



# The News v2.0

INFO 360 A  
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# The Problem

Today's news reports and headlines are deliberately geared towards maximizing profits and clicks with sensationalist headlines meant to strike visceral reactions in audiences and promote outrage and amusement rather than the seamless flow of truthful information. Yellow journalism and clickbait are well-documented and verifiable phenomenon established in the common vernacular of the American citizen, but the negative effects of such content extend beyond absurdity and annoyance. In fact, inflammatory mass media is a public health issue.

According to a study published in *PLOS One* conducted by the Centre for Studies on Human Stress in Montreal, saliva samples taken from female subjects subjected to reading negative news articles about murder and accidents contained greater amounts of cortisol than subjects instructed to review "neutral" stories, remembered the negative details of an article vividly after the fact, and displayed "reactive" physiological responses to stressful stimuli.<sup>1 2</sup> Cortisol, a steroid hormone released in response to stress, enhances memory, reduces sensitivity to pain, and provides temporary bursts of increased energy. However, prolonged secretion of cortisol is associated with reduced muscle mass, impaired cognition, decreased bone density, heightened hypertension, reduced speed of wound healing, impaired disease immunity, increased risk of depression and mental illness, lower life expectancy, and increased abdominal fat.<sup>3</sup> While cortisol levels and physiological reactivity are sufficient measures of stress, other studies have investigated the emotional

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<sup>1</sup> Lupien, Sonia J. (2012, October 10). "There Is No News Like Bad News: Women Are More Remembering and Stress Reactive after Reading Real Negative News than Men." *PLOS One*. Retrieved from <http://journals.plos.org/plosone/article?id=10.1371/journal.pone.0047189>

<sup>2</sup> Castillo, Stephanie. (2014, August 14). "The Psychological Effect Of Bad News, And What You Can Do To Stay Positive." *Medical Daily*. Retrieved from <http://www.medicaldaily.com/psychological-effect-bad-news-and-what-you-can-do-stay-positive-298084>

<sup>3</sup> Scott, Elizabeth. (2016, February 9). "Cortisol and Stress: How to Stay Healthy - Cortisol and Your Body." *About Health*. Retrieved from <http://stress.about.com/od/stresshealth/a/cortisol.htm>

effect induced by the consumption of news: in 2011, a study published in the *British Journal of Psychology* found that the mere exposure of 14 minutes worth of negative television bulletins induced sadness, anxiety, and a tendency to catastrophize personal worries.<sup>4</sup>

Besides the negative impact of stress-inducing news on one's health, news stories are so ubiquitous in the age of high-speed internet and article-sharing social networking that the glut of varied narratives and interpretations of events may be rife with contradictory propaganda, exaggeration, misinformation, conflicts of interest or outright falsehoods that the everyday reader must consciously sift through, cross-reference and analyzing in order to find some kernels of unvarnished truth.

Furthermore, consumption of *digital* news may have especially insidious effects. A 2004 study in *Computers in Human Behavior* found that subjects consuming news articles on a VDT (video display terminal) report higher levels of stress and tiredness due to the "higher cognitive workload" of operating a computer as opposed to paper (what the other subjects used).<sup>5</sup> In addition, VDT-users had lower scores on READ measures (a test of reading comprehension commonly used in Sweden) when quizzed about the articles they had read. A subsequent study conducted at Göteborg University yielded the same conclusions with READ tests.<sup>6 7</sup>

While our team of designers cannot change what grisly events make headlines and what captures the attention of news readers, or their chosen

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<sup>4</sup> Johnston, Wendy M., & Davey, Graham C.L. (2011, April 11). "The psychological impact of negative TV news bulletins: The catastrophizing of personal worries." *British Journal of Psychology*, Volume 88, Issue 1. Retrieved from <http://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1111/j.2044-8295.1997.tb02622.x/abstract>

<sup>5</sup> Wastlund, Erik. (2005 March). "Effects of VDT and paper presentation on consumption and production of information: Psychological and physiological factors." *Computers in Human Behavior*, Volume 1, Issue 21. Retrieved from <http://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S0747563204000202>

<sup>6</sup> Wastlund, Erik. (2007 February 23). "Experimental studies of human-computer interaction : working memory and mental workload in complex cognition." *Goteborgs Universitet*. Retrieved from <https://gupea.ub.gu.se/handle/2077/4693>

<sup>7</sup> Jabr, Ferris. (2013, April 11). "The Reading Brain in the Digital Age: The Science of Paper versus Screens." *Scientific American*. Retrieved from <http://www.scientificamerican.com/article/reading-paper-screens/>

method for news absorption, we can reduce the cognitive load and stress of staying informed via web-based news by making local, national and international news as mentally digestible as possible by providing aggregated raw news-information in a minimalist, distraction and stress-free format.

## The Solution

Our solution is simple. We aim to create a website interface that presents the user with the raw facts of the news topic. This is unlike anything on the market today. This way we can get rid of any bias or speculation that the mainstream media might provide. We hope to inform the user of the problem at hand and the various points of view concerning the topic. To do this we give the user bulleted facts about the case and other relevant information. These bulleted facts allow the reader to process the content of various articles in a quick and efficient manner, rather than sift through all of the fluff and opinion of traditional articles. The bullets are sourced from a multitude of articles and then cross referenced against each other to ensure accuracy. A network of news sourcing bots, similar to the method that Google uses for their search engine, will crawl the internet news sites and gather information relevant to a particular topic. The resulting bulleted list is what you will see on the page. We also compile information about the viewpoints surrounding the news topics the user is researching. For example, if the user were to be researching Seattle's proposed minimum wage increase. They would be presented with the liberal view on the situation, stating that they want to make the wage substantial enough to live off of for families, and the conservative argument that minimum wage increases will raise business costs and cause inflation. All of our information would be sourced from accredited article and academic journals and would provide the web address and citation to allow the user to check our research. Our website stands alone from other news

sources because it provides the user with the raw facts that they themselves can make judgements on and research further. Because of this, the user is not bombarded with bias and opinion that distorts the truth and creates misrepresentations.

