

Empowering Readers

Stefan Zondervan 16/01/2024

INTRODUCTION

Step into a new era of reading with "Beyond Words." Designed to empower individuals, especially those with dyslexia, this project transforms the reading experience. In a digital space, readers are able to personalize text, utilizing dyslextic friendly fonts for a unique touch. "Beyond Words" goes beyond conventional reading, making it a personal, enjoyable, and empowering journey. Join me in exploring the transformative potential of customized text—a future where reading is not just accessible but also a source of individual expression and enjoyment.

CONCEPT

Revolutionizing Reading in a Digital Realm Engage with an unique digital space where text becomes personal and fun again. Users personalize text and the canvas within, customizes font styles for a more personal and enjoyable reading experience.

TARGET AUDIENCE

Catering to Dyslexic Individuals

Designed exclusively for those with dyslexia,
my project offers a personalized and
distinctive way to interact with text.

USER INTERACTION

Read, Personalize, Export

Users read the text, personalize it, and export the page—transforming the reading experience into a personalized journey.

PERSONAL CONNECTION

From Struggle to Experimentation

As a dyslexic individual, my relationship with text has been marked by struggle. "Beyond Words: Empowering Readers" aims to turn this challenge into an opportunity for joy. Through interactive features, users can experiment with text, transforming reading into a source of empowerment.

DESIGN QUESTION

In what ways can the combination of user interactivity and font personalization reshape the experience for individuals with dyslexia, incorporating both enjoyment and inclusivity?

SECONDARY SOURCE

Dyslexia Exploration

Incorporating insights from "Dyslexia and the Brain" dives deeper into how dyslexic individuals read and understand text.

FUTURE POSSIBLITIES

Envisioning Tomorrow's Reading Experience

Speculating a future where customized text can be stored, shared, printed, and distributed, offering endless possibilities.

BROADER IMPLICATIONS

Accessibility Beyond Dyslexia

Contributing to a more accessible and inclusive reading experience, extending beyond dyslexic individuals.

OVERALL IMPACT

Empowering Readers

Providing readers with the tools for creating their unique and personal reading experience.

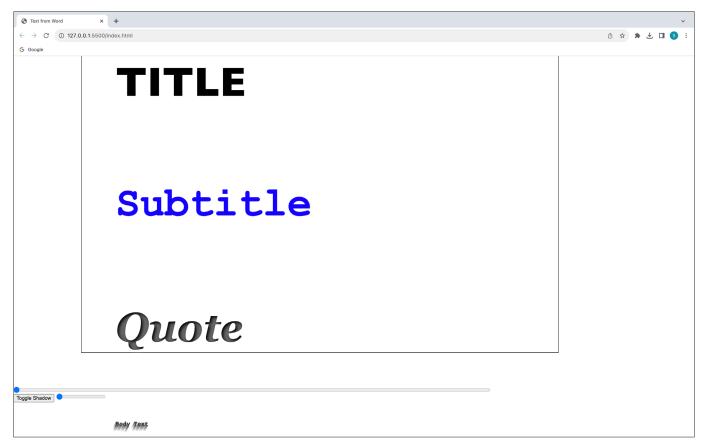
RESIT

Changes Implemented

Based on the received feedback, I have integrated the text tools directly within the book itself, eliminating the need for a separate section. The newly incorporated page serves a dual purpose - not only does it serve as a typographic decorative element, but it also offers practical utility for personalization. This feature becomes especially impactful for individuals facing challenges in reading, such as those with dyslexia. By personalizing the text to specific reading needs, the printed component becomes a valuable output. You can then export this customized page to share your unique requirements with others, creating a connection within the dyslexic community. The integration of digital and physical elements is particularly strong in this case, as the personalized output directly influences the physical book.

Organizational Improvements

In terms of organization, I refined my approach by adopting a systematic workflow and having to set goals and feedback. Following my created schedule, I systematically addressed and fulfilled all the necessary changes and preparations.



