

DEVELOPING A DIGITAL IDENTITY REPORT

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

1.0	INTRODUCTION.....	2
2.0	USABILITY & ACCESSIBILITY	2
2.1	NAVIGATION MENU	2
2.2	PAGE ANCHORS	3
2.3	INCLUSIVITY	3
3.0	DESIGN PRINCIPLES.....	4
3.1	SEMANTIC DESIGN & ABOVE THE FOLD	4
3.2	MEDIA QUERIES	5
3.3	FLUID LAYOUT	6
3.4	BIBLIOGRAPHY	7

1.0 INTRODUCTION

The following report has been constructed to showcase the features that I have included within my e-portfolio to ensure accessibility and usability and adhere to design principles. I have used HTML5 and CSS 3 to build the foundations for the responsive e-portfolio and JavaScript for functionalities and design features to make the website interactive. All HTML and CSS documents have been checked with W3C validators to ensure they comply with standards.

2.0 USABILITY & ACCESSIBILITY

The following section explains how usability and accessibility have been implemented using HTML5, CSS3 and JavaScript.

2.1 NAVIGATION MENU

A number of elements have been used to create the effective navigation menu. Unordered lists have been used in conjunction with labels and buttons attributes to develop multi-tier navigation. Classes have allowed me to format certain aspects of the menu for example, 'show' which has a display property of none, hiding the dropdown until activated. The incorporation of a text-based logo adheres to design principles and allows users to easily navigate to the homepage. Mobile navigation has also been considered, through the resizing of viewport that triggers queries that activates a responsive navigation. An effect navigation menu is vital allowing users to traverse the website irrespective of the current location on the site.

(Figure 1).

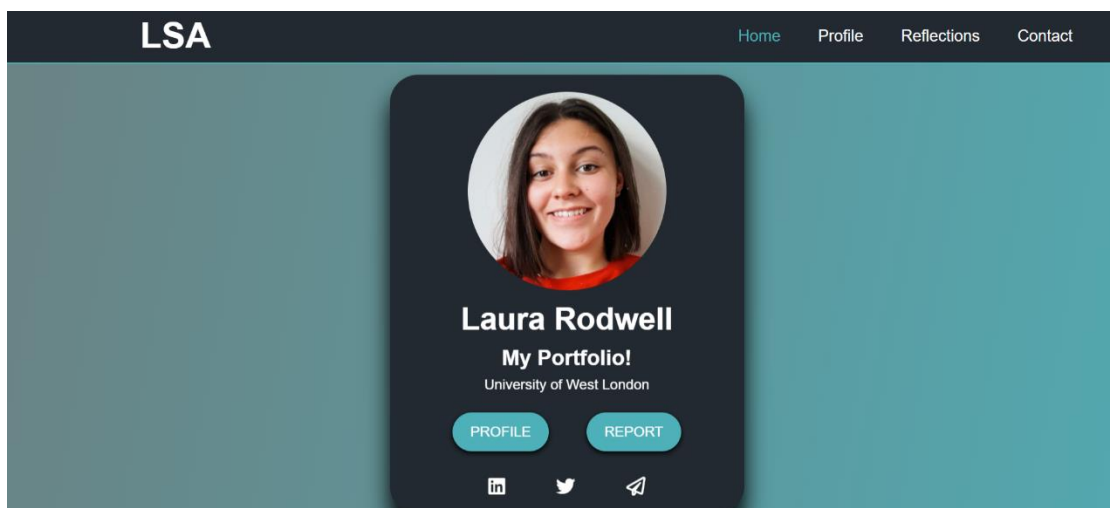


FIGURE 1: NAVIGATION MENU

2.2 PAGE ANCHORS

All reflective pages have page anchors due to the length of the page. All academic weeks are displayed above the fold to users can navigate the page easily.

Anchor IDs have been created in HTML for each week and a link pointing to the anchor created through the weekly href links at the top of the page. Activating the link by click will take the user to the desired journal. The 'hover' selector has been applied to page anchors so users can identify the desired week. JavaScript has been used to further increase the usability of the site. Once the viewport has scrolled beyond 20 pixels a button appears in the bottom right indicating that the user can return to the top (Figure 2).