## **The Scope**

Our project's target user base is university students on the one end, and extends well into adulthood at the other. We are catering our site and service to those that do not want to waste time searching for facts in a sea of opinions. Due to this group of target users and the feedback we received from our tests, the following is in our project scope:

We will be including a mobile website to accommodate students who rely on their smartphones in their ever busy and fast paced lives so that they can look on the fly during the day. We will also include a full website to accommodate the older users as they enjoy larger screens and more intuitive controls. Accompanying the physical design of the site, a "what's trending" section will be added to accommodate the users who want current event updates to be foregrounded. We will also include general topic selections to accommodate the users who have an idea of what they want, but not a concrete article. This way the users can filter the content according to popular topics. An important feature to include as well will be a search bar for those that want to research a particular event. Knowing what you want and the journey to get there can be very disconnected and a search bar is the easiest way to connect the two ideas. Some users would find the ability for a "sources" link appealing to support those that either want to form their own opinions, verify that ours is opinion-less or read the backstory on the event being reported on.

## SkyBender: Google Prototypes 5G-Providing Drones

posted January 31, 2016



- Google is testing providing 5G service via flying drone at Spaceport America in New Mexico.
- Google has named this project *SkyBender*.
- SkyBender utilizes solar-powered Solara 50 created by Google division, Google Titan.  
Prior to being purchased by Google in 2014, Google Titan was a drone technology start-up called "Titan Aerospace."

Image of the large picture for visibility as well as the bullet points for readability

Another feature is large images to both catch the eye and tie the summary to the original article, as well as aid those with poorer eyesight in seeing what the article is about. Accessibility and consistency are two key points that are necessary. Likewise, a quick bullet list of facts and events to make readers comfortable (as opposed to a wall of text) as well as make the readers feel more efficient as the extra content is cut out. Making sure the site is visually appealing with minimal buttons to make navigation more intuitive is also important, as usability increases and users are less frustrated with the navigation. Limiting options in order to make the site more focused on each article is another feature that is necessary in order to keep the site minimalist. People tend to look for links and clickable things rather than read, and we would like to avoid that.

Some assumptions that we are making about our user base are that the users are motivated to read the news for pleasure, as well as the fact that the internet is accessible. We are also assuming that the users would prefer an unbiased site over the normal sites.

While designing for all is always desired, or design does not cover every single use case. Below are the users we will not be explicitly designing for:

The site is intended for older more mature personal. This gives us more freedom on the type of content that can be displayed. The site is also not intended to be cited as an academically sound article (should not be referenced in papers, for example), as it is a secondary source and the primary sources are listed in the article descriptions. The site is merely a compilation of the non-biased and undisputable facts from the articles listed in the source. The site is also not intended for social media, as the articles are designed to be laid out in an anti-clickbait format that promotes self-reflection that would be skewed by comments or other interactions from others.

# The Users

We are looking to target users who recognize that the amount of discrepancy between various news stations is absurd, and thus causes the American public varying amounts of stress<sup>8</sup>.

## Persona 1:



Bill Beck is a 20 year old undergraduate student from Austin, Texas. His father always watched Fox News and growing up Bill constantly saw the ramblings of Bill O'reilly and Glenn Beck, hence the name. His father consequently raised Bill to believe whatever he learned from watching Fox News. As a result, Bill grew up sheltered believing only what his father told him and never was exposed to

other views on issues, or even occasionally a valid view. Bill is now in college and is learning about the plethora of viewpoints on all these topics he previously thought were closed cases. Because of this information coming to light, he now has a specific goal to fact check all of his previously held viewpoints in order to make new decisions and establish new views based off the raw facts and not heresy, or bias news reporters. This way he will no longer be overly stressed about inconsistent information from different news sites.

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<sup>8</sup> Johnston, Wendy M., & Davey, Graham C.L. (2011, April 11). "The psychological impact of negative TV news bulletins: The catastrophizing of personal worries." *British Journal of Psychology*, Volume 88, Issue 1. Retrieved from <http://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1111/j.2044-8295.1997.tb02622.x/abstract>



**Scenario:**

Bill recently went home for winter break. During the holidays, Bill had much family come in from out of town for the holidays. His dad's sister, aunt Hillary, came to visit from California. Over dinner the issue of immigration came up. Hillary was saying that illegal immigrants are the greatest thing that have ever happened to the country. She says that she heard from CNN that these immigrants shop at small businesses and promote economic growth. Bill's dad, Rush, argued that illegal immigrants steal jobs from Americans and consequently put more people out of work and put a heavier load on welfare and unemployment citing information he heard and saw on fox news. Bill could tell that this discrepancy in information is causing his family members to feel stressed and frustrated, which is not beneficial for their wellbeing. He wanted to get the true, unbiased facts about this topic so that he could form his own opinion about the situation and resolve his family member's stress and frustration. He pulled out his phone at the dinner table despite his mother telling him it was bad manners, and opened the, *News 2.0* app. Here he used the search bar to look up both immigration and unemployment. His app then cross referenced news articles from various sites, including CNN and Fox, and citing these sources, and produced unemployment statistics in correlation to immigration statistics and population without any reporter or author presenting them in some sort of jaded light. Evaluating these statistics, and showing them to the members at the table, Bill defused the feud and educated both family members that they were both right and wrong in some aspect but their radical views on this one subject were not 100% correct. He thus educated everyone to do their own research, easily through this application to make their own decisions.

## Persona 2:



Cave Johnson is a 25 year old adult male that attends the University of Maryland and is studying to be a business major. He loves to stay on top of the current events in the news and even have discussions with other students about the current and most relevant topics. However, often times he finds that deciding who is correct in the discussion is rather difficult due to the massive amount of media

portraying different sides of a story along with varying perspectives of the story. Cave uses the tools he has available to do his research, including his android smartphone and a windows laptop that he uses for school.