ITERATION

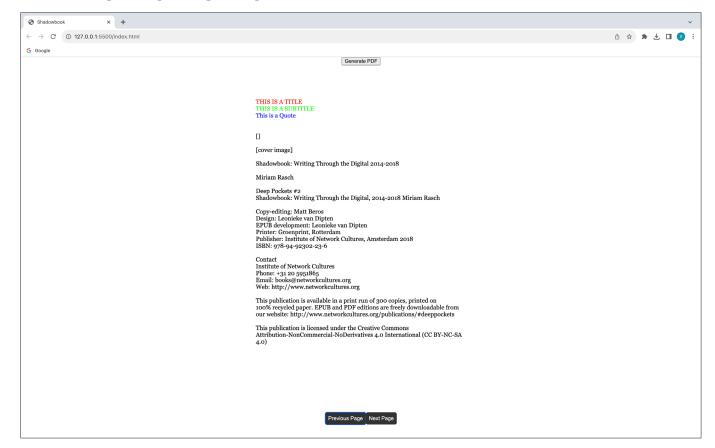
I initiated the design process by experimenting with various text modifications to assess their impact on readability. This involved implementing changes within a code-created container to observe the practical implications.

KEY MOMENT

It became evident that certain alterations had the potential to create overwhelming chaos, especially when applied to a substantial body of text.

RESULTS

This initial test provided valuable insights into the dynamics of text manipulation within a coded container, laying the groundwork for subsequent iterations.



ITERATION

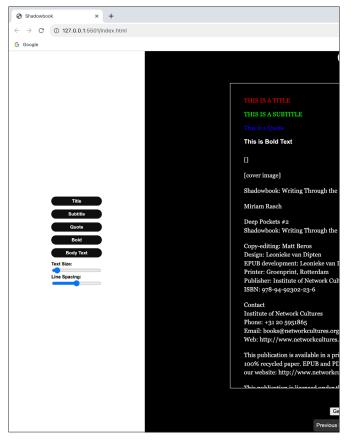
The focus shifted to creating a container capable of importing the entire book for online reading, emphasizing user accessibility.

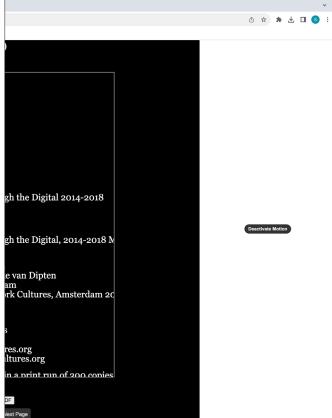
KEY MOMENT

Acknowledging the need for a more immersive reading experience, efforts were directed towards establishing a more engaging environment surrounding the digital book.

RESULTS

The successful implementation of a container now allows users to access and read the entire book online, fostering a seamless digital reading experience.





ITERATION

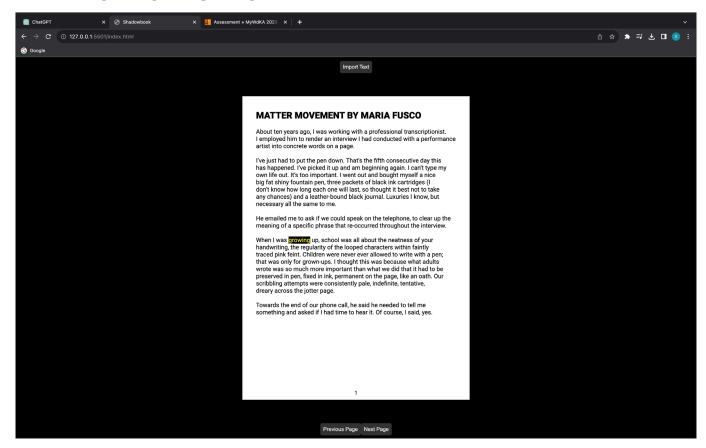
Continuing the exploration of optimal text experimentation, emphasis was placed on creating a conducive environment for meaningful and legible modifications.

KEY MOMENT

Recognizing the need for a dedicated container, separate from the main text, emerged as a pivotal realization for an optimal experimentation experience.

RESULTS

This iteration marked a positive step in experimenting with text, including testing different variations in fonts and styles, aiming for meaningful and visually appealing outcomes.



