

Technical Report

Semester Project

Håvard Sollie

Word count

Summary: 0 | Main text: 885

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2. Body

Introduction

The semester project in my first quarter of the Front-End development education. The focus is on HTML and CSS. This is what I have managed to learn and create in approximately five months.

Main section of report

The Community Science Museum project provided a lot of challenges, ever since the start with sketching out an appropriate design. The target audience was young children and their parents. I am neither, but closer to the latter part... What kind of design appeals to a young child? As a kid myself, I was more interested in the pictures and colors than the text, so I thought that was a good idea for the design. However, I was provided a lot of text in the zip file of the project, and remembering parents as a target audience, I had to come up with something that works for both kind of audiences. The parents is interested in information, so I used every word of text provided.

Using the schedule created before the start of the project, I went on to create the draft of the design, and later a prototype, in Adobe XD. The colors and layout was in focus. I knew when I started coding, it would be a bit different, especially since the pages would be vertically longer than in the prototype. I spent a week developing the color palette and hierarchy of header, navigation, text and pictures. I wanted a simple design, where colors provide the «life» of the website. Blue, green, yellow and some purple is the main colors. There are engaging pictures too, but they don't make up too much of the pages.

I spent a few days the next week doing research on how to implement the design in an appropriate grid. I went for a 12-column solution to have enough room to play around with the elements. Doing mobile first, the home page quickly came to life. At first I had a huge background image spanning all over the page, but in the end I went for a plain white background, having WCAG in mind. This is something I did not think enough about in the



SqaureEyes project. On a white background, the green and blue logo and the robot greeting the visitors is nice and visible for everyone. This robot picture is not a part of the prototype, I came up with it at a much later stage in the project. I thought it was a fun and engaging touch to have a robot greet the visitors.

The hierarchy of the pages is simple and consistent. H1, h2 and h3 are all the same in the different pages. However, having the text all plain I think would be dull for a lot of children. Therefore I highlighted key words in some of the text that is targeted directly to children, as I think many children would not be interested in reading all the text anyway. This yellow highlighted text might be disturbing to the hierarchy of the page, but this is strategic to lead the eyes of the children directly to the most fun and interesting words. At the same time, the design is easy for an adult to understand.

I think the responsiveness of the pages is a lot better than in the SquareEyes project. A key to this success was to start designing mobile first, then expand for bigger screens. I use media queries a lot more and strategic this time, for example shuffling the pictures and increasing font sizes.

WCAG and especially SEO is something a have better understanding of now. The pages all have titles, descriptions and meta tags. The pictures all have short, but effective alt text and the colors are complementary, making the text readable.

One thing that might be a bit "unfriendly" is that I do not have an active Ii. This is however provided as a page title, which is the same as in the navigation bar. At the home page, the navigation bar is omitted, and the user have to scroll down to find the links to the different pages, there might be a disadvantage to this, but I trust the user to be smart enough to navigate from the home page.

When it comes to the coding, I tried to write the HTML without unnecessary air in between. The sections and divs should all be on the same vertical lines, and the order of h2, p, hr and img links is consistent.

I tried to order the CSS in an easier way to understand. The basic rules of layout, fonts and button styling all at the top, then in order of screen sizes further down. I am really not sure

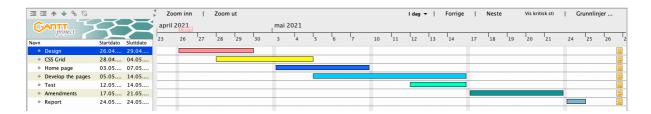


in what degree I follow the DRY principle, but I tried to not repeat myself as much as in the previous project. I must admit this is something I need more experience to master.

Conclusion

I am satisfied with much of the final product. Especially the responsiveness, WCAG and SEO consideration. The design could be more appealing to children, I think a few of the pages is a bit dull, but would a child be interested in reading about research opportunities and support information anyway?

Compared to the SquareEyes project I think and hope this is a great improvement.



This is the schedule I created before the start of the project.

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4. Acknowledgements

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5. Appendices

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