## Scenario:

Cave finds himself in yet another discussion with a colleague where they are debating whether or not Donald Trump actually managed to punch Bernie Sanders hard enough to turn him into dust. The issue arises due to the fact that Cave found his facts from Fox News, who described the incident in great detail, while his colleague found his information from MSNBC that claimed the incident to be false. Now, the debate not only involves who is correct about Trump and Bernie, but who has a more credible source. Since neither party is willing to submit to the other, the amount of stress that Cave is dealing with is increasing. How is someone supposed to know what is right and wrong in this world?

Later that night, Cave attempts to cross reference several articles in order to find the truth behind his debate and begins to realize that every article has a different story about the same topic. It is almost like a problem that is unsolvable. Cave, just trying to find the facts is beginning to feel his blood pressure rise and his frustration increase.

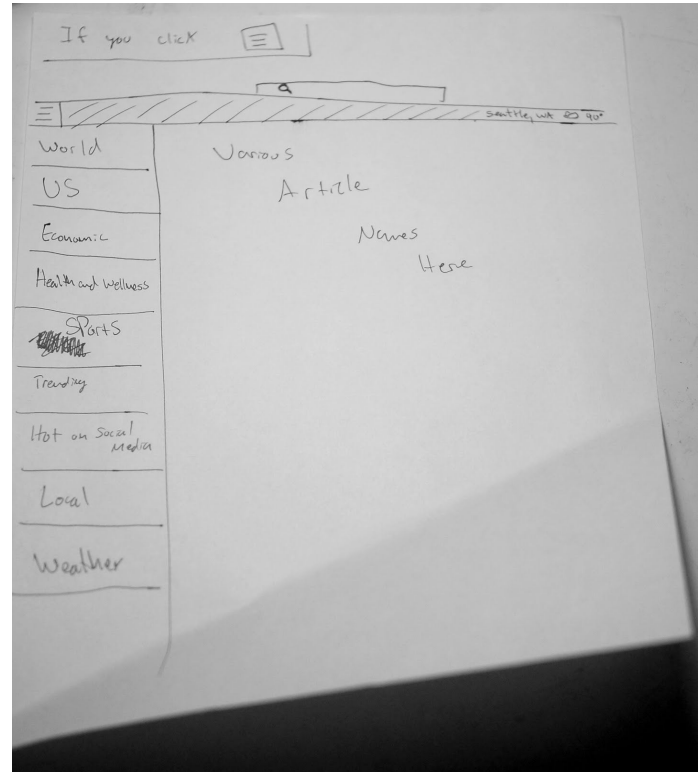
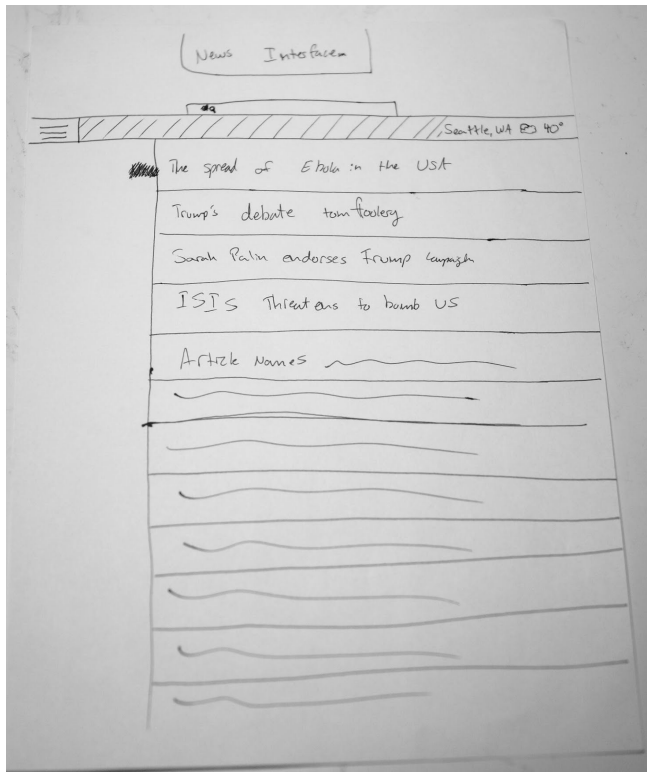
The next day a professor at the university mentions to Cave that since he strives to stay up to date on his current events, that he should use *News 2.0* as a resource for gathering facts. And shortly after this advice is given to Cave, he visits the site on his phone and is astonished at the level of ease that he is able to find the truth. Based on the facts that Cave finds on *News 2.0*, Cave then formulates the actual events corresponding to Donald Trump and his fists of fury and his mood has improved significantly due to the lack of effort it takes.

## **User Tests and Heuristic Evaluation:**

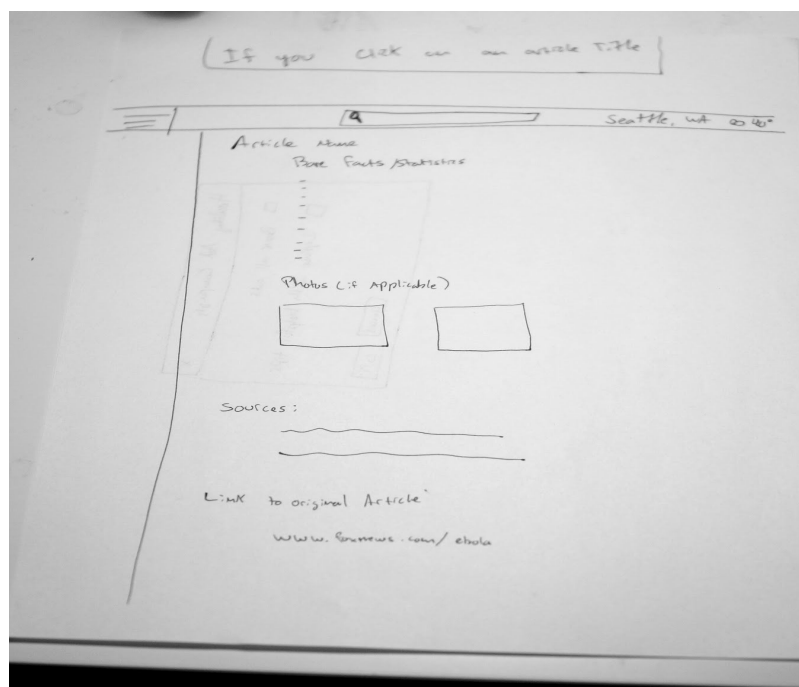
### **User Tests:**

Continuing with the theme of user based design, we conducted user tests in order to get feedback from potential users of our product. With each iteration of our design we brought the respective prototypes to unbiased users for them to give us feedback on our design and let us know in what ways we can make improvements and what we have already done well with. This is the feedback we received from our user tests.