ITERATION

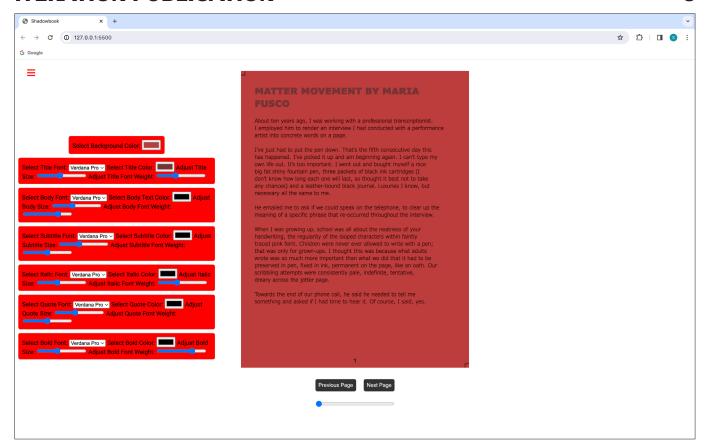
A dedicated container was introduced, empowering readers to select and import text meaningful to them, providing a personalized avenue for experimentation.

KEY MOMENT

The necessity for clearer instructions on text selection and importation became apparent, prompting improvements in user guidance for a more personalized experience.

RESULTS

Users can now highlight specific text and utilize it within the container on a new page, fostering a personalized and empowering exploration of the possibilities of text manipulation.



ITERATION

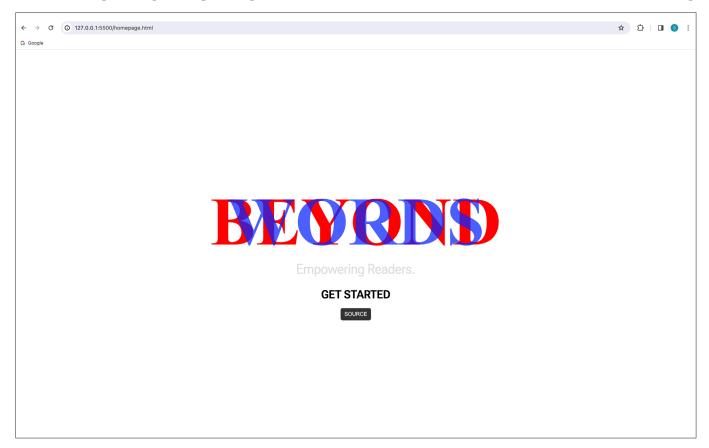
Iterations were made to integrate tools into the text container, aiming to create a more meaningful reading experience for users.

KEY MOMENT

During this process, I extensively experimented with various layouts, colors specifically tailored for dyslexic individuals, and navigational ease.

RESULTS

The outcome was a series of page redesigns, driven by experiments aimed at creating a well-organized layout. This layout encompasses everything from explanations to exporting and utilizing the tools.



ITERATION

I explored various styles for the homepage to recreate a design that better aligns with the project and research on dyslexic people. Colors played a crucial role as they were used to distinguish text and information, aiding individuals with dyslexia. In crafting this style, I developed a homepage that allows non-dyslexic users to gain a glimpse into how reading feels for us.

KEY MOMENT

Highlighting the experimental and exploratory nature of text involved creating a style, accomplished by making the title dynamic through variable changes. This not only mimics the effects dyslexic individuals experience in their minds while reading but also adds a unique visual representation of the struggle to understand the text.

RESULTS

The homepage I created is user-friendly, featuring a distinctive style that aligns with my project's focus on dyslexic users. It provides a clear vision and understanding of the project's purpose and its intended audience.

MATTER MOVEMENT BY MARIA FUSCO

I employed him to render an interview I had conducted with a performance artist into concrete words on a page.

I've just had to put the pen down. That's the fifth consecutive day this has happened. I've picked it up and am beginning again. I can't type my own life out. It's too important. I went out and bought myself a nice big fat shiny fountain pen, three packets of black ink cartridges (I don't know how long each one will last, so thought it best not to take any chances) and a leather-bound black journal. Luxuries I know, but necessary all the same to me.

He emailed me to ask if we could speak on the telephone, to clear up the meaning of a specific phrase that re-occurred throughout the interview.

When I was growing up, school was all about the neatness of your handwriting, the regularity of the looped characters within faintly traced pink feint. Children were never ever allowed to write with a pen; that was only for grown-ups. I thought this was because what adults wrote was so much more important than what we did that it had to be preserved in pen, fixed in ink, permanent on the page, like an oath. Our scribbling attempts were consistently pale, indefinite, tentative, dreary across the jotter page.

