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WDD 130

December 5, 2022

Final Repot – Locomotive Dictionary

<https://jluke-russell.github.io/WDD-130/LocomotiveDictionary/index.html>

Locomotive Dictionary is a site where you can learn everything you need to know about modern American locomotive power and freight rail. Locomotive Dictionary uses high-resolution images and high-definition videos to enhance the learning experience. Locomotive Dictionary also explains how to differentiate the various types of locomotives. This will help enhance anyone’s railfanning experience. Our audience consists of those who want to get into the hobby of railfanning or just want to learn more about CSX diesel-electric locomotives.

The purpose of our site is to inform. America’s rail network is the backbone of the transportation of heavy goods. These locomotives are one of the most important aspects of this network; without the power and reliability of these locomotives, the transportation of goods will grind to a halt, hurting the economy and the nation. We hope that Locomotive Dictionary will help you learn more about diesel-electric locomotives. We also hope that you can use the description of each locomotive to positively identify them on your next railfan adventure!

I first came up with the idea for Locomotive Dictionary when I return home from my mission, and began railfanning. I have always loved trains, and watching them. However, I did not know how to tell them apart, thus I searched for resources to help me, but I did not find anything comprehensive and simple enough for the novice railfan. Locomotive dictionary changes that, using one page for General Motor’s Electro-Motive Division or EMD and another page for General Electric or GE. Using simple paragraph format with images and embedded videos in-line with the text, allows the reader to easily scroll from one locomotive to another. The EMD page is organized by the style of locomotive – General Purpose or Special Duty, and the GE page is organized by the generation of locomotive: Dash or standard series from the 80’s and 90’s and the Evolution series from the early 2000’s and 2010’s. I changed the original design from two side-by-side columns to a single one because it made the page easier to read and remember where one left off.

For this project, I learned how to plan a website from the ground up, this includes coming up with the ideas, making the plans of how to display the information, creating wireframes sourcing the information, putting the code together, and doing the final formatting according to the wireframes. Just like any project, things can change; for example, in this project the main things that were changes was the format of the homepage and the subpages, as well as the number and content of the subpages. We added an about us page for convenience, and as mentioned above, changed the subpages from two columns to one. These skills that I learned from this project could potentially help me in my future. Now, I know how to make a basic website if I ever needed to, there are some people I know that could use a website and I could use my rudimentary skills to help them out. In my data science degree, I could create my own website to display my work or pin my projects to, this way future employers can see my work and see my skill set.