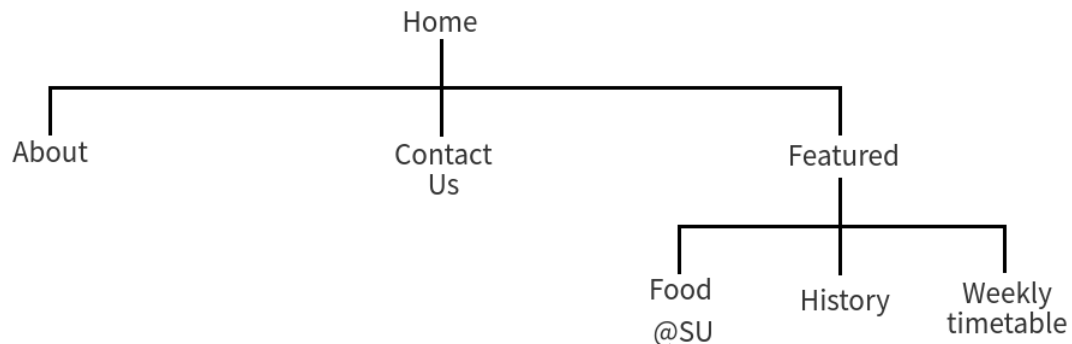


COM1008 ASSIGNMENT 1

Part 1

The general idea behind designing the website would be to create a website that showcased all the features that Students Union has to offer. It would be the perfect heaven of information mandatory for a student doing a degree in computer science to know. It would be easy to use for all users, by keeping in mind accessibility options. We would create a simple website that was convenient to use, fast to load, easy to navigate and which had a hassle-free user interface. The general design of the website is minimalistic.

We would create the website for the mobile interface first, by implementing a user-friendly navigation bar on mobile, scaling the text for appropriate viewport sizes and making links and icons clickable with fingers.

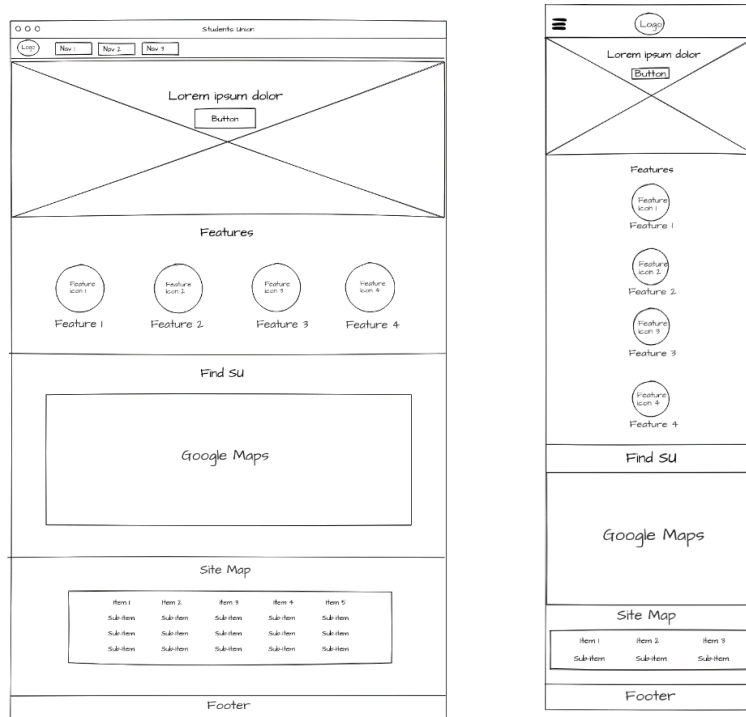


1 Figure. Our Sitemap

We want the user to have access to all the pages within two clicks. Hence they can know more about us or contact us and then on a drop-down menu access the different web pages. If it were laid out in-line all at once, the user would be overwhelmed by the options, hence we would only have three options for the user to click or touch.

Regarding accessibility, we took a look at W3 Accessibility Guidelines(2008) and decided that we would include alt tags on all necessary images such that they can be read by a screen reader. Our navigation bar would be consistent across web pages both on mobile and desktop versions of the website. Our pages would be meaningfully titled so that they convey the right amount of information. We would use a lower quality of images when using the site on mobile such that we don't consume our users' mobile data unnecessarily. The font would be bigger on mobile so that users can read the website and the contrast between text and background will be checked by an accessibility checker so that the users can read the website without straining their eyes. Our accessibility statement would be available to the user from the about page.

We had some legal issues as we wanted to use a snippet of code from Google Maps documentation we needed to read about Apache License, Version 2.0. Also, as we thought of using free icons from online marketplaces we needed to read about Creative Commons License and how to attribute them.



2 Figure. Design mock ups (creating using <https://www.mockflow.com>)

We decided that the website would only have two breakpoints, a desktop/laptop version and a tablet/mobile version. This was because the tablet version would be similar to mobile, and the laptop version would be similar to the desktop.

We thought in order for us to have a minimalistic design we need an appropriate font. Comfortaa is a very 'round' font which is perfect for our website. The logo of the website contains the same font and hence in order to have the consistency we want to use the same font across all pages. The navigation bar would be a drop-down menu on mobile and an inline list on the desktop. We thought that the first page the user sees should instantly convey what the website is all about, hence we summarized it as "The complete undergraduate guide" since it was targeted towards first-year students. Then we decided to have a short summary of what features are there in the Students Union and then those would then lead to more detailed pages dedicated to each feature. We decided that we would implement a map on the home page because we wouldn't want users to go searching for it. The map would also run if JavaScript was turned off, it would just be a static image. Regarding the sitemap, it would be outside the footer for a clear distinction.

Menu System:

We took a look at all the possible different navigation systems for mobile presented by Saran (2015) and we decided that we would do a simple drop-down menu for mobile using JavaScript.

It would have a clickable button to the drop-down and would be clickable again to cascade up. The three lines which consist of the hamburger logo would animate and become a cross to indicate to close it. For desktop, we would remove one or two menu options from the drop down menu and place it in-line to a shorter dropdown menu so that we can reuse the drop-down menu.

References:

White J., Slatin J., Chisholm W., Vanderheiden G., Guarino., Cooper M., Caldwell B., (2008). Web Content Accessibility Guidelines (WCAG) 2.0[online]. W3. [Viewed 15 November 2018]. Available from: <https://www.w3.org/TR/WCAG20>

Saran, (2015). 40+ Responsive Navigation Solutions (Examples and Codes)[online]. Sanwebe. [Viewed 19 October 2018]. Available from: <https://www.sanwebe.com/2015/06/responsive-navigation-tutorials-demo>