

digitally

Process Book

Lily Champagne / May 2021



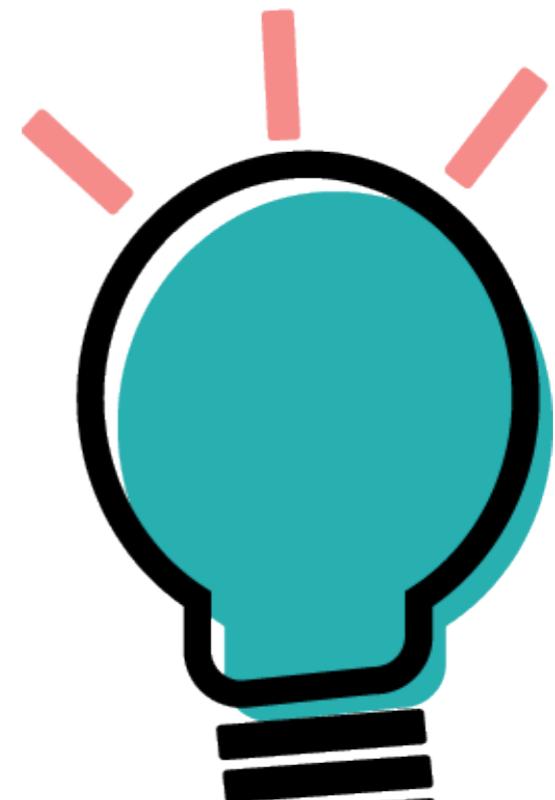
01 About

Project Description

Whether someone is reading an article or ordering a pizza, the lack of accessible web design can seriously affect how people use the internet. As I learned more about web accessibility, I found that the resources were often overwhelming and not engaging to the reader. Digital1y (pronounced digitally) is a website for designers created to bring awareness to accessible and inclusive design.

The name is derived from the term “a11y”, an abbreviation for accessibility, typically used to describe the movement for more accessible internet and technology. This project focuses on the importance of empathy and the implementation of inclusive practices into every design project. Digital1y offers straightforward articles to help designers learn the basics without overwhelming them, along with external

resources for in-depth learning. Community is an essential part of digital1y. Members of the community can ask for help and share resources with others. Above all, the site itself demonstrates that web content can be both appealing and accessible to everyone.



Who Benefits from this

Digital1y is a resource for designers to learn about web accessibility and inclusive design practice. This audience is design students or young designers who want to learn more about inclusive design but do not know where to start. This site will show them why these practices are important and why they should care about accessibility other than for legal reasons. It is meant to create excitement about inclusiveness in design. The project will educate people on inclusive design while also being an example of inclusivity. The benefits of this project reach beyond designers. The information on digital1y can be used to improve the experience and accessibility for everyone.

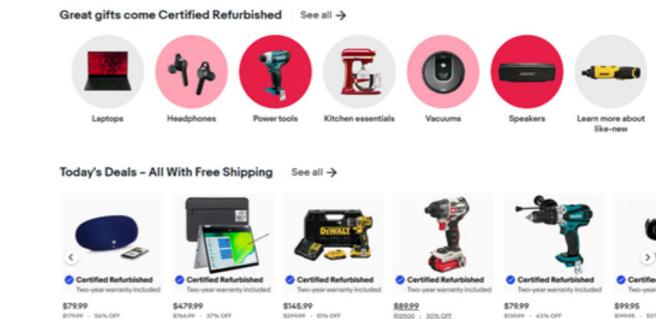
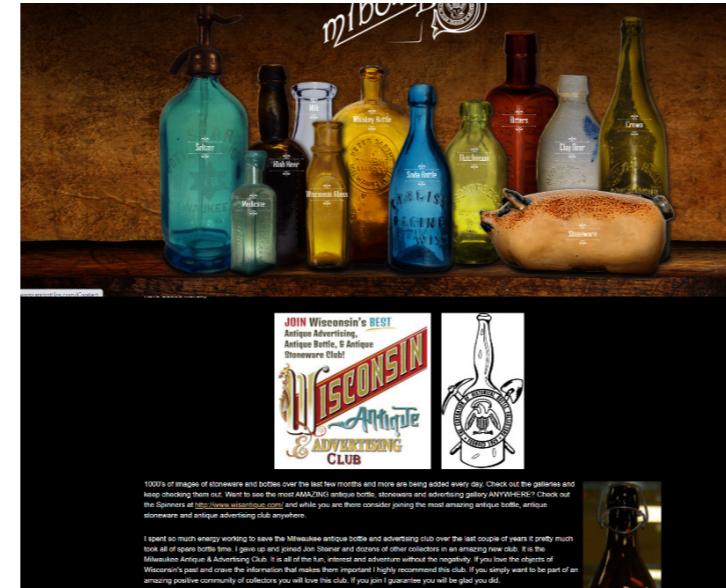
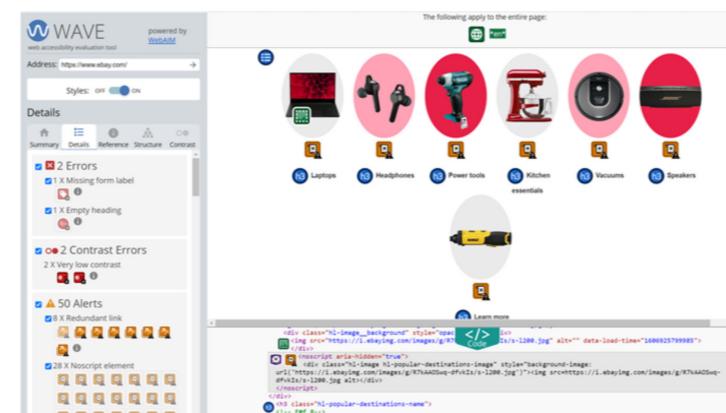




