Site Deconstruction

Washtenaw Technical Middle College
themiddlecollege.org

Christopher Collins
Information Architect
INP Associates

Contents

Executive Summary

To assist in the redesign of Washtenaw Technical Middle College's website, themiddlecollege.org, INP Associates has performed a site deconstruction and analysis. This will determine the current situational and functional elements of the website and identify any structural issues that need to be addressed in the redesign process. A site outline and structural/functional diagram have been included in this report and illustrate the relationships between pages on the website.

The site performs an adequate job of presenting content in a logical hierarchy with its use of global and local navigation. Breadcrumbs and most navigation labels remain consistent throughout the site and allow for easy navigation. The site also includes several areas of cross-linked content, allowing users to quickly access related information. However, during the deconstruction, key issues regarding the implementation of these practices were discovered and possible improvements to these areas were identified.

- **Eliminate Redundant Pages**
  The deconstruction identified pages that could be considered redundant. Two pages contained similar content existing elsewhere on the website. Faculty and staff contact information can be found within the local navigation for both the *About* and *Contact* areas. While the page within *About* offers additional biographical information, some users may become confused over the use of the same page label, *Faculty and Staff*. Solutions to this issue could be to re-label the page within *About* to *Faculty and Staff Bios* or to provide one location under *Contacts* for this content.

  Other pages seem to serve only as an extra step the user must follow to arrive at the desired content. Within the *News and Events* page the *Spring Schedule Online* link redirects the user to a new page containing another link to the *Spring Courses* section of the WCC website. This link and content has already been provided on the *News and Events* page. This pattern is repeated again on the *News and Events* page with the *Application Materials* link as well as on the home page with the *WTMC Featured on Michigan Radio* and *Spring Schedule Courses* links*.

- **Correct Issues in Local Navigation Menus**
  The local navigation should perform consistently when browsing content found on the same level. For example, when browsing the level 4 pages under *WTMC Resources & Forms*, local navigation becomes unavailable for three of the pages.

  Within the *News & Events* local navigation, the *News* page is essentially the same as its parent page. The *News* page could be removed from the local navigation and deleted from the website.

- **Improvement to the breadcrumbs**
  While the overall structure of the breadcrumbs remains constant throughout the site, it may be beneficial to include the page the user is currently viewing. This could lead to fewer instances of the user becoming lost within the site.

Site Outline

1.0 Home (cross-links to 1.1.3, 1.1.6.1, 1.2.1, 1.2.2, 1.2.6, 1.3.4, 1.3.5, 1.3.6, 1.4.2)

1.1 Academics
  1.1.1 Admission Requirements
  1.1.2 Tuition Fees/Expenses
  1.1.3 Approved Programs
  1.1.4 Class and Room Schedule
  1.1.5 Graduation Requirements
  1.1.6 WTMC Resources and Forms (cross-links to 1.1.6.1, 1.1.6.2, 1.1.6.3,
              1.1.6.4, 1.1.6.5, 1.1.6.6, 1.1.6.7)
    1.1.6.1 Application Documents
    1.1.6.2 Career Guidance
    1.1.6.3 Learning Disability Support
    1.1.6.4 Policies & Procedures
    1.1.6.5 Soft Skills
    1.1.6.6 Student Forms
    1.1.6.7 Testing and College Exams
  1.1.7 WCC Resources
  1.1.8 Financial Aid
    1.1.8.1 Link to FAFSA

1.2 About
  1.2.1 Our Story
  1.2.2 Recognition
    1.2.2.1 Student Recognition (cross-links to 1.2.2.1)
  1.2.3 Dean's Message
  1.2.4 Faculty and Staff
  1.2.5 Board of Directors
    1.2.5.1 Board Meetings
    1.2.5.2 Meeting Minutes
  1.2.6 Transparency Reporting
  1.2.7 Publications
    1.2.7.1 Current Newsletter
    1.2.7.2 Brochure / Testimonials
    1.2.7.3 Student Profile Sheet
  1.2.8 WTMC Graduates
  1.2.9 Student Council

1.3 News & Events (cross-links to 1.1.6.1, 1.3.2.1, 1.3.2.2, 1.3.2.3)
  1.3.1 Special Announcements
  1.3.2 News (cross-links to 1.1.6.1, 1.3.4, 1.3.5, 1.3.6)
  1.3.3 Events Lists / Calendar
  1.3.4 Spring Schedule Online
  1.3.5 WTCM featured on Michigan radio
  1.3.6 Application materials (cross-links to 1.1.6.1)

1.4 Contact
      1.4.1 Directions
      1.4.2 Facility & Staff
      1.4.3 Employment
            1.4.3.1 Employment Opportunities
            1.4.3.2 Applications (cross-links to 1.4.3.1)

1.5 Admissions (cross-links to 1.1.6.1)

NOTE: Boldface items are global navigation