The Carousel

Carousel / Slide Show / Image Rotation

- Shows multiple blocks/images
- One/Few at a time
- May auto-advance, May be manual
- Often arrows at the side
- Sometimes indicators at the bottom





Carousels are often BAD

- Auto-rotation is *particularly* bad
 - Lots of accessibility problems
 - Lots of usability problems
- Non-first content is very hidden
 - Almost never the actual desire

https://shouldiuseacarousel.com/

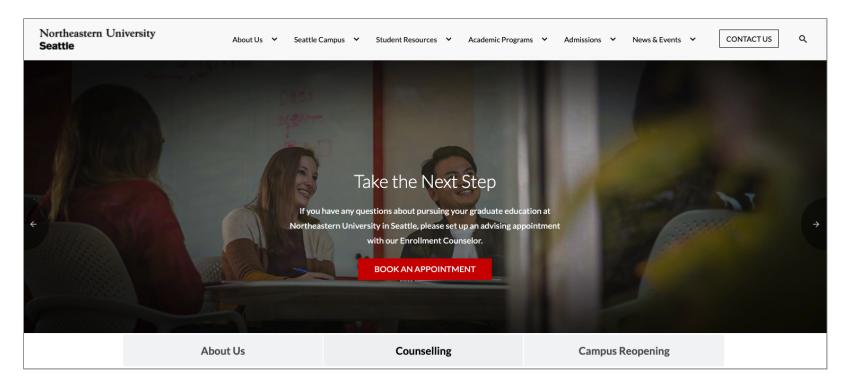
Bad reasons to use a Carousels

- Management wants everything to be on the page
 - Above the fold
 - Inherently flawed
 - Won't be how they describe their desire
 - But it is their desire
- You will see more often on sales sites
 - Like all ads, they want oversaturation
 - Okay if users miss some content
 - This is not a model FOR users

Tolerable reasons for a Carousel?

- No auto-rotation
- Use like tabs
 - But with a "next/prev" option available
 - Arrows (w/a11y text!)
 - Must declare contents
- Large listing?
 - Think netflix/youtube
 - Allows two direction of scrolling
 - But is that good?

Are those good enough?



Lots of "unused" space

- Focus on image, not text
- Image is "feeling", not detail
 - Avoids begin too dense
 - But carousels are desired because of too much density

Space used to avoid a page

"Seattle Campus is located in the heart of the tech companies, providing great working and study environments and flexible co-op opportunities."

-Emily Fan, MPS in Analytics



What if the boss demands it?

- No auto-rotation
 - If must, have a stop/pause
 - Also pause on hover/focus
- Accessible controls
- Alternative text

Summary - Carousel

- A set of panels with text or images
- Shown one-at-a-time
- May auto-advance/rotate
- Usually has "arrows" for prev/next
- May have progress indicators
 - Dots/thumbnails
 - These often allow selection

Summary - Issues with Purpose

Often used to put "more" on page

- But that "more" goes largely unseen
- Means: Content deemed "important"
 - Treated as unimportant

Summary - Accessibility Issues

- Auto-rotation is BAD
 - Speed (impacts reading time)
 - Visual interruption
 - Verbal interrupts w/screen reader
- So much visual content
- Small controls
 - Often without text