02 Research

Thesis I

Thesis I was mostly about expanding my own knowledge of web accessibility, so I could decide how to apply it to my thesis. I also looked at many well and poorly designed sites to find commonalities. I originally thought my thesis would be redesigning inaccessible websites. I realized I wanted to prove that websites could be designed to be both engaging and inclusive. I also wanted to integrate all of the resources I found during my research into the project.



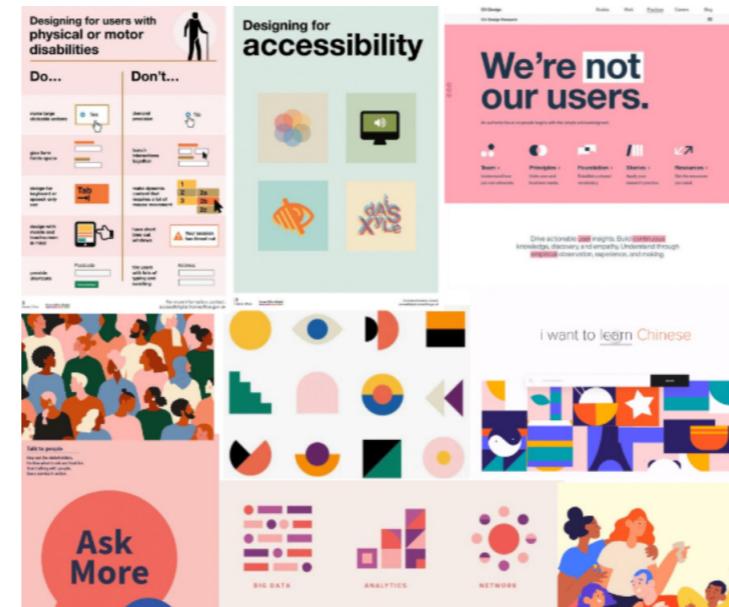
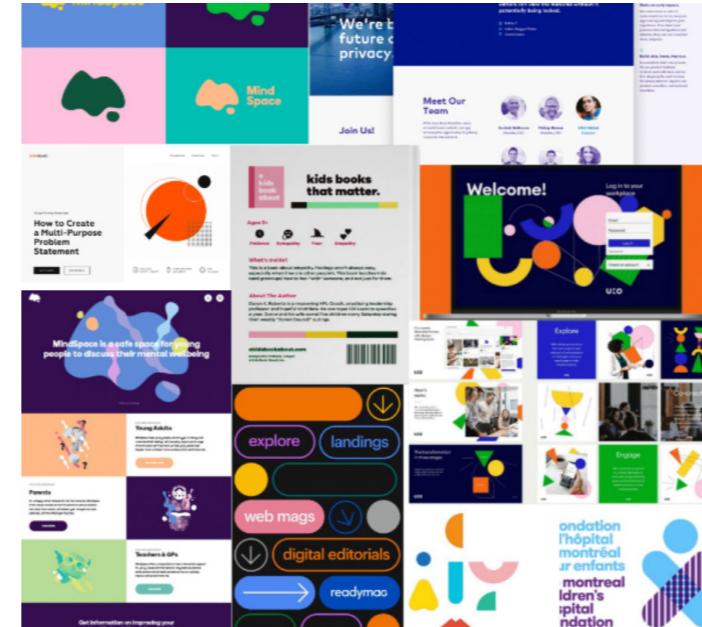
Brainstorming