Here are images of the first paper prototype. The image on the left represents the first page the user encounters when using our interface. It provides the user with a list of trending articles they can view. The image on the right highlights our pull out menu the user can navigate to by clicking on the small box in the upper left hand corner of the interface. This pull out menu gives the user a list of topics they can click on to see articles related to said topic. Both images show a search bar the user can use if searching for a specific article.



This third image is a representation of what the user would encounter after clicking on an article. It displays a bulleted list of facts surrounding the topic, photos, and links of the articles our website sourced its information from.



The first prototype test went over well and we received some great insight to help shape our website<sup>9</sup>. Below is the summary of the first prototype test with regards to the two testers Julian and Heng.

Julian Boss was our first critique. What he mentioned to us that stuck out was that our idea might have multiple uses different to our intention. Julian mentioned he liked the idea of keeping the format quick and condensed in order to make the articles easier and faster to read. He also mentioned that he would be less inclined to use the news website on desktop, but definitely on mobile which is not something our group really thought about. Quick, easy, factual, condensed news articles kind of screams mobile users, does it not?

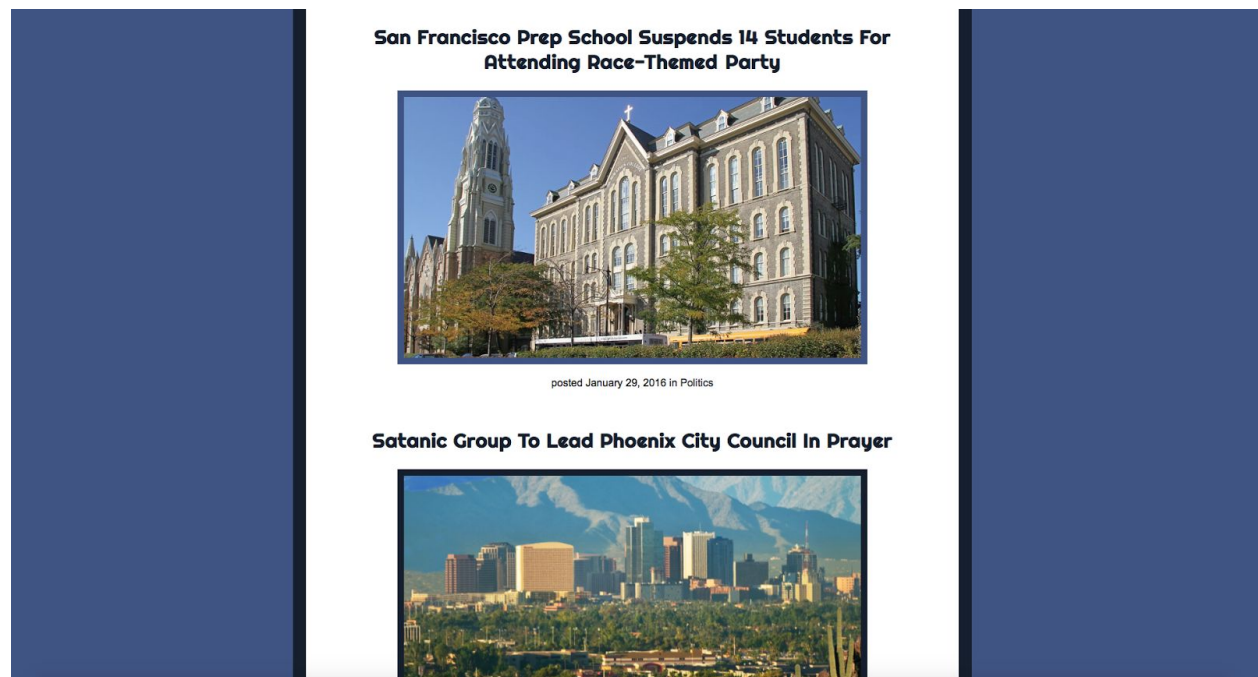
Heng was our second critique, and he came up with something similar. His spin on the idea was to once again make it mobile friendly and that if the articles are easier and quicker to read that he would start actually reading the news. He also mentioned making custom topics in order to acquire information as well as his revolutionary idea of making the site more social media like. Add likes and account creation to see what other people, especially friends, are reading. We can safely say that we did not intend our site to have that kind of use, but it is definitely something to consider. Interactivity.

