WPD Project 2 - Rationale

I used the Tocumwal Archive content in my website broken down into seven pages as follows:

HOME   ABOUT   1940'S-1960'S ORIGINS   1940'S-1960'S GROWTH   1970'S-1990'S   SOCIAL LIFE   TOCUMWAL MEMORIES

The files are grouped into pages as follows:

Home = Heritage listing
About = Introduction
1940's-1960's Origins = Origins
1940's-1960's Growth = From Tocumwal to Canberra
1940's-1960's Growth = Early years
Social Life = Parties and pastimes
1970's-1990's = Changing patterns
Tocumwal Memories = Long term residents
Tocumwal Memories = The past and the present

I chose long-scroll pages over complex navigation menus for simplicity. While researching I found a viable solution to managing large amounts of text on a single page (Vincent, n.d.) and incorporated it into my design. The example uses sidebar menus and "back-to-top" links at each section to reduce scrolling. Long-scroll pages are increasingly popular (Cao, 2017) due to improvements in internet speed, use of smaller screens and use of social media sites.

I have added a footer menu to reduce the need to return to the top to navigate the site.

A large number of images were included. Instead of adding a gallery page, I added them to the sidebar to add visual interest to the experience of scrolling.

My aim was to make the images look like photos laid out on a surface. CSS is used to angle the images clockwise and anti-clockwise (lines 221 and 243), add borders to resemble frames and box-shadows for depth.

```css
.sidebar1 img {
    width: 200px;
    border: 30px solid #f9f9f9;
    margin-top: 50px;
    -moz-transition: transform .2s;
    /*This is enables the animation. Transitions allow smooth property value changes and the duration */
    -webkit-transition: transform .2s;
    /*This is enables the animation. Transitions allow smooth property value changes and the duration */
    transition: transform .2s;
    /*This is enables the animation. Transitions allow smooth property value changes and the duration */
    -moz-box-shadow: -5px -5px 10px rgba(0, 0, 0, .3);
    -webkit-box-shadow: -5px -5px 10px rgba(0, 0, 0, .3);
    box-shadow: -5px -5px 10px rgba(0, 0, 0, .3);
    -moz-transform: rotate(-10deg);
    /*transform: rotate; allows the element to change position. The image is rotated anti-clockwise */
    -webkit-transform: rotate(-10deg);
    /*transform: rotate; allows the element to change position. The image is rotated anti-clockwise */
    transform: rotate(-10deg);
    /*transform: rotate; allows the element to change position. The image is rotated anti-clockwise */
```

This example includes three effects on the sidebar images: box-shadows, transitions and transform properties. The box-shadow values set the effect as follows: horizontal offset, vertical offset, blur and colour. The horizontal and vertical offsets have a negative value to move the shadow effect to the top and left of the element.

The transform property has the value "rotate" to change the angle of the element and includes the degree of rotation. This example uses a negative number to rotate the element anti-clockwise, rather than the default clockwise. The stylesheet includes a positive number (line 243) for every second image for an alternating effect.

The transition property triggers a scale transformation to the image. It includes a 2-second duration. A duration value must be added for the transition to work (w3schools, n.d.(d)), otherwise a default value of zero applies.

The pseudo-class hover triggers the transition (see below). When a mouse is placed over the element, it scales 150%, enlarging the element. It is also straightened because the hover class does not include the rotate value.

```css
.sidebar1 img:hover,
.sidebar2 img:hover {
    -moz-transform: scale(1.5);
    /*transform: scale; allows the element to change size. The image will incease in size by 150% on hover */
    -webkit-transform: scale(1.5);
    /*transform: scale; allows the element to change size. The image will incease in size by 150% on hover */
    transform: scale(1.5);
    /*transform: scale; allows the element to change size. The image will incease in size by 150% on hover */
}
```

Design choices

The example sites – Jaune De Chrome (JDC) (http://www.jaunedechrome.com/) and Paris American Academy (PAA) (https://www.parisamericanacademy.fr/) – outlined in Project 1 provide a starting point for the design and layout.

Hero image, width and alignment

Both examples utilised full-width hero images and headers. Project 1 research identified this as a popular design feature. This could be achieved by placing images and header elements outside the 1200px-wide wrapper and setting them to a width of 100%; however, all elements are kept within the fixed-width, allowing the borders and box-shadows to be applied to the images, maintaining the photograph look. For best results, the headers do not extend beyond the width of the hero images.

The site mostly includes left-aligned content. Page headings and footer content are centred as are some images. The two images on the home page are left- and right-aligned, a design feature of both the example sites.

navigation

A simple, right-aligned menu is used, a feature of the JDC website and the reason submenus are avoided. Like JDC, black uppercase letters were applied against a white background. JDC uses hover animations under the menu items. I added "border: bottom" to the menu items on hover for a similar effect (line 157).

```
/*Sets hover styles of menu items – underline on hover*/

nav ul li a:hover {
    border-bottom: 1px solid #000000;
}
```
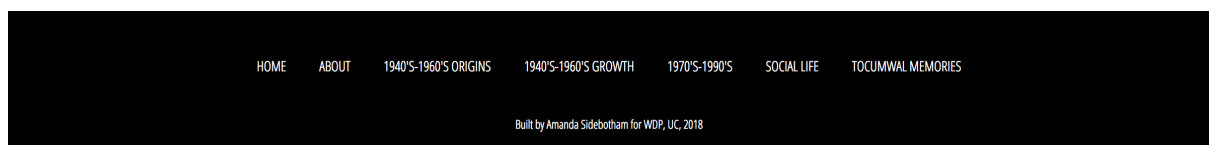
logo

Both examples have left-aligned logos utilising a return-to-home link – features added to my site.

sidebar

Though I identified sidebars as an unpopular design feature in Project 1 and they were rarely used in the example sites, I used sidebars on most pages to manage the long-scroll pages via on-page navigation.

footer

I used the JDC footer style by mimicking the font style of the primary menu; however, my site utilises centre alignment as do the PAA footer credits.

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Built by Amanda Sidebotham for WDP, UC, 2018

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colour

The colours were influenced by both examples using black and white. PAA's use of orange directly influenced the choice of red-orange highlights, added as a hover colour for the sidebar and footer menus and the colour of the back-to-top links.

font

Font choices were influenced by both examples – serif for headings and sans-serif for body content.

Technical

One challenge was the initial html page set-up, particularly applying wrappers and appropriate div tag use. There were many effects and animations in the example sites I would have liked to include on my site but they either went beyond the use of CSS or the CSS was extremely advanced.

References

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(800 words excluding references)