10.10 Very good ★★★★
Good contrast for small text (below 18pt) and great contrast for large text (above 18pt or bold above 14pt). [Click to enhance](#)

5.57 Good ★★★★
Good contrast for all text sizes. [Click to enhance](#)

15.47 Super ★★★★★
Great contrast for all text sizes.

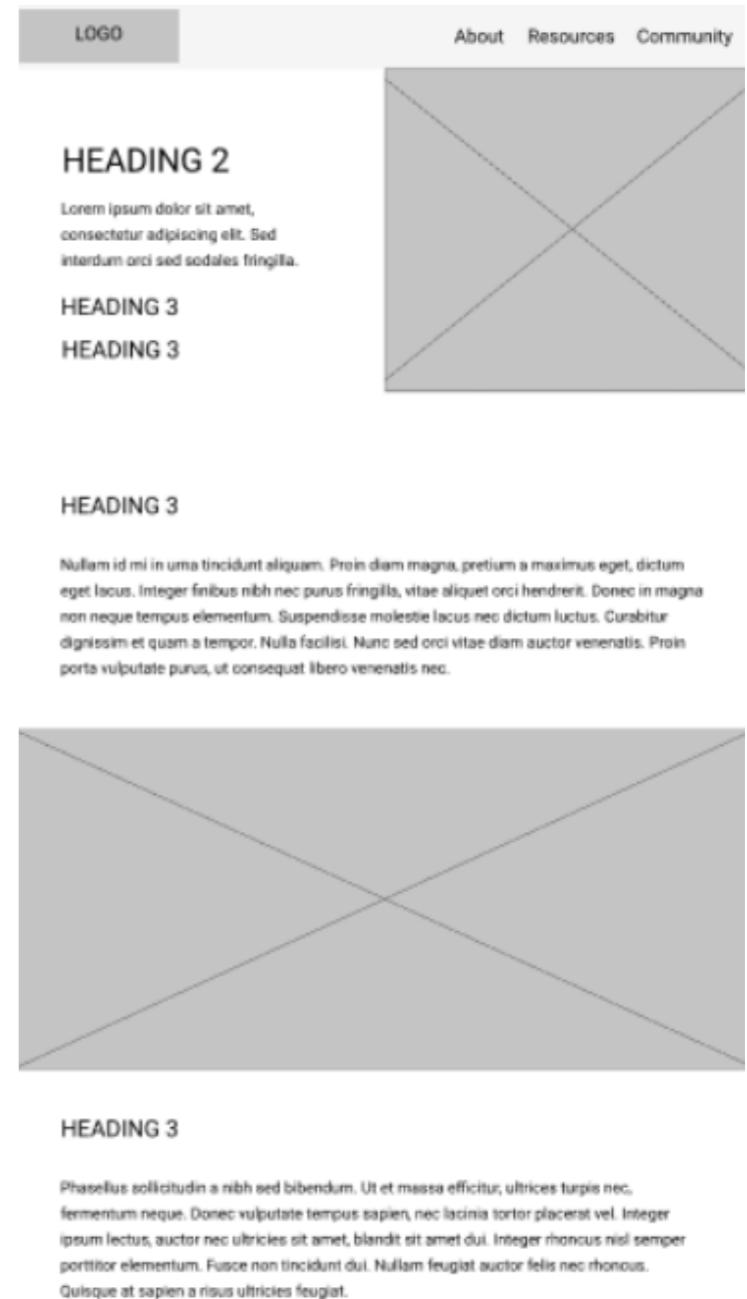
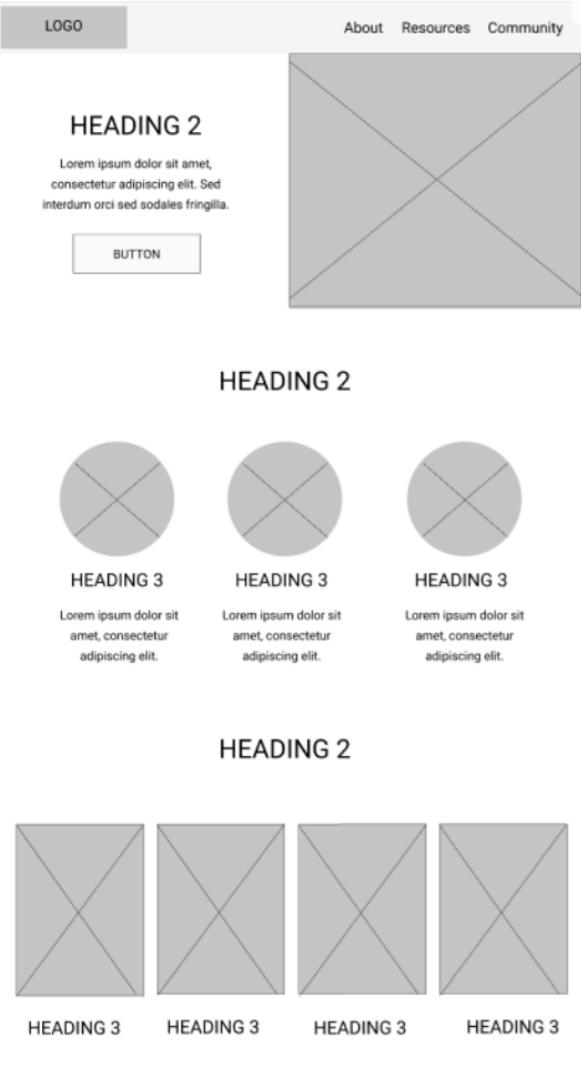
Quote n. 24
I quit therapy because my analyst was trying to help me behind my back.
Richard Lewis