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<sup>9</sup> See Appendix A

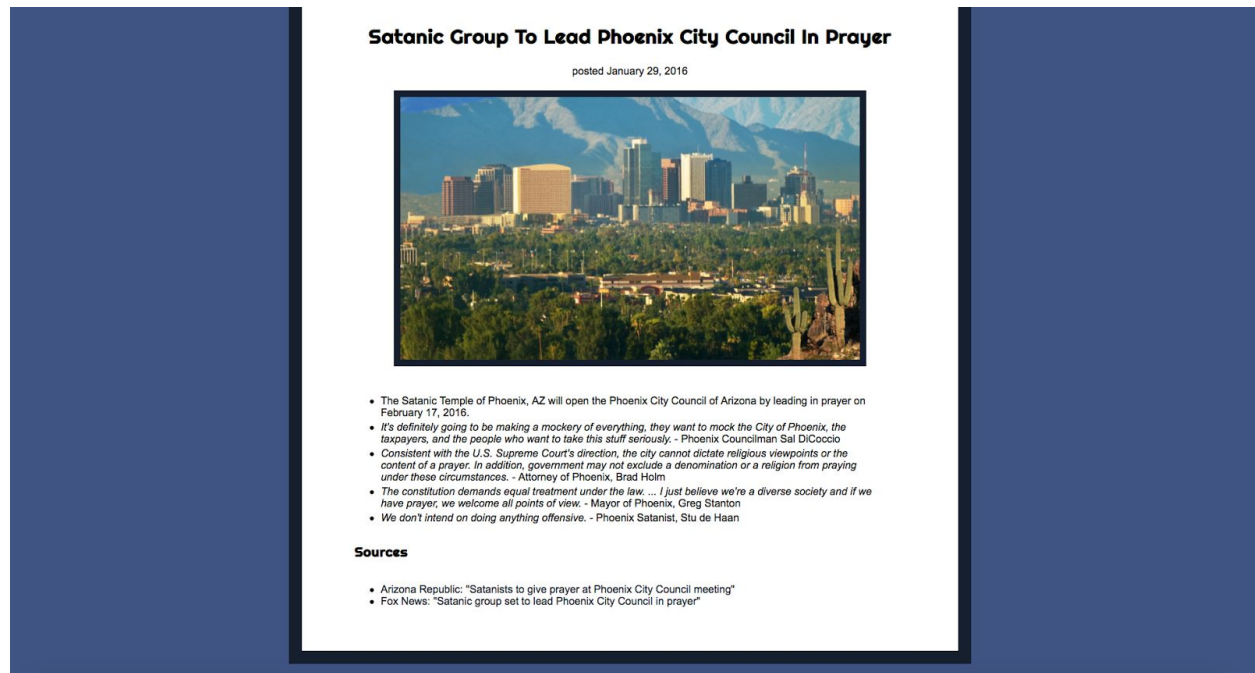


For our second prototype we decided to make a web interface. This is an image of the home screen. Here the user is presented with the option to narrow their article search by various topics or geographical region. If they are looking for a specific article they can use the search bar to type in the article's name.



Also on the home page the user is presented with a list of articles that are trending and new. The user has the option to scroll through and browse the article by looking at their headlines

and images.



Here is an example of the information presented to the user after clicking on an article. There is an image of the setting of the article along with a bulleted list of information concerning the facts of the article. The sources for these facts are listed at the bottom of the page.

The second prototype went over very well with the users of it. They really liked the way it was all laid out and the overall color scheme of the website.<sup>10</sup> One major thing that was pointed out was the clipart used to represent the various sub topics in the site. Gianni believed it made him feel more like a kid which was a good thing. He liked that by using these forms of art and design that it sort of personalizes the delivery of news. When people normally think of the news they think of this old white guy talking into a screen with papers on his desk and coffee in his cup. With this new layout Gianni felt that it "youthened" the news. He was still getting all the information he needed just in a nicer setting. Julian liked that we had the citations at the bottom of the screen, but felt they needed to be presented more and more noticeable in order to better establish that validity to our site. Julian also said that he would like to see the sides to the article in question before the bullet pointed facts. With this sort of an

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<sup>10</sup> See Appendix A

overviews of the different perspectives he believes he can be more educated about the article, put the information in context, and consequently better his formation of his argument. They both also wanted more articles and for the tabs that did not work correctly or lead to anything, to do so.

### **Heuristic Evaluation:**

Through the review of our prototype two, we noticed that there were some issues with the user interface that conflict with what the heuristic evaluation details. Some of the interface issues include the fact that there is no indication of where you are or where you can go. The site is mostly images for links and there are no signifiers to tell the user where they are able to navigate to. Another issue is that the flat-design buttons may be too abstract to properly symbolize their associated topics. The symbols for the navigation buttons are too ambiguous and don't give a clear representation of what the button does. Also, the user cannot search multiple article topics simultaneously, and instead has to adhere to searching single article topics one at a time. This limits the user's freedom to navigate. The page titles change to reflect the headline on some articles but not others, which provide for an inconsistent set of standards. This makes understanding where you are troublesome. The navigation of the site is difficult because in order to get to different articles, you must go through the home page. There is no selection of topic from an article page which adds extra clicks and movements in order to find what you want. A cosmetic issue with the UI is that there is too much fade going on. Our implementer for the site was overzealous about the fade animation. Design is simple, but the fade transition gets in the way of the simple layout of the site. The final heuristic violation is that there is no help button to hit for navigational help, nor is there any explanation for what the website actually is and aims to do. A lack of help makes aiding the users who are struggling to find what they need difficult to the point that they may fail to continue using our website. These issues, should they be overlooked, could greatly affect the usability of our site.



## **Improvements:**

While before the user tests we may have thought our prototype was flawless, we soon realized it was not. From these user tests and reviews we worked to cater to all the concerns brought up by our classmates, and one by one made changes to our prototypes. The following are a list of changes we made in our final prototype to reflect what we learned from user testing and our heuristic evaluations. Above every article concerning a hot topic for debate or alluding to one, there is a pro/con section. This provides a brief description of the arguments each party makes regarding the situation. For example, if the article were to be about abortion the website would provide the user with a brief nonbiased overview of the pro-life and pro-choice arguments. As brought up in our user testing, this allows users to fully grasp the weight of the article if it were to be a new topic to them that they are unfamiliar with. This also broadens the audience to many articles because instead of providing one sided propaganda like many articles do, it educates the user and allows them to form their own opinions. Also, next to each bullet of information, there will be a citation relating to the works cited at the bottom of the page so the user understands where the information comes from and if this information is cross referenced with multiple articles, or is taken from official reports, and thus is known to be factual, there will be a simple check mark. This helps to assure the user of the validity of the information being presented and to show that we are not just pushing our own agenda and attempting to scare them into acting a certain way. Finally, we completed the navigational functions on the website. We enlarged the search bar and gave it better color contrast to highlight that function to the user. We also linked the geographical search options with actual pages so they lead the user to an actual page instead of a page not found message. While, the clipart was a big hit in user tests we decided that some of the images did not accurately represent the topics they were used to represent so we

