Portfolio Reading Guide

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Introduction

This reading guide serves as extra documentation for my portfolio for semester 6 of advanced media design at FHICT. The goal of this reading guide is to add context to the process of how I ended up with the deliverables for this semester.

The portfolio can be visited online over at https://semester6.lucswinkels.com

Each chapter will be divided into the 3 sub projects:

- The individual project (building my portfolio)
- The group project (Grip On Sound project)
- The international project (TBA)

The assignment

Individual project

The assignment for the individual project was to build a modern website or web app that would serve as a portfolio for all your deliverables for the semester.

As we were free in how we approached the project, I based the assignment on the following research questions:

- How can I create a digital portfolio that showcases my work in a visually attractive way?
    - How can I make sure the portfolio is technologically solid?
    - How can I make sure the portfolio is easily maintainable when adding new content?
    - How can I make sure the portfolio is easy to navigate for users?

With these research questions in mind, the goal was to research and design a prototype, test this prototype, then develop it into a live high-fidelity website.

A more detailed assignment description can be found in the project plan.

Group project

<< The assignment >>

International project

<< The assignment >>

Process & results

Individual project

Process

At the start of this project, I wrote a project plan to document my research questions, form a planning, and have a proper structure for the project.

To answer the sub-question *"How can I make sure the portfolio is technologically solid?",* I conducted library research (in the form of trend analysis and literature study) on modern web technologies to figure out which technologies I should use to develop the portfolio. I felt like a trend analysis is a great way to research technologies like these, because the world of technology is always changing. Literature study was used to gather insight in which technologies are available.

To answer the sub-question *"How can I make sure the portfolio is easily maintainable when adding new content?",* I conducted library research (in the form of an expert interview and literature study) on different ways to write content for a portfolio. The literature study method was used to figure out which technologies are available to use, and I chose to conduct an expert interview because I knew an expert with first-hand experience with all the technologies I found during the literature study research.

With the technological side of the research done, I still had to answer a very important research question: *"How can I make sure the portfolio is easy to navigate for users?",* which I answered by designing wireframes and a UI prototype, and testing it using lab and showroom research methods such as A/B testing, peer reviews and usability testing. I chose these research methods because it allowed me to gather direct feedback from my target audience.

The full process of designing and testing the wireframes/UI prototype can be found here.

After validating my designs with these tests, I was able to develop my prototype into a live website, as documented here. To help maintain a proper structure, I designed a C4 model for this portfolio.

Results

The result of this project can be tied to the following deliverables:

- Project plan
- Research on modern web technologies (trend analysis / literature study)
- Research on content management systems (expert interview / literature study)
- Research on UX and UI Wireframes/design (A/B testing / peer review / usability testing)

- Live website, developed with React
- C4 model

Group project

Process

<< Process >>

Results

<< Results >>

International project

Process

<< Process >>

Results

<< Results >>

Reflection

Individual project

What went well?
The research phase of the project helped me understand which technologies I wanted to use, and how I could structure my portfolio to have good UX. I'm happy with the result of the research I did, and I

The designing and testing phase went well because I went with a clean and logical structure for the design of the portfolio, therefore I was able to quickly run tests on things like navigation and filtering systems, which helped me come up with a final, validated design that was already tested by multiple users.

Developing the design prototype into a live website went smoothly as I feel this is one of my strengths and I also really enjoy programming things like this, so I was expecting that part to go well.

What could've gone better?
Although the deliverables for this project went well, I should have started on writing the reading guide (this document) earlier. Unfortunately I missed the deadline for this, which meant my semester coach wasn't up-to-date with my progress.

Group project

What went well?
<< What went well? >>

What could've gone better?
<< What could've gone better >>

International project

What went well?
<< What went well? >>

What could've gone better?
<< What could've gone better >>

Evidence

Learning outcome	Evidence
User interaction (analysis & advice)	
User interaction (execution & validation)	Portfolio UI design
Software development (software design)	Portfolio Development Portfolio C4 model
Future oriented organisation	Portfolio Project plan
Investigative problem solving	Web technologies research Portfolio content research
Personal leadership	
Goal-oriented interaction	