

PUI Homework 8 (Final Project) Write-up

Miley Hu | Fall 2021

Part 1. Project Description

The purpose of this website is to demonstrate a brief history of Emojis by showcasing the different stages of evolution leading up to the present-day emojis that billions of internet users interact with on a daily basis in order to help people understand the stories behind this phenomenal graphical representation that essentially has changed the way we communicate everyday online. and what the future might hold for more creativity.

The main body of the website demonstrates the different historical steps that are particularly significant in the evolution of Emojis, and each detail page has a paragraph that talks about the event and its significance. At the end of the timeline, there is also a reference section that links to external resources for people who are interested in taking a deeper dive into the area.

To make the information more interactive and engaging, I use animations in the background to capture the visual differences between the emojis or emoticons from different time periods, giving a straightforward but fun visual representation for users to quickly grasp the changes. I also use an overall horizontal scrolling structure to enhance the sense of timeline and development.

The target audience of the website is any internet user who is interested in learning about the history of Emojis and getting some background knowledge of this phenomenal visual artifact.

Part 2. Interaction

Home page horizontal scrolling

The main navigation of the website is horizontal scrolling on the home page to browse the different historical events in a chronological order. To see different event cards, the user will scroll to the right, and the background of the color will change as the user scrolls.

Clicking into individual cards

The user can hover on individual cards which will lead to a slight displacement of the card and a change in the color of image. The user can click into each card, which will lead them to the detail page of the content. The user can go back to the main page by clicking the close button in the upper right corner.

Navigating between cards / detail pages

The user can use the “next” and “prev” button on each detail page to navigate to the previous and next page in the chronological order.

Background animation

Every time the page is loaded, the bouncing ball animation in the back will be triggered automatically.

Part 3. External tools

P5.js animation library

- I chose to use the P5.js library to create the animation in the background because it is great for creative coding and has lots of resources for different sketches.
- I found an example code in the P5.js official website for the bouncing ball animation, and modified the template code to have different images as the body of animation.
- This animation increases the overall visual playfulness of the website, and enhances the theme of the “emojis” by bringing in more related visual elements to the website.

Animsition library

- I used Animsition to create the flipping card transition between different pages. Animsition is a JQuery plugin for css animated page transitions.
- I chose to use it because it provides a range of simple but effective page transitions that improves the overall coherence of the website.
- I added a “flip-in” transition animation for all the detail pages, which created a smoother transition between pages that mimicked that of flipping a physical card.

Part 4. Changes from prototype

1. Switching theme & creating new prototypes
 - a. One major change that I had from homework 7 was that I decided to change the project theme because of personal interest in this subject matter. I then created a set of new prototypes for the website ([link to prototype](#)).
2. Changes from prototype
 - a. Colors on the home page
 - i. In the prototype, I designed a white background for the main page and went for more of a minimalist and simple look. For the implementation, I used bolder colors for the background with higher saturation to go

with the colorfulness of the Emojis, which I think align better with the theme.

- b. Added animation on home page and details page
 - i. In the prototype, I planned to incorporate a marquee of different emojis at the top of the home page. I decided to instead use the bouncing ball animation for both the home and detail pages, which is more fun and playful.

Part 5. Challenges

The biggest challenge for this project was to understand how to choose the right libraries for different purposes and then integrate them into my implementation.

Another challenge was making the animation using P5.js library. Although there was a template code, I still struggled a bit to modify the animation so that different images will be displayed on different pages.

Wave Accessibility check screenshot

