

SI539 Final Project

Mu He

Website: <http://alumnus.alumni.umich.edu/notable-alumni/>

Role: Designer

Accessibility Evaluation

1. Make sure there is enough contrast between text and its background color

Answer: Yes

Recommendations: There is a clear contrast between text color (mainly dark blue) and its background color (white) on the website, and it would be better if the font style can demonstrate a hierarchical relation between each category, instead of simply add bold or capitalize text.

2. Don't indicate important information using color alone

Answer: Yes

Recommendations: The website did a good job on indicating important information by using icons along with color variation, however, the website is lack of using different colors on text, which can hardly distinguish important information since most of the font styles are the same.

3. Pair values of colors together (not only hues) to increase contrast

Answer: No

Recommendations: The website failed to create contrast apart from using simple hues, since the text are mostly in dark blue with a white background. It would be better if the website can add a hover effect, so that both color of text and background of block changes when user puts the mouse over it, which will create contrast more clearly.

4. Don't rely on sensory characteristics as the sole indicator for understanding and operating content

Answer: No

Recommendations: Since the major content on this website are collapsable blocks that shows notable alumni in different occupations, there is a relatively lack usage of combination of position, color, and labeling to identify content. I would suggest the website to change the collapsable blocks into thumbnails with images of each occupation, so that the content will be more accessible and understandable apart from text description.

5. Design focus states to help users navigate and understand where they are

Answer: Yes

Recommendations: The website did a good job on creating tabs for keyboard user on navigation. However, these are only limited to the navigation bar and the footer, while no tab links in body section, It would be better to link the blocks in main content to tab keys, so that users will navigate through the main content easily.

6. Help users understand inputs, and help them avoid and correct mistakes

Answer: Yes

Recommendations: The only input area in this website is when user clicks on the search bar icon at the top-right corner, when user inputs information that has no matching results, the system will output a line “sorry, no posts found”.

7. Write good alt text for your images

Answer: Yes

Recommendations: There are two images on the website, one is at the top-left corner, the other is a logo at the footer area, it is obvious from the inspect mode of browser that both of the image have alt text included in the anchor tag.

8. If an experience cannot be made accessible, create another route for users to get that information

Answer: No

Recommendations: The experience on this website is relatively simple, most of the information are direct and clear, which doesn't need to create another route for users to acquire other information. However, the designer could consider redesigning the website by introducing other type of experiences like multimedia, with descriptive text to guide users through.

9. Be as consistent and clear as possible in layout and copy

Answer: Yes

Recommendations: The design of labels and blocks follows an overall consistency in format and clear in content, the descriptive text are clear as well without any jargon. It would be better if the blocks can turn into thumbnails with identical images that represents each occupation of notable alumni.