



North Dakota Atlas

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The North Dakota Atlas project is a way for students to present their research. As the web developer, my first goal is to present the research results provided by geography students in a clear, concise, and appealing manner. By the end of the October I will have designed a working and appealing landing page, as well as at least one project page displaying maps over a period of time. By the end of December all the current maps displayed on the North Dakota Atlas page will be redone. My second goal is to build an interactive map using javascript for each student project by the end of Spring 2017.

This project is very important to the College of Arts and Sciences. Dr. Niedzielski of the Geography department began work on this project (in collaboration with Dr. Debbie Storrs and Michael Jacobs) to celebrate the 125 Anniversary of North Dakota. Those involved planned for it to be a website for public use. It is important I design an appealing, efficient site.

The Atlas will provide several benefits. First, It will be an important resource for policy makers, community members, and K-12 colleagues and students. Second, It will expand students' education experiences through experiential and collaborative learning with significant community members, and K-12 colleagues and students. Lastly, it will provide a tangible product for public consumption to increase participation of the public as informed citizens (ndatlas.und.edu).

My approach includes active and open communication with Dr. Niedzielski. First, we discussed what he did not like about the website so I knew what to avoid or fix. He showed me some examples of what he was hoping for website

presentation. We have already set realistic goals (listed above) for deadlines. I intend to keep him involved in the design and ask for feedback every two weeks on the developing site. Previously, Leaflet (a JavaScript library) was used for adjustable maps. In its place, I will use graphic art created by another student to improve the site's load time and visual appeal.

The design of the website will be given a makeover in color scheme and layout, which takes considerable time. This project will use HTML, CSS, JavaScript, Bootstrap (a framework for websites), and possibly PHP. The website that exists currently does not do the geography students justice. Once renovated, this Atlas will prove to be an invaluable resource to students and the community.

Dr. Michael Niedzielski will be the advisor to the project.
