

# Design Documentation

## Web Technology - OLAC website redesign

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## Design decisions and rationale

For our redesign of the OLAC website we decided to keep the general structure (division of the content on each page) largely the same as the original website. This way people who are already familiar with the original design will be able to find everything easier. Some things we did change around, e.g. the documents and general information of the landing page can now be found in the footer of the whole website. We thought this made more sense, because this is information that can be useful to always have access to.

We decided to make the website look like one big page with not very distinct divisions between sections, like the header and footer of the page and the main content. This gives the website a modern look, while still coming across as professional. The colors are mostly inspired by the original website and adapted a bit to give the new website a more fresh look.

For the color palette we decided to take the original colors of the website as a starting point. However, we thought that this color (#000048) was way too dark, so we went with a brighter blue. In the background we used this color and made a gradient to make it flow into an even light blue, with a darker stop halfway through the page. This lighter to dark gradient fill was used on most elements (frames, search bars, etc.). With this website we mostly stuck to the blue color theme, every page (with header and footer) have the same base color.

For some text (like a timeline and the news articles) we deemed it necessary to give the frame it is in a slight background color. This way the distinction between the different sections is more clear. When this was necessary, we chose an almost black color (which is also the color used on the original website) and made it 60% transparent (40% opaque). This way the background of the page is still visible and the text boxes get a slightly blue color. It also makes sure that the text boxes follow the lighter to darker color trend that can be found on every page of the website.

We also made a number of different typography styles while designing the website. This way we kept the same styling across pages for all major components, like header text, normal text and the text in the navigation bar.

Since the OLAC website contains a lot of dense information, we decided to adhere to the heuristic of keeping the design aesthetic and minimalist. This is also why our website is consistent and maintains the same design standards across all pages.

We also decided that the user should have control and freedom in navigating the website, which is why every page has the same navigation bar in the header that has links that lead to every important page in the website.

We improved the flexibility and efficiency of use in order to make the website more approachable to casual visitors, while also preserving functionality for specialized users. Information that is more relevant to casual visitors looking to learn about OLAC was made more easily accessible (such as the events and presentations page, and timeframe).

## Key improvements from original website

We chose to mostly adhere to the way the original OLAC webpage was set up, but made some changes to improve the user experience.

We decided to add the first 3 titles of the events and presentations page, as well as links to said page directly in the landing page, because it gives a first impression to new visitors of what the latest work of OLAC is, as well as easy access to those looking for information on the next OLAC event. Some important information that was previously on the main page was moved to the footer for easy access throughout the website.

We created a new Events and Presentations page in order to declutter the About page, which now only contains the relevant information.

The search bar became a standalone page to remove distraction while the user is performing their search query.

## Main features

- Search functionality
- Find language resource search function
- Navigation bar
- Map selection
- More attractive landing page
- Events and presentations page