Logo/ site title	Why accessibility is important	Introduction into html	Ability to make account	Simple color pallet	Underlined links
site introduction	importance of empathy	top html components for accessibility	Create posts	dark sans serif font	alt tags for all visuals
read more on about page	about this project	what is aria attributes?	Comments	Use color contrast test	responsive layout
footers	inclusive vs accessible web design	Community leaders/ moderators	large menu bar	aria attributes	
	thinking about the user		large mobile text		

irother 1816 Light </>
The quick brown fox jumps over the lazy dog
irother 1816 Book </>
The quick brown fox jumps over the lazy dog
Brother 1816 Bold </>
The quick brown fox jumps over the lazy dog
proxima Nova Thin Italic </>
The quick brown fox jumps over the lazy dog
proxima Nova Regular </>
The quick brown fox jumps over the lazy dog
Proxima Nova Bold </>
The quick brown fox jumps over the lazy dog

Brainstorming (Initial Wireframes)



Personal Feedback

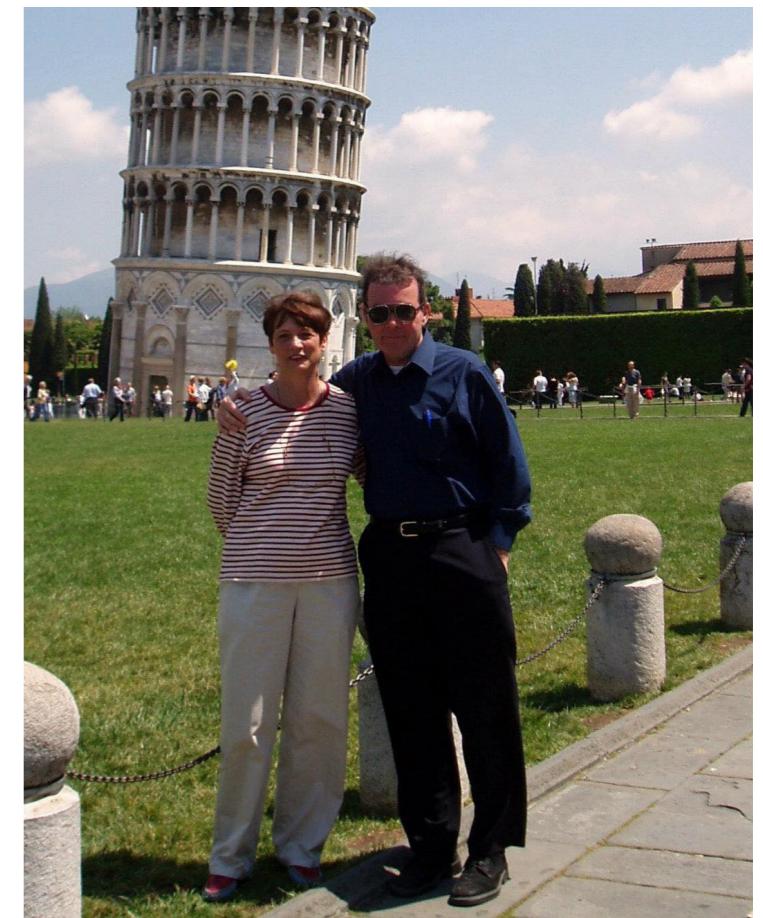
What helped me decide on this thesis topic was seeing the struggles my loved ones had with technology. I used their experiences as guidance on how to make my site as inclusive as possible.