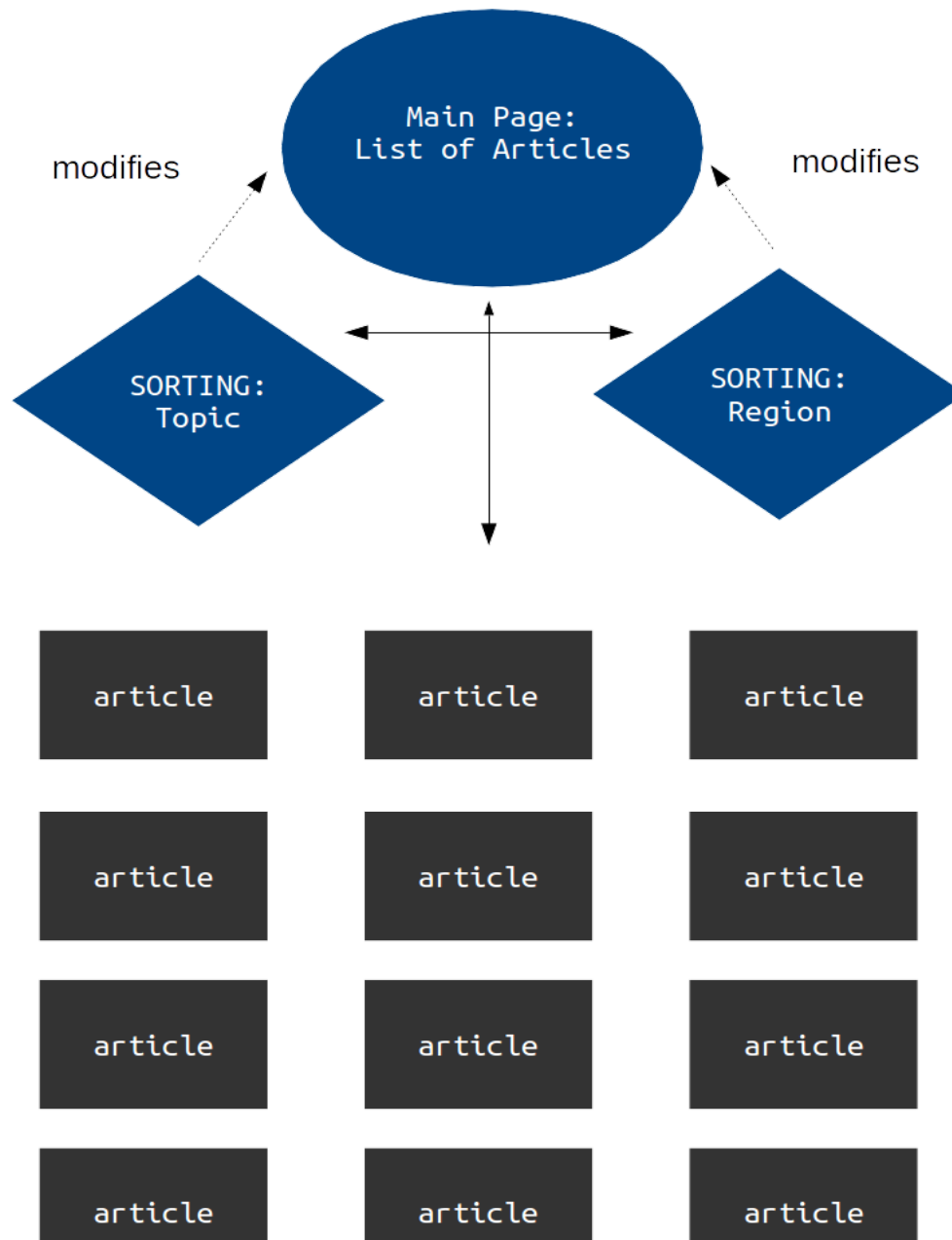
worked to find more suitable images for the user to have a better low level understanding of what topic they are searching by.

## The News v2.0 - Design & Rationale



The front page of The News v2.0, displaying article categories and regional search buttons.

## Site Map



Here is a map of how the website works overall. As you will see in the top center of the image the user is presented with a list of articles. Connecting to that bubble are the options to sort the queue of articles by either topic (Sports, Politics, Business, etc.) or region (National, International, and Local). Based off your selection the website recalls articles from its database relevant to your search.

# Functionality

## Real News

### Satanic Group To Lead Phoenix City Council In Prayer

posted January 29, 2016



- The Satanic Temple of Phoenix, AZ will open the Phoenix City Council of Arizona by leading in prayer on February 17, 2016.
- *It's definitely going to be making a mockery of everything, they want to mock the City of Phoenix, the taxpayers, and the people who want to take this stuff seriously.* - Phoenix Councilman Sal DiCoccio
- *Consistent with the U.S. Supreme Court's direction, the city cannot dictate religious viewpoints or the content of a prayer. In addition, government may not exclude a denomination or a religion from praying under these circumstances.* - Attorney of Phoenix, Brad Holm
- *The constitution demands equal treatment under the law. ... I just believe we're a diverse society and if we have prayer, we welcome all points of view.* - Mayor of Phoenix, Greg Stanton
- *We don't intend on doing anything offensive.* - Phoenix Satanist, Stu de Haan

#### Sources

- Arizona Republic: "Satanists to give prayer at Phoenix City Council meeting"
- Fox News: "Satanic group set to lead Phoenix City Council in prayer"