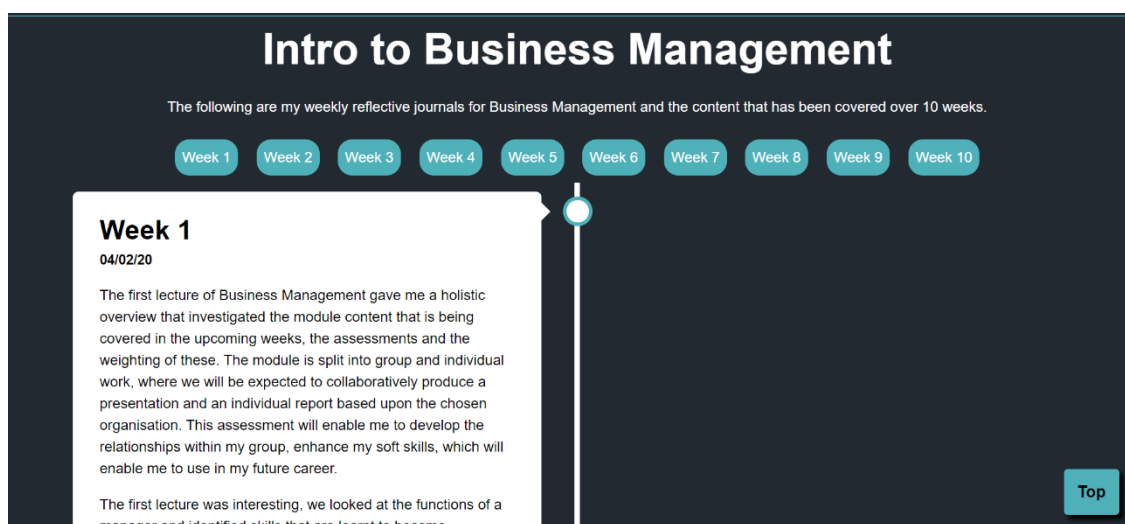


FIGURE 2: PAGE ANCHORS

2.3 INCLUSIVITY

Heading structures, image alt descriptions and keyboard accessibility are elements implemented for users that have physical disabilities, providing equal access to the website.

Header tags are graded <h1><h6> indicating to those visually impaired the level of importance of elements on a page. The 'Hover' selector indicates visually which elements are being selected to ensure all users gain the same benefits and experience. Therefore, implementation of the 'focus' selector replicates the same actions for those needing support.

Keyboard accessibility has been implemented throughout. Image alt text forms a description for images so they can be interpreted to users.

3.0 DESIGN PRINCIPLES

Adhering to the principles of design and typographies will enhance user experience. Alignment and proximity with image and text allows users to identify information that should be related. Text alignment too far away from images would not be seen as related.

3.1 SEMANTIC DESIGN & ABOVE THE FOLD

Using semantic HTML makes it easier for browsers, developers, and users to understand the code and distinguish types of data. `<header>``<nav>``<section>``<article>``<aside>` and `<footer>` define the areas on a webpage. These are given ID's or classes to identify with CSS selectors. Using this design makes it easier to identify and code above the fold content as `<header>``<nav>` and a `<section>` will be above the fold.

Content with highest importance is displayed instantly above the fold. All areas that are designed to be above the fold are indicated by comments in the code. Drawing the attention of users to key aspects of the page through the use of graphic design and typography will spike interest.

Throughout the website I have used contrasting colours and alignment for relational and highlighting features. Implementation of contrast can be seen throughout the website. (Figure 3).