Towards the end of our phone call, he said he needed to tell me something and asked if I had time to hear it. Of course, I said, yes.

ITERATION

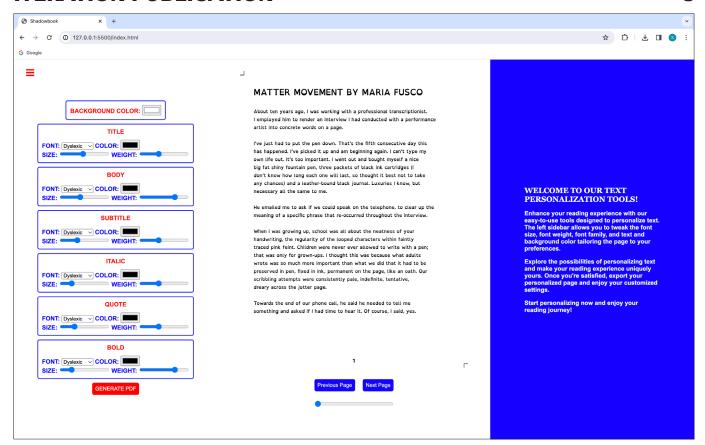
I experimented with various tools to determine which changes to the text would make sense for dyslexic readers and assist them in their reading. During the experimentation, I realized that following sentences was often challenging. As a solution, I added a highlight that follows your mouse, aiding in tracking where you are reading.

KEY MOMENT

This step introduced an additional tool for individuals reading the book online, enhancing their overall experience.

RESULTS

The outcome is an improved online book tool designed to assist people who struggle with following reading lines.



ITERATION

The latest iteration involved a crucial decision to implement a right bar featuring a welcoming text and a brief explanation. Previously, the navigation was confusing and challenging to comprehend. Now, with the intuitive redesign, it serves as an inviting welcome for individuals navigating through the content.

KEY MOMENT

The addition of this right bar marked a important moment when the page felt complete and polished. It signified the balance achieved with all the tools and text elements coming together with a clear navigation.

RESULTS

The introduction of the welcoming text and explanation demonstrates a personalized approach, showcasing a genuine concern for users. This addition provides insight into the inspiration behind the project, elevating the overall user experience and highlighting a meticulous attention to detail.

REFLECTION

My initial aim was to design a digital platform made for individuals with reading challenges, especially those with dyslexia. The primary objective was to empower users by allowing them to personalize sections of the text and engage in experimentation to enhance their reading experience. However, this project unfolded as a series of technical challenges, demanding a lot of attention and problem-solving.

A significant achievement in the project lies in the successful integration of text tools directly within the book itself, eliminating the need for a separate section. This strategic modification not only serves as a typographic decorative element but also offers practical utility for personalization. The page's dual purpose becomes especially impactful for individuals facing reading challenges, providing a valuable output that can be exported and shared within the dyslexic community. The seamless integration of digital and physical elements strengthens the project, as the personalized output directly influences the physical output.

My focus was to ensure the website's optimal functionality, contributing to a meaningful and accessible user experience. The iterative process involved numerous trials and errors, each providing valuable insights into my design processes.

Reflecting on the project, comes with the sence of overcoming challenges but also in creating a balance between design decisions and the project's overarching goals. The eight iterations served as important moments, showcasing how both successful and less successful experiences informed and editions my design approach.

The project forced me to formulate a critical design question, serving as a guide throughout the creative process. This question aided in evaluating my development and made the way for further innovation, growth, and specialization within the professional realm.

In response to received feedback, I made significant organizational improvements. I integrated text tools directly within the book, streamlining the user experience. Adopting a systematic workflow and setting clear goals facilitated the implementation of changes and preparations, within the overall organizational structure.

In summary, this project journey highlights the connection between creativity, technical design, and adaptability. The digital platform not only informs but also serves as a powerful tool, empowering individuals to make text a personal and meaningful aspect of their reading experience. This insightful exploration into urgent publishing demonstrates my ability to navigate challenges, adapt methodologies, and contribute meaningfully to an inclusive and innovative design landscape.