Victoria & Brian Smith

Grandparents

My grandpa has macular degeneration and my grandma has cataracts. They cannot leave their house due to COVID 19 and rely on the internet to have necessities delivered. They have issues with text size but have been able to navigate that issue. They also tend to have issues with color contrast on websites, especially when looking at charts and graphs. Their biggest issue was the (lack of) organization of information on websites and bombardment of information. They say

they often feel overwhelmed with all the visuals and ads on a site which can make it difficult to navigate.



Personal Feedback (con't.)

Greg Champagne Father

My dad also has macular degeneration and retinal detachment caused by his Type 1 Diabetes. Fortunately, medicine has allowed him to keep full eyesight in one of his eyes, but we do not know for how long. My dad is only 50, so he is very used to using technology and is reliant on it like most of us. He never likes to share his problems with others, but when I told him about my thesis, he wanted to help. He told me that it is easier for him to zoom in on desktop web browsers to make text bigger, but it is much harder or impossible when using mobile sites. He also

says that a lot of websites have poor contrast that make it hard to see. My dad has brief experience using a screen reader following his eye surgery. He agrees that they work well for text but text only. Most of the time tapping on an image or another element would not produce a text alternative.



Professional Feedback

I found the feedback and advice from industry experts extremely helpful as well. It was also exciting that both people are New Paltz alumni.



Shauna Keating
UX Designer

Shauna is currently a UX Designer who works on government projects. Everything she makes has to be accessible. It was inspiring to learn that her graphic design thesis was related to accessibility as well. She showed me some of her writing about inclusive design practices. This broadened my thinking about what inclusive design practices can mean and how I can apply them to my website. Shauna also gave me a book about how to design accessible content that was super helpful to my project!



Josh Angher
Web Designer / Developer

Josh is a web designer and consultant that shares my passion for web accessibility. We discussed my ideas for this thesis project and ways that I could make my project stand out from other resources. He also recommended the book, *Inclusive Components* by Heydon Pickering. This book gave me so much technical knowledge about building unique but inclusive web projects.

Resources



A11Y Project Online Resource

I really like that A11Y is so “community-based” (unlike the W3C) so there are contributors from all over the world. The website is designed beautifully while also being accessible. They have a checklist for developers to make sure their sites are accessible. All the information is organized with a clear hierarchy of importance in a way that is visually appealing.



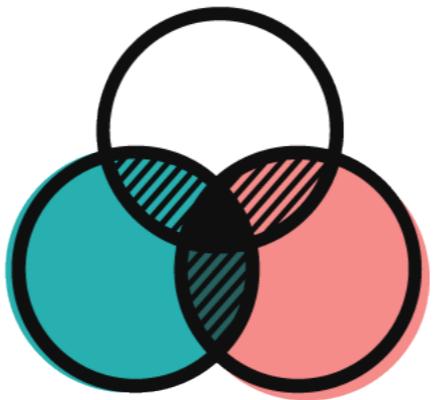
Inclusive Components Book By Heydon Pickering

This is a technical guide for people who want to learn how to code in an inclusive way. The author mentions several times that he is not a computer scientist, but a person who loves computers and wanted to learn how to code. His book served as a guide to help me create my website about web inclusiveness and gave me inspiration for the content on the site.