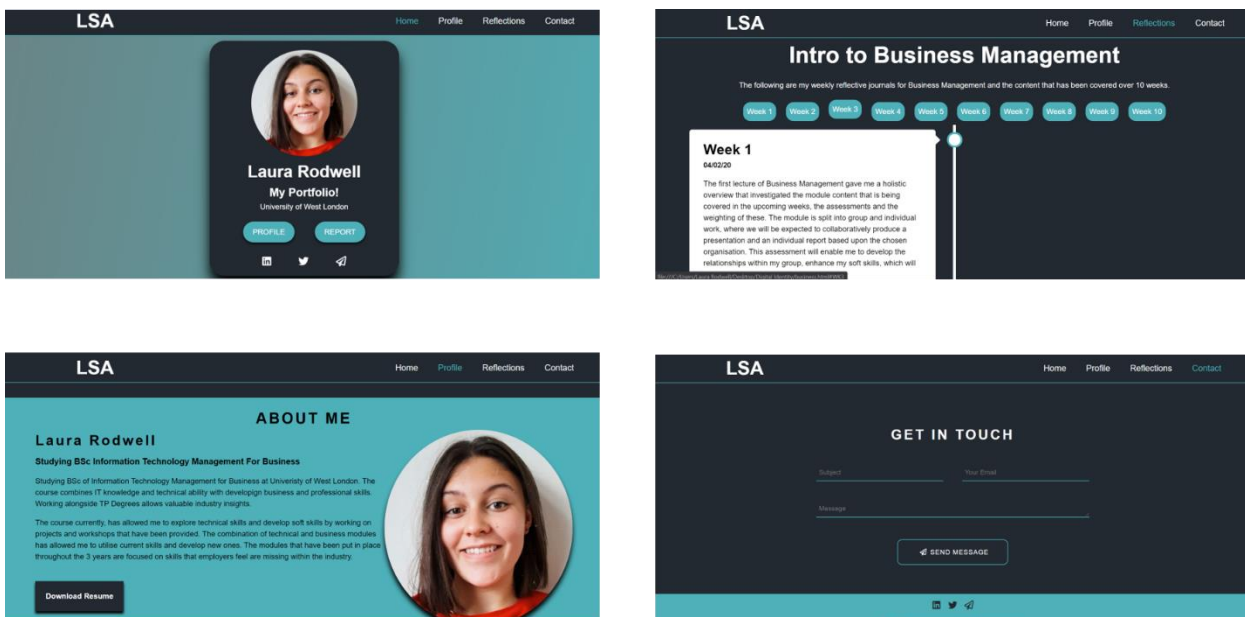


FIGURE 3: ABOVE THE FOLD

3.2 MEDIA QUERIES

Website responsiveness is achieved through media queries. Throughout the website I have implemented queries that active dependent on screen size to suit screen resolution requirements.

The navigation menu uses media queries to change the appearance of the menu. The max-width is set to 767 pixels, so when the screen hits this size the menu collapses into three horizontal bars (Figure 4). The responsive menu has similar CSS features as the standard menu to show consistency.

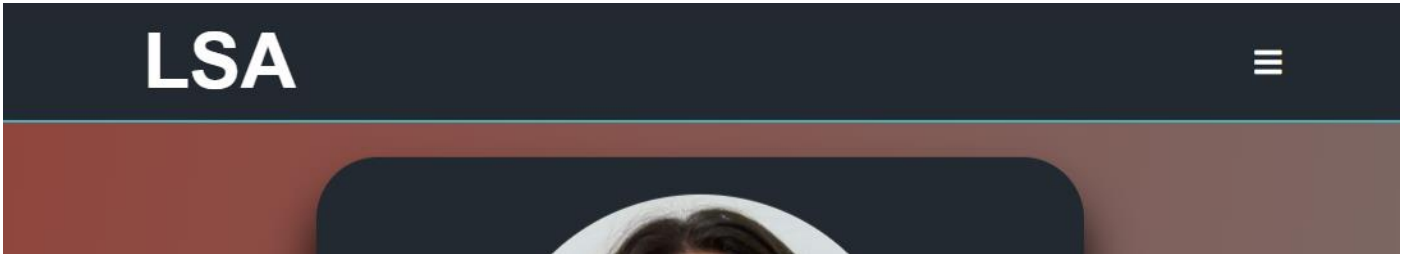


FIGURE 4: NAVIGATION MENU MEDIA QUERY

The contact section is another aspect that uses media queries. When the viewport reaches 767 pixels the contact input boxes collapse above each other to adjust to the size of the viewport. To achieve this subject and email IDs are set to a width of 45% to sit inline and when the media query activates the width changes to 100% to become aligned and fluid.

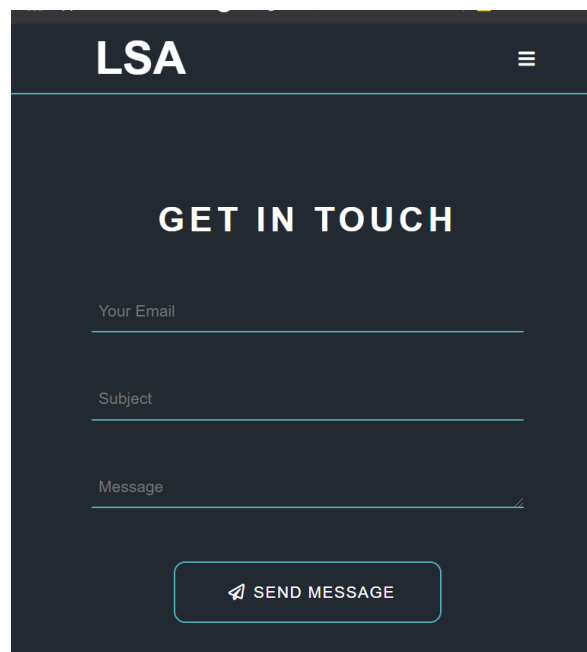


FIGURE 5: CONTACT MEDIA QUERY

3.3 FLUID LAYOUT

The width CSS property has been implemented using relative measurements to ensure responsiveness. Percentages and 'em' measurements have been used on areas of the website that need to respond to window changes. Other width properties for the 'timeline' are pixels due to no requirement of resizing. To ensure that the website is responsive images use relative measurements to change the size of the image in relation to the size of the screen.

In addition to this, I have made the homepage fluid with a combination of media queries and relative measurements with width properties set to percentage. As the screen reduces the size of the box and the image reduce in size and the other elements collapse on top of each other.

3.4 BIBLIOGRAPHY

- Schools, W., 2020. *How To Create A Scroll Back To Top Button*. [online] W3schools.com. Available at: <https://www.w3schools.com/howto/howto_js_scroll_to_top.asp> [Accessed 22 May 2020].