Digital Technology – Website Assignment (Assignment 2) Annie Holliday (s5315888)

Official Report

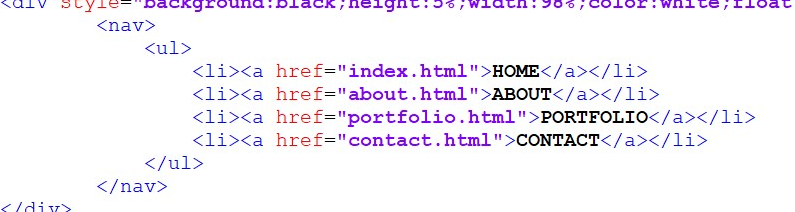
Website link - <https://annieholliday00.github.io/FINALWEB/www/index.html#>

Planned Website Draft


For my website assignment, I decided to develop a portfolio/personal website that would focus on my 3D models and 2D artwork. Taking into consideration the requirements for this assignment, I settled on including four separate pages, which would be the index (or ‘home’), about page, portfolio space and an additional area for contact information. My goal with this was to create an interesting, artistic space, while maintaining an air of professionalism for ease of access.

I separated the code into separate HTML files, and named the files accordingly, using the information already provided to me on the Brightspace website.

My CSS was taken care of early on, to make sure the whole website followed a specific theme. I later added some additional “id” functions when it was required, such as the text in the portfolio area needing italics.

Initially, having no prior experience with CSS or Javascript but basic knowledge of HTML, I was uncertain of how to program a working navigation bar. Alessia Miccoli (2019) suggested in her tutorial that to make the navigation titles actual links, we must “add to our anchor tags an “href” attribute”[[1]](#footnote-1). In addition to this, I looked at public examples of issues with navigation bars, and ended up using Farshad Ajdar’s (2014) example of href links as a rough template for my own[[2]](#footnote-2). Using this information, I linked my titles to the other HTML files (much in the same way that we linked images or css in lab sessions) and adjusted the navigation bar using CSS to make the buttons change colour – this was an exercise in making the user experience more streamlined, so the viewer understands that these titles are clickable, and I repeated this throughout my web building process.

I also discovered how to make comments properly through Miccoli’s tutorial, which was extremely useful for organising my CSS and HTML better.

Developing the rest of the Index was fairly simple, as I already had experience with making HTML layouts for forum websites in the past. I programmed a few boxes, made them scroll, and inserted some artwork by Tim Sale and Micah Lidberg into the backgrounds to give the website a more specific, but eccentric atmosphere. Once I had the index finished, I decided to test it in a different window. It was at this point I realised that the dimensions were not translating well to a smaller space, which was because I was only using percentages for certain parts of my code (such as making the boxes scroll), and pixels for other divs. This was easy to fix, but I left the task up until after I completed the rest of the code.

After the index was finished, I prioritised most of my development time on the portfolio tab, as I knew this would be a detailed and complex part of my website. Using the public model viewer script [[3]](#footnote-3) I coded a section where I would be able to insert, view and move multiple 3D objects, as well as having small caption icons below to give some additional information. I soon discovered that the 3D models would not appear unless the website was opened through a local server, and while this was a good temporary solution, I soon discovered through one of Peter Allen’s labs that I could make the website live through my github repository. I decided to leave this until most of the site was done, as I wanted to avoid risking losing my code or messing it up somehow.

I made a similar preview slide for my digital artwork. My one regret is that I never implemented javascript that would make the art full screen, as I noticed that a lot of portfolio sites utilised this function quite well to insert many image thumbnails on one page without worrying about space. I also wish I could have inserted an automatic slideshow, which I did attempt at one point using the tutorial[[4]](#footnote-4) provided by w3schools, but I struggled to get this work and opted for my original manual slideshow instead.

After adding some text, I utilised some old code from a previous attempt at making my website for the ‘about’ page. This was the easiest part, as I only needed a simple box about me and another focusing on skills. I did also leave some room so I would be able to come back and add more information if I needed to, such as a full CV.