W.A.I. Online Guide from W3C

The Web Accessibility Initiative (WAI) gives people resources to build websites that are accessible to everyone. The information on this page is thorough. It has sections about why sites should be accessible, how to plan, design and develop code that is accessible. The information from the WAI is important to creating better websites.



03 Design

Obstacles

The obstacles I hit during this journey almost always had to do with the visual look and feel of the website. When I first imagined this site, I imagined it to be cool and techy. This style felt too cold and disingenuous for what I was trying to do. Then, I pivoted to a more sketchy and illustrative style. This also did not feel right because I do not have much experience sketching, and I couldn't get it looking how I wanted. Whenever I got into a creative rut, I just kept pushing to make new and different iterations.

Want to learn about web accessibility?
You came to the right place.

Hi, I'm Lily!

I'm a graphic design student in my last semester of college, and I have a passion for web design. I know the struggles of learning how to code while wanting to make it inclusive to everyone.

[More about this site](#)

Ready to get started?

Learning web design can feel daunting, but it doesn't have to be! This site will help you learn the fundamentals of inclusive web design, so you can be the amazing designer you aspire to be!

[Take me to resources](#)

Web Accessibility Made Simple

Hi, I'm Lily!

I'm a graphic design student in my last semester of college, and I have a passion for web design. I know the struggles of learning how to code while wanting to make it inclusive to everyone.

[More about this site](#)

Ready to get started?

Learning web design can feel daunting, but it doesn't have to be! This site will help you learn the fundamentals of inclusive web design, so you can be the amazing designer you aspire to be!

Mid Semester Review

The mid semester review was the turning point for this project. My previous designs were not working and I needed to pull them together for this review. The feedback I received confirmed that I had finally arrived at the right design style for my project. Overall, the feedback was positive and people gave great ideas for the type style and drawings moving forward.

The screenshot shows the digital11y website homepage. The header features the word "digital11y" in a teal sans-serif font. To its right are three red links: "About", "Resources", and "Community". Below the header is a large title "Web Accessibility Made Simple" in bold black font. To the right of the title is a white illustration of a person in a teal shirt standing next to a computer monitor displaying a grid of squares. Below the title is a circular profile picture of a woman with dark hair, smiling. Next to the profile picture is the text "Hi, I'm Lily!". Below this is a paragraph about Lily, followed by a "More about this site" button. At the bottom of the main content area is a large call-to-action button with the text "Ready to get started?". Above this button is a small note: "Learning web design can feel daunting, but it doesn't have to be! This site will help you learn the fundamentals of inclusive web design, so you can be the amazing designer you aspire to be!" Below the "Ready to get started?" button is another button labeled "Take me to resources".

The sidebar on the right contains several sections: "Featured Article" with a pencil icon and a link to "ARIA Attributes and How to Use Them"; "Search Guides and Articles" with a search bar; "Popular Guides" with links to "New to Web Design? Start Here", "Here are the 10 Best Books about Web Accessibility", and "Accessible Vs Inclusive Web Design"; and two columns of guides: "How Empathy in Design Creates a Better Experience for Everyone" and "How to Choose Colors For Your Web Projects", along with "How to Set up Your Web Project up for Success". The footer section includes a "Need more help? Check out our community forum for more!" button, a "Still wanting to learn more?" section with a lightbulb icon and a "Outside Resources" button, and a note about the "Outside Resources Page".

Blog

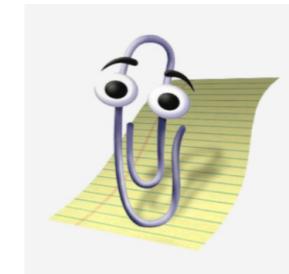
The blog started as a place to just upload my work, but it grew to be much more for me. It was a place that I asked questions, experimented, voiced my frustrations and my successes. It was also a place for me to have fun which is what is shown here.

The screenshot shows the digital11y blog homepage. At the top, there's a navigation bar with links for 'About', 'Resources', and 'Community'. Below the navigation is a graphic of a smartphone displaying various accessibility icons (hand, eye, ear, etc.). The main content area features three blog posts:

- Process Book Draft** (Posted on May 6, 2021) - Includes a link to a document on Adobe Document Cloud.
- Weekly post 4/26** (Posted on April 26, 2021) - Discusses embedding XD prototypes into HTML and a trip to New Paltz.
- Weekly Post 4/19** (Posted on April 19, 2021) - Mentions writing for the thesis show and pushing coding done.

