Module 5 – Individual Reflection

In module 5, I have learned and been able to get a fuller picture of how a professional design process work. In my opinion, a qualified web design should be accessible, responsive, and testable. When websites and web tools are properly designed and coded, people with disabilities can use them. However, currently many sites and tools are developed with accessibility barriers that make them difficult or impossible for some people to use. An ideal web is fundamentally designed to work for all people, whatever their hardware, software, language, location, or ability. When the web meets this goal, it is accessible to people with a diverse range of hearing, movement, sight, and cognitive ability. My technique is to browse/interact with my website several times, each time using different conditions to simulate a different disability, for example, I closed my eyes and used screen-reader software to read the website to simulate visual impairments; and I turned off the volume to simulate auditory impairments; I also disabled the touchpad in a laptop to simulate physical impairment, etc. After these experiments, I was able to understand what impairments need and figure out the solution to fix the site to make it more accommodating for people with disabilities so that the site becomes more accessible. On the other hand, a web design should also be responsive. In other word, the website should have the technology to automatically respond to the user's preferences. Nowadays, we need different versions of our website, such as, a mobile version, a version for the iPhone, the iPad, Kindle, and BlackBerry, etc. From this module, I have learned several methods to achieve this technology. Basically, we can set the viewport to control the size of the viewport and the zoom level when the page is first loaded. We can also use media queries to design different versions looking good on both computer and mobile. The Web is an increasingly important resource in many aspects for life: education, government, commerce, recreation, and more. It is essential and worthy to let the Web be accessible and responsive to provide equal access and equal opportunity to all people.