Past Grants UX – Designs

Rationale

Everything is connected. Obviously, the Past grants search tool and support pages do not live in isolation, but the touch points with visitor’s journeys can be obscured and confused by how we do funding in general. Reviewing from the perspective of someone looking for funding, I have taken the daring approach to strip away everything which is not immediately and clearly helpful.

**Name/Title**

In streamlining terms used around funding projects, I recommend excluding the words; grants, awards and their conjugations. A such even the name of the tool would need to change. **Funded projects** is my suggestion.

**Introductory text**

* Speaks more to the purpose of the page/tool
* Removed diverting link-away to an alternate and external tool (reintroduced on zero results)
* Removed feedback request, which appears to early in the user flow
* Removed copy that suggests the tool is a WIP (modified and reintroduced on zero results)

**Search filters**

There are two parts to the search filters story

* The filtering dimensions were presenting a large amount of options to choose from, which can be paralysing and difficult to make sense of.
  + Funding amount and timeline: converted lists into sliding scales for more accuracy and a smaller footprint (kept 3 and 6-month shortcuts). Scales also efficiently provide information about the ranges available.
  + There are so many Programmes and Organisation types listed. Thinking about how users might be approaching these filters, I hypothesise that they might have an org-type, programme or key descriptor word in mine. A shorter list of auto-complete suggestions will then be easier to review.
  + Similarly, the location group includes lengthy Authority and Constituency lists. In this case I propose starting by only offering a choice of countries, and then conditionally presenting much shorter lists of Authorities and Constituencies for that country. This could also be handled with auto-suggestions instead.
  + The Active project dimension has been added since it was highlighted as a point of interest in the original layout. This has been done with a simple but clear toggle switch.
* The filter module was presented after the results. Although laid out in a left-hand column on desktop, the mobile layout placed the filter module at the bottom of the results where it is less likely to be discovered.
  + Deciding to place the filter module at the top before the results presented a consequential problem which, even with more efficient use of space, requires an inconvenient amount of scrolling to reach the first result. For this reason, it is recommended that the filter module collapses.
  + Having the filter module collapse also helps achieve consistency across desktop and mobile, with filters and Order by sitting together at the top of the results in both cases.

**Results: Project summary**

* This area provided a variety of types of information together, and there was an opportunity to provide helpful groupings.
  + Hierarchy and sequence reorganised to be consistent with Filter module
  + Information organised into two groups around the project to the left and the organisation to the right. This also made use of the extra width available due to relocating the Filter module
* Link throughs; real, faux and missing
  + Kept organisation link, as provides more information even if limited
  + Project details (originally Grant details) included only if details are available. This link often presented only the same information.
  + Active project faux-button was replaced with a less link-like text with icon.
  + Although the Funding programme was mentioned, it did not link through on the results page summary. This had been made a link in order to better support the high percentage of users likely looking for funding.

**Project page**

* This detail page just needed a bit of tidying up.
  + Information has been reorganised be consistent across pages and hierarchy of the filter module
  + Streamlined some information like dates and project name that were being repeated
  + Recipient details and promotion of A4A have been side-barred and streamlined as they were being provided at a prominence almost equal to Project details, which can be disorienting.
  + The side bar would leave a large empty space when a Project story is not available, but in that case a Project page link would not be included in the summary.

**Recipient page**

* This detail page just needed a bit of tidying up.
  + Information has been reorganised be consistent across pages and hierarchy of the filter module.
  + Links have been added and removed to text as suggested by assumed narrowing funding research criteria.
  + Google link was removed to avoid leading visitors away from the site. It would be better to include the Recipient website where possible.
  + Again, the other Funded projects has been organised with consistency in mind

**No results page**

* Helpful advice and links removed from the top intro text has been reintroduced here. The idea being that the search tool works well and only if visitors are not being successful should they be directed elsewhere.
* This kind of extra advice and request for feedback could also be introduce conditionally on less than (5) results or after (5) searches, on evidence that the user maybe struggling