On the right side of the page, there are sidebar widgets for 'RECENT POSTS', 'RECENT COMMENTS', 'ARCHIVES', 'CATEGORIES', and 'META'.

helped me on their journey or learning about inclusive design. This idea is from my infatuation with the paperclip character from the old Microsoft Office :



Anyways, I digress. Here is the writing I did this week as well :
<https://docs.google.com/document/d/1FPx3l-J8JBIPllkpqUWyKmTi4khsSXWMPyTeoL3hySl/edit?usp=sharing>

Everything is a working draft, and I'm excited to see where this goes. Of course it wouldn't be a Lily Blog post without a meme, but this week's comes from my boyfriend in an attempt to make a joke of my life.

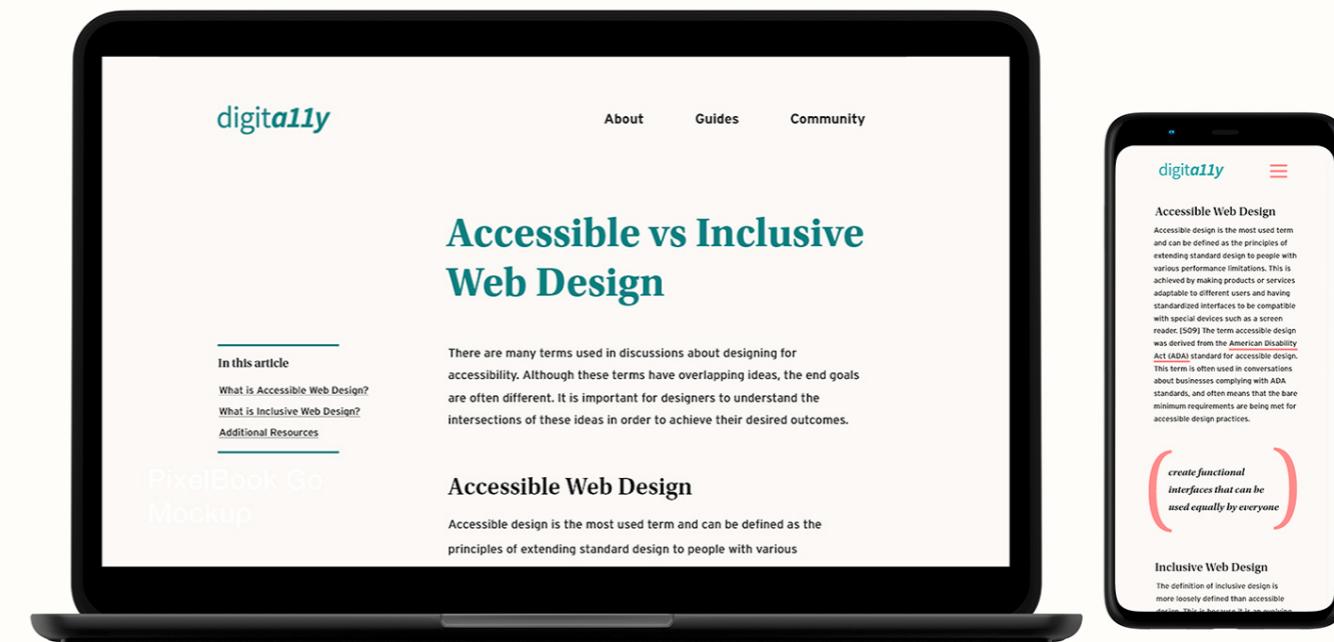
A meme featuring a baby sitting on a couch, holding a book titled "HTML for Babies". The book cover includes the code <title> HTML for Babies </title>. Above the baby, there's a profile picture of a man and the text "Eddy Vinck 🇳🇱 JavaScript @EddyVinck". Below the image, the caption reads: "When employers want 10 years of experience before you turn 20".

Abby said this is definitely something a nerd like me would give their child (she's not wrong that's a smart baby right there).