A sample article. The title and content are written by bots

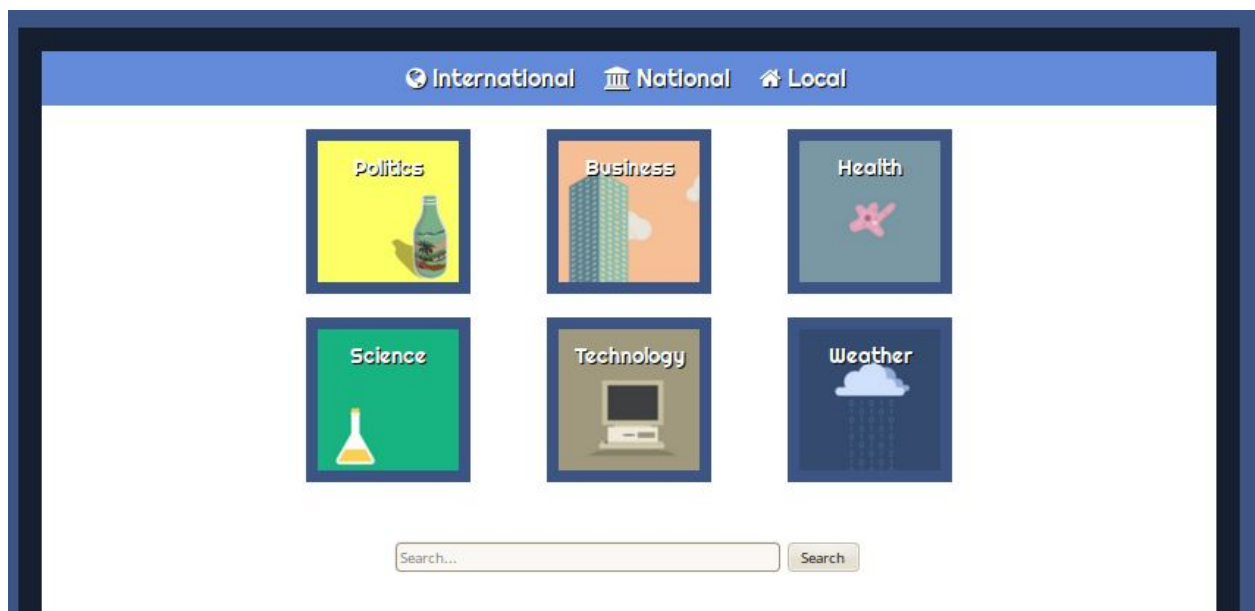
*The News v2.0* is written entirely by a crack team of web-crawling bots that assess trending news topics (international, national and regional) for non-triviality and compile a multitude of different sources into singular articles on relevant topics. These articles are composed of bulleted lists of indisputable facts; pure information with zero adjectives. This approach is intended to minimize the stress of users; a user will never have to speculate as to the possible nefarious intentions of the author to push any sort of agenda, or fall victim to clickbait. The lack of adjectives or

sensationalism allows the user to confidently compose their own opinion as to news events, rather than feel that their interpretation may be swayed one way or another by a journalist or a paid opinion piece. Sources are provided at the bottom of each article to further reinforce the validity of our content and minimize incredulity. Digestibility of our content is enhanced with bulleted lists. Users waste no time collecting information on the latest news using *The News*.

## No Comments

To further prevent stress, quicken load times, and bolster site security, there are zero comment sections on *The News*. There are zero user accounts in *The News*. *The News* does not want your email address or your password, because your email address and your password aren't news.

## Searchability & Sortability

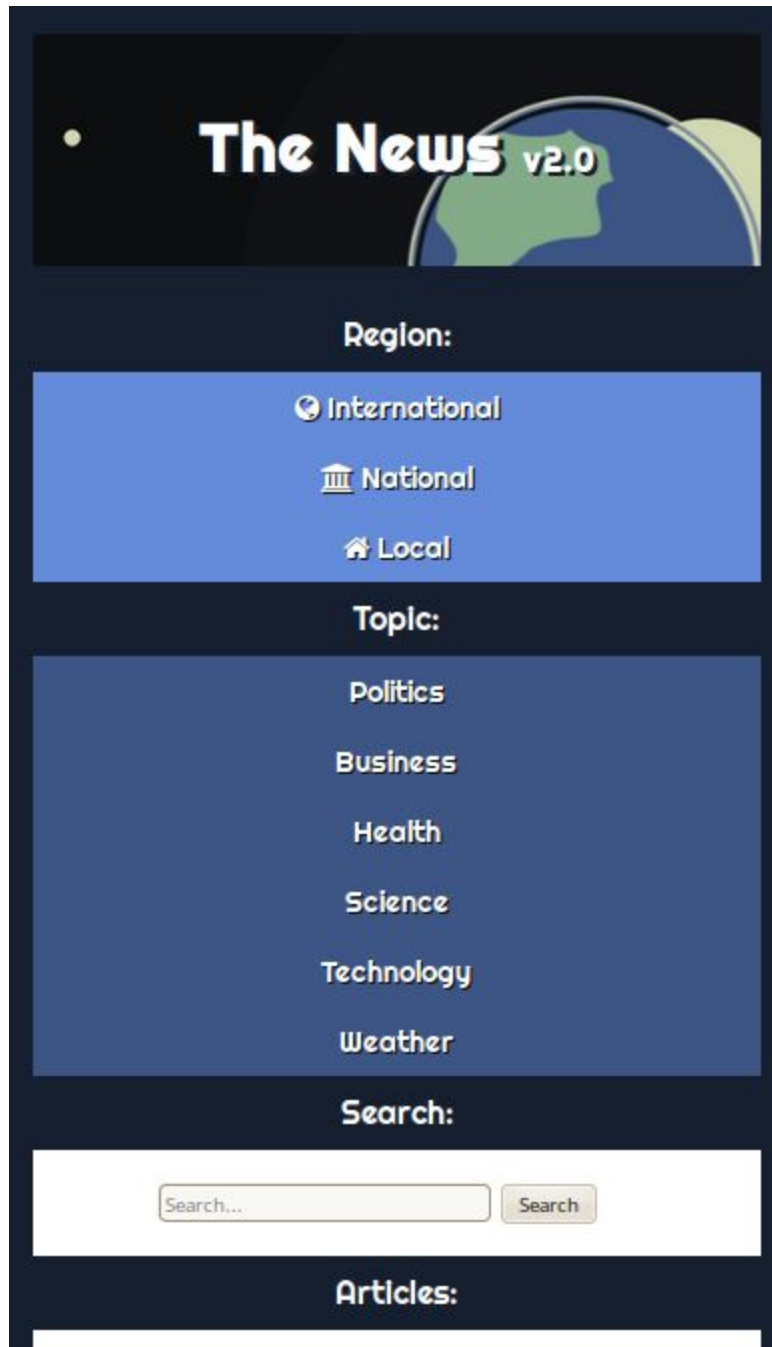


Articles may be sorted by the above topics. These topics are fundamental to most news web sites. Art, culture and sports have been excluded.

