

HW 5 Research - Concepts and Early Prototype

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ABSTRACT

The RateMyProfessors website is one of the most well known websites to students. Yet over the years, we've encountered many problems regarding the site's usability and how it could be improved. There's extraneous features, clunky navigation, unresponsive web design, and sloppy ad placement. In this abstract, we take the step to improve the website's design and usability. Our target demographic is college students. In particular, we are targeting college students who are interested in sharing their experiences taking classes with particular professors at their college.

KEYWORDS

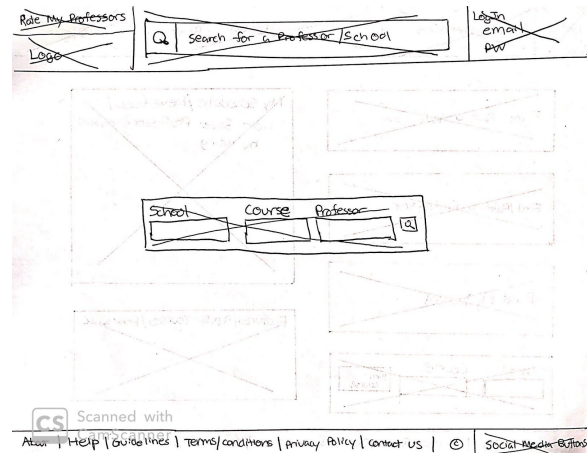
ratemyprofessors; education; students; ux design; usability; prototyping; concept; sketch;

1. INTRODUCTION

The proceedings are the three concepts and storyboard prototype our group has completed in the past week. At the very end, we have included our written justification and analyses for each of the concepts and the storyboard prototype.

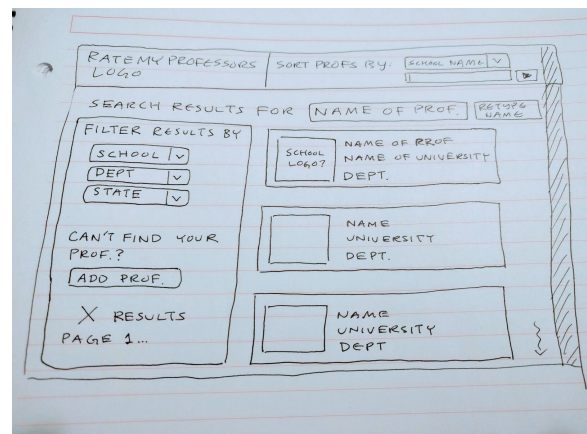
2. CONCEPTS AND STORYBOARD

2.1 HOME PAGE



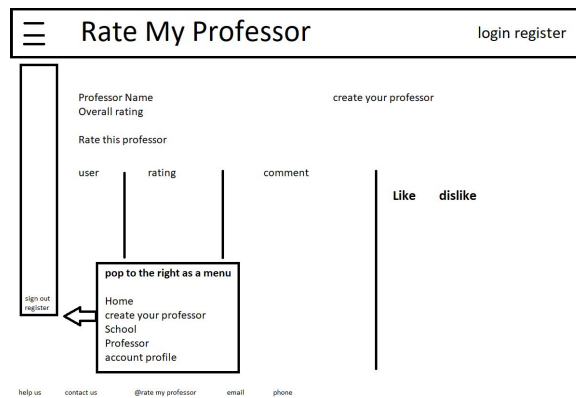
This concept clears out the clutter currently on the homepage and focuses on the single search bar in the middle.

2.2 SEARCH PAGE



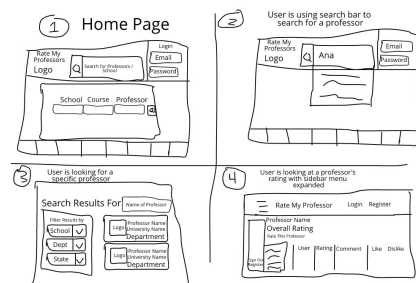
This concept focuses on searching for and filtering professors more easily and removing unnecessary columns.

2.3 PROFESSOR'S RATING



This concept focuses on adding features and reorganizing a professor's profile.

2.4 SKETCHED STORYBOARD



The storyboard streamlines the previous concepts into an organized user story flow.

3. WRITTEN JUSTIFICATION

The revised homepage concept cleans up clutter, randomized white space, and removes unnecessary buttons and links on the home page. During our first design gallery, we had two different concepts, one which was simplified while the other had more items such as new feeds and more links. The feedback we received indicated the former was preferred by a wide margin. It's clear that users prefer cleaner and simpler page. Compared to the original homepage, it is not entirely clear upon one's first visit where the user flow would start focusing on. With the single search bar, users can easily grasp that this is the main

function of the website, and the other links are supplementary.

The search page makes searching for and filtering professors more easily. We got lots of comments about how to make it easier to go through many potential listings. One thought was to display the logo of the school to one side, as most students would easily recognize their school's logo (and getting photos of thousands of professors would be much more difficult and may not spark recognition in students). The search page prototype cuts down on unnecessary data, e.g. a Category column that says Professor for every listing. Add Professor now gets its own button and is easier to find on the page (it's currently in a tiny font). Using classmates' feedback, a Sorting feature was added, as well as an option to retype the professor's name.

The professor's rating page has a cleaner look compared with the current website. It also has a obvious button for creating a new professor's profile which allows users to post their ratings and comments if they couldn't find the professor's name in the database. Now there's a feature where users can like or dislike (helpful or unhelpful) about the rating or comment about the professor from that specific user.

The storyboard shows an example of a user searching for one of their professors. This example was used for the storyboard because the overwhelming majority of people that were previously interviewed stated that they used the website to view the professors of the classes that they are taking, or are planning to take.

Participation Report

Group Member name	Role	Responsibilities and Assigned tasks	Tasks Completeness Grade*0-5
Arthur Liou	Leader	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Summary• Homepage concept• Design Justification• ACM Formatting	5
Becky Chao	Writing	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Search page concept• Design Justification	5
Peter Nguyen	User Communication	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Storyboard Prototype• Design Justification	5
Zijing Huang	Visual Design	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Professor Rating Page concept• Design Justification	5