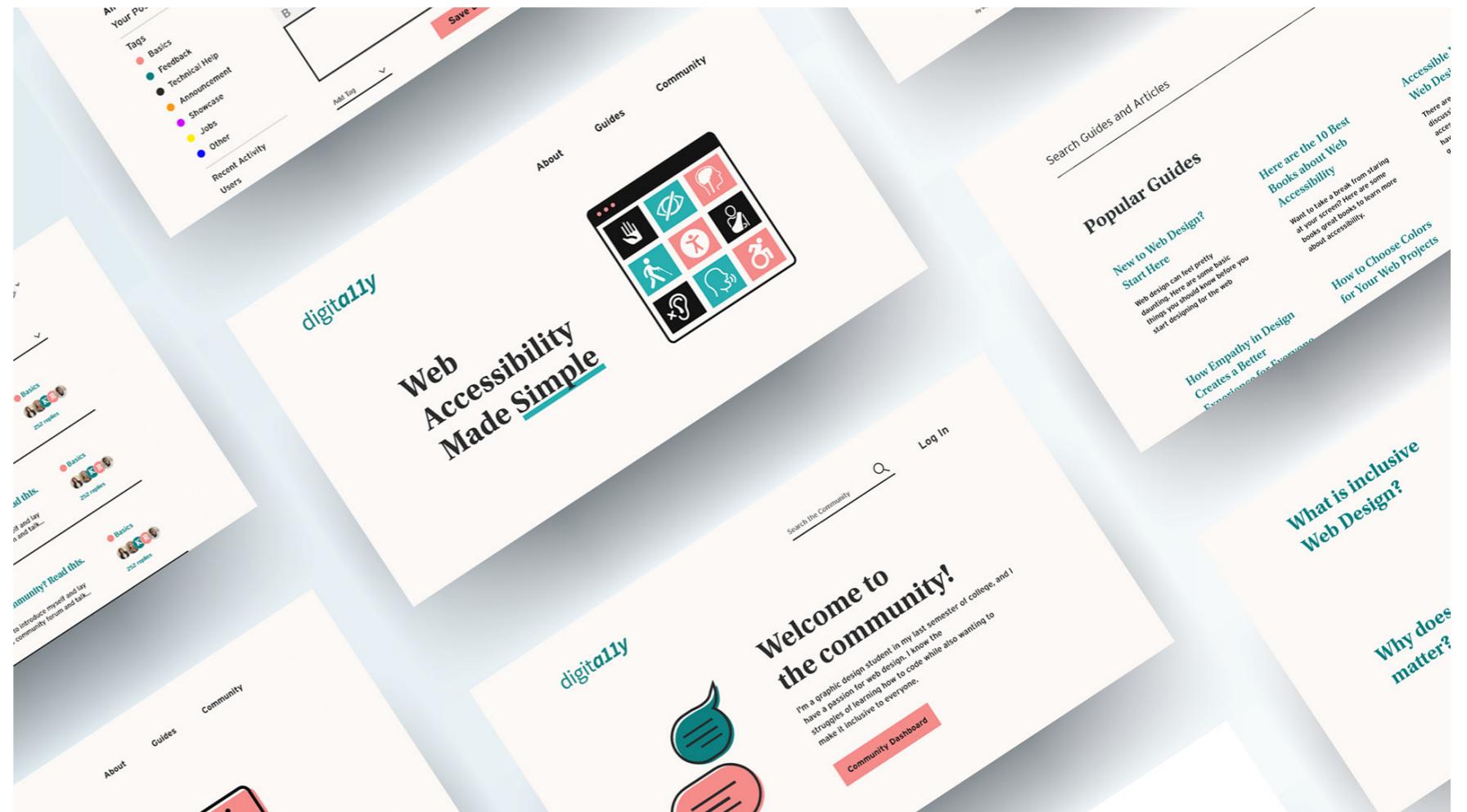
Its the description of the book is what I find hilarious. This author also has CSS for Babies and JavaScript for Babies!

Finished Project

This is how the project turned out after several design updates and after the coding process. These images were featured on the thesis show website, and convey the overall idea of digital1y.



Finished Project (con't)



Finished Project (con't)



Conclusion

Overall, I am incredibly happy with how the project came out! The feedback I have gotten so far has been positive. I am proud that I coded it myself. One thing I wish I could have done differently was spent more time on the content and organization of this site. There was a lot of opportunity to make specialized content like videos and animations that I did not have enough time for. My favorite part is that this project is a resource people can actually use, and could potentially be expanded upon in the future.

