

Assignment 8 Write-Up

Part 1:

The purpose of my website was to inform users of what information and content was included on the Golden Records sent into outer space on spacecraft Voyager 1 and Voyager 2. This includes messages, images, music, sounds, and greetings in different languages (although much of this content has been copyrighted and cannot be displayed; I only included the content that is available for free online.)

I hoped to make engaging with the content both simpler and more interesting than doing so on [Wikipedia](#) or the [JPL Nasa website](#), where this content is primarily hosted otherwise. These websites were designed to be educational but not particularly fun, attractive, or animated. Instead, I chose to minimize extraneous content, streamline the navigational experience (one page vs. several), and employ a gold-on-black, outer space-themed aesthetic.

The target audience would be anyone who is curious about this topic, but who is looking for a more enjoyable experience than a “textbook-style” read. It could also be used as an introductory tool towards the other information-heavy websites on the Golden Records.

Part 2:

- Enter the site; standard web page
- Scroll or swipe up to move down page
 - Golden Record imagery spins while scrolling
- Click on one of the navigational section headers
 - Hover over links for feedforward shine animation
 - Click for smooth jump down to section
- Click back to top button to return to top
 - Rocket image and shine animation on hover
 - Click for rocket flight animation & smooth jump up to section

Part 3:

1. Bootstrap
 - a. Why: Responsivity; introduced during PUI lab
 - b. How: Linked above my JS script in index.html
 - c. What: To make my website responsive (automatically resize and reshape content); automatically resize and reshape content
2. jQuery
 - a. Why: Javascript library used by animations I sourced from online
 - b. How: Linked above my own JS
 - c. What: Linked above my JS script in index.html
3. “Rocket Back to top button”, by Prince on Codepen.io (<https://codepen.io/Askwithloud/pen/yNRPWB>)
 - a. Why: To add a playful element to the “back to top” feature that is particularly necessary for continuous-scroll websites

- b. How: jQuery Javascript animation. Icon placed in bottom right corner, after scrolled for a certain number of pixels; adjusted the speed and animation duration to suit my tastes
 - c. What: A fun, thematically consistent alternative to the typical “back to top” button.
- 4. Golden Record rotation Javascript animation
 - a. Why: A simple way to achieve on-scroll animation
 - b. How: Javascript animation, using the scroll Event Listener and rotation transformation
 - c. What: To provide a playful, surprising, and beautiful aspect of motion that mimics the motions of actual records
- 5. Starry night background animation: “Night sky with twinkling stars - CSS3 only”, by WebSonick on Codepen.io (<https://codepen.io/WebSonick/pen/vjmgu>)
 - a. Why: To create a beautiful twinkling starry night background for the whole website
 - b. How: CSS3 animations, using Webkit
 - c. What: Additional animation, interest, and aesthetic consistent with content themes
- 6. Shine effect on links hover, by Colloque Tsui on Codepen.io (<https://codepen.io/colloque/pen/bDgmx>)
 - a. Why: Simple and attractive signifier of clickable text
 - b. How: CSS3 animations, using Webkit
 - c. What: Feedforward on clickable buttons, and improved aesthetic

Part 4:

My primary change from my HW7 mockup was where I kept the content; I quickly found that fitting information (such as long paragraphs) on a circular surface made the content awkward and fairly illegible. Instead, I used the golden record as a fun scrolling animation and put the content on a black background below, with navigation links to jump to each section. To add back in some of the visual interest once you’ve scrolled past the spinning record, I included a glittering starry night background and shining clickable text.

Part 5:

I found the implementation of libraries to be the most difficult aspect; not realizing that JS libraries must be linked at the end of the HTML page and before my own JS file meant that I spent quite a while troubleshooting the wrong things.

Many of these libraries or code also do not come with significant amounts of explanation or commented-out instructions, so it was difficult to modify some of it to better fit my own code.

I also found Bootstrap to be useful, but the structure of 12 columns made my 5-link navigational section difficult to format if I wanted each to be 1/12 wide, but centered on the page (3.5/12 on the left and right); in the end, I had to opt for 2/12 columns to fix this problem.