The javascript I needed to develop for the contact page was what inspired me to add a music player. Using the Brightspace tutorial[[5]](#footnote-5) on how to make a button that plays music, I created a button that shows contact information, but I decided I would make a more complex player for the rest of my site that would show a deeper understanding of CSS, HTML and javascript. Browsing a tutorial by Hector Polanco[[6]](#footnote-6), I worked through adding a new javascript function as well as some additional CSS, and the required HTML needed to present a music player. It looks slightly messy, but since I struggled for so long to get it working, I am pleased with the result. I also added an exit button, and a button that would open up the music player using javascript. I wish I had implemented a backwards function into the player because this would have made navigation through the songs smoother, as well as a function that would stop the music when the exit button is clicked, but I ran out of time.

Finally, I adjusted the sizes to percentages, and made the github repository public so the 3d model viewer would work properly.

Ultimately, I think I could have streamlined this site better. While it was a good practice in understanding HTML, CSS and javascript better, I struggled with staying consistent and wasn’t entirely sure what idea I was aiming towards. My code and execution was all quite messy. However, I am proud of what I achieved, and I think the basic skeleton of the website could certainly be extended in the future.

Word Count – 1093 (not including titles/links)

Bibliography:

Alessia Miccoli (09 May 2019) – “How to create a responsive Navigation Bar with HTML, CSS and jQuery— step by step tutorial” – itnext.io – (<https://itnext.io/how-to-create-a-responsive-navigation-bar-with-html-css-and-jquery-step-by-step-tutorial-9c780b58479f> )

Farshad Adjar (22 August 2014) – “How to make navigation bar work made with ul and li tags” – stackoverflow.com – (<https://stackoverflow.com/questions/25444444/how-to-make-navigation-bar-work-made-with-ul-and-li-tags>)

Model viewer (2018-2020) – (<https://modelviewer.dev/> )

W3schools (1999-2020) – “Making an automatic slideshow with javascript” – W3schools – (<https://www.w3schools.com/howto/tryit.asp?filename=tryhow_js_slideshow_auto> )

Brightspace (Lab 7, Week 7) – “Lab 7 – Playing Audio” – Brightspace – (<https://brightspace.bournemouth.ac.uk/d2l/le/content/143123/viewContent/1277726/View> )

Hector Polanco (08 January 2020) – “Creating a Simple Music Player with JavaScript” – gitconnected – (<https://levelup.gitconnected.com/creating-a-simple-music-player-with-javascript-e825d93adff3>)

Additional Credits:

While the artwork and 3D model/s on my site were made by me, some of the assets used were by other creators. Credit is provided below, as well as on the actual website.

Artists - Micah Lidberg (ZABA art featured on the backgrounds of ‘Index’, ‘About’, ‘Portfolio’ and ‘Contact’), Tim Sale (Scarecrow art featured on the first ‘Index’ background)

Musical Artists - Glass Animals, Gorillaz (feat Fatoumata Diawara), Molchat Doma, Lime Cordiale, Everything Everything, Jack Stauber

Quotes - Christina Rossetti (*Goblin Market*), Michael Frayn (*Spies*)

1. Alessia Miccoli (09 May 2019) – “How to create a responsive Navigation Bar with HTML, CSS and jQuery— step by step tutorial” – itnext.io – (https://itnext.io/how-to-create-a-responsive-navigation-bar-with-html-css-and-jquery-step-by-step-tutorial-9c780b58479f) [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. Farshad Adjar (22 August 2014) – “How to make navigation bar work made with ul and li tags” – stackoverflow.com – (https://stackoverflow.com/questions/25444444/how-to-make-navigation-bar-work-made-with-ul-and-li-tags) [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
3. Model viewer (2018-2020) – (https://modelviewer.dev/) [↑](#footnote-ref-3)
4. W3schools (1999-2020) – “Making an automatic slideshow with javascript” – W3schools – (https://www.w3schools.com/howto/tryit.asp?filename=tryhow\_js\_slideshow\_auto) [↑](#footnote-ref-4)
5. Brightspace (Lab 7, Week 7) – “Lab 7 – Playing Audio” – Brightspace – (https://brightspace.bournemouth.ac.uk/d2l/le/content/143123/viewContent/1277726/View) [↑](#footnote-ref-5)
6. Hector Polanco (08 January 2020) – “Creating a Simple Music Player with JavaScript” – gitconnected – (https://levelup.gitconnected.com/creating-a-simple-music-player-with-javascript-e825d93adff3) [↑](#footnote-ref-6)