be also royalty free. Therefore, unfortunately I couldn't implement any audio. However, I could have put comments on my video, but I don't have any suitable audio recording equipment. If I were to use audio on my video I could have used SMIL which is described as "Synchronized Multimedia Integration Language" which is an XML-based language for describing interactive multimedia presentations. It combines audio, video, hypertext, images in time allowing a smoother integration of audio.

REFERENCES:

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