*The News v2.0* is easily searchable, and the main page may be sorted to display articles related to specific topics of interest using a search

bar and a set of grid of buttons at the very top of the page. Additionally, articles may be sorted to reflect news in specific regions. For example, the user may search for international or national news, or even news relevant to their local region.

## **Mobile-Friendly Interface**



This is how the front page appears on mobile devices and small browser windows.

Lower-resolution screens will display an alternative version of the web site, featuring a simpler interface more receptive to mobile input via stylus or touch. Desktop users may optionally access this interface by simply adjusting their browser window to smaller sizes.

## Speed

*The News v2.0* will load rapidly due to a distinct lack of cookies, trackers, commercials, movies, sound, or JavaScript.

## Aesthetics

### Contemporary Simplicity

*The News v2.0* features a deliberately minimalist interface devoid of clutter and commercials; a compliment to the bare-essentials of the content itself. The color palette consists of hues of navy and blue, as, according to various articles from a variety of reputable peer-reviewed marketing journals, consumers have a tendency to connotate the color blue with trustworthiness and reliability.<sup>11 12 13</sup> As *The News* is in the business of indisputable fact and state-of-the-art article-writing bots, we've designed our site to be as contemporary, simple, and inviting as its own news content.

Furthering this aesthetic promotion of trust and simplicity, buttons that sort articles by region and topic have a deliberately flat design with ample white-space, as is contemporary chic.

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<sup>11</sup> Aslam, Mubeen M. (2006 August). "Are You Selling the Right Colour? A Cross-cultural Review of Colour as a Marketing Cue." *Journal of Marketing Communications*, Volume 12, Issue 1. Retrieved from <http://www.tandfonline.com/doi/abs/10.1080/13527260500247827>

<sup>12</sup> Labrecque, Lauren L, & Milne, George R. (2012 September). "Exciting red and competent blue: the importance of color in marketing." *Journal of the Academy of Marketing Science*, Volume 40 Issue 5. Retrieved from <http://link.springer.com/article/10.1007%2Fs11747-010-0245-y>

<sup>13</sup> Morin, Amy. (2014 February 4). "How To Use Color Psychology To Give Your Business An Edge." *Forbes*. Retrieved from <http://www.forbes.com/sites/amyamorin/2014/02/04/how-to-use-color-psychology-to-give-your-business-an-edge/>



As is typical of web sites, hyperlinked text, images and buttons are differentiated from non-linked content by color; upon being scrolled over, this navy will turn to a lighter shade, in order to indicate a clickable element. This design decision is based on historical convention; this is something that the everyday web surfer will expect.

## **Readability**

The body text of *The News* is black Helvetica; if the user doesn't have Helvetica, the web site will default to their system's preferred sans-serif font. Helvetica is chosen for its familiarity by ubiquity.

Headlines and buttons are displayed in Righteous, imported from Google Fonts. If Righteous is not automatically imported by the user's browser via CSS, headlines and buttons will display in the user's default sans-serif instead. Righteous is chosen due to its both striking and readable neo-art-deco aesthetic, which compliments the flat design of *The News*.

## **Limitations**

Our design is readily accessible to English literate users who have internet access. By making the search icons far apart and linking the large pictures representing the article to the article information as well as the article title users with disabilities such as Parkinson's or amputations have a margin of error to work with when attempting to select various items and navigating the web page. With various tablets and software out there today, accessibility functions such as text to speech and eye tracking and allow our website to be used by human beings with these disabilities and we placed our product in a medium compatible with this software in order to enable navigation by a wide range of individuals.

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# Appendix A

## User Test Scripts

We are attempting to create a news site that de-sensationalize the news and only display important information in order to improve the user's mental state of being. The current news sites are exaggerated and dilute the reader's understanding of the world. The emotional impact is that a false sense of reality is created where certain important topics become important and critical when in fact they are not. Some topics are skewed to push a certain biased opinion on other topics.

The operations of the website work by having bots crawl other known news sites to collect and compile information. This information is then analyzed to determine what is relevant and what is factual from the other sources and then added to our site as one article that cites the others that the information was pulled from. This site is to be used as a daily news resource to gather information from multiple sources.

### Tasks:

- Try to narrow your search by a popular topic
- Try to find a popular article about the Ebola Epidemic
- Try and find the original source of information for that article
- What is the weather today?
- Try and find out what is hot on social media

### Follow up Questions:

- How was the difficulty of navigation?
- Which version of the article did you prefer?
- Is this something that you would use as a news resource?
- How would you critique the overall concept?
- What other important topics are relevant to you?
- What other features do you think would be helpful?

# Appendix B

## Heuristic Evaluation

Description	Heuristic
No indication of where you are or where you can go. Maybe add home button, or breadcrumbs.	Visibility of System Status
The flat-design buttons may be too abstract to properly symbolize their associated topics.	Match between system and world
The user can't search multiple article topics, rather than one at a time.	User control and freedom
Page titles change to reflect the headline on some articles, but not others.	Consistency and standards
This violation does not exist because we do not have many opportunities in our interface for the user to make errors. They can search for an article by text or category and that is virtually it. With these being the only two forms of user input/interaction in the interface there are no errors to be made.	Error prevention
We also believe that we do not contain this violation. The two available options, searching for an article by text or by category are very straightforward. They give the user multiple options on how to find an article and do not require them to remember certain phrases or commands to make the website perform certain actions.	Recognition rather than recall
To get to different articles, you MUST go through the home page. There is no selection of topic from an article page.	Flexibility and efficiency of use
Too much fade going on. Design is simple, but the fade transition gets in the way.	Aesthetic and minimalist design
Maybe not prevent errors such as this, but provide an explanation for what went wrong and if it is actually the user's fault.	Help users recognize, diagnose and recover from errors
There is no help button to hit for navigational help, nor is there any explanation for what the website actually is and aims to do